



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

GAME
11



TENNESSEE STATE
5-5, 3-3 OVC

Head Coach
Eddie George
1st Year

VS



MISSISSIPPI STATE
6-4, 4-3 OVC

Head Coach
Mike Leach
2nd Year

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021 • 11 AM

Where: Starkville, Miss.

Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium (61,337)

Surface: Latitude 36 Bermudagrass (Natural Grass)

Forecast: 65, Sunny Skies

Television: SEC Network, ESPN+

The SEC Network will carry the game live with Mike Couzens (play-by-play), Dustin Fox (analyst). Pregame will begin at 11:00 a.m. Central Time. Fans can also watch the game on the ESPN app.

Radio: 102.1 FM The Ville, Sirius XM — 192 (car), 991 (app)

Big Blue Sports Network will carry the game live with Greg Pogue (play-by-play) and Will Brown (analyst). Pregame show starts at 10:30 a.m. Central Time

Series Information:

This is the first all-time meeting between Tennessee State and Mississippi State.



LAST 10 GAMES (RESULTS):

2021 — First Meeting

GARNETT'S GLORY

Chayil Garnett made the most of his opportunity against Austin Peay 95 yards on 9-of-19 passing in the fourth quarter. He tossed his first TD to Zaire Thornton on the final drive of the contest.

ROWDY RODY ROUSE

Jalen Rouse rushed for 52 yards on 18 carries and added a 40-yard reception to his 92 yards of total offense.

HEART AND SOUL

Josh Trueheart had a pair of receptions for 39 yards in the loss to Austin Peay. Trueheart has 11 receptions on the season for 141 yards and one touchdown.

STARLING'S SKILL BOOST

Devon Starling used all skill sets vs. UT Martin when he rushed for 79 yards on 16 carries and was TSU's top receiver with 117 yards on 12 receptions.

HEAD OF THE TABLE STRIKES

Cory Rahman led the Tigers against UT Martin with 11 tackles (six solo and five assists) and had a Roman Reigns-like "spear" tackle off a punt return. Jahsun Bryant forced a pair of fumbles and recovered one to put the Tigers in striking position.

#3 IS TOP 3

Devon Starling is third in the OVC in yards per game (84.6). The local Antioch product is also third in total yards rushed with 761.

BATTLE OF THE TOP QB'S

TSU's Jeremy Hickbottom ranks as one of the top OVC QB's in passing efficiency (135.9) and is second in passing yards (201.7). Austin Peay's Draylen Ellis is the top OVC QB in passing yards with 248.4 per contest with 13 TDs. Sheldon Layman is second in passing efficiency but has only made 54 passing attempts. Ellis is fourth in this category (120.1).

THE SUN SETS FOR VISITORS EARLY

Jahsun Bryant is tied for second in the OVC with 7.9 tackles per contest. He has 71 total tackles in nine games with 40 solo put downs. Bryant is

also second in forced fumbles (2) and fumbles recovered (2). Tadarious Patterson is third in the OVC with 3 sacks.

MADDEN RATING INCREASE

Quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom tied his career-best with three rushing touchdowns and threw a touchdown to lead TSU over Murray last Saturday. His performance while heroic, was not his career-best, as he finished with six total touchdowns against Oklahoma Panhandle State while with Grambling. His D1 career-best outing came against Texas Southern (the other TSU) when he had three rushing touchdowns and two thrown TDs.

Hickbottom Games with 3+ TDs

Date	Opponent	Total TD	Passing	Rushing
10/6/2018	vs. Oklahoma Panhandle St.	6TDs	// 29-44—297...3 TDs	6-71...3 TDs
11/2/2019	vs. Texas Southern	5TDs	// 16-23—268...2TDs	15-185...3TDs
10/30/2021	vs. Murray State	4TDs	// 17-29—159 ...1TD	8-87...3TDs
10/13/2018	vs. Texas Southern	3TDs	// 29-44—345...3TD	
10/27/2018	vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff	3TDs	// 18-26—217...3TD	
10/26/2019	vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff	3TDs	// 19-33—248 ... 2TD	14-21...1TD
10/2/2021	vs. Austin Peay	3TDs	// 18-34—301...2TDs	10-66...1 TD
10/23/2021	vs. Eastern Illinois	3TDs	// 14-24—161...1TD	8-34...2TDs

MORE RECORDS

TSU entered the UT Martin contest on a four-game winning streak, its largest since 2016, when the Tigers started the season 4-0 with wins over Arkansas-Pine Bluff (John Merritt Classic, 44-0), Jackson State (Southern Heritage Classic, 40-26), Bethune-Cookman (31-24) and UT Martin (34-30).

The streak is also at four-game in the OVC, the first time since the 2013 season, with wins over Tennessee Tech (41-21), SEMO (40-16), Jacksonville State (31-15), and UT Martin (29-15).

KINGS OF THE FIRST-YEAR JUNGLE

Head coach Eddie George sits among six other TSU head football coaches to win at least five games in their first season as leader of the Tigers. Below is a list of the best first-year performances by a TSU head football coach.

Lawrence Simmons (1938) — 6-1-0
Harry Kean (1944) — 8-2-1
Howard Gentry (1955) — 7-2-0
John Merritt (1963) — 6-3-0
William Thompson (1984) — 11-0-0
Joe Gilliam Sr. (1989) — 5-5-1
Eddie George (2021) — 5-4-0

TOP DEFENSES BATTLE

The UT Martin contest featured the top defenses in the OVC as the Tigers lead the conference allowing a low 20.5 points per game while the Skyhawks are at 26.8 points allowed per contest.

Tennessee State has allowed the least amount of total yard (2,623). UTM is fourth in that category at 2,871.

The Tigers could have a tough time on the ground as UTM allows an average of 118.6 yards per contest, but struggle in the air allowing 240.2 yards per completion.

On the opposite side, TSU allows just 155.9 yards on the ground and 172.0 yards in the air.

NASHVILLE IS TRUE TO HIS HEART

Josh Trueheart scored his second career touchdown on Saturday against Murray State. It was his best performance of the season with two receptions for 46 yards. Trueheart's touchdown came in the third quarter, a 24-yard pass from Hickbottom with 8:04 left in the frame.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 5
Grambling State L, 10-16
(Black College Hall of Fame Classic)

Sept. 11
Jackson State L, 16-38
(Southern Heritage Classic)

Sept. 18
Kentucky State W, 41-7
(John A. Merritt Classic)

Sept. 25
at Southeast Missouri L, 14-47

Oct. 2
at Austin Peay W, 24-22

Oct. 16
Tennessee Tech (ot) W, 20-13

Oct. 23
at Eastern Illinois W, 28-0

Oct. 30
Murray State W, 27-21
(Homecoming)

Nov. 6
at UT Martin L, 20-41

Nov. 13
Austin Peay L, 7-36

Nov. 20
at Mississippi State 11 a.m.

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Tennessee State ranks among the FCS national statistical leaders in these categories:

- Passing Yards Allowed — 14th (179.3)
- Team Passing Efficiency Defense — 12th (109.97)

OVC RANKINGS

Tennessee State ranks among the OVC statistical leaders in these categories:

- 3rd Down Conversion Pct. Defense — 5th (.382)
- 4th Down Conversion Pct. Defense — 2nd (.444)
- Completion Percentage — 2nd (0.567)
- First down defense — 2nd (145)
- Kickoff Return Defense — 4th (19.36)
- Kickoff Return — 2nd (20.86)
- Passing Offense — 2nd (213.5)
- Passing Yards per Completion — 1st (13.34)
- Pass Offense (avg.) — 2nd (213.5)
- Punt Returns — 1st (11.44)
- Rushing Defense — 3rd (153.8)
- Scoring Defense — 1st (20.5)
- Total Defense (avg.) — 1st (348.5)

TIGERS IN THE NFL

Tennessee State is one of two teams in the OVC with multiple players that saw action in Week 10 of the NFL.

Anthony Levine, DB, Baltimore Ravens

- Had one tackle in the Ravens loss to the Dolphins.

Lachavious Simmons, OL, Chicago Bears

- Team was on bye.

Chris Rowland, WR, Tennessee Titans

- Practice squad



TENNESSEE STATE FOOTBALL





GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of School Tennessee State University (TSU)
 City/Zip.....Nashville, Tenn. 37209
 Founded 1912
 Enrollment8,088
 NicknameTigers
 School Colors Reflex Blue and White
 Affiliation.....NCAA Division I
 Conference.....Ohio Valley Conference (OVC)
 Stadium..... Nissan Stadium (69,143)
 Surface..... TifSport Bermuda Sod
 Stadium.....W.J. Hale Stadium (15,000)
 SurfaceBermuda Sod

President Dr. Glenda Glover
 Director of Athletics. Dr. Mikki Allen
 Athletics Department #(615) 963-5034
 Director of CommunicationsNick Guerriero
 SID Cell #..... (516) 849-8080
 TSU Ticket Coordinator..... Tyler Iverson
 Ticket Office #..... (615) 963-5841 or (615) 963-ROAR
 Official Web SiteTSUTigers.com

2020 TEAM INFORMATION

2020 Overall Record 2-5

..... Home 2-2
 Away 0-3

2020 OVC Record (Finish) 2-5

..... Home: 2-2
 Away: 0-3

TSU FOOTBALL

First Season.....1912
 All-Time Record:574-312-33
 First Year in OVC:1988
 OVC Record:106-33
 OVC Championships: 2 (Last-1999)
 NCAA FCS Playoff Appearances: 5 (Last-2013)
 HBCU National Championships:14 (Last-2013)
 Cumulative All-Americans:339
 Number of Pro Football Hall of Famers: (2 Total);
Claude Humphrey 2014, Richard Dent 2011

LAST MEETING

- This is the first meeting

LAST TIME OUT

- Tennessee State dropped its final OVC contest of the season on Senior Day against Austin Peay, 36-7.
- Zaire Thornton scored TSU's lone TD on a six-yard pass from Chayil Garnett with 1:18 left to play in the contest.
- Garnett finished the fourth quarter with 95 yards on 9-of-19 passing.
- Jalen Rouse picked up 40 yards on one reception while Josh Trueheart had 39 on two catches.
- The Green Brothers finished with 17 combined tackles. James had one of TSU's five sacks.
- Kaleb Mosley had nine punts that averaged 41.9 yards. He sent two inside the 20 and two that sailed over 50 yards.
-



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IT'S A BIRD...IT'S A PLANE...IT'S HICKBOTTOM RUNNING IT IN

Quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom once again showed why he is one of the top QBs in the OVC with his abilities to move the ball in the air and on the ground. In the 28-0 win over Eastern Illinois, Hickbottom threw for 161 yards and ran for 38. Within those numbers, he found Zaire Thornton for his lone TD pass of the game, and rushed for 38 yards with two touchdowns. In total, Hickbottom has 14 touchdowns (10 pass, 4 rush) this season.

D-FENSE... CLAP...CLAP

The Tennessee State defense led by defensive coordinator Brandon Fisher have not allowed a point on the board in the last six quarters. The Tigers are the top defensive team in the OVC allowing an average of 20.4 points per game and 320.7 yards per contest. The Tigers also top the OVC in pass defense efficiency (105.1), punt return average (11.4) and kick off coverage (41.7).

STARDUST

Devon Starling turned on the jets for his third 100+ yards rushing game of the season. Starling picked up 122 yards on 25 attempts, his second best of the season and scored a touchdown late in the contest. His 30-yard rush was his longest of the season.

IS YOUR RECEIVER RUNNING ... THEN YOU BETTER GO CATCH 'EM.

TSU receivers made 14 catches for 161 yards and one score last Saturday. Zaire Thornton was the top receiver with 76 yards on four receptions. His third quarter touchdown put the Tigers up 21-0 but it was the way he played that showed the coaching staff that he will be a valuable wide receiver the rest of the way.

MEAN GREEN

James Green as named last week's OVC Football Co-Defender of the Week. Green tallied six tackles (5 solo), a tackle for loss and an interception in Tennessee State's 28-0 win at Eastern Illinois. Green's interception came in the second quarter and he returned the pick 47 yards to the EIU 2-yard line, which led to a Tigers touchdown two plays later that put TSU ahead 7-0. His brother Josh also had an interception in the game.

THE GREEN BROTHERS

James and Joshua Green became the first set of brothers to record an interception in the same game in recent memory. James secured his INT in the second quarter and returned the ball 47 yards to the EIU 49. Joshua secured his pick in the third quarter.

RECORDS GALORE

The shutout vs. EIU was TSU's first D1/OVC defensive blanking since 2013, a 31-0, win over SEMO. The last overall shutout was a 60-0 win over Virginia Lynchburg in 2017.

The win is also TSU's first three-game winning streak since 2017 when they defeated Georgia State, Jackson State, and Florida A&M to start the season 3-0. Within the OVC, the last time TSU won three straight league matches was in 2013 with victories over SEMO, Jacksonville St. and UT Martin.

THE SCRAMBLER

Quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom led a second half charge for the Tigers in the win over Tennessee Tech with 256 passing yard for two touchdowns. Hickbottom scrambled efficiently to the tune of 52 net yards and an averaged Of 6.5 yards per run. His longest sneak was 16 yards. The QB completed 20-of-34 passes with his longest throw of 56 yards.

WISH UPON THIS STAR

Devon Starling finished with 65 rushing yards in the win over Tennessee Tech, but his biggest contribution came as a receiver with a season-best 58 yards on four receptions.

A NON-MARKED MAN

Rodell Rahmann picked up another touchdown against Tennessee Tech, his fourth game finding the end zone. Rahmann finished with 106 yards on four catches with his longest reception of 56 yards.

ZITA NOW THIRD

Kicker Antonio Zita made his 50th career field goal on September 18 against Kentucky State, moving him into sole possession of fourth place in OVC history. Zita now has 53 field goals (third in OVC history) and is six away from the OVC record (held by TSU's Jamin Godfrey). His 53 made field goals is second among active FCS players.

FCS PUNTER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

Punter Kaleb Mosley is one of two OVC punter to be named to the 2021 FCS Punter of the Year Award Watch list by the Augusta Sports Council. So far this season, Mosley has 30 punts for an average of 41.53 yards. His longest this year was a 58 yarder at Austin Peay. Mosley has reached 50+ yards six times with four touchdowns and four fair catches. The 2021 watch list was compiled based on the 2020 FCS Punter of the Year watchlist, the 2020 All-Conference Teams, the 2020 All-American Teams and the 2021 pre-season All-Conference Teams. The FCS Punter of the Year Award winner will be voted on by the FCS Punter of the Year Award/Ray Guy Award Committee and will be announced after the regular season.

TOP FIVE IN OVC

Starling is fifth in the OVC for most yard rushed in a game with 142 against Kentucky State.

MR. 1,000

In the win at Austin Peay, Devon Starling eclipsed 1,000 career rushing yards. The reigning OVC Co-Freshman of the Year is off to a races this season with 484 yards on the ground, an average of 80.67 per game. The sophomore has broken the 100-yard mark twice this season, both in games won by the Tigers. Starling rushed for 142 yards in the win over Kentucky State and then added 120 in the win at Austin Peay.

ARMED AND READY TO GO

Quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom has been the shining light for the Tigers in his first season as TSU's starting gunslinger. The Mobile, Alabama, product has thrown a touchdown pass in all but one contest this season with two multi-touchdown performances (both wins). Hickbottom not only can find receivers, but can also plow through the line. Against Austin Peay, Hickbottom rushed for 66 yards, including a 48-yard dash to the end zone for his first rushing touchdown of the season.

SUPER FLY

In his career, which includes two seasons at Grambling, Hickbottom has amassed 5,405 passing yards and 1,361 rushing yards. From the air, Hickbottom has found 38 receivers for touchdowns and on his own, he's rushed for 17 touchdowns.

RODELL OR ODELL

Rahmaan has been a highlight reel for the Tigers this season with his acrobatic catches and determination to find the end zone. The Bowling Green transfer has six touchdowns this season with 17 receptions for 415 yards, an average of 24.06 per catch. A fantasy points machine, Rahmaan averaged 81.80 yards per contest with his longest reception a 63 yard touchdown.

THE LAW OFFICES OF BRYANT, GREEN, RAHMAN AND GREEN

Linebackers Jahsun Bryant and James Green and safeties Cory Rahman and Josh Green have combined for 117 of TSU's 365 tackles. Bryant and Green are tied for the team lead with 32 tackles each. Rahman has a team-high 21 solo tackles from the secondary with James Green topping the assisted tackles with 19.

R2 IN PS4 AND RT IN XBOX ONE

Dayron "Fat Cat" Johnson found a boost in his run against Southern Missouri with a 90 kick return for touchdown. The sophomore from Springfield, Tennessee has run for a combined 413 yards in punt returns and kickoffs.

SCORING STREAK

Tennessee State has scored in 83 consecutive games dating back to the end of the 2013 season.

HEAR OUR ROAR

Last year, nine TSU players were named to the All-OVC team. That included running back Devon Starling, who was named Co-Freshman of the Year, defensive tackle Davaoan Hawkins, kicker Antonio Zita, right tackle Cam Durley and fullback Benjamin Johnson who each earned first-team honors. Additionally, safety Josh Green, linebacker James Green, wide receiver Cam Wyche and punter Kaleb Mosley earned spots on the second-team. Hawkins and Wyche also earned OVC All-Newcomer honors.

STARLING A STUD

Running back Devon Starling was named the 2020-21 OVC Co-Freshman of the Year after ranking second among all freshmen nationally (first during the regular season), and ranking 13th overall in rushing, averaging 92.6 yards/game. Overall Starling had 648 total yards on 124 carries and scored three touchdowns. Starling was the third Tiger to be named OVC Freshman of the Year, joining running back Javarris Williams (2005) and quarterback Michael German (2011). Starling also earned Freshman All-American honors from HERO Sports for his performance.

MORE ON STARLING

Starling recorded three 100-yard games in 2020-21 with a season-best 149 yards at Murray State, one week before running for 134 yards versus UT Martin. Starling closed out the season with a 104 yard and a touchdown performance against Southeast Missouri. His 5.23 yards per carry average was 33rd-best nationally, and fifth among first-year running backs.

ZITA EARNS ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Kicker Antonio Zita was named a 2021 Preseason All-American by Stats Perform and Phil Steele after earning postseason All-American honors from each of those outlets in 2020-21. Last season he converted 14 field goals, leading the OVC and finishing fourth in the country with 2.0 per game. Zita impressed with eight field goals from beyond 40 yards, including five from 50-yards or more. He was the only kicker in the nation to have more than two field goals made from 50-plus and recorded the longest kick at all levels of the NCAA this season with a 62-yard blast against Eastern Illinois.

MORE ON ZITA

Zita enters this year with 46 career made field goals, which is tied for 10th in OVC history with former Tiger Lane Clark (2014-17). The OVC record is 59 by former Tiger Jamin Godfrey (2010-13). In 2019, Zita made 20 field goals, which was tied for the fifth-most in OVC single-season history. Zita has 203 career points, which is eighth in TSU history, and fourth among kickers.

EXPERIENCED STAFF

Coaching staff brings 140 Years of NFL/College experience. An NFL head coach. Super Bowl champions. Collegiate National Champions. Pro Bowlers. NFL assistants and college coordinators. Collectively, TSU's staff brings more than 140 years of combined on-field NFL and collegiate coaching experience to the Tigers. Every TSU assistant has some level of NFL experience, including former Oakland Raiders and Cleveland Browns head coach Hue Jackson, who will serve as Tennessee State's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. The assistant coaching staff also features six former NFL players and four NFL draft picks, like Clyde Simmons, a two-time All-Pro and Philadelphia Eagles' Hall of Famer who led the NFL with 19 sacks in 1992.

HAWKINS WREAKS HAVOC

Last season defensive lineman Davaoan Hawkins was named a Sophomore All-American by HERO Sports. Hawkins led the OVC in forced fumbles with 0.29 per game and sacks per game with 0.71 sacks per game. The defensive tackle transfer from Kentucky ranked 34th in FCS play in sacks per game, finishing with five in seven outings.

INSTANT IMPACT

Cornerback Eddie Graham and safety Cory Rahman emerged as bona fide leaders during camp after transferring from Southeastern where they previously played under defensive back coach Richard McNutt. Both were All-Americans.

TSU AND GRAMBLING 1-2 ALL-TIME IN NFL DRAFT PICKS FROM HBCU'S

The schools rank 1-2 in NFL players to come from an HBCU all-time with Tennessee State leading the way with 121 and GSU just behind with 117.





COACHING STAFF



EDDIE GEORGE HEAD COACH

Eddie George was announced as the 22nd head football coach at Tennessee State University on April 13, 2021. George played college football for Ohio State University and won the Heisman in 1995. That season, George rushed for a school record 1,927 yards and 24 touchdowns, an average of 148.23 yards per game, while also catching 47 passes for 417 yards and another score. He left Ohio State second in school history in career rushing yards (3,768) and third in rushing touchdowns (44). The Philadelphia native finished with 4,284 all-purpose yards, 45 touchdowns, and a 5.5 yards-per-carry average.

In 1996, George was the first-round draft selection of the then-Houston Oilers. He won the NFL Rookie of the Year award that season, and was the Oilers/Titans' starting tailback through 2003, never missing a start. He made the Pro Bowl four consecutive years (1997-2000), and assisted the Titans to a championship appearance in Super Bowl XXXIV. George is only the second NFL running back to rush for 10,000 yards while never missing a start, joining Jim Brown. Only Walter Payton (170) started more consecutive regular season games than George's 130.

In 2004, George signed a one-year contract with the Dallas Cowboys where he started eight games and finished the season with 432 yards and four touchdowns. He officially retired in 2006. George's career totals include 10,441 rushing yards, 268 receptions, 2,227 receiving yards, and 78 touchdowns (68 rushing and 10 receiving).

George was inducted in the College Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame in 2013. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and a board member of Music City Baseball. A native of Philadelphia, George graduated from Ohio State in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. He later earned an MBA from Northwestern in 2009. He is married to Tamara "Taj" George and they have two sons, Eriq and Jaire.



HUE JACKSON OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / QUARTERBACKS COACH

Jackson has more than 30 years of experience coaching in the college and professional ranks. He spent 19 years in the NFL, serving as a head coach for the Oakland Raiders and the Cleveland Browns. He has found success as an offensive coordinator at multiple stops in both the NFL and college ranks (California, Southern California) and the NFL (Washington Football Team, Atlanta Falcons, Oakland Raiders, Cincinnati Bengals). He also coached quarterbacks with the Baltimore Ravens and Arizona State.



BRANDON FISHER DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Fisher brings over a decade of high-level NFL and collegiate coaching experience to the Tigers. The son of former Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans and St. Louis/Los Angeles Rams head coach Jeff Fisher, Brandon Fisher spent eight seasons as an NFL assistant coach, serving as the secondary coach and assistant secondary coach for the Rams over six seasons. He also spent time on the staffs of the Tennessee Titans and Detroit Lions. Fisher was a two-year starter at Montana, playing in two FCS National Championship Games. Most recently, he served as a defensive analyst at Auburn and as the defensive coordinator at Southern Utah.





COACHING STAFF



PEPE PEARSON, RUNNING BACKS COACH

Pearson brings more than 16 years of coaching experience to TSU after an outstanding playing career that saw him star at Ohio State with Eddie George, play in the NFL with the Chicago Bears and Pittsburgh Steelers and win NFL Europe's 2000 World Bowl Championship. Pearson coached running backs at Marshall for the past five seasons, guiding Brenden Knox to Conference USA MVP honors. He also coached running backs at Youngstown State and Ohio Dominican.



KENAN SMITH, WIDE RECEIVERS COACH

A former two-sport star at Sacramento State, Smith was on the Los Angeles Rams staff for three seasons (2014-16), serving as offensive assistant and interim tight ends coach, before coaching wide receivers at Southern Utah for two seasons. He also served as recruiting coordinator for the Thunderbirds. Smith was selected for the NFL's Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship Program in 2018, interning with the Miami Dolphins. Smith also has made stops at Butler and Ball State and worked in marketing at Michigan in his career.



MARK HUTSON, OFFENSIVE LINE COACH

Hutson followed a standout collegiate career at Oklahoma by making his mark as a respected offensive assistant coach during several professional and collegiate stops over more than 30 years. Most recently, Hutson served as a senior offensive analyst for two seasons at LSU, helping the Tigers win the national championship in 2019. He also coached with the Browns and Raiders as well as Arkansas State, Boise State, Tulane and Eastern Illinois, where he was the interim head coach in 2006. Hutson won a national championship as player at Oklahoma and was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the third round of the 1988 NFL Draft.



KEITH BURNS, SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR/ DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST

One of the greatest special teams players in NFL history, Burns won two super bowls with the Denver Broncos and played in the NFL for 13 years. Since his playing career ended, Burns has made a name for himself as an NFL assistant, coaching special teams with the Los Angeles Chargers, Washington Football Team and Broncos. Burns starred at linebacker at Oklahoma State and was selected by the Broncos in the seventh round of the 1994 NFL Draft.



JOE BOWDEN, LINEBACKERS COACH

A former Tennessee Titans linebacker and nine-year NFL veteran, Bowden brings more than a decade of coaching experience to Tennessee State. Bowden served as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Missouri Baptist over the last four seasons after working as the inside linebackers coach for the San Francisco 49ers (2016) and the assistant linebackers coach for the St. Louis Rams (2012-15). He also coached at Central Oklahoma as well as in the high school ranks, in NFL Europe and completed an internship with the Washington Football Team. After earning All-America honors at Oklahoma, he was selected in the fifth round of the 1992 NFL Draft by the Houston Oilers and was teammate of Eddie George for several seasons.



CORY HARKEY, TIGHT ENDS COACH

A fast-rising young coach, Harkey played tight end for the St. Louis/Los Angeles Rams for five seasons (2012-16) after a four-year career at UCLA that includes 26 consecutive starts. He comes to TSU following two years at Azusa Pacific University where he coached tight ends and served as the Cougars' special teams coordinator. He also was twice selected for the NFL's Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship Program, working with the Green Bay Packers and Rams.



RICHARD MCNUTT, DEFENSIVE BACKS COACH

McNutt, who won a national championship as a player at Ohio State, brings more than a 15 years of collegiate coaching experience to Tennessee State. Most recently, McNutt served as the defensive backs coach at Southeastern University following four seasons as the co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Youngstown State, where he helped the Penguins to an appearance in the 2016 FCS National Championship Game. McNutt also has coached at Toledo, Kent State, Northern Illinois and NC State, and spent one season on the Cleveland Browns staff, among several successful coaching stints.



CLYDE SIMMONS, DEFENSIVE LINE COACH

A two-time All-Pro and Philadelphia Eagles Hall of Famer, Simmons played in the NFL for 15 seasons before spending the last decade in coaching. Simmons was the defensive line coach for the Cleveland Browns in 2017-18, mentoring No. 1 pick Myles Garrett before coaching the defensive lines at Missouri Baptist and Western Carolina. He also was an assistant defensive line coach with the St. Louis/Los Angeles Rams and was a coaching intern with the New York Jets. Simmons led the NFL with 19 sacks in 1992. His 121.5 career sacks ranked 11th in NFL history at the time of his retirement.

2021 TSU FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF



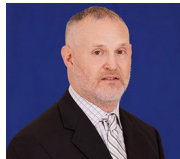
DUSTY BENNETT
Football Chief Of Staff



KATRINA CHAMBERS
Director Of Football External Relations



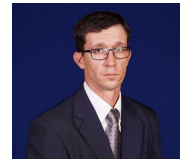
JARED COULTER
Video Coordinator



SCOTT HOLSOPLLE
Director Of Sports Performance



TREVOR SEARCY
Head Athletic Trainer



JEREMY TAYLOR
Head equipment manager

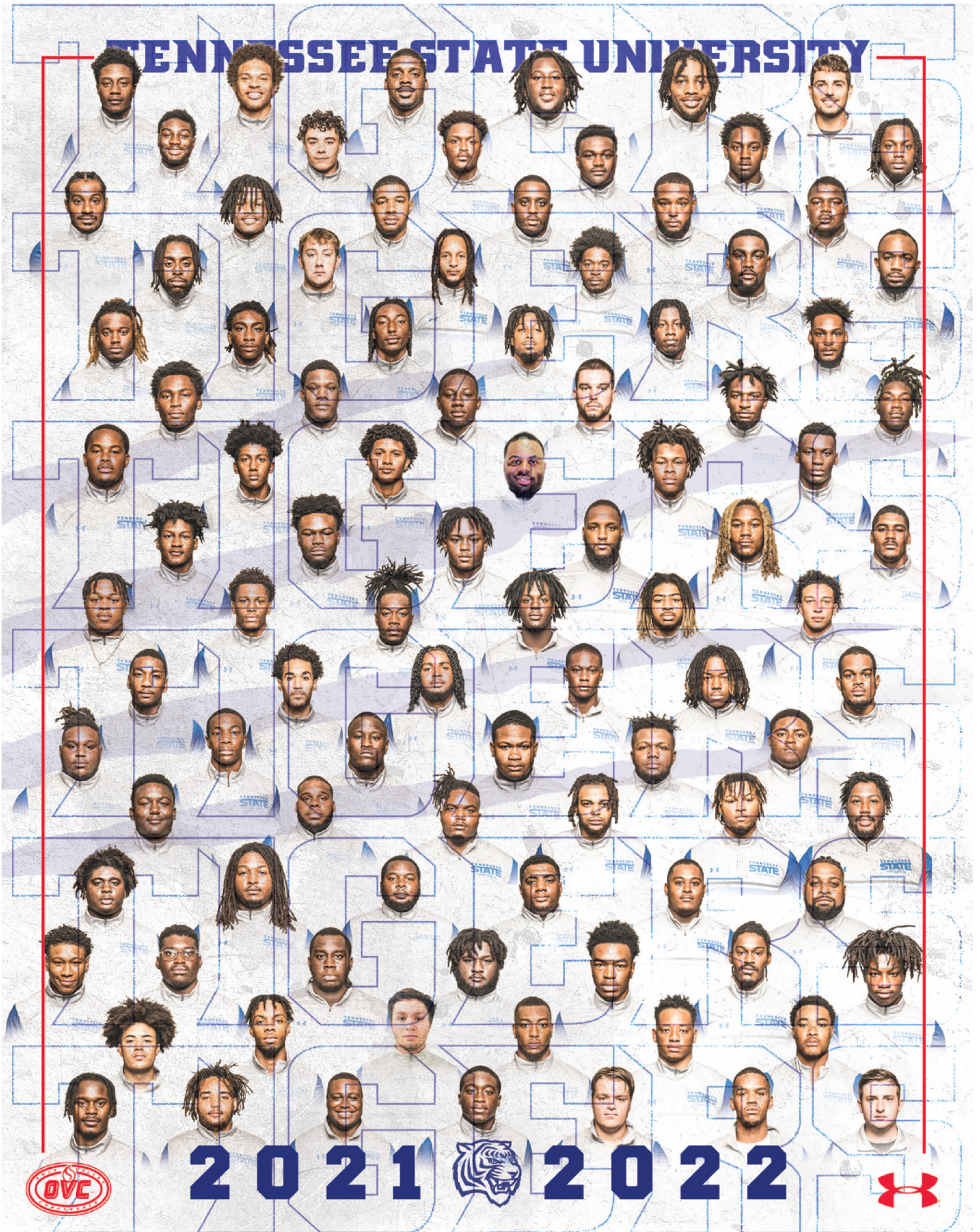


ARIEL ESCOBAR
Director Of Football Operations And On Campus Recruiting



HAROLD GOODING
Football Special Assistant







DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	Number	Name	Height	Weight	Year
QB	19	Jeremy Hickbottom	6'4	210	SR
	8	Deveon Bryant	6'5	225	R-SO
RB	3	Devon Starling	6'1	200	FR
	22	Jalen Rouse	5'11	180	FR
	44	Thomas Boone	6'0	195	FR
WR	11	Zaire Thornton	6'2	180	FR
	2	Cam Wyche	6'1	185	JR
WR	7	Vincent Perry	6'0	180	SR
	82	Antonio Jamison	6'2	192	FR
WR	5	Dayron Johnson	5'9	180	SO
	6	Zach Dobson	5'8	165	JR
TE	88	Joshua Trueheart	6'5	254	SR
	85	Rodell Rahmaan	6'3	215	SR
LT	77	Jaalon Gupton	6'5	290	R-FR
	73	Travin Jones	6'3	290	FR
LG	70	Robert Lacey	6'3	340	JR
	62	Chazan Page	6'1	293	FR
C	75	Jeremiah Frazier	6'3	315	FR
	51	Jimmy Nixon III	6'3	340	R-FR
RG	62	Chazan Page	6'1	293	FR
	51	Jimmy Nixon III	6'3	340	R-FR
RT	72	Will James	6'4	305	RS-S
	78	Brandon Jones	6'6	330	RS-JR

DEFENSE	Number	Name	Height	Weight	Year
DE	55	Davoon Hawkins	6'3	290	SO
	40	Detoye Adewole	6'4	290	FR
DT	1	Terray Jones	6'1	310	SO
	9	Nathaniel Sutton	6'3	260	JR
N	93	Raymond Horton	6'3	333	JR
	96	Cameron Stewart	6'3	380	SO
OLB	5	Tadarrius Patterson	6'1	228	JR
	48	Chris Walker	6'4	226	FR
MLB	0	Jahsun Bryant	6'2	225	JR
	47	Ahmad Nelson	6'2	225	FR
WLB	8	James Green	6'1	220	R-JR
	37	Michael Crawford	6'0	225	R-JR
CB	3	Eddie Graham	5'10	185	SR
	28	Jalen McLendon	6'0	170	FR
S	26	Cory Rahman	6'2	195	SR
	25	Christian Smith	5'9	180	R-SO
S	6	Joshua Green	5'11	184	SO
	34	James Reese	5'10	195	R-SO
CB	16	De'Amare Chambers	6'0	168	FR
	29	Nick Harper	5'10	179	SR
N/S	15	Kenyon Garlington	5'9	185	R-SO
	57	Maurice McDonald	6'0	218	R-SO

SPECIALISTS	Number	Name	Height	Weight	Year
PK	2	Antonio Zita	5'9	175	JR
	99	James Lowery	5'10	225	R-FR
H	9	Heath Williams	6'0	230	R-FR
	41	Kaleb Mosley	5'10	187	JR
P	41	Kaleb Mosley	5'10	187	JR
	99	James Lowery	5'10	225	R-FR
LS	52	Carson Buchanan	6'0	270	FR
	88	Joshua Trueheart	6'5	254	SR
KR	5	Dayron Johnson	5'9	180	SO
	22	Jalen Rouse	5'11	180	FR
PR	5	Dayron Johnson	5'9	180	SO
	22	Jalen Rouse	5'11	180	FR
KO	41	Kaleb Mosley	5'10	187	JR
	99	James Lowery	5'10	225	R-FR





NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
0	Torrey Morrison	WR	Fr.	5'8	190	Miami, Fla. / Booker T. Washington
1	Terray Jones	DL	So.	6'1	310	Madison, Fla. / Madison County
1	Gerand Turner	WR	Fr.	6'0	205	Miami, Fla. / South Miami
1	Cam Wyche	WR	Jr.	6'1	185	Douglasville, Ga. / South Spaulding
2	Antonio Zita	K	Jr.	5'9	175	Fayetteville, Tenn. / Lincoln County
3	Eddie Graham	DB	Sr.	5'10	185	Hudson, Fla. / Hudson
3	Devon Starling	RB	Fr.	6'1	200	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
4	Chayil Garnett	QB	R-Fr.	6'2	225	Lakeland, Fla. / Lake Wales
5	Tadarrius Patterson	DL	Jr.	6'1	228	Birmingham Ala. / Carver
5	Dayron Johnson	WR	So.	5'9	180	Springfield Tenn. / Springfield
6	Zach Dobson	WR	Jr.	5'8	165	Knoxville, Tenn. / Fulton
6	Joshua Green	S	So.	5'10	184	Orlando, Fla. / Olympia
7	Vincent Perry	WR	Sr.	6'0	180	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
7	Kenyon Andrews	LB	Fr.	6-2	211	Baton Rouge, La. / Southern Lab
8	James Green	LB	R-Jr.	6'1	220	Orlando, Fla. / Olympia & Phillip
8	Deveon Bryant	QB	R-So.	6-5	225	Hillside, Ill. / Proviso West
9	Nathaniel Sutton	DL	Jr.	6-3	260	Philadelphia, Pa. / MLK
9	Heath Williams	QB	R-Fr.	6-0	230	Clarksville, Tenn. / Northeast
10	Tucker Pope	QB	Fr.	6-2	215	Cleveland, Tenn. / Walker Valley
10	Fondren Hollis III	CB	R-Fr.	5-11	175	Decatur, Ga. / Columbia
11	Zaire Thornton	WR	Fr.	6-2	180	Atlanta, Ga. / Ben E. Mays
11	Jahsun Bryant	LB	Jr.	6-2	225	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
12	Edwin Rhodes	QB	Fr.	6-1	211	Plantation, Fla. / American Heritage
13	Nyle Love	LB	R-So.	6-1	233	Memphis, Tenn. / Lausanne Collegiate
14	Dashon Davis	CB	R-Fr.	5-11	185	Quincy, Fla. / Jefferson County
15	Martino Owens	QB	Fr.	6-2	185	Nashville, Tenn. / Pearl Cohn
15	Kenyon Garlington	DB	R-So.	5-9	185	Brentwood, Tenn. / Brentwood
16	De'Amare Chambers	DB	Fr.	6-0	168	Atlanta, Ga. / McEachern
17	Emmanuel Baez	DL	Fr.	6-3	238	Plant City, Fla. / Plant City
18	Terry Straughter	LB	Jr.	6-0	238	Miami, Fla. / Miami Carol
19	Kendall Johnson	DL	Fr.	6-6	237	Jackson, Tenn. / Liberty Tech
19	Jeremy Hickbottom	QB	Sr.	6-4	210	Mobile, Ala. / Williamson
20	Micheal Mitchell	RB	R-Jr.	6-0	195	Broheadsville, Pa. / Pleasant Valley
21	Jordan Helton	S	Fr.	6-1	200	Memphis, Tenn. / Memphis University
22	Jalen Rouse	RB	Fr.	5-11	180	Richmond, Ga. / Richmond Hill
23	Domonique Williams	CB	Sr.	5-11	185	Knoxville, Tenn. / Fulton
24	Ben Johnson	TE	R-Jr.	6-2	230	Lithonia, Ga. / Georgia Military
25	Christian Smith	DB	R-So.	5-9	180	Atlanta, Ga. / Westlake
26	Cory Rahman	S	Sr.	6-2	195	Winter Garden, Fla. / Foundation Acad.
27	Marcellius Lockett	S	So.	5-8	162	Lithonia, Ga. / MLK
28	Jalen McClendon	DB	Fr.	6-0	170	Tampa, Fla. / Chamberlain
29	Nick Harper	DB	Sr.	5-10	179	Brentwood, Tenn. / Ravenwood
30	Darius Harper	RB	Jr.	5-11	175	Brentwood, Tenn. / Ravenwood
30	Charlie Davidson	SR	So.	5-11	225	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
32	Malachi Oglen	CB	Fr.	5-11	165	Millport, Ala. / South Lamar
33	Dorian George	CB	Fr.	5-11	190	Memphis, Tenn. / Germantown
34	James Reese	S	R-So.	5-10	195	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
36	Zachery Drake	CB	Fr.	6-0	170	Nashville, Tenn. / Maplewood
37	Michael Crawford	LB	R-Jr.	6-0	225	Lansing, Ill. / Thornton Fractional
38	Amari Lefore	S	Fr.	5-10	180	Ridgeland, Miss. / St. Andrews Episcopal
39	Jalyn Law	CB	Fr.	6-1	185	Nashville, Tenn. / Pike
40	Detoye Adewole	DL	Fr.	6-4	240	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton
41	Kaleb Mosley	P	Jr.	5-10	187	Montgomery Ala. / Carver
42	Solomon Bridgeman	LB	Fr.	6-4	228	Chattanooga, Tenn. / Tyner
43	Kamden Edwards	FB	Fr.	5-10	225	Hixson, Tenn. / Chattanooga School Arts
44	Thomas Boone	RB	Fr.	6-0	195	Alexandria Va. / St. Stephens & Agnes
45	David Dorsey	DB	So.	5-10	175	Cleveland, Tenn. / Cleveland
46	Kobie Stillwell	P	Fr.	6-2	175	Columbus, Ohio / Fork Union
47	Ahmad Nelson	LB	Fr.	6-2	225	Adamsville Ala. / Minor
48	Chris Walker	DL	Fr.	6-4	226	Sanford, Fla. / Seminole
49	Graham Callaway	RB	Fr.	5-9	170	Jackson, Tenn. / Madison Academic





NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
50	Davion Nash	LB	Jr.	6-0	240	St. Louis, Mo. / St. Louis University
51	Deron Johnson	LB	So.	6-1	220	Elk Grove, Calif. / Pleasant Grove
52	Carson Buchanan	LS	Fr.	6-0	270	Nashville, Tenn. / Antioch
53	Clint Dowty	DL	So.	6-2	233	Nashville, Tenn. / Maplewood
55	Davoan Hawkins	DL	So.	6-3	290	Hollywood, Fla. / Chaminade Madonna
56	Elijah Hill	LB	Fr.	6-2	210	Zachary, La. / Zachary
57	Maurice McDonald	LB	R-So.	6-0	218	Houston, Texas / Houston Christian
58	Charles True	OL	Fr.	6-2	295	Chicago, Ill. / Rich East
60	Evan Neal	OL	Fr.	6-5	388	Cleveland, Tenn. / Cleveland
61	Kennedy Wilbert	OL	Fr.	5-10	293	Memphis, Tenn. / Middle College
62	Chazan Page	OL	Fr.	6-1	293	Nashville, Tenn. / Lipscomb
65	Darrell Branch	OL	Fr.	6-2	318	Gilbert, Ariz. / Higley
67	Chandon Page	OL	So.	6-3	307	Sheffield, Ala. / Sheffield
68	Peter Rouse	OL	Jr.	6-2	280	Cleveland, Ohio / Cleveland Heights
69	Joshua Phillips	LB	Fr.	6-2	265	Cordova, Tenn. / First Assembly
70	Robert Lacey	OL	Jr.	6-3	340	Mobile, Ala. / Blount
71	Jimmy Nixon	OL	R-Fr.	6-3	340	Hollywood, Fla. / Chaminade Madonna
72	William James	OL	R-Sr.	6-4	305	Columbus, Miss. / Columbus
73	Travin Jones	OL	Fr.	6-3	290	Midland, Ga. / G.W. Carver
74	Mayson Harris	OL	R-Fr.	6-0	336	Nashville, Tenn. / MLK Magnet
75	Jeremiah Frazier	OL	Fr.	6-3	315	Pike Road, Ala. / Pike Road
76	Cameron Durley	OL	Sr.	6-3	334	Houston, Texas / Houston Christian
77	Jaalon Gupton	OL	R-Fr.	6-5	290	Nashville, Tenn. / Stratford
78	Brandon Jones	OL	Jr.	6-6	330	Dacula, Ga. / Dacula
79	Jovens Janvier	OL	Fr.	6-6	379	Miami, Fla. / Dade Christian
80	Macarius (JJ) Jones	WR	Fr.	6-4	178	Tanner, Ala. / Tanner
81	Isiaah Owens	WR	Sr.	6-3	187	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
82	Antonio Jamison	WR	Fr.	6-2	192	Tampa, Fla. / Chamberlain
83	Jarvis Cooper	WR	Fr.	6-2	175	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
84	Floyd Alexander	TE	Fr.	6-4	250	Pittsburgh, Pa. / Westinghouse
85	Rodell Rahmaan	TE	Sr.	6-3	215	Columbus, Ohio / Beechcroft
86	William Seats III	TE	Fr.	6-4	240	Lebanon, Tenn. / Lebanon
87	Deshound Ward	WR	Fr.	5-10	150	Memphis, Tenn. / Whitehaven
88	Joshua Trueheart	TE	Sr.	6-5	254	Nashville, Tenn. / Stratford
90	Willie Robinson Jr.	DL	So.	6-3	260	Ofallon, Fla. / Ofallon Township
91	Sincere Littles	DL	Fr.	6-2	295	Sarasota, Fla. / Riverview
93	Raymond Horton	DL	Jr.	6-3	333	Daytona Beach Fla. / Mainland
94	Devon Holmes	DL	Fr.	6-1	240	Memphis, Tenn. / Southwind
95	Avery Blaikie	DL	R-So.	6-2	285	Coltsneck, N.J. / Coltsneck
96	Cameron Stewart	DL	So.	6-3	380	Chattanooga, Tenn. / McCallie
98	Cameron Bell	DL	Fr.	6-2	230	Chattanooga, Tenn. / Red Bank
99	James Lowery	K	R-Fr.	5-10	225	Plantation, Fla. / American Heritage

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

1	Gerrand Turner	Jurr-And
8	Devon Starling	Day-Von
9	Chayil Garnett	Shy-EI
26	Cory Rahman	Ray-Man
40	Detoye Adewole	Da-Toy-Yay Ad-De-Wall-E
75	Chazan Page	Chaz-On
86	Jaalon Gupton	Jay-Lun
88	Jovens Janvier	Jo-Vens
94	Rodell Rahmann	Row-Dell Rah-Man





2021 TENNESSEE STATE FOOTBALL DOUBLE NUMBERS

CODES OR DUPLICATE NUMBERS - OFFENSE

1	1T	Gerand Turner	WR
1	1O	Cam Wyche	WR
3	3O	Devon Starling	RB
5	5O	Dayron Johnson	WR
6	6O	Zack Dobson	WR
7	7O	Vincent Perry	WR
8	8Q	Deveon Bryant	QB
9	9Q	Heath Williams	QB
10	1Q	Tucker Pope	QB
11	1Z	Zaire Thornton	WR
15	1M	Martino Owens	QB
19	19	Jeremy Hickbottom	QB
30	3C	Charlie Davidson	RB
51	5N	Jimmy Nixon	OL
69	6F	Jeremiah Frazier	OL

CODES OR DUPLICATE NUMBERS - DEFENSE

1	1D	Terray Jones	DL
3	3D	Eddie Graham	DB
5	5D	Tadarrius Patterson	DL
6	6D	Joshua Green	S
7	7D	Kenyon Andrews	LB
8	8D	James Green	LB
9	9D	Nathaniel Sutton	DL
10	10	Fondren Hollis III	CB
11	11	Jahsun Bryant	LB
15	15	Kenyon Garlington	DB
19	1J	Kendall Johnson	DL
30	30	Darius Harper	DB
51	51	Deron Johnson	LB
69	69	Joshua Phillips	LB





2021 Ohio Valley Conference Football Report

Austin Peay | Eastern Illinois | Murray State | Southeast Missouri | Tennessee State | Tennessee Tech | UT Martin

November 15, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OVC STANDINGS

(In games through November 13)

	OVC					OVERALL								
	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	Home	Away	Neutral	Streak
UT Martin *	5	0	1.000	176	80	9	1	.900	337	237	5-0	4-1	0-0	W9
Austin Peay	3	2	.600	155	86	5	5	.500	310	254	2-2	3-3	0-0	W2
Southeast Missouri	3	2	.600	142	99	3	7	.300	266	327	2-2	1-5	0-0	L1
Tennessee State	3	3	.500	116	158	5	5	.500	207	241	3-1	2-2	0-2	L2
Murray State	2	3	.400	111	159	5	5	.500	217	265	4-1	1-4	0-0	W2
Tennessee Tech	1	4	.200	85	139	3	7	.300	182	302	2-3	1-4	0-0	L2
Eastern Illinois	1	4	.200	86	150	1	9	.100	147	292	0-3	1-6	0-0	L5

* OVC Champion and FCS Playoff Participant

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 20

Tennessee State at Mississippi State, 11:00 a.m. (ESPN+)

*Murray State at Eastern Illinois, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

*#8 UT Martin at Southeast Missouri, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

*Tennessee Tech at Austin Peay, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN3)

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Saturday, November 13

*@Murray State 28, Southeast Missouri 10

*#10 UT Martin 42, @Tennessee Tech 3

*Austin Peay 36, @Tennessee State 7

* Indicates OVC Contest
ALL TIMES CENTRAL

THIS WEEK'S OVC HIGHLIGHTS/STORYLINES

With its school record ninth-straight win, UT Martin clinched the 2021 OVC Championship, its first since the 2006 season...The Skyhawks also earned the league's automatic bid to the 24-team FCS Playoffs; the field will be announced on Sunday (11:30am CT, ESPNU)...The team's only other playoff appearance came in 2006...The team's nine-game win streak is tied for the second-longest nationally...UTM is one of five FCS teams who are undefeated against FCS competition this year (Jackson State, Kennesaw State, Montana State, Sam Houston State are the others)...UT Martin is ranked No. 10/13 in the major polls this week, its highest ranking since the 2006 season...Every current OVC team has been ranked at least one week in the Top 25 over the past five years (2016-20)...UTM head coach Jason Simpson currently sits at 99 career victories...SEMO's Geno Hess is fifth nationally with 14 rushing touchdowns; he ranked first in that category last year (12)...Murray State quarterback DJ Williams was named Stats Perform National Freshman of the Week after 296 yards of total offense and two touchdowns against SEMO...APSU's Johnathon Edwards is second nationally in interceptions (7); Edwards has also recovered two fumbles this year; his nine turnovers gained are tied for the most by any FCS player this season...As of November 14, there are 16 former OVC players on NFL rosters (9 active, 5 practice squad, 2 injured reserve)...Three OVC players have been named to each the Walter Payton Award Watch List (Draylen Ellis, Geno Hess, Keon Howard) and two apiece are on the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List (Marcis Floyd, Kordell Jackson) and the Jerry Rice Award Watch List (Drae McCray, Bryce Norman); the awards are presented by Stats Perform to the National Offensive and Defensive of the Year at the FCS level...OVC teams have 12 playoff wins since 2013, including five Quarterfinal appearances and one National Championship game appearance...In 7 of the past 11 years, an OVC team has defeated a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponent...Last academic year (2020-21), 187 football student-athletes were named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll for achieving a 3.25 GPA or better...The OVC and Southland Conference announced plans for a football scheduling alliance for the 2022 and 2023 seasons; the planned collaboration will see institutions from each conference fill available non-conference dates on schedules in the next two years with a focus toward competitive balance and reasonable travel...More specific details on the alliance, including game matchups in 2022 and 2023, will be announced at a later date...This year the League consists of seven football-playing schools who will play a six-game Conference schedule; additionally, some OVC schools will play other OVC opponents in designated matchups that will not count in the Conference standings (four games total, all of which have now been completed).





GAME 11

NOV 20 (SAT) 11:00 AM | STARKVILLE, MISS.

**TENNESSEE STATE
MISSISSIPPI STATE**

GAME RECAP



GAME 10

NOV 13 (SAT) 2:00 PM | NASHVILLE

**TENNESSEE STATE 7
AUSTIN PEAY 36**

GAME RECAP

NASHVILLE — Chayil Garnett threw a late touchdown pass to Zaire Thornton but Austin Peay ruined Senior Day at Nissan Stadium on Saturday afternoon with a 36-7 win over the Tigers.

An early injury to quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom and running back Devon Starling put the Tigers shorthanded as they could only muster 194 total yards compared to AP's 369 yards of total offense. The Tigers also had the misfortune of three turnovers (two interceptions and one lost fumble). Hickbottom's first replacement Deveon Bryant went 2-of-9 with 47 yards passed and was sacked three times. Late in the contest, Garnett filled in as the third quarterback for TSU and had success on 95 yards passing with a touchdown.

It came down to the last drive of the game for TSU who had not been shut out since a 44-0 loss to Eastern Kentucky on Nov. 2, 2013, a streak that moved to 86-games with at least a point on the board. The drive went nine plays and 57 yards for Garnett who escaped a fourth-and-10 and a false start at the one-yard line before the quick pass touchdown.

Jalen Rouse came on in absence of Starling with 52 net yards in 18 carries. Rouse also picked up 40 yards on one reception.

The Govs led 17-0 at the break and then added 19 more points in the second half.

Draylen Ellis led Austin Peay with 293 passing hard but was sacked four times as the TSU defense led by Josh Green had nine tackles and one sack. The Tigers defense also got sacks from Raymond Horton, Tadarius Patterson, Terray Jones and Davion Nash.





GAME 9

NOV 6 (SAT) 2:00 PM | MARTIN, TENN.

TENNESSEE STATE 20
UT MARTIN 41

GAME RECAP

MARTIN, Tenn. — The Tennessee State University football team suffered its first loss in over a month as the Tigers dropped its final OVC road contest, 41-20, to 11th-ranked UT Martin on Saturday afternoon at Graham Stadium.

In a matchup that had FCS Playoff implications on the line, it was the Skyhawks who indeed used their home field advantage to a tee. UT Martin finished with 422 yards of total offense and rushed for 298 yards.

Jeremy Hickbottom threw for 219 yards on 20-of-35 attempts. He threw a late touchdown to Dayron Johnson and then tossed an interception in the game's final seconds.

Devon Starling did most of his damage running routes, as the running back finished with 117 reception yards on 12 catches. He also ran for 78 yards on 16 attempts.

Neither team mustered much offense in the first quarter as the top two defensive teams in the OVC held the line. However, the Skyhawks opened up the scoring in the early in the second quarter with a 13-yard TD pass from Keon Howard to Randy Fields.

Antonio Zita put three points on the board for the

Tigers with a 28-yard field goal. Zita now has 54 career field goals (3rd in OVC history).

UT Martin finished the half with two touchdowns in the final 2:35 to take a 21-3 lead at the half.

James Lowery added three more points for the Tigers with the lone points of the third quarter, a 26-yard field goal.

The final 15 minutes saw five touchdowns beginning with a five-yard rush to the end zone by Starling to cut the deficit to 21-13. Once again, Martin spread their lead on a 21-yard QB sneak by Howard with 6:23 left to play.

The Tigers had momentum swinging their way when Hickbottom found Johnson for a 12-yard TD with 1:48 left to play. Just like the second quarter, UT Martin scored twice in a the final 1:32 of play to extend its lead to 41-20.

Howard finished with 124 yards passing and Zak Wallace had 123 yards rushing for the victorious Skyhawks.



GAME 8

OCT 30 (SAT) 5:00 PM | NASHVILLE

TENNESSEE STATE 27
TENNESSEE TECH 21

GAME RECAP

NASHVILLE — Tennessee State (5-3, 3-1 OVC) used the arm and legs of quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom to defeat Murray State (3-5, 0-3 OVC), 27-21, in OVC play on Saturday. Hickbottom ran for three touchdowns and threw for another in the Homecoming win in front of 8,627 fans.

Both defenses took over in the first and second quarters. TSU could only muster one first down in the opening stanza while employing a bend but not break approach when their defense was on the field.

After Murray St. forced TSU into a three-and-out on its first drive, the Racer offense used an 11 play 41-yard drive to set up for a field goal from 33 yards, but Aaron Baum missed it wide right. Murray's first drive in the second quarter was promising but ended on another Baum missed field goal. This time from 49 yards.

Neither team could sustain a drive until TSU took over on their own 15-yard line with 7:18 left in the half. The Tigers held the ball for 12 plays and went 85 yards in 3:28 to take a 7-0 lead. Hickbottom finished the drive off on an eight-yard run to paydirt. A key play on the drive was a 22-yard pass to tight end Josh Trueheart. On the last series before the end of the half, TSU defensive back Nick Harper was called for an unsportsmanlike penalty that would be assessed on the opening kickoff of the second half.

After a long halftime, Murray's used the penalty to get good field position. Racer returner Damien Gomes returned the kickoff 19 yards to give his team the ball at the TSU 49. After Murray converted a first down, Tiger linebacker James Reese IV intercepted a DJ Williams pass to stop the drive. TSU took little time capitalizing on the turnover, going on a three play 67-yard drive to make it 14-0. The drive was capped off on a nifty 65-yard run by Hickbottom.

TSU's inspired defense then forced Murray into a three

and out. The Tiger offense got rolling again going 64 yards on five plays to go up 21-0. This time Hickbottom used his arm to complete the drive on a 24-yard pass to Trueheart. Trueheart celebrated with an ode to Halloween with his rendition of the Michael Jackson with a Thriller dance.

Murray wouldn't go down quietly, as they climbed back into the game scoring the next 21 points to tie the game with 4:30 left in regulation. TSU took over at their own 38-yard line and went on an eight play 62-yard drive to take the lead on Hickbottom's third rushing touchdown, this time from seven yards out. Murray blocked the extra point by Antonio Zita to make the score 27-21.

The Tiger defense shut the door on Murray preventing them to get a first down to seal the win. The victory made it four in a row for TSU. They will try to make it five when they travel to West Tennessee to take on UT-Martin next Saturday.





GAME 7

OCT 23 (SAT) 2:00 PM | CHARLESTON, ILL.

**TENNESSEE STATE 28
EASTERN ILLINOIS 0**

GAME RECAP

CHARLESTON, ILL. — CHARLESTON, ILL. — Jeremy Hickbottom finished with three touchdowns (two rushing and one thrown) as the Tennessee State University football team shut out Eastern Illinois, 28-0, on Saturday afternoon.

The shutout was TSU's first DI/OVC defensive blanking since 2013, a 31-0, win over SEMO. The last overall shutout was a 60-0 win over Virginia Lynchburg in 2017.

The win is also TSU's first three-game winning streak since 2017 when they defeated Georgia State, Jackson State, and Florida A&M to start the season 3-0. Within the OVC, the last time TSU won three straight league matches was in 2013 with victories over SEMO, Jacksonville St. and UT Martin.

The Tiger defense forced nine punts and had four takeaways (3 INTs and one fumble recovery), the most in the last eight games. The Tiger D shut down the Panthers to the tune of 2-for-17 on third down.

TSU finished the contest with 308 yards split between 147 rushing and 161 passing yards.

Devon Starling showed why he was named the Co-OVC Rookie of the Year as a freshman with his third 100+ yard rushing game of the season. He finished with 122 on 25 carries with one touchdown and. Had a 30yard carry which led to his seven-yard TD.

Zaire Thornton had a breakout game, as the rookie wide receiver had 76 yards on four receptions and scored his first collegiate touchdown in the fourth quarter.

The Tigers threatened on the opening drive with a 26-yard pass on the first play from scrimmage to Thornton, which moved the Tigers into scoring position, but kicker Antonio Zita missed a 52-yard field goal.

The Tiger defense held the Panthers to a quick four and out during their first try on offense and then on the next defensive sequence, Eddie Graham kept the Panthers off the board with an interception from the end zone.

The Tigers picked up their second interception of the half, a 47-yard return by James Green with 11:45 left. TSU needed two plays on the initial drive to cross the line with a one-yard plunge by Hickbottom. Zita completed the point after to give TSU a 7-0 lead.

In the second half, the TSU defense caused havoc with its third INT when Joshua Green gave his team the ball at the TSU 35.

After EIU's sixth punt of the contest, Hickbottom wasted no time with a 19-yard rush from to the outside for his second score of the day. Punt returner Zach Dodson put the Tigers in the red zone with a 19-yard return from the EIU 49.

Hickbottom unleashed fury on the EIU defense with a pair of attempts to Thornton, first a 10-yard completion and then a diving touchdown from 16 out. The duo

Tennessee State forced its fourth turnover of the contest as Davoan Hawkins forced a fumble after a four-yard rush by EIU's Kendi Rushyong. Jahsun Bryant secured the fumble recovery for the visitors.

TSU needed five plays to return to the end zone as Starling rushed for a seven-yard touchdown. He ran three of the five plays with his longest rush of 30 yards to put the team inside the red zone.

Tennessee State returns to Nissan Stadium next Saturday to host Murray State at 5 p.m. on Homecoming Day.



GAME 6

OCT 16 (SAT) 2:00 PM | NASHVILLE

**TENNESSEE STATE 20
TENNESSEE TECH 13 OT**

GAME RECAP

NASHVILLE — Tennessee State University head coach Eddie George says he believes in what he's coined the "Tiger Mentality" — tenacity, intelligence, gritty explosiveness, and resilience. Fans saw all five of those in play during TSU's 20-13 overtime victory over Tennessee Tech University. It was the first time in five years that the Tigers have won back-to-back games.

"That's who we are. That's who I am," said George of the "T.I.G.E.R." mentality. "I'm going to work to make sure this team is ready every week. It's developing that championship mentality that we have to have around here. The energy in that locker room right now, the belief just went out the ceiling. It was a gutty win. I am glad our boys fought to get the victory."

The defense for both teams played stellar in the first quarter. In their first offensive series, Tech gambled on a fourth and one from their 38-yard line but TSU safety Josh Green stopped Tech running back John Gist for no gain. On the ensuing drive, TSU drove the ball down the Tech one-yard line. On third down, Tiger running back Jalen Rouse fumbled. Tech's Devin Squires recovered it at his two-yard line.

"We have to start faster on offense," said George. "We had a chance to put points on the board and we fumbled on the goal. We go down first and goal and jump offside and kick a field goal. I give a lot of credit to Tennessee Tech. They came with a great game plan. There were times that we just didn't execute."

Tech took over and put on an impressive drive, riding Gist on seven of nine plays that took them deep into Tiger territory. The quarter ended with Tech on a five-yard loss by Gist to make it third and 10.

After the scoreless first quarter, the Tigers stopped Tech on a third and 10 at their 24-yard line. A false start on fourth down made the field goal attempt a little longer but Tech took the lead on a 42-yard field goal by Hayden Olsen on the second play of the quarter. The 7:02 scoring drive covered 72 yards on seven plays.

On the kickoff following the field goal, sophomore Darryon "Fatcat" Johnson's 47-yard return put the Tigers in great field position at the Tech 38-yard line. A pass interference by Tech's Josh Reliford and a 24-yard run by Starling put the Tigers at the Tech four-yard line. The drive stalled, but Tiger kicker Antonio Zita tied the score at three on a 25-yard field goal. The drive took six plays for 31 yards, and it covered 2:16.

After forcing a Tech punt, the Tigers had a promising drive that stalled on a fumble by Tiger quarterback Jeremy Hickbottom. Tech's Xavier Washington recovered the ball at his 32-yard line. During the drive, TSU was called for two penalties. The biggest one was after Hickbottom hit Vincent Perry for a first down. It was called back on an illegal "hands to the face" penalty on TSU's Zaire Thornton.

On the ensuing drive, Tech held the ball to the final seconds of the half, converting on a 31-yard goal by Olsen. Tech took a 6-3 lead into the locker room.

Tech received the second-half kickoff and drove the ball inside TSU territory. The drive stalled, and TSU took over on their 11-yard line. The Tigers moved the ball to their 35-yard line and on second and eight, Hickbottom was injured on a sack by Tech's Chris Tucker. The drive stalled and both defenses finished the quarter pitching shutouts.

The fourth quarter started with Tech going for it again on fourth and two on the Tiger 29-yard line. Tech quarterback Willie Miller

was stopped for a one-yard loss giving the Tigers the ball back on their 30-yard line. TSU struck fast, starting their two-play touchdown drive with Hickbottom dumping a pass to Starling for a 14-yard gain to their 44-yard line. Hickbottom then rolled to his right and threw a pass to his left to tight end Rodell Rohmann who took it 56 yards for his sixth receiving touchdown of the season. The big stop on fourth down seemed to give the offense the lift they needed to get in the end zone.

"I have a lot of trust in my defense," said Rohmann. "We know that they are going to handle their stuff and play their hearts out every game. Having the defense that we have, having the players making the plays put there, creates a nice little cushion. I have confidence in them."

Tech answered with a 75-yard drive in 13 plays for a touchdown, culminated by a Moore pass to Jamal Dean for 10 yards on third and goal. It was Dean's first career TD. Olsen's extra point made it 13-10 with 8:21 left in regulation.

After both teams' drives stalled, the Tigers took over at their 13-yard line with 3:27 to go in regulation. Hickbottom and Rohmann connected on a 37-yard seam route to get the drive started. A Hickbottom to Josh Trueheart pass on third and five for six yards kept the drive alive. Then Hickbottom connected with Johnson for six yards on third and three to get the ball to the Tech 26-yard line. Starling then rushed for 13 yards and the Tigers were in the red zone.

On third and three at the Tech six-yard line, Hickbottom had one on one coverage on his favorite target Rohmann, but it was broken up by Tech's Cameron Hudson. After a Tech timeout, Zita tied the score on a 24-yard field goal with five seconds left.

Tech won the toss and elected to go on defense. It only took the Tigers two plays to make it to paydirt. After Hickbottom connected with Starling on a 12-yard pass, he then hit Johnson on a swing pass to the left flat and he did the rest scoring on a 13-yard pass play. Zita's extra point made the score 20-13, TSU.

TSU's defense then took the field with a chance to get the victory. The energy on the Tiger sideline was ramped up, giving the defense the lift that they needed. After a Gist run made it first and goal for Tech, TSU defense rallied and was able to force a fourth and goal at their four-yard line. A false start penalty by Tech's Cory Huff backed the ball up to the nine-yard line. The game ended when TSU safety Cory Rahman picked off a Miller pass, setting off a wild celebration. The false start allowed the Tigers to concentrate on the last play being a pass.

"Obviously the play changed after the false start," said Rahman. "They could have easily done some RPO, QB run stuff, which they were pretty successful during the game doing that. We kind of prepared for that then changed the call. They were running the crossers and it was just a matter of time. Just for it (the interception) to happen at that moment was pretty special."

The win evened the Tigers' record to 3-3 on the season and 1-1 in OVC play. They will now get back to work and travel to Eastern Illinois for a 2 p.m. kickoff on October 23.

"I am really so proud of our guys for fighting through adversity, finding ways to win games like that. We did not play our best. We kept our composure and found a way to win the game," said George.





GAME 5

OCT 2 (SAT) 7:00 PM | CLARKSVILLE, TN

TENNESSEE STATE 24
AUSTIN PEAY 22

GAME RECAP

CLARKSVILLE, TENN. — For the first time in 679 days, the Tennessee State University football team is victorious on the road after defeating Austin Peay, 24-22, in a non-conference matchup on Saturday evening. The win is also the first D1 victory for first-year head coach Eddie George.

The last road victory for the Tigers came during the last game of the 2019 season at Tennessee Tech, a 37-27 win in Cookeville.

Senior quarterback Geromy Hickbottom finished with 301 passing yards with two touchdowns on 18-of-34 completions and ran for another. This was Hickbottom's second best career performance for the transfer. His previous best was 345 yards thrown against Texas Southern on October 13, 2018, when he suited up for Grambling.

The quarterback found his rhythm in the second half with a pair of touchdowns to senior tight end Rodell Rahmaan. He finished the game with 129 receiving yards with a 63-yard touchdown in the third quarter followed by a 45-yard touchdown late in the fourth. This was Rahmaan's first multi-touchdown game of his career.

Rookie wide receiver Zaire Thornton was Hickbottom's second best option on the night with six catches for 89 yards, an average of 14.8 yards per catch. Thornton's biggest catch came in the fourth quarter, a 37-yard pass.

Freshman running back Devon Starling completed his first career 100+ rushing game with 120 yards on 29 touches. Starling added 49 yards on four receptions.

Neither team scored in the first quarter until Tigers kicker Antonio Zita hit a 24-yard field goal with 4:13 left in the half. TSU's defense was on point in the opening half, forcing the Gobs to punt the ball on the first five possessions. The Tigers went into the locker room leading 3-0.

Austin Peay tied the game in the third quarter with a 25-yard field goal from Maddux Trujillo.

Tennessee State found the end zone on the next possession with a four-play drive that saw Hickbottom throw his first of two touchdown passes to Rahmaan. Two plays prior to the touchdown, it looked as if the Austin Peay defense got the best of Hickbottom with a loss of 13 yards on a sack. The next

play, Hickbottom got back up and threw a 20-yard completion to Thornton for the first down. This moved the chains and prompted the touchdown pass from TSU's own 37-yard line.

The hosts answered back for the second time with a touchdown on a four-play drive with a 66-yard rushing touchdown by Brian Snead to give the Gobs a 10-9 lead with 5:55 left in the third.

Determined to regain the lead, TSU moved the ball to its 41-yard line before Hickbottom found Thornton with an 11-yard pass for a first down. The speedy quarterback then scrambled on the next play all the way to the end zone for a 48-yard touchdown to put the visitors ahead 17-10 with 3:13 left in the quarter.

Austin Peay chipped away at the difference with two field goals from Trujillo.

On the ensuing drive, Hickbottom found Thornton for a 37-yard completion on first down before penalties pushed the Tigers back. On third and 17, Hickbottom stepped back and whipped a hard pass to Rahmaan for his second touchdown this time a 45-yard dagger with 5:33 left.

Putting the Tigers on their heels, AP quarterback Draylen Ellis used an eight-play drive and found Baniko Harley from 16 yards out. The Gobs missed the two-point conversion, a failed opportunity to tie the game at 24-all. But again, the Gobs had a chance to win the game with seconds remaining, but a stringent Tiger defense held their ground on a pair of laterals by Austin Peay to secure the win.

Tennessee State finished the game with 485 (301-184) total yards compared to 383 from Austin Peay. The Tiger defense sacked Ellis four times and held the Gobs to 6-of-19 on third down.

Jahsun Bryant led the Tigers with 12 tackles on the defensive end. Davon Hawkins sacked Ellis twice for an 18-yard loss and forced a fumble. Kendall Johnson and Terray Jones also sacked the Austin Peay QB.

The win was TSU's first win in Clarksville since 2016. The two teams will meet for the final time as Ohio Valley Conference foes on Saturday, November 13 at Nissan Stadium. Austin Peay will join the Atlantic Sun Conference in 2022.



GAME 4

SEPT 25 (SAT) 2:00 PM | CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

TENNESSEE STATE 14
SOUTHERN MISSOURI 47

GAME RECAP

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. – After earning a convincing win last week, the Tennessee State University Tigers (1-3, 0-1 OVC) were defeated 47-14 by the Southeast Missouri State University Redhawks (1-3, 1-0 OVC) in OVC action from Cape Girardeau, Mo. SEMO dominated the line of scrimmage rushing for 380 yards while only giving up 14 on the ground. The game was TSU head coach Eddie George's first career OVC matchup as a head coach.

The TSU defense kept their team in the game employing a bend but not break approach. They held SEMO to three field goals and a lone touchdown by running back Geno Hess (25 rushes 209 yards and three TDs). The Tiger offense only could muster up 92 first half yards and was shut out.

SEMO scored on a four play 75-yard drive to open the second half. All four plays were on the ground and capped off by Hess' second TD of the game on a 63-yard run. On the ensuing kickoff, Tiger sophomore Dayron Johnson got TSU on the board on a nifty 90-yard return to cut the SEMO lead to 23-6.

Down 26-6, the Tigers caught a break when senior defensive back Eddie Graham picked off SEMO's CJ Ogbonna and returned it 10 yards to the SEMO 22-yard line. On third and 10, Hickbottom hit freshman running back who was stopped short of the line to gain. George decided to go for it on fourth down, but redshirt sophomore Deveon Bryant was stuffed on his rush and TSU turned the ball over on downs.

The stop on fourth down seemed to deflate the Tigers as SEMO finished the game outscoring TSU 21-8 for the rest of the contest.

For the second week in a row, TSU signal caller Jeremy Hickbottom was solid converting on 17 of 31 of his passes for 252 yards and a touchdown. Hickbottom's favorite receiver of the day was freshman

Zaire Thornton who caught three passes for 95 yards. Hickbottom's lone touchdown pass went to senior Vincent Perry. Defensively, TSU was led by junior Jahsun Bryant who had 11 tackles. Senior Cory Rahmann, junior James Green and sophomore Josh Green contributed with nine tackles.

Saturday's loss was the fourth in a row for TSU against SEMO. The Tigers will now prepare to take on Austin Peay State University on the road next Saturday.

By: Scott Wallace, Wallace Media Group





GAME 3

SEPT 18 (SAT) 2:00 PM | NASHVILLE, TN

**TENNESSEE STATE 41
KENTUCKY STATE 7**

GAME RECAP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – It has been 18 years since Eddie George played in Nissan stadium as a Titan, and Saturday he got his first win there as the head coach of the Tigers.

TSU played a complete game, with success on offense, defense and special teams. The Tigers also won the time of possession and turnover battles in the 41-7 victory over Kentucky State.

On offense, senior transfer QB Jeremy Hickbottom finished the game with four touchdowns, including a 12-yard rushing TD in the rout of the Thoroughbreds. On the day, Hickbottom threw for 264 yards and rushed for 24, to cement his role as starting quarterback. RB Devon Starling bolstered the run game with a season-high 144 yards Saturday, averaging 6.2 yards per carry.

"We knew that Jeremy would be the guy," George said. "We just had to get him used to getting the reps in at practice. He had a great week last week. I could sense that he was going to have a breakout game. He was making the right calls, he was making the right decisions, he was throwing the ball with accuracy and certainty and that was exciting to see."

The Tiger defense held Kentucky State to 132 yards of

offense, led by junior LB Jahsun Bryant with 5 tackles.

K Antonio Zita started TSU's first half scoring frenzy with a 22-yard field goal in the first quarter. Senior TE Rodell Rahmann scored back-to-back touchdowns to end the first quarter and start the second quarter and finished the day 65 yards. Hickbottom threw an 18-yard TD pass to sophomore WR Dayton Johnson, his first TD as a Tiger, and rushed for another touchdown to finish the first half 31-0.

Zita started the second half with another field goal, this time for 34 yards, to extend the Tigers lead to 34-0. KSU did get on the board in the second half, with a touchdown late in the fourth quarter but it was too late, TSU dominated the game from start to finish.

As his retired #27 jersey hung in the rafters, coach George celebrated his first win at TSU. "Getting that first win feels good as a head coach," George said. "You can never say I didn't win, so that feels good."

By: Erin Exum



GAME 2

SEPT 11 (SAT) 6:00 PM | MEMPHIS, TN

**TENNESSEE STATE 16
JACKSON STATE 38**

GAME RECAP

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Before Saturday night's Southern Heritage Classic, it had been more than 20 years since Eddie George and Deion Sanders shared a football field.

So, in a sense, the two legends made history just by getting together again, Sanders as the head coach at Jackson State and George, of course, as the head coach at Tennessee State.

In the lead up to the game, each coach expressed his respect and admiration for his counterpart – then also smiled and said in the same breath how badly they wanted to beat the other come game time.

George's Tigers showed some promising signs and, for the first half, stayed within striking distance of Sanders' more experienced bunch. But that's as close as they would get, as Jackson State rode the right arm of freshman quarterback Shedeur Sanders – Deion's son – to a 38-16 victory at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis.

Senior tight end Rodell Rahmaan led TSU with 94 receiving yards, including a 47-yard touchdown catch late in the fourth quarter that could provide Big Blue with a spark heading into next week's home opener against Kentucky State (2 p.m., ESPN+).

TSU quarterbacks Jeremy Hickbottom and Deveon Bryant combined to throw for 194 yards and Devon Starling paced the Tigers with 35 yards on the ground.

Otherwise, the night belonged to Shedeur Sanders, a former blue-chip recruit who passed on offers from the likes of Alabama, LSU, Georgia, Florida and Florida State to instead play for his father.

Sanders completed 30 of 40 passes for 362 yards – the third-most in Southern Heritage Classic history – and three touchdowns.

His 14-yard strike to Joshua Lanier opened the scoring, but the Big Blue answered midway through the second quarter when Bryant plunged into the end zone from 2 yards out to bring TSU level.

Tennessee State nearly made it to halftime on equal footing, but JSU added a field goal with 32 seconds to play in the second quarter and then kept its foot on the gas after the break.

Sanders tossed two more touchdown passes in the third quarter, including a 67-yarder to Keith Corbin, and JSU struck for another two scores on the other side of Chayil Garnett's 37-yard field goal early in the fourth.

The Big Blue, though, was undaunted by a four-touchdown deficit and kept fighting until the final whistle – as evidenced by Rahmaan's touchdown with 6 seconds to play.

Then, with an eye for the future, George sent his offense back out for a 2-point conversion attempt. No, an extra two points wouldn't have made much difference on Saturday night. But as George attempts to restore Tennessee State to the program's previous heights, every little bit of added experience can be useful.

As the clock hit zero, George and Sanders greeted each other at midfield, shared an embrace and a quick word, and then embraced again. Sanders may have won the first round between the two College Football Hall-of-Famers, but there will be more meetings to come. And, if George's Tigers continue to build on their foundation, there will be different outcomes, too.

By: Zach Stipe





GAME 1

SEPT 5 (SUN) 3:00 PM | CANTON, OH

TENNESSEE STATE 10 GRAMBLING STATE 16

GAME RECAP

CANTON, Ohio – Running back Devon Starling rushed for 88 yards and a touchdown and wide receiver/returner Dayron Johnson had 137 all-purpose yards, but it wasn't enough for Tennessee State to pick up a victory in head coach Eddie George's debut.

TSU fell to Grambling State, 16-10, on Sunday night in the second annual Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

Tennessee State out gained Grambling 230 to 184, but committed 18 penalties for 150 yards.

"To come here and play against a historic program like Grambling State, I had to pinch myself a couple times," said George, who rushed for more than 10,000 yards for the Tennessee Titans and won the 1995 Heisman Trophy at Ohio State. "Coach (Broderick) Fobbs and Grambling State did a fantastic job. I can't thank the people here at the Hall of Fame enough for making this a wonderful experience for myself and my kids.

"I couldn't be prouder of our men. We overcame a lot the last couple of weeks. They were resilient. A lot of the things that cost us the game are definitely correctable. We will keep our head down and keep going."

The Big Blue played three different quarterbacks in the game with freshman Tucker Pope getting the start under center. Jeremy Hickbottom entered in the second quarter and completed 8-of-10 passes for 65 yards, while fellow signal-caller Deveon Bryant played the bulk of the second half and finished with 24 yards rushing and 22 yards passing.

Starling, the Ohio Valley Conference's leading rusher last season, had 18 carries for 88 yards and scored a 3-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

Johnson had 83 punt return yards, including returns of 47 yards and 36 yards. He added three receptions for 37 yards.

"We want to be explosive in the return game," George said. "(Johnson) is an explosive returner for us. We feel like we can have one of the better special teams units in the country giving the amount of talent we have. We are excited to see where we grow from that. I'm really excited about where we can go from here in the return game."

Special teams gave Tennessee State a chance late in the game. Trailing 16-10, TSU punter Kaleb Mosley had a pair of outstanding punts in the final six minutes, pinning Grambling State down at the 3-yard line on one possession and at the 6-yard line with just over two minutes left in the game.

A 36-yard punt return by Johnson gave TSU the ball 30 yards from the end zone with 3:58 remaining but back-to-back penalties pushed the Tigers back to the Grambling State 45-yard line and forced a punt that gave GSU the ball back with two minutes left in the contest.

GSU was able to get a first down on third-and-3 to seal the game and run out the clock.

Kicker Anthony Zita drilled a 39-yard field goal, but missed a 57-yard attempt.

Led by linebacker Jashun Bryant's nine tackles, the TSU defense held Grambling State quarterback Elijah Walker to 4-of-11 passing for just 43 yards and safety Cory Rahman had an interception in the second quarter.

Walker did most of his damage on the ground, though, rushing 17 times for 77 yards and a touchdown.

Johnson sparked Tennessee State in the first quarter returning a punt 47 yards to give the Big Blue the ball at the 42-yard line. Pope found Vincent Perry for a 31-yard completion a few players to convert a 3rd-and-21 to set up a 39-yard Zita field goal that gave TSU a 3-0 lead 10 minutes into the game.

Grambling State took a 7-3 lead into halftime after Walker found Patrick Jaye for an 18-yard score to cap a 17-play drive that ate more than seven minutes off the clock midway through the second quarter.

Tennessee State had a chance to score at the end of the first half. An errant Grambling State punt gave TSU the ball at midfield with 34 seconds left in the first half. A face mask penalty by Grambling State and a 24-yard run by Deveon Bryant gave TSU the ball at the GSU 25 with 16 seconds remaining before the break. However, penalties moved TSU back 15 yards and Zita's 57-yard field goal attempt was short to end the half.

Deveon Bryant played most of the second half at quarterback for TSU. He completed a 10-yard pass to Vincent Perry on 4th-and-3 to keep TSU's first drive of the second half alive and a few moments later Starling scored Tennessee State's first touchdown of the 2021 season on a 3-yard plunge up the middle at the 7:03 mark in the third quarter to give Tennessee State a 10-7 lead.

Grambling State took the lead back after Lewis Matthews blocked Tennessee State's punt at the 3:47 mark in the third quarter giving Grambling State the ball at the TSU 15. Walker scored a 4-yard touchdown with 2:22 remaining in the third quarter, but kicker Garrett Urban missed the ensuing extra point. Still, Grambling State led 13-10 at the end of the third quarter.

GSU moved in front 16-10 on a 24-yard field goal from Urban with 10 minutes remaining in the game.

Tennessee State had chances down the stretch but was unable to find the end zone again.

Next Up: TSU has a short week to prepare for its next opponent, Jackson State. TSU and JSU will meet in the Southern Heritage Classic on Saturday at 6 p.m. CT in Memphis, Tenn.





2021 Tennessee State Football Tennessee State Univ Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 17, 2021) All games

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
9/5/2021	at Grambling	L 10-16	14682
9/11/2021	vs Jackson State	L 16-38	46171
9/18/2021	KENTUCKY STATE UNIV	W 41-7	2513
* 9/25/2021	at Southeast Missouri	L 14-47	3896
* 10/2/2021	at Austin Peay	W 24-22	7211
* 10/16/2021	TENNESSEE TECH	W 20-13	2420
* 10/23/2021	at Eastern Illinois	W 28-0	6300
* 10/30/2021	MURRAY STATE	W 27-21	8627
* 11/6/2021	at #11 UT Martin	L 20-41	3712
* 11/13/2021	AUSTIN PEAY	L 7-36	2531

Record:	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
All games	5-5	3-1	2-3	0-1
Conference	3-3	2-1	1-2	0-0
Non-Conference	2-2	1-0	1-1	0-1

Team Statistics	TSU	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	178	178
Rushing	75	83
Passing	88	73
Penalty	15	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	1227	1615
Rushing Attempts	330	391
Average Per Rush	3.7	4.1
Average Per Game	122.7	161.5
TDs Rushing	12	15
PASSING YARDAGE	2070	1794
Comp-Att-Int	160-293-6	146-291-7
Average Per Pass	7.1	6.2
Average Per Catch	12.9	12.3
Average Per Game	207.0	179.4
TDs Passing	13	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	3297	3409
Average Per Play	5.3	5.0
Average Per Game	329.7	340.9
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	32-625	26-495
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	20-213	21-239
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	7-57	6-98
FUMBLES-LOST	12-7	8-3
PENALTIES-Yards	88-730	54-453
PUNTS-AVG	58-39.6	53-39.6
TIME OF POSSESSION/G	29:32	30:26
3RD-DOWN Conversions	48/134	57/153
4TH-DOWN Conversions	5/11	9/17

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
GRAHAM,Eddie	2	10	5.0	0	10
RAHMAN,Cory	2	0	0.0	0	0
REESE,James	1	0	0.0	0	0
GREEN,Joshua	1	0	0.0	0	0
GREEN,James	1	47	47.0	0	47

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
MOSLEY,Kaleb	55	229	41.7	61	4	14	12	9	2
TEAM	3	1	0.3	1	0	0	0	0	0

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
JOHNSON,Dayron	9	156	17.3	0	47
DOBSON,Zack	9	62	6.9	0	24
HOLLIS III, Fon	1	0	0.0	0	0
ROUSE,Jalen	1	-5	-5.0	0	0
Total	20	213	10.6	0	47
Opponents	21	239	11.4	2	81

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
JOHNSON,Dayron	15	345	23.0	1	90
DOBSON,Zack	5	106	21.2	0	41
ROUSE,Jalen	4	59	14.8	0	24
THORNTON,Zaire	2	7	3.5	0	4
PERRY,Vincent	2	43	21.5	0	25
BOONE,Thomas	1	12	12.0	0	12
MITCHELL,Micha	1	8	8.0	0	8
GREEN,Josh	1	45	45.0	0	45
JOHNSON,Kendall	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	32	625	19.5	1	90
Opponents	26	495	19.0	0	43

All Purpose	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
STARLING,D	10	767	303	0	0	0	1070	107.0
JOHNSON,D	10	-9	282	156	345	0	774	77.4
RAHMAAN,R	9	0	477	0	0	0	477	53.0
ROUSE,Jalen	10	143	118	-5	59	0	315	31.5
HICKBOTTO	10	261	0	0	0	0	261	26.1
Total	10	1227	2070	213	625	57	4192	419.2
Opponents	10	1615	1794	239	495	98	4241	424.1

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
HICKBOTTOM,Ger	10	311	261	1847	2108	210.8
STARLING,Devon	10	169	767	0	767	76.7
BRYANT,Deveon	8	59	32	128	160	20.0
ROUSE,Jalen	10	42	143	0	143	14.3

Rushing	g	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
STARLING,Devon	1	169	813	46	767	4.5	3	32	76.7
HICKBOTTOM,Ger	1	68	401	140	261	3.8	7	65	26.1
ROUSE,Jalen	1	42	152	9	143	3.4	1	12	14.3
BRYANT,Deveon	8	28	101	69	32	1.1	1	15	4.0
PERRY,Vincent	9	2	20	2	18	9.0	0	20	2.0
BOONE,Thomas	9	2	12	0	12	6.0	0	12	1.3
GARNETT,Chayil	1	6	12	0	12	2.0	0	6	12.0
WYCHE,Cam	9	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3	0.3
Total	1	330	1517	290	1227	3.7	12	65	122.7
Opponents	1	391	1872	257	1615	4.1	15	66	161.5

Passing	g	effc	comp	att	int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
HICKBOTTOM,Ger	1	134.46	140	243	4	57.6	1847	12	63	184.7
BRYANT,Deveon	8	63.72	11	31	1	35.5	128	0	35	16.0
GARNETT,Chayil	1	96.21	9	19	1	47.4	95	1	40	95.0
PERRY,Vincent	9	0.00	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	1	124.50	160	293	6	54.6	2070	13	63	207.0
Opponents	1	109.62	146	291	7	50.2	1794	11	67	179.4

Receiving	g	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
STARLING,Devon	1	33	303	9.2	0	26	30.3
RAHMAAN,Rodell	9	26	477	18.3	6	63	53.0
JOHNSON,Dayron	1	18	282	15.7	3	41	28.2
PERRY,Vincent	9	18	152	8.4	1	31	16.9
TURNER,Gerand	3	14	250	17.9	0	40	83.3
WYCHE,Cam	9	14	148	10.6	0	41	16.4
TRUEHEART, Josh	6	11	141	12.8	1	35	23.5
THORNTON,Zaire	5	8	104	13.0	2	26	20.8
DOBSON,Zack	6	8	66	8.2	0	15	11.0
ROUSE,Jalen	1	7	118	16.9	0	40	11.8
BRYANT,Jahsun	9	2	19	9.5	0	12	2.1
SEATS III,Will	5	1	10	10.0	0	10	2.0
Total	1	160	2070	12.9	13	63	207.0
Opponents	1	146	1794	12.3	11	67	179.4

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
ZITA, Antonio	8-16	50.0	0-0	5-6	3-4	0-3	0-3	39	0
LOWERY, James	1-1	100.	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	26	0

Scoring	td	fg	PAT					pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	
HICKBOTTOM,Ger	7	-	-	-	-	2-2	-	42
ZITA, Antonio	-	8-16	17-20	-	-	-	-	41
RAHMAAN,Rodell	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	38
JOHNSON,Dayron	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
STARLING,Devon	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
THORNTON,Zaire	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
PERRY,Vincent	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	8
LOWERY, James	-	1-1	3-3	-	-	-	-	6
ROUSE,Jalen	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
BRYANT,Deveon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
TRUEHEART, Josh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	26	9-17	20-23	0-1	2	2-2	-	207
Opponents	29	14-19	25-28	-	-	0-1	-	241

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Tennessee State Univ	13	51	54	82	7	207
Opponents	17	60	63	101	0	241





2021 Tennessee State Football
Tennessee State Univ Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Nov 17, 2021)
All games

#	Defensive Leaders	gp	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf
8D	GREEN, James	10	38	31	69	7.0-13	1.0-4	1-47	.	1	.	.	.	.
11	BRYANT, Jahsun	9	32	30	62	2.0-6	.	.	3	2	2-0	2	.	.
26	RAHMAN, Cory	10	38	22	60	5.5-13	1.0-6	2-0	3	1	.	.	.	.
6	GREEN, Josh	8	31	15	46	1.0-1	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
15	GARLINGTON, Ken	9	21	14	35	2.0-5	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
29	HARPER, Nick	9	21	9	30	1.5-2	.	.	3	1	.	.	.	.
5D	PATTERSON, TADA	10	12	17	29	6.0-35	6.0-31	.	.	4	.	.	.	.
1D	JONES, Terray	9	20	8	28	4.5-18	3.0-15	.	.	4	.	.	.	.
55	HAWKINS, Davoan	10	15	13	28	4.5-36	2.0-19	.	.	5	.	2	2	.
3D	GRAHAM, Eddie	9	18	9	27	1.5-2	.	2-10	5	1	.	.	.	.
93	HORTON, Raymond	10	12	15	27	3.5-27	1.0-17	.	.	1	1-0	.	.	.
16	CHAMBERS, De'Am	9	16	9	25	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
57	McDONALD, Maruic	9	11	12	23	0.5-5	0.5-5	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
1J	JOHNSON, Kendall	9	11	8	19	5.0-20	2.0-12	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
9	SUTTON, Nate	7	8	6	14	1.5-9	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
47	NELSON, Ahmad	9	8	4	12	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6D	GREEN, Joshua	2	9	3	12	1.0-4	.	1-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
48	WALKER, Chris	5	8	3	11	3.5-14	1.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	SMITH, Christian	9	7	3	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
96	STEWART, Camero	10	4	5	9	1.0-4	0.5-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7D	ANDREWS, Kenyon	8	6	3	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
40	ADEWOLE, Detoye	9	5	3	8	2.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
37	CRAWFORD, Micha	7	2	4	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	BOONE, Thomas	9	1	4	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	McCLENDON, Jalen	7	4	1	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	HARPER, Darius	2	3	2	5	1.5-6	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
31	TAYLOR, Marcus	3	2	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	0	1	4	.	4	1.0-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
34	REESE, James	6	1	3	4	.	.	1-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
9D	SUTTON, Nathani	2	1	2	3	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	BELL, Cameron	1	3	.	3	1.0-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
31	NASH, Davion	3	3	.	3	1.0-10	1.0-10	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
17	BAEZ, Emmanuel	6	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	JOHNSON, Dayron	10	2	.	2	1.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
85	RAHMAAN, Rodell	9	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
13	LOVE, Nyle	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	DRAKE, Zachery	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
70	PERRY, Vincent	9	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10	WYCHE, Cam	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
27	LOCKETT, Marcel	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
51	JOHNSON, Deron	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	ROUSE, Jalen	10	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	BRYANT, Deveon	8	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52	BUCHANAN, CARSON	5	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
23	WILLIAMS, Domo	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Total		10	387	264	651	60-251	19-129	7-57	31	25	3-0	4	3	.
Opponents		10	354	262	616	64-253	24-165	6-98	39	31	7-0	10	3	.





2021 Tennessee State Football
Tennessee State Univ Overall Team Statistics (as of Nov 17, 2021)
All games

Team Statistics	TSU	OPP
SCORING	207	241
Points Per Game	20.7	24.1
Points Off Turnovers	30	50
FIRST DOWNS	178	178
Rushing	75	83
Passing	88	73
Penalty	15	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	1227	1615
Yards gained rushing	1517	1872
Yards lost rushing	290	257
Rushing Attempts	330	391
Average Per Rush	3.7	4.1
Average Per Game	122.7	161.5
TDs Rushing	12	15
PASSING YARDAGE	2070	1794
Comp-Att-Int	160-293-6	146-291-7
Average Per Pass	7.1	6.2
Average Per Catch	12.9	12.3
Average Per Game	207.0	179.4
TDs Passing	13	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	3297	3409
Total Plays	623	682
Average Per Play	5.3	5.0
Average Per Game	329.7	340.9
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	32-625	26-495
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	20-213	21-239
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	7-57	6-98
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.5	19.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.6	11.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.1	16.3
FUMBLES-LOST	12-7	8-3
PENALTIES-Yards	88-730	54-453
Average Per Game	73.0	45.3
PUNTS-Yards	58-2296	53-2099
Average Per Punt	39.6	39.6
Net punt average	34.1	35.2
KICKOFFS-Yards	43-2589	52-2908
Average Per Kick	60.2	55.9
Net kick average	41.1	37.2
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	29:32	30:26
3RD-DOWN Conversions	48/134	57/153
3rd-Down Pct	36%	37%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	5/11	9/17
4th-Down Pct	45%	53%
SACKS BY-Yards	19-129	24-165
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	26	29
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-17	14-19
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-1	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(25-33) 76%	(27-32) 84%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(17-33) 52%	(17-32) 53%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(20-23) 87%	(25-28) 89%
ATTENDANCE	16091	35801
Games/Avg Per Game	4/4023	5/7160
Neutral Site Games		1/46171

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Tennessee State Un	13	51	54	82	7	207
Opponents	17	60	63	101	0	241





2021 Tennessee State Football
Tennessee State Univ Red-Zone Results (as of Nov 17, 2021)
All games

Tennessee State Univ Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Score	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Dow	Int	Fum	Half	Gam
9/5/2021	at Grambling	L 10-16	1	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/11/2021	vs Jackson State	L 16-38	2	2	10	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/18/2021	KENTUCKY STATE U	41-7	7	6	34	4	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
9/25/2021	at Southeast Missouri	L 14-47	3	1	8	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
10/2/2021	at Austin Peay	24-22	3	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
10/16/2021	TENNESSEE TECH	20-13	4	3	13	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
10/23/2021	at Eastern Illinois	28-0	6	4	28	4	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
10/30/2021	MURRAY STATE	27-21	2	2	13	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/6/2021	at UT Martin	L 20-41	4	4	20	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/13/2021	AUSTIN PEAY	L 7-36	1	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals			33	25	143	17	10	7	8	3	3	0	2	0	0
25 of 33 (75.8%)															

Opponents Inside Tennessee State Univ Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Score	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Dow	Int	Fum	Half	Gam
9/5/2021	at Grambling	L 10-16	3	3	16	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/11/2021	vs Jackson State	L 16-38	5	4	24	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
9/18/2021	KENTUCKY STATE U	41-7	1	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/25/2021	at Southeast Missouri	L 14-47	6	6	34	4	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/2/2021	at Austin Peay	24-22	4	4	15	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/16/2021	TENNESSEE TECH	20-13	4	3	13	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
10/23/2021	at Eastern Illinois	28-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
10/30/2021	MURRAY STATE	27-21	4	2	14	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/6/2021	at UT Martin	L 20-41	2	2	14	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/13/2021	AUSTIN PEAY	L 7-36	2	2	9	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals			32	27	146	17	10	7	10	3	0	2	0	0	0
27 of 32 (84.4%)															





2021 Tennessee State Football

Tennessee State Univ Team Game-by-Game (as of Nov 17, 2021)

All games

TEAM STATISTICS

		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot		
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp	att	int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
9/5/2021	at Grambling	30	112	1	25	13	118	0	31	13	24	0	118	0	31	2	35	0	18	2	83	0	47	230
9/11/202	vs Jackson State	42	70	1	15	13	194	1	47	13	23	0	194	1	47	5	117	0	38	1	0	0	0	264
9/18/202	KENTUCKY STATE UNI	43	271	2	22	16	267	3	46	16	27	1	267	3	46	1	13	0	13	4	12	0	12	538
9/25/202	at Southeast Missouri	22	14	0	16	17	252	1	41	17	31	1	252	1	41	9	197	1	90	0	0	0	0	266
10/2/202	at Austin Peay	42	184	1	48	18	301	2	63	18	34	0	301	2	63	0	0	0	0	2	26	0	18	485
10/16/20	TENNESSEE TECH	25	120	0	23	20	256	2	56	20	34	1	256	2	56	2	58	0	47	2	7	0	5	376
10/23/20	at Eastern Illinois	39	147	3	30	14	161	1	26	14	24	0	161	1	26	0	0	0	0	5	55	0	24	308
10/30/20	MURRAY STATE	26	162	3	65	17	159	1	24	17	29	0	159	1	24	3	39	0	20	1	5	0	5	321
11/6/202	at UT Martin	26	96	1	20	20	219	1	31	20	35	1	219	1	31	5	60	0	41	2	30	0	30	315
11/13/20	AUSTIN PEAY	35	51	0	11	12	143	1	40	12	32	2	143	1	40	5	106	0	45	1	-5	0	0	194
Tennessee State Univ		330	1227	12	65	160	2070	13	63	160	293	6	2070	13	63	32	625	1	90	20	213	0	47	3297
		391	1615	15	66	146	1794	11	67	146	291	7	1794	11	67	26	495	0	43	21	239	2	81	3409

Games: 10 • Avg/rush: 3.7 • Avg/catch: 12.9 • Pass effic: 124.50 • KR avg: 19.5 • PR avg: 10.6 • All purpose avg/game: 419.2 • Total offenses

		Tackles				Sacks	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd	PAT Attempts			off		
Date	Opponent	ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
9/5/20	at Grambling	46	6	52	6.0-24	1.0-8	0	0-0	1-0	0	1	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	10
9/11/2	vs Jackson State	35	20	55	6.0-35	2.0-15	0	1-0	0-0	0	1	0	1-1	0	0	0	6	16
9/18/2	KENTUCKY STATE	31	18	49	1.0-4	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	2	1	5-5	0	0	0	0	41
9/25/2	at Southeast Missour	33	78	111	3.0-5	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-10	2	3	0	0-1	0	1	0	0	14
10/2/2	at Austin Peay	43	28	71	7.0-34	4.0-30	1	0-0	0-0	4	4	0	1-2	0	1	0	0	24
10/16/	TENNESSEE TECH	43	28	71	5.0-11	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	3	4	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	20
10/23/	at Eastern Illinois	34	16	50	10.0-43	4.0-23	1	1-0	3-47	4	7	0	4-4	0	0	0	14	28
10/30/	MURRAY STATE	42	24	66	4.0-12	3.0-10	0	0-0	1-0	3	1	0	3-4	0	0	0	7	27
11/6/2	at UT Martin	27	32	59	6.0-14	0.0-0	2	1-0	0-0	5	6	1	2-2	0	0	0	3	20
11/13/	AUSTIN PEAY	53	14	67	12.0-69	5.0-43	0	0-0	0-0	4	2	1	1-1	0	0	0	0	7
Tennessee State Univ		387	264	651	60.0-251	19.0-129	4	3-0	7-57	25	31	3	20-23	0	2	0	30	207
		354	262	616	64.0-253	24.0-165	10	7-0	6-98	31	39	3	25-28	0	0	0	50	241

Date Opponent		Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs				
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	
9/5/20	at Grambling	8	292	36.5	50	0	2	1	1	2	1-2	39	0	3	163	54.3	0	0	
9/11/2	vs Jackson State	7	251	35.9	53	1	0	0	2	1	1-1	37	0	4	259	64.8	0	0	
9/18/2	KENTUCKY STATE	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2-3	34	0	8	474	59.2	1	0	
9/25/2	at Southeast Missour	7	305	43.6	54	0	1	0	2	1	0-0	0	0	3	192	64.0	1	0	
10/2/2	at Austin Peay	7	285	40.7	58	0	1	2	1	1	1-3	24	0	5	306	61.2	1	0	
10/16/	TENNESSEE TECH	3	114	38.0	44	0	0	1	0	0	2-2	24	0	4	257	64.2	3	1	
10/23/	at Eastern Illinois	5	224	44.8	61	0	0	1	1	1	0-3	0	0	5	299	59.8	3	0	
10/30/	MURRAY STATE	8	321	40.1	48	0	0	3	0	0	0-0	0	0	5	312	62.4	1	0	
11/6/2	at UT Martin	3	127	42.3	46	0	0	1	0	2	2-3	28	0	4	235	58.8	3	0	
11/13/	AUSTIN PEAY	10	377	37.7	53	1	0	5	2	4	0-0	0	0	2	92	46.0	0	0	
Tennessee State Univ		58	2296	39.6	61	2	4	14	9	12	9-17	39	0	43	2589	60.2	13	1	
		53	2099	39.6	60	1	1	13	5	12	14-19	45	0	52	2908	55.9	14	4	





2021 Tennessee State Football Tennessee State Univ Opponent Game-by-Game (as of Nov 17, 2021) All games

OPPONENT STATISTICS

		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot		
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp	att	int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
9/5/2021	at Grambling	44	136	1	14	4	43	1	18	4	11	1	43	1	18	3	27	0	11	1	4	0	4	179
9/11/202	vs Jackson State	21	42	1	18	30	362	3	67	30	40	0	362	3	67	4	84	0	43	3	96	1	81	404
9/18/202	KENTUCKY STATE UNI	31	85	1	9	4	56	0	30	4	10	0	56	0	30	7	130	0	32	0	0	0	0	141
9/25/202	at Southeast Missouri	58	380	4	63	14	227	1	39	14	23	1	227	1	39	2	62	0	36	5	41	0	13	607
10/2/202	at Austin Peay	30	129	1	66	25	254	1	31	25	55	0	254	1	31	4	68	0	20	2	8	0	8	383
10/16/20	TENNESSEE TECH	47	213	0	28	12	126	1	20	12	30	1	126	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	-2	0	0	339
10/23/20	at Eastern Illinois	31	72	0	35	15	115	0	31	15	35	3	115	0	31	1	21	0	21	2	21	0	18	187
10/30/20	MURRAY STATE	44	185	2	17	13	193	1	54	13	30	1	193	1	54	4	92	0	26	3	21	0	17	378
11/6/202	at UT Martin	41	298	4	38	11	124	1	30	11	23	0	124	1	30	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	422
11/13/20	AUSTIN PEAY	44	75	1	22	18	294	2	53	18	34	0	294	2	53	1	11	0	11	3	48	1	20	369
Opponents		391	1615	15	66	146	1794	11	67	146	291	7	1794	11	67	26	495	0	43	21	239	2	81	3409
		330	1227	12	65	160	2070	13	63	160	293	6	2070	13	63	32	625	1	90	20	213	0	47	3297

Games: 10 • Avg/rush: 4.1 • Avg/catch: 12.3 • Pass effic: 109.62 • KR avg: 19.0 • PR avg: 11.4 • All purpose avg/game: 424.1 • Total offenses

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT Attempts			off		
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds		ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup		kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
9/5/20	at Grambling	32	18	50	7.0-28	2.0-14	0	0-0	0-0	2	4	0	1-2	0	0	0	0	16
9/11/2	vs Jackson State	40	32	72	13.0-70	8.0-60	1	1-0	0-0	0	4	1	5-5	0	0	0	7	38
9/18/2	KENTUCKY STATE	42	22	64	3.0-13	1.0-11	0	0-0	1-8	2	3	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	7
9/25/2	at Southeast Missouri	24	42	66	9.0-32	2.0-14	2	1-0	1-4	3	3	0	5-5	0	0	0	7	47
10/2/2	at Austin Peay	37	34	71	5.0-23	1.0-13	0	1-0	0-0	9	2	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	22
10/16/	TENNESSEE TECH	38	14	52	4.0-9	1.0-5	4	2-0	1-11	2	2	0	1-1	0	0	0	6	13
10/23/	at Eastern Illinois	39	30	69	7.0-21	1.0-6	0	0-0	0-0	6	4	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
10/30/	MURRAY STATE	34	10	44	5.0-11	1.0-5	0	0-0	0-0	2	3	1	3-3	0	0	0	0	21
11/6/2	at UT Martin	24	46	70	6.0-20	4.0-16	1	1-0	1-75	3	7	0	5-6	0	0	0	14	41
11/13/	AUSTIN PEAY	44	14	58	5.0-26	3.0-21	2	1-0	2-0	2	7	1	3-4	0	0	0	16	36
Opponents		354	262	616	64.0-253	24.0-165	10	7-0	6-98	31	39	3	25-28	0	0	0	50	241
		387	264	651	60.0-251	19.0-129	4	3-0	7-57	25	31	3	20-23	0	2	0	30	207

		Punting									Field Goals			Kickoffs				
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
9/5/20	at Grambling	6	246	41.0	51	0	0	1	1	0	1-1	24	0	4	226	56.5	1	0
9/11/2	vs Jackson State	3	132	44.0	48	0	0	0	0	1	1-2	28	0	7	449	64.1	2	0
9/18/2	KENTUCKY STATE	7	235	33.6	48	1	0	0	0	1	0-0	0	0	2	112	56.0	0	1
9/25/2	at Southeast Missour	3	101	33.7	38	0	0	2	0	1	4-4	45	0	10	557	55.7	0	1
10/2/2	at Austin Peay	8	373	46.6	60	0	1	3	3	1	3-4	40	0	6	340	56.7	5	1
10/16/	TENNESSEE TECH	4	147	36.8	39	0	0	0	0	3	2-2	42	0	3	176	58.7	1	0
10/23/	at Eastern Illinois	9	342	38.0	43	0	0	4	0	2	0-0	0	0	1	56	56.0	0	1
10/30/	MURRAY STATE	5	203	40.6	45	0	0	1	0	2	0-2	0	0	4	209	52.2	1	0
11/6/2	at UT Martin	2	92	46.0	51	0	0	0	1	0	0-0	0	0	7	302	43.1	1	0
11/13/	AUSTIN PEAY	6	228	38.0	48	0	0	2	0	1	3-4	44	0	8	481	60.1	3	0
Opponents		53	2099	39.6	60	1	1	13	5	12	14-19	45	0	52	2908	55.9	14	4
		58	2296	39.6	61	2	4	14	9	12	9-17	39	0	43	2589	60.2	13	1

