

Sports

Mountain West brings late show back; Big 12 showdown in Week 8

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

College football Saturdays this season have mostly been over by around midnight Eastern. Maybe 12:30 a.m.

West of Texas, the only FBS program that has been up and running is BYU in Provo, Utah.

That comes to end this weekend with the kickoff of the Mountain West season. The conference postponed fall football Aug. 10, the day before the Big Ten and Pac-12 made similar decisions.

The Mountain West reversed course and decided not long after those Power Five conferences to play an abbreviated season. The Big Ten starting this weekend has drawn the headlines, but the Mountain West will extend the football-watching day into Sunday for fans East of the Mississippi.

The marquee matchups on opening weekend include Mountain West favorite and defending champion Boise State hosting Utah State.

Wyoming visits Nevada in a matchup of teams picked to finish second in their respective divisions. Both of those games kickoff at 7 p.m. ET.

The late show includes UNLV at San Diego State, the favorites to win the West Division, and Air Force at San Jose State, both kicking off at 10:30 p.m. ET.

Who needs sleep?

No. 17 Iowa State at No. 6 Oklahoma State

Huge game in the Big 12. The Cowboys (3-0) are the only team in the conference with an overall unbeaten record, but they haven't played in a while because of a COVID-19 postponement by Baylor last week.

The Cyclones (3-1) have gotten off to the most impressive start in the Big 12, beating TCU, Oklahoma and Texas Tech — after losing a nonconference game to Louisiana-Lafayette.

Oklahoma State should have quarterback Spencer Sanders (ankle) available to boost its offense.



David Zalubowski/AP
Boise State running back George Holani runs against Colorado State on Nov. 29, 2019 in Fort Collins, Colo.

The game matches two of the best running backs in the conference in Iowa State's Breece Hall, who leads the Big 12 in rushing, and Oklahoma State All-American Chuba Hubbard.

HEISMAN WATCH

Justin Fields, QB, Ohio State

The fifth-ranked Buckeyes open their season at home against Nebraska. Fields was one of the pre-season Heisman front-runners, but then the season

Buckeyes scoring 53 points per game.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

12.3 — Points allowed per game by No. 9 Cincinnati, tops in the American Athletic Conference. The Bearcats play at No. 16 SMU, which is averaging 42.6 points per game, second in the conference.

13 — No. 2 Alabama's winning streak against Tennessee. The Tide has won the last four by an average of 34 points.

20.32 — Yards per catch last year by Minnesota receiver Rashod Bateman. The All-American originally opted out of the season, but when the Big Ten came back so did he. The 21st-ranked Gophers host No. 18 Michigan.

1993 — The last time North Carolina State and North Carolina played against each other with both teams ranked. The Tar Heels won that game 35-14. The 23rd-ranked Wolfpack visits No. 14 North Carolina.

UNDER THE RADAR

Middle Tennessee at Rice. You might not have no-

ticed, but Rice has not played a game yet, even though Conference USA has been in full swing since September.

COVID-19 issues set the Owls back, but they decided to stick with it and now start what is slated to be a six-game season.

Rice is coming off a three-win season and starting year three under coach Mike Bloomgren.

Middle Tennessee (1-5) might represent the Owls' best chance to get a victory.

HOT SEAT

Tom Herman, Texas

Not only has Texas lost two straight on the field, but there is touchy situation developing about whether the football players will stand for the playing of the "The Eyes of Texas" after the game.

That is if the band even plays it.

Winning puts everybody in a good mood and right about now it would be great for Herman if his team could put everybody with any interest in Texas football in a good mood.

BHS

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quarterback KJ Lee and the passing attack to get points, and the senior signal caller did not let the team down.

Seven of the Pirates' next 10 plays were called passes. Lee hooked up with Xavier Bean on a throwback play for 38 yards to convert the first first down of the series before finding his tight end again for a 4-yard touchdown on 4th and goal with 19 seconds until the end of the first half.

"I knew he was all right," Pender said of Lee following the interception. "He's mature; he's been in this situation before. It's not the first pick-six that he's thrown.

"We were confident, and we need to be confident in him because he's the guy that's leading our team right now."

Lee finished 12-of-15 passing for 206 yards and two scores to compensate for the interception, including a perfect 5-of-5 in the second half as BHS pulled away with the win.

Brunswick drove 90 yards for a touchdown on its first possession of the second half to go up 21-12, and though Statesboro matched



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News
Brunswick High's Tyrease Jones dives into the end zone for a touchdown against Statesboro on Friday at Glynn County Stadium.

the drive with a score of its own, it failed to convert the point after for the third time, leaving it still trailing by a field goal.

It hardly mattered though as the Pirates never gave the Blue Devils an opportunity to claw any closer. Khamori Simmons ripped off a tackle-breaking 44-yard touchdown run on the ensuing possession to extend the Brunswick lead to 10.

Following a Statesboro turnover on downs, Simmons recorded runs of 30 and 16 yards to set up a 9-yard touchdown run by

Chuckobe Hill that would ice the game.

Simmons ended the night with 142 of Brunswick's 237 rushing yards.

"How about Ree Simmons?" Pender asked incredulously. "In the fourth quarter, when we've got to run the ball, we've got to get this drive, and Ree does what Ree does.

"I'm very, very excited that Ree was able to come through like that with his hard running."

Leon Charlton intercepted a pass on Statesboro's first play from scrimmage

on the ensuing possession to set up a 37-yard field goal by Kyle Rehberg to cap the scoring.

It wasn't a perfect game by Brunswick, but it'll take the win and a week to clean up its mistakes ahead of the Pirates' biggest game in three seasons.

"There's plenty of positives, absolutely," Pender said. "Defensively, they're still not giving up points; only 12 of the points were on the defense..."

"It's just getting opportunities. We need more possessions."

Glynn

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carve them up a little bit."

Williams had a touchdown reception and ran one in for a score on a reverse. Drayton tallied a touchdown as well. Lewis had two touchdowns and the one passing. Caden Hutchinson also got into the end zone once as well.

While the offense was producing points, the defense held South Effingham to just three points all night.

"We got to go back and look at the film but I think



Provided photo/ Gena Churchwell
Glynn Academy's Caden Hutchinson carries the ball Friday against South Effingham.

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do — even with our young kids in," Derrick said. "I don't know if we even gave up 50 yards tonight of offense. Our first-team defense, I know, didn't give up any positive yards. It's a group effort, and they come out here and go to work every day at practice. They're doing a great job right now."

With the defense clicking on all cylinders, the Knights offense had excellent field position throughout the game and only punted once all night.

Starting running back Jordan Triplett tallied 18 carries for 200 yards and three touchdowns — all in the first half. The freshman averaged 11.1 yards a touch, and his offensive line gave him holes all night.

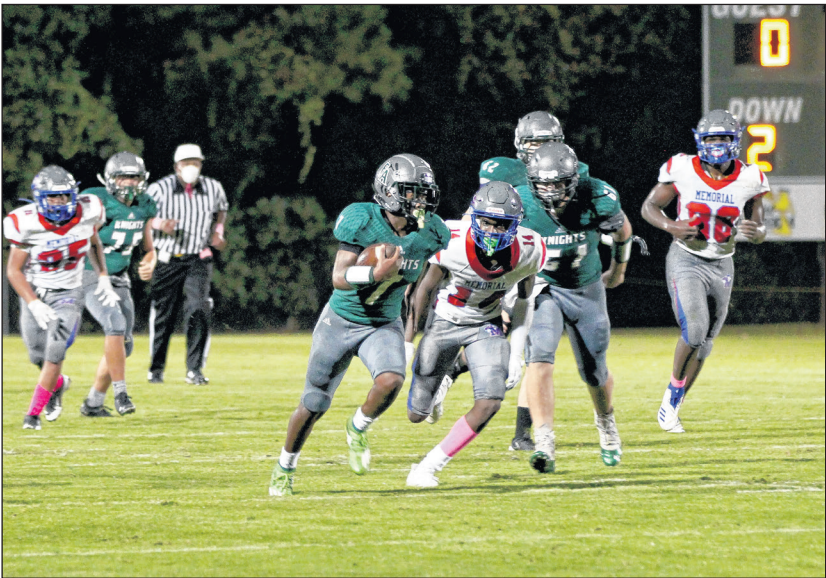
"Boy, those offensive linemen did a really good job," Derrick said. "The offensive line does a good job. Jordan sees it, and he's hitting it, and he's getting better and better every week. So we can't really look at him as a freshman anymore. It's about time he's a sophomore the way it looks."

Triplett scored his first touchdown on a 41-yard run giving Frederica Academy a 13-0 lead with four minutes left in the first quarter.

On the next drive, Frederica had excellent field position after a fumble recovery. Veal and Rose connected again with a 10-yard touchdown pass, making it 20-0 with 2:13 in the opening quarter.

Triplett's second touchdown run was a 24-yard march into the end zone as he bulldozed through the hole and scored. The Knights led 27-0 with 10:58 to go in the half.

On the Knights next drive, Triplett scored his final touchdown of the game with a 15-yard run. This score made it 34-0 with 7:35 until half time.



Provided photo/ Walt Perez
Frederica Academy's Amauri Mountain runs the ball against Memorial Day on Friday.

The offense wasn't done yet as Amauri Mountain toted the rock seven yards to make it 41-0 with 4:04 to go in the half. The sophomore got back into the end zone on the next drive, but this time on a 7-yard touchdown run with 20.8 seconds to play.

Mountain finished the game with 77 yards on eight touches and the two scores.

"I think the more reps he gets, the better he gets. He'll get tougher as the game goes on," Derrick said. "Mauri's getting tougher and tougher — getting him that one or two yards and getting behind the pads. Once he gets more touches and gets more experience, he'll get better and better as we go."

At halftime, Frederica led 48-0 and forced a running clock for the entire second half.

The Knights scored once more at the beginning of the third quarter as Hamp Thompson toted the rock 16-yards, making it 55-0.

Thompson finished the night with seven carries for 55 yards and the score. He also got an interception

on defense.

Tonight was all about being efficient for the Knights, and Derrick said he thought they were.

"I've got a pretty good experienced group of kids that was able to handle it, not having any mental lapses," Derrick said. "We played with good effort, and that's a big thing. Play with good effort, execute and go out there, and good things will happen to you. I think that was a good resemblance to what happened tonight."

Next week, the Knights hit the road to take on region-foe Bulloch Academy. Despite having three straight wins under their belt, Derrick said they'd find out next week just how good they are.

"Hopefully, the kids will be ready, and maybe we can travel up there and shock some people," Derrick said. "They're number two in GISA, and I think we're fourth or fifth, but we like our chances. We like our kids. We don't have many of them, but we go play hard — that's one thing we're going to do."

Terrors

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score Thomas.

Jordan Wallen followed with an RBI ground-ball single to center and moved to second on Madysen Wilborn's ensuing single.

Wallen and Wilborn executed a double steal ahead of a single by Katie Wagner that cut the deficit to five, and Wilborn went on to steal home to trim Houston lead to 8-4 entering the sixth inning.

But Glynn Academy was unable to draw any closer to stealing the series against a hot-hitting Houston County, tallying just two more hits before recording its final six outs.

The Bears entered the series with a .335 batting average and a .420 on-base percentage as a team with 10 home runs among its 51 total extra-base hits while scoring nearly seven runs a game.

Coming off a first-round sweep in which it outscored Westlake 36-1, Houston County's bats remained hot in Game 1 of its doubleheader against Glynn — an 11-0 victory that saw the Bears score at least two runs in each of the four innings.

Houston County took advantage of four Glynn Academy errors while recording nine hits and five walks as it cruised to a win behind pitcher Ally Fleming's five shutout innings of two-hit ball.

It appeared as if the Bears may roll to its fourth consecutive double-digit postseason win in Game 2 on Friday

when they began a one-out rally in the top of the first inning.

After a leadoff ground out, Houston County doubled against Glynn starter Alex-is Knowlton and scored the first run of the game on a single a batter later. Following a walk, the Bears smacked a double that scored one run and sent the second runner sprinting home only to be cut down at the plate.

Knowlton secured the third out two pitches later, and she wouldn't relinquish another run the rest of the way. In fact, only one more Houston runner even advanced to third base despite 11 hits in the game as Glynn recorded out after out on the base paths.

Trailing 2-0, the Terrors scored their first run of the series in the bottom of the first in Game 2 when Mancil set the table with a leadoff single, stole second, and advanced to third on Wallen's sacrifice bunt.

Wilborn followed with an RBI single to cut the deficit in half, and an inning later, Mancil tied the game on a ground out that scored Ali Grace Williams.

Glynn recorded at least one base hit in each subsequent inning, but it wouldn't push across its final run until the bottom of the seventh. Knowlton retired the side in order in the top half of the inning to keep the game knotted up, before Wallen and Wilborn opened and closed the inning with back-to-back doubles — the latter securing the walk off.