

# UTEP MINERS FOOTBALL

UTEP at MTSU | 12 p.m. MT | Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023 | Floyd Stadium (30,788) | Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## POSTGAME NOTES

### GAME NOTES

**FINAL: UTEP 30, Middle Tennessee 34**

- Announced attendance was 9,122.

### QUICK HITS

- UTEP gained a season-high 453 yards of total offense.
- UTEP tallied a season-high nine third downs (9-for-16).
- UTEP went over 400 yards of total offense for the fourth time in 2023.
- The Miners' two-game road conference winning streak ended at two games.

### OFFENSE

- RB **Deion Hankins** rushed for 48 yards, moving to no. 7 on the program's all-time rushing list with 2,586 career rushing yards.
- RB **Deion Hankins** scored on a two-yard rush in the second quarter, giving him four on the season and 22 in his career. He now ranks seventh on the program's all-time TD rushing list. RB **Fred Wendt** ranks above Hankins with 23 rushing scores.
- RB **Deion Hankins** recorded a career-long 35-yard reception that helped set up his rushing score.
- WR **Emari White** set career highs in receptions (five) and receiving yards (36).
- QB **Cade McConnell** threw for a career-high 364 yards on a career-most 24 completions. He tied his career best with two touch-down passes. McConnell is the first UTEP signal caller to throw for 300+ yards since QB **Gavin Hardison** did so on Oct. 8, 2022 at LA Tech (320 yards).
- WR **Kelly Akharaiyi** tallied 138 yards on six receptions, his third consecutive game with 100+ receiving yards. He's the first Miner to record the feat since WR Jacob Cowing went for 100+ yards during the 2021 season.
- WR **Kelly Akharaiyi** tallied two receiving touchdowns, tying his career most for TDs in one game (two at FIU on Oct. 11).
- Brothers LT **Zuri Henry** and RT **Azizi Henry** made starts on the opposite ends on the offensive line for the first time in their careers.
- RB **Ezell Jolly** rushed for a career-high 30 yards and recorded a career-most 42 all-purpose yards.

### DEFENSE

- The UTEP defense tallied a season-high eight breakups.
- LB **Tyrice Knight** tallied a career-high 3.5 tackles for loss, while adding his fifth career forced fumble and fourth career fumble recovery. Knight tallied a sack, upping his total to a career-high 4.5 sacks in 2023.
- CB **AJ Odums** tallied a career-high six tackles.
- S **Oscar Moore** intercepted his second pass in as many games, while adding a career-high eight tackles.
- S **Kobe Hylton** matched his career best with two pass breakups.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

- K **Buzz Flabiano** connected on a 33-yard field goal. He's made six consecutive FGs over the last three games.
- PR/RB **Torrance Burgess Jr.** returned a punt 54 yards for touchdown. It was first career punt return for a score and second overall TD of the season. He's the second Miner in two years to return one for a score ( PR/WR **Marcus Bellon** returned one 47 yards for a TD versus Boise State in 2022).
- P **Joshua Sloan** booted three punts for 133 yards (44.3 avg.).