

UTEP MINERS FOOTBALL

UTEP at Utah State | 5:30 p.m. MST | Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025 | Merlin Olsen Field at Maverik Stadium (25,513) | Logan, Utah

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME NOTES

FINAL: UTEP 16, Utah State 28

Announced attendance was 16,448

QUICK HITS

- UTEP is now 0-4 all-time versus Utah State.
- UTEP has lost its season opener for the fourth straight year.

BLUE BLAZE OFFENSE

- RB **Ashten Emory** scored his first career touchdown on a two-yard rush, while adding career highs in yards rushing (31) and long rush (11 yards). Emory added a nine-yard reception.
- WR **Kenny Odom** recorded a career-most nine receptions for 97 yards and a touchdown. He added 16 yards rushing to total 113 all-purpose yards.
- QB **Malachi Nelson**, who made his first collegiate start, passed for 178 yards (22-34) with a touchdown and interception. Nelson's 34-yard touchdown pass during the first quarter was the first of his collegiate career. Nelson also recorded a punt, a 47-yard boot.
- WR **Eric Willis III** tallied 35 yards on five receptions.
- MB **Kam Thomas** rushed for a team-high and career-most 36 yards on 16 carries. He added a career-long 17-yard rush.

ORANGE SWARM DEFENSE

- S **Xavier Smith** led the defense with nine tackles.
- Bandit **Udoka Ezani** recorded his first sack as a Miner during the first quarter. He added seven tackles to his statline.
- DE **Ashaad Hall** led the Miners with 2.0 sacks in his UTEP debut.
- LB **Micah Davey** recorded eight tackles with a sack in his UTEP debut.
- DE **Elijah Baldwin** tallied 1.5 sacks, the first of his young UTEP career.
- UTEP recorded six sacks on the night.

WEFENSE

- P **Noah Botsford** first career punt at UTEP was 64 yards in the first quarter. His career long is 66 yards while at Valdosta State in 2023. It was the longest punt by a Miner since Joshua Sloan's 66-yarder in 2023.
- Botsford averaged 47.6 yards on eight punts.
- K **Carlos Arreola** connected on his first field goal attempt, a 42-yard make during the second quarter.
- LS **Josh Hancock** had his first tackles (two) as a Miner on special teams.
- MB **Kam Thomas** returned a career-high five punts for 24 yards