

UTEP MINERS FOOTBALL

UTEP at Southern Miss | 5 p.m. MT | Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021 | M.M. Roberts Stadium | Hattiesburg, Miss.

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME NOTES

FINAL: UTEP 26, Southern Miss 13

- Announced attendance was 26,049.

TEAM NOTES

- UTEP is 5-1 for the first time since the 2010 season and one win away from bowl eligibility for the first time since 2014.
- The Miners are 2-0 in Conference USA play for the first time since the 2008 season, and only the fourth time since joining the league in 2005 (2006, 2007, 2008, 2021).
- UTEP posted its first victory at Southern Miss since the 2012 season, and ended a five-game losing streak to the Golden Eagles.
- The Miners posted their first C-USA road win since 2018 at Rice, and snapped a nine-game C-USA road losing skid.
- UTEP has its most victories (five) since the 2015 season (five).

OFFENSE

- The Miners scored a touchdown on their opening possession for the second time this season (also happened at NM State).
- The 55-yard catch by sophomore WR **Tyrin Smith** in the second quarter was a career long (previous 52 yards versus Bethune-Cookman earlier this season).
- The first career rushing attempt by sophomore WR **Jacob Cowing** in the second quarter resulted in a 53-yard TD. It was the longest rushing play by a Miner since QB **Kai Locksley** had a 63-yard scamper at Southern Miss during the 2019 season.
- The 45-yard rush by junior RB **Ronald Awatt** in the second quarter was a career long (previous long 37 yards versus Bethune-Cookman earlier this season).
- Awatt rushed for a career-high 154 yards.
- Junior WR **Reynaldo Flores** registered a career-high in receiving with 48 yards.

DEFENSE

- Junior DB **Dennis Barnes** picked off his second pass of the season in the second quarter. The Miners have two players with multiple interceptions in a season (Barnes and **Dy'vonne Inyang**) for the first time since 2019 (**Justin Rogers** and **Ykili Ross**, two apiece).
- The 55-yard fumble recovery for a TD by junior LB **Breon Hayward** in the third quarter marked the second defensive TD by a Miner player under coach **Dana Dimel**. **Praise Amaewhule** had a fumble recovery in the end zone in the final game of the 2019 season versus Rice.
- Hayward posted a career-best 1.5 tackles for losses.
- Also posting career-highs for tackles for losses were junior LB Tyrice Knight (1.5), junior DB **Ty'reke James** (one/tied personal best), junior DE **Jadrian Taylor** (two), junior DT **Blake Thompson** (one), freshman DT **Sione Tonga'uiha** (0.5) and freshman LB **Elijah Robinson** (0.5).
- The Miners scored a safety in the fourth quarter, their first in a game since 2015 versus LA Tech in the Sun Bowl.
- The Miners tallied five sacks, their most in a game since the 2011 season versus Colorado State (seven).
- The 14 tackles for losses were the most for the Miners under coach **Dana Dimel**, surpassing the 13 at LA Tech last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- Junior K **Gavin Baechle** had been 8-for-8 on field goal attempts from inside 40 yards this season before missing on a 32-yard attempt in the second quarter.
- Freshman P **Josh Sloan** averaged 42.2 yards on six punts with a long of 55.

#PicksUp