

UTEP MINERS FOOTBALL

UTEP at Jax State | 3:30 p.m. MT | Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023 | JSU Stadium (24,000) | Jacksonville, Ala.

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME NOTES

FINAL: UTEP 14, Jax State 17

- Announced attendance was 17,982.

QUICK HITS

- UTEP played Jacksonville State for the first time in program history.
- UTEP fell in its second consecutive season/CUSA opener.

OFFENSE

- RB **Deion Hankins** scored a rushing touchdown going into the half. Hankins has 19 career TDs, cracking the program's top-10 list ranking tied ninth with three Miners (Ken Heineman, Clovis Riley, Toraino Singleton)..
- WR **Kelly Akharaiyi** tallied a career-high 102 yards on four receptions.
- **Akharaiyi** hauled in a 32-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, his second career score.
- QB **Gavin Hardison** threw his 36th-career touchdown pass in the fourth quarter, moving past Sammy Garza (35 TD) for fourth on the program's all-time list.
- TE **Zach Fryar** hauled a career-long 19-yard reception during the second quarter. Fryar set career highs in receptions (two) and receiving yards (25).
- RB **Torrance Burgess Jr.** recorded a career-long 19-yard rush in the third quarter. Burgess registered in his first career reception – a six-yard catch late in the first half.
- **Burgess Jr.** gained a career-high and team-high 58 yards on 12 attempts.
- RB **Mike Franklin** first career carry went for a gain of four yards in the first quarter. His first career reception went for 11 yards late in the first. Franklin gained 28 yards on eight carries.

DEFENSE

- LB **James Neal** gathered a career-high 10 tackles in his first career start.
- DE **Praise Amaewhule** recorded a sack in the first quarter, giving him 18.5 in his career and 2.5 short of becoming UTEP's all-time sack leader.
- LB **Tyrice Knight** tallied 13 tackles, his 13th-career double-digit tackle game.
- DT **Tevita Tafuna** tallied a career-high five tackles.
- S **McKel Broussard** tallied a career-high six stops.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- K **Buzz Flabiano** scored his first career point on a made extra point attempt after Hankins' TD.