



2018 UTEP FOOTBALL

UTEP ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS | 500 W. UNIVERSITY AVE. | BRUMBELOW BUILDING | EL PASO, TEXAS 79968-0579

GAME 1 | SEPT. 1 | 5:30 PM MT | EL PASO, TEXAS | SUN BOWL STADIUM (51,500)

NORTHERN ARIZONA AT UTEP POST GAME NOTES

FINAL: NAU (1-0) 30, UTEP (0-1) 10

Tonight's attendance was 17,271.

Seven players made their first starts for UTEP tonight. On offense they were FB Winston Dimel, LG Bobby DeHaro, LT Zuri Henry and RG Bijan Hosseini. On defense they were WILL LB A.J. Hotchkins, DE C.J. Reese and MIKE LB Sione Tupou. DeHaro, Henry and Tupou are freshmen and Henry is a true freshman.

Junior QB Kai Locksley made his UTEP debut and rushed 18 times for 50 yards. The 18 rushing attempts were the most by a Miner signal-caller since Blaire Sullivan rushed 23 times for 74 yards versus UCF on Nov. 10, 2012.

Locksley is the first quarterback to lead UTEP in rushing in a game since Kavika Johnson gained 75 yards at North Texas on Nov. 28, 2015. That was also the last time a quarterback led UTEP in rushing and passing in the same contest.

Junior RB Quardraiz Wadley posted his career-long rush and catch in the second quarter. His 32-yard TD run eclipsed a 29-yard dash against NM State on Sept. 3, 2016. His 26-yard reception surpassed a 15-yard grab at Army on Sept. 30, 2017.

Players who posted their first offensive stats for UTEP tonight were graduate transfer FB Winston Dimel and junior QB Kai Locksley.

Senior DB Kahani Smith registered the first quarterback hurry of his career in the first quarter.

Graduate transfer LB A.J. Hotchkins tallied eight first-half tackles on his way to 13 stops. His previous career high for tackles was nine versus Colorado on Sept. 24, 2016, while a member of the Oregon Ducks. The 13 tackles were the most by a UTEP player in an opener since Traun Roberson also had 13 stops against New Mexico on Sept. 7, 2013.

Senior DB Nik Needham's two tackles for losses matched a career high; he also recorded two at Southern Miss on Oct. 14, 2017.

Players who posted their first tackles for the Miners tonight included sophomore DB Josh Caldwell, graduate transfer LB A.J. Hotchkins, sophomore DE Christian Johnson, junior LB Thomas Lash, graduate transfer DE C.J. Reese and freshman LB Sione Tupou.

Senior WR Terry Juniel had a big night with 124 all-purpose yards, including 96 on kickoff returns and 24 on punt returns.

The Miners are now 43-53-5 in season openers, including 33-21-3 at home. UTEP is 17-13-1 in season openers in the Sun Bowl.