



While Stoops takes no pleasure, Jones looks like treasure

By Charles Durrenberger
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NORMAN, Okla. -- Oh, brother.

This must have been what it was like growing up Stoops in Youngstown, Ohio: Big brother having the upper hand on little brother.



Bob and Mark Stoops battle during the game and embrace after it. (US Presswire)

history to Sam Bradford's 350 yards in 2007 as the 10th-ranked Sooners ran out to a 34-7 lead while out-gaining the Seminoles 372-120.

"We know we were capable of doing that, we've seen it on tape," Jones said.

The OU offense stole some of the thunder from a Sooner defense that forced three turnovers and limited the Seminoles to 192 yards through three quarters.

By the end of the third quarter, it was 44-7 and the crimson-clad faithful -- who only a week ago were grumbling through a 31-24 win over upset-minded Utah State -- were mocking the Seminoles with their distinctive tomahawk chop and war chant.

"We just weren't ready," Mark Stoops said. "We weren't ready for this environment and this situation today."

To be fair, in his first year at FSU, Stoops has his hands full trying to rebuild a defense that ranked 108th last year in total defense.

He spent the past six years in a similar reconstruction process as defensive coordinator at Arizona under his brother, head coach Mike Stoops. If the track record is any indication, Mark will get it right -- eventually. However, this day belonged to Bob and the Sooners.

When they're focused, the Sooners are close to unbeatable. When they're not -- well, just ask Utah State.

On "Showdown" Saturday, Bob Stoops' Oklahoma Sooners reminded everyone of their national relevance in dominating Florida State 47-17 in a rematch of the 2000 national championship game.

Bob's younger brother, FSU defensive coordinator Mark Stoops, could only grimace on the opposing sideline as OU riddled his young troops for 487 yards at sun-splashed Memorial Stadium.

"It's a rotten place to be because I appreciate the way we played," Bob Stoops said. "But you just cannot separate blood. I just don't like it and I knew going into the game that I didn't, and I'm positive of it now after the game."

Added Mark: "It was a unique experience. I wish we would have played a little better, competed a little harder. We'll be better for it, but you always want to win."

The inexperienced FSU defense -- with five sophomores in the lineup -- was just the tonic for Landry Jones. The OU quarterback bounced back from a ragged performances in last week's season opener, operating a fast-break, up-tempo offense that caught the Seminoles flat-footed.

"They caught a lot of flak last week for not putting up big numbers, but they did a heck of a job today," Florida State safety Ochuko Jenije said. "They got in that no-huddle and made it extremely tough for us."

Jones equaled a career-best with 30 completions on 40 attempts, throwing for 380 yards and four touchdowns. His 321 passing yards at halftime were the second-most in school

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In the narrow win last week, Jones labored through a 17-for-36 performance that netted just 217 yards. He had two touchdown passes but was also picked off twice.

"I don't think he played too bad last week," OU receiver Ryan Broyles said of Jones. Broyles had 12 catches for 124 yards and a TD. "Everybody made a big uproar, but I knew we had

confidence in him."

On Saturday, Jones hit 19 of his first 22 throws for 273 yards and three TDs as Oklahoma scored on its first four possessions in building a 27-7 lead. His first three throws were screens or swing passes, apparently designed to give Jones some confidence after last week.

Running back DeMarco Murray, who ran for 208 yards against Utah State, had four grabs for 52 yards out of the backfield as Jones spread ball around, hitting 10 different receivers.

Jones executed a pair of touchdown throws that were vintage Bradford -- the first overall pick in this year's NFL Draft:

- On his second TD pass of the day, freshman corner Xavier Rhoades bit on Jones' pump fake and left Broyles wide open for an 18-yard score that gave OU the lead for good at 14-7.

- Jones then helped the Sooners make it 21-7 on their next drive, arching an over-the-shoulder beauty to Cameron Kenney, who ran in for a 36-yard score as the Sooners won their 32nd consecutive home game, longest streak in the nation.

"It's like good football players do," FSU first-year coach Jimbo Fisher said. "If they don't play up to par one week, the next week they take a lot of pride in how they do things. Good competitors do that."

If misery loves company, No. 17 Florida State can certainly commiserate with its ACC brethren. The three other ranked teams from the conference also went down: No. 12 Miami fell at Ohio State 36-24, No. 13 Virginia Tech was upset at home by FCS opponent James Madison 21-16, and No. 15 Georgia Tech was beaten at Kansas 28-25.

If there's any consolation for Fisher, another FSU coach lost in this stadium in his first season. The Seminoles were porous on defense in 1976, too, before the legendary Bobby Bowden got it turned around.

How far does FSU have to go?

Added Fisher: "When you play that caliber of opponent like Oklahoma, who's very well coached and has got good players, you find it out in a hurry."

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