



Final Score:

Tennessee 50
UT Martin 0

Game 1 | Sept. 4 | Neyland Stadium | Knoxville | 99,123

To Note

For the Record

- **Season Openers:** 84-24-6
- **Last 25 Season Openers:** 20-4-1
- **Home Openers:** 90-18-5
- **Derek Dooley**, the Vols' 22nd head coach in history, became the 18th coach to win his first game at the helm of the UT program. The Vols improved to 18-4 in head coaching debuts.
- Tennessee has won 16 consecutive home openers. The Vols have won their last five games at Neyland Stadium
- The Vols have won seven consecutive games against in-state opponents.

For Starters

- On offense, Tennessee featured six first-game starters: quarterback **Matt Simms**, tailback **Tauren Poole**, center **Cody Pope**, offensive tackles **Dallas Thomas** and **Ju'Wuan James** and offensive guard **JerQuari Schofield**.
- On defense, four players started for the first time: cornerback **Eric Gordon**, defensive tackle **Victor Thomas**, defensive end **Malik Jackson** and defensive tackle **Montori Hughes**.
- Twelve true freshman saw action: **Ju'Wuan James** — who started for UT — **Brent Brewer**, **John Propst**, **Channing Fugate**, **Zach Fulton**, **Justin Hunter**, **Da'Rick Rogers**, **Corey Miller**, **Rajion Neal**, **James Stone**, **Jacques Smith** and **Tyler Bray**.

In Terms of History

- Redshirt freshman defensive tackle **Joseph Ayers** saw his first action as a Vol. Ayers is the great-great-grandson of Brown Ayers, who served as the 12th president of the University of Tennessee from 1904-19 and for whom Ayers Hall is named.

The Offense

Tailback Trio

- Junior **Tauren Poole** broke a 28-yard TD run with 1:44 remaining in the first half, good for his first career touchdown. Poole's work continued as he surpassed the 100-yard mark for the first time in his career on a 14-yard touchdown with 4:39 left in the third frame.
- Poole finished with 110 yards on 17 carries.
- With a 44-yard touchdown run with 5:00 remaining in the first quarter, sophomore **David Oku** surpassed his previous career-high of 42 rushing yards in a game, which he tallied vs. Western Kentucky in 2009.
- Oku finished with 77 yards on six carries.
- In his first game, **Rajion Neal** carried nine times for 77 yards.
- Tennessee finished with 332 rushing yards and 537 total yards.

Ground and Air Delivery

- Senior wide receiver **Denarius Moore** broke away for a 58-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, good for his fourth career run and first rushing touchdown. His previous career-long run came on a 21-yard end around against Kentucky.
- Moore wasn't finished with his running score. On the Vols' very next play, he caught a 42-yard breakaway touchdown from **Matt Simms**. The play was also Simms' first career passing TD as a Vol.
- **Montario Hardesty** was the last Vol to have a rushing and a receiving touchdown in a game, doing so against Auburn in 2009.

Numbers of Interest

- 10** Vols started for the first time; six on offense and four on defense
- 23** Points scored by the Vols in the third quarter, the most points UT has posted in that quarter since scoring 24 in a 59-21 victory against Mississippi State on November 15, 2003.
- 17** Years since the Vols last shut out an opponent to start a season (50-0 win over Louisiana Tech in 1993).
- 16** Consecutive home opening victories at Neyland Stadium.
- 3** First downs by UT Martin: one in the first half and two in the second.

The Defense

Shutouts

- The Vols shut out an opponent for the first time since Nov. 22, 2003 when they defeated Vanderbilt at home, 48-0.
- Tennessee's last season-opening shutout came via a 50-0 win over Louisiana Tech to start the 1993 season. It was only the second time Tennessee had accomplished the feat since 1969.
- UT Martin had just three first downs in the game, the fewest Tennessee had allowed since giving up six in the season-opening victory over Western Kentucky last year.

Noting the First Half

- UT Martin did not score in the first half, marking the first time the Vols have blanked a team in a half since their 63-7 victory over Western Kentucky to open the 2009 season.
- The Vols did not allow a completed pass until until the fifth minute of the second quarter.

Safety First

- Junior **Austin Johnson** recorded the Vols' first safety since Dennis Rogan accomplished the feat last season versus UCLA (9/21/09). After playing his first two seasons in a Volunteer uniform as a fullback, Johnson moved to linebacker and the move proved effective.
- Johnson also had a pair of key stops on third down in the third quarter, registering a tackle just shy of the first down marker. The junior finished the game with five tackles.

Interceptions

- **Austin Johnson** also added an interception Saturday.
- Junior **Prentiss Waggner** collected his first career interception, running it back 54 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter. Waggner also led the Vols in tackles with six.
- It was the Vols' first two-interception game since getting two against Georgia last season.