

UTEP MINERS FOOTBALL

UTEP at FIU | 5:30 p.m. MT | Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 | FIU Football Stadium (20,000) | Miami, Fla.

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME NOTES

FINAL: UTEP 27, FIU 14

- Announced attendance was 14,872.

QUICK HITS

- UTEP won its first ever game in the state of Florida and is 2-0 in its last two game in the eastern time zone after winning at Charlotte last season.

OFFENSE

- The Miners' 21 points in the first quarter were the most since scoring 28 at Tulsa on Oct. 18, 2008. The three touchdowns scored tonight matched the Miners' trio of scores against NM State on Sept. 15, 2012, however an extra point was missed during that stretch.
- WR **Kelly Akharaiyi** tallied career highs in receiving yards (223), receptions (eight) and touchdown receptions (two).
- WR **Kelly Akharaiyi** was the first Miner since Jordan Leslie (218 yards at Tulsa in 2012) to gain over 200 yards receiving, while his total ranks tied fifth best with **Johnnie Lee Higgins, Jr.** (223 yards vs. NM State in 2006).
- WR **Kelly Akharaiyi** hauled in a career-long 80-yard touchdown. He also reeled a career-best two touchdown receptions.
- QB **Cade McConnell**, in his career start, threw his first career touchdown, an 80-yard strike to Kelly Akharaiyi in the first quarter.
- WR **Jeremiah Ballard** caught a career-long 50-yard reception during the first quarter. He finished with 65 yards on three receptions.
- QB **Kevin Hurley** completed a career-long 40-yard pass to Kelly Akharaiyi in the first quarter.

DEFENSE

- The defense tallied a season-high 6.0 sacks.
- DE **Praise Amaewhule** broke the school's sack record after getting one in the third quarter. He added a second and now has 21.5 sacks in his career.
- S **Tyler Williams** racked up a career-high nine tackles.
- DE **Maurice Westmoreland** tallied a career-high 2.5 sacks, while adding a career-best six tackles.
- DE **Kanious Vaughn** tallied his second sack of the season.
- CB **Torey Richardson** recorded his first interception of the season and second career INT. He last picked off a pass on Oct. 16, 2021 against LA Tech and tallied half a sack in the third quarter, the first of the season and first since tallying a full sack in 2021 New Mexico Bowl.
- LB **James Neal** finished second with eight tackles and recorded a fumble recovery.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- K **Buzz Flabiano** hit a career-long 37-yard FG and added a 20-yard FG.