

UTEP MINERS FOOTBALL

UTEP at Texas Tech | 6 p.m. MT | Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 | Jones AT&T Stadium (60,454) | Lubbock, Texas

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME NOTES

- Tonight's game captains were C Derron Gatewood, QB Brandon Jones, NT Chris Richardson and FS Justin Rogers.
- Announced attendance was 56,957.
- Texas Tech won the coin toss and deferred to the second half.

SCORING PLAYS

- Gavin Baechle converted a 45-yard field goal with 5:32 remaining in the game, a career long and the longest by a Miner player since Brady Viles connected on a 53-yarder against Arizona on Sept. 15, 2017.

OFFENSE

- Grad transfer TE Jess Trussell has made a catch in consecutive games for the first time at the collegiate level.
- WR Tre'Shon Wolf tied his career high with three catches, all in the first half.
- Kai Locksley relieved Brandon Jones at QB to start the third quarter, his first appearance for the Miners since the second-to-last game of the 2018 season (Nov. 17) at WKU.
- WR Devaughn Cooper has shown explosiveness in his first two games of the Miners after transferring from Arizona, picking up three catches for 61 yards (20.3 avg.). Cooper had a 35-yard catch in the opener against Houston Baptist and added a 25-yard grab tonight.
- WR Kavika Johnson's fourth quarter reception was his first for the Miners since the 2018 season opener versus Northern Arizona. Johnson played in the first four games a year ago before redshirting.
- UTEP played a turnover-free game on the road versus a Big 12 opponent.
- The Miners have rushed the football 84 times in their first two games of the season, their most carries in a two-game stretch to open a campaign since 2016 (89).

DEFENSE

- DE Josh Ortega made his first start for the Miners.
- DE Denzel Chukwukelu registered his first sack of the season, and the third of his Miner career, in the first quarter.
- USC transfer CB Ykili Ross recorded his first interception for UTEP and the third of his collegiate career late in the second quarter. Ross had two picks with the Trojans in 2017.
- For the second time in as many games, SS Justin Prince led the Miners in tackles with 10 (nine solos). Prince, who added a tackle for loss tonight, has been credited with 20 stops in two contests. Prince is the first UTEP player to open a season with back-to-back double-digit tackle games since Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith during the 2009 season (Cromartie-Smith had 19 tackles versus Buffalo and 16 against Kansas).
- CB Josh Caldwell has posted four pass breakups in two games -- two each against Houston Baptist and Texas Tech.
- Caldwell also had a UTEP-high seven tackles.
- The UTEP defense has forced a turnover in the first two games of a season for the first time since 2014.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- K Gavin Baechle is 4-for-5 on field goal attempts to start 2019. He is the first Miner to make four field goals in the first two games of a season since Jay Mattox in 2015 (four).
- P Mitchell Crawford punted 10 times for 398 yards, the second-highest total in both categories in his Miner career. Last season (Sept. 15), Crawford had 12 punts for 471 yards at Tennessee.

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