

Scoring Summary (Final)
2008 Tennessee Football
Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

Northern Illinois (2-3,1-1) vs. Tennessee (2-3,0-2)

Date: Oct 04, 2008 • Site: Knoxville, Tenn. • Stadium: Neyland Stadium

Attendance: 99539

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Northern Illinois	3	0	6	0	9
Tennessee	0	3	10	0	13

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	02:53	NIU - Mike Salerno 25 yd field goal, 9-44 4:57	3 - 0
2nd	06:50	UT - Daniel Lincoln 36 yd field goal, 4--3 1:57	3 - 3
3rd	12:37	UT - Daniel Lincoln 34 yd field goal, 5-52 2:24	3 - 6
	09:49	UT - Denarius Moore 52 yd pass from Nick Stephens (Daniel Lincoln kick), 1-52 0:11	3 - 13
	04:45	NIU - Mike Salerno 24 yd field goal, 10-68 4:55	6 - 13
	01:31	NIU - Mike Salerno 25 yd field goal, 4-1 2:26	9 - 13

Kickoff time: 7:08 pm • End of Game: 10:06 pm • Total elapsed time: 2:58

Officials: Referee: Thomas Ritter; Umpire: Jeff Roberson; Linesman: G.A. Gus Morris;

Line judge: Tim Beard; Back judge: Timothy P Smith; Field judge: Bobby Aillet Jr;

Side judge: Mike Williams;

Temperature: 76 • Wind: W 6 • Weather: Clear

Team Statistics (Final)
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	NIU	UT
FIRST DOWNS	12	9
Rushing	3	5
Passing	6	4
Penalty	3	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	72	69
Rushing Attempts	34	32
Average Per Rush	2.1	2.2
Rushing Touchdowns	0	0
Yards Gained Rushing	87	103
Yards Lost Rushing	15	34
NET YARDS PASSING	118	156
Completions-Attempts-Int	14-26-1	10-18-0
Average Per Attempt	4.5	8.7
Average Per Completion	8.4	15.6
Passing Touchdowns	0	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	190	225
Total offense plays	60	50
Average Gain Per Play	3.2	4.5
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-40	6-45
PUNTS-YARDS	5-198	4-146
Average Yards Per Punt	39.6	36.5
Net Yards Per Punt	35.2	34.8
Inside 20	1	2
50+ Yards	0	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	0	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-268	4-266
Average Yards Per Kickoff	67.0	66.5
Net Yards Per Kickoff	48.8	44.8
Touchbacks	1	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-7-0	4-22-0
Average Per Return	7.0	5.5
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	4-87-0	3-53-0
Average Per Return	21.8	17.7
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	1-48-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-4-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	33:05	26:55
1st Quarter	9:12	5:48
2nd Quarter	8:55	6:05
3rd Quarter	10:01	4:59
4th Quarter	4:57	10:03
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 16	3 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 1	0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	2-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-28	4-10
PAT Kicks	0-0	1-1
Field Goals	3-4	2-3

Individual Statistics (Final)
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Northern Illinois

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Demarcus Grady	14	46	5	41	0	9	2.9
Me'Co Brown	8	14	0	14	0	3	1.8
Just. Anderson	4	10	4	6	0	5	1.5
Ryan Morris	2	6	1	5	0	6	2.5
Chad Spann	2	5	0	5	0	4	2.5
Dan Nicholson	4	6	5	1	0	6	0.2
Totals	34	87	15	72	0	9	2.1

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Dan Nicholson	10-15-1	79	0	18	2
Demarcus Grady	4-10-0	39	0	35	1
Ryan Morris	0-1-0	0	0	0	1
Totals	14-26-1	118	0	35	4

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Nathan Palmer	4	26	0	11
Landon Cox	3	36	0	17
R. Cunningham	2	21	0	18
Marcus Perez	2	13	0	8
Willie Clark	1	35	0	35
Jason Schepler	1	6	0	6
Team	1	-19	0	0
Totals	14	118	0	35

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
A. Dittbenner	5	198	39.6	46	1	0
Totals	5	198	39.6	46	1	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Me'Co Brown	1	7	7	4	87	29	0	0	0
Totals	1	7	7	4	87	29	0	0	0

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Mike Salerno	1st	10:45	46 yards	Missed
Mike Salerno	1st	02:53	25 yards	Good
Mike Salerno	3rd	04:45	24 yards	Good
Mike Salerno	3rd	01:31	25 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Mike Salerno	4	268	67.0	1	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Me'Co Brown	14	0	87	7	0	108
Demarcus Grady	41	0	0	0	0	41
Landon Cox	0	36	0	0	0	36
Willie Clark	0	35	0	0	0	35

Tennessee

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Arian Foster	18	76	1	75	0	16	4.2
Montario Hardesty	7	23	3	20	0	9	2.9
Gerald Jones	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Nick Stephens	5	2	28	-26	0	2	-5.2
Totals	32	103	34	69	0	16	2.2

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Nick Stephens	10-17-0	156	1	52	3
Gerald Jones	0-1-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	10-18-0	156	1	52	3

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Denarius Moore	3	65	1	52
Gerald Jones	2	50	0	43
Josh Briscoe	2	22	0	14
Austin Rogers	2	14	0	10
Luke Stocker	1	5	0	5
Totals	10	156	1	52

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Chad Cunningham	3	136	45.3	53	2	0
TEAM	1	10	10.0	10	0	0
Totals	4	146	36.5	53	2	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Gerald Jones	4	22	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lennon Creer	0	0	0	3	53	31	0	0	0
Eric Berry	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	48	48
Totals	4	22	12	3	53	31	1	48	48

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Daniel Lincoln	2nd	06:50	36 yards	Good
Daniel Lincoln	3rd	12:37	34 yards	Good
Daniel Lincoln	4th	06:39	32 yards	Missed

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Chad Cunningham	4	266	66.5	0	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Arian Foster	75	0	0	0	0	75
Gerald Jones	2	50	0	22	0	74
Denarius Moore	0	65	0	0	0	65
Lennon Creer	0	0	53	0	0	53

FUMBLES: Northern Illinois-None. Tennessee-Josh Briscoe 1-1; Nick Stephens 1-1.

Defensive Statistics (Final)
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##	Northern Illinois	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
4	David Bryant	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
53	Tim Mccarthy	3	3	6	-	1.0-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Bradley Pruitt	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	Mike Sobol	4	0	4	-	1.0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Cory Hanson	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Tracy Wilson	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	Tranchitella	2	2	4	0.5-2	1.0-3	-	1-4	-	-	-	-
51	Larry English	2	2	4	2.5-26	2.5-26	1	-	-	-	-	-
9	Josh Allen	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
37	Alex Kube	0	4	4	-	0.5-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Melvin Rice	2	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
36	Chase Carter	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
58	Mike Krause	1	1	2	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
33	Patrick George	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
84	Tyler Clasey	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Nolan Owen	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54	Jake Coffman	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
99	Craig Rusch	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
27	S. Williamson	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	D.J. Pirkle	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
83	R. Cunningham	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		28	36	64	3.0-28	6.0-32	2	2-4	0-0	3	1	0

##	Tennessee	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
20	Nevin McKenzie	4	5	9	1.5-6	2.5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Rico McCoy	5	3	8	1.0-1	1.0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Eric Berry	5	1	6	-	1.0-1	-	-	1-48	1	-	-
91	Robert Ayers	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
94	Wes Brown	2	3	5	1.0-3	1.0-3	-	-	-	-	-	1
98	Demonte' Bolden	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	Nick Reveiz	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95	Walter Fisher	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	Dennis Rogan	1	3	4	-	1.0-19	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	DeAngelo Willingham	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
7	Demetrice Morley	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Dan Williams	0	3	3	0.5-0	0.5-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Ja'Kouri Williams	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
53	Morgan Cox	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
84	Chris Walker	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
43	Savion Frazier	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Marsalous Johnson	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Tauren Poole	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	Kevin Cooper	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Josh Hawkins	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
57	Gerald Williams	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals		35	32	67	4.0-10	7.0-34	0	0-0	1-48	5	0	3

Drive Chart (By Team) (Final)
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Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
NIU	1st	N30	15:00	Possession	N30	14:42	Kickoff	0 - 0	0:18
NIU		N31	14:42	Kickoff	T29	10:45	Missed FG	10 - 40	3:57
NIU		N48	07:50	Fumble	T08	02:53	*FIELD GOAL	9 - 44	4:57
NIU	2nd	N18	13:25	Punt	N48	08:47	Interception	9 - 30	4:38
NIU		N25	06:44	Kickoff	N42	04:19	Punt	5 - 17	2:25
NIU		N45	02:17	Punt	N45	00:31	Punt	3 - 0	1:46
NIU	3rd	N10	12:37	Kickoff	N10	12:31	Possession	0 - 0	0:06
NIU		N10	12:31	Possession	N18	10:00	Punt	3 - 8	2:31
NIU		N25	09:40	Kickoff	T07	04:45	*FIELD GOAL	10 - 68	4:55
NIU		T09	03:57	Fumble	T08	01:31	*FIELD GOAL	4 - 1	2:26
NIU	4th	N26	14:21	Punt	N21	12:05	Punt	3 - (5)	2:16
NIU		N20	06:39	Missed FG	N26	05:33	Punt	3 - 6	1:06
NIU		N18	03:56	Punt	N27	02:34	Downs	4 - 9	1:22
NIU		N21	00:13	Downs	N02	00:00	End of half	1 - (19)	0:13

Northern Illinois	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Time of possession	09:12	08:55	10:01	04:57	18:07	14:58	33:05
3rd down conversions	2-4	2-5	1-4	0-3	4-9	1-7	5-16
Average field position	N36	N29	N42	N21	N32	N30	N31
4th down conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-1

Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
UT	1st	T29	10:45	Missed FG	N48	07:50	Fumble	6 - 23	2:55
UT		T15	02:46	Kickoff	T45	13:25	Punt	8 - 30	4:21
UT	2nd	N16	08:47	Interception	N19	06:50	*FIELD GOAL	4 - (3)	1:57
UT		T26	04:19	Punt	T45	02:17	Punt	5 - 19	2:02
UT		T16	00:31	Punt	T14	00:00	End of half	1 - (2)	0:31
UT	3rd	T31	14:55	Kickoff	N17	12:31	*FIELD GOAL	5 - 52	2:24
UT		T48	10:00	Punt	N00	09:49	*TOUCHDOWN	1 - 52	0:11
UT		T20	04:45	Kickoff	T09	03:57	Fumble	3 - (11)	0:48
UT		T19	01:27	Kickoff	T28	14:21	Punt	3 - 9	2:06
UT	4th	N49	12:05	Punt	N14	06:39	Missed FG	10 - 35	5:26
UT		T31	05:33	Punt	T36	03:56	Punt	3 - 5	1:37
UT		N27	02:34	Downs	N21	00:13	Downs	4 - 6	2:21

Tennessee	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Time of possession	05:48	06:05	04:59	10:03	11:53	15:02	26:55
3rd down conversions	2-3	0-3	0-2	1-5	2-6	1-7	3-13
Average field position	T22	T42	T29	N49	T34	T39	T36
4th down conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-1

Participation Report (Final)
2008 Tennessee Football
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Northern Illinois

Pos	##	OFFENSE
WR	81	Nathan Palmer
LT	62	Trevor Olson
LG	65	J. Onyebuagu
C	50	Eddie Adamski
RG	78	Dan Keller
RT	60	Jon Brost
TE	83	R. Cunningham
WR	17	Greg Turner
QB	19	Dan Nicholson
FB	34	Kyle Skarb
TB	8	Me'Co Brown

Pos	##	DEFENSE
RE	51	Larry English
NG	58	Mike Krause
DT	69	Alex Krutsch
LE	99	Craig Rusch
SLB	9	Josh Allen
MLB	53	Tim Mccarthy
WLB	26	Cory Hanson
LCB	24	Bradley Pruitt
SS	38	Mike Sobol
FS	4	David Bryant
RCB	36	Chase Carter

Tennessee

Pos	##	OFFENSE
LT	79	Chris Scott
LG	75	Anthony Parker
C	50	Josh McNeil
RG	65	Jacques McClendon
RT	78	Ramon Foster
TE	88	Luke Stocker
WR	4	Gerald Jones
WR	81	Josh Briscoe
QB	17	Nick Stephens
TB	27	Arian Foster
FB	45	Kevin Cooper

Pos	##	DEFENSE
LE	94	Wes Brown
LT	55	Dan Williams
RT	95	Walter Fisher
RE	91	Robert Ayers
SLB	20	Nevin McKenzie
MLB	56	Nick Reveiz
WLB	5	Rico McCoy
LCB	24	DeAngelo Willingham
RCB	41	Dennis Rogan
FS	7	Demetrice Morley
SS	14	Eric Berry

Northern Illinois: 2-Melvin Rice, 3-Demarcus Grady, 5-Marcus Perez, 7-Britt Davis, 10-Willie Clark, 15-Ryan Morris, 16-Mike Salerno, 18-A. Dittbenner, 20-M. Clanton, 21-Just. Anderson, 22-Ricky Crider, 23-Kiaree Daniels, 25-Tracy Wilson, 27-S. Williamson, 28-Chad Spann, 29-Pat Schiller, 33-Patrick George, 37-Alex Kube, 42-Tranchitella, 43-T.J. Griffin, 44-Kendal Farlow, 45-Ja. Cruikshank, 46-David Pratt, 48-Mike Kritikos, 54-Jake Coffman, 55-Nolan Owen, 56-Brandon Bice, 57-Zach Larsen, 59-Kevin Skatrud, 72-Joe Pawlak, 80-Landon Cox, 84-Tyler Clasey, 87-Jason Schepler, 88-Brandon Beal, 98-D.J. Pirkle.

Tennessee: 1-Brandon Warren, 2-Montario Hardesty, 3-Lennon Creer, 6-Denarius Moore, 9A-Bram Cannon, 12-Lucas Taylor, 13-Brent Vinson, 21-Austin Rogers, 25-Art Evans, 26-Daniel Lincoln, 28-Tauren Poole, 31-Marsalous Johnson, 33-Ja'Kouri Williams, 42-LaMarcus Thompson, 43-Savion Frazier, 44-Josh Hawkins, 48-Adam Myers-White, 52-Victor Thomas, 53-Morgan Cox, 57-Gerald Williams, 72-Ramone Johnson, 80-Jeff Cottam, 84-Chris Walker, 87-Quintin Hancock, 96-Chad Cunningham, 98-Demonte' Bolden, 99-Ben Martin.

Play-by-Play Summary (1st quarter)

Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

Tenn. wins toss; defers, and defends South Goal.

1-10 NIU 30 Change of possession, UT ball on UT30.

0 plays, 0 yards, 0:18

Chad Cunningham kickoff 68 yards to the NIU2, Me'Co Brown return 29 yards to the NIU31 (Savion Frazier).

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 14:42.

1-10	NIU 31	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Nathan Palmer for 11 yards to the NIU42, 1ST DOWN NIU (Nevin McKenzie).	P1
1-10	NIU 42	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Nathan Palmer for 4 yards to the NIU46.	
2-6	NIU 46	Me'Co Brown rush for no gain to the NIU46 (Walter Fisher;Robert Ayers).	
3-6	NIU 46	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Jason Schepler for 6 yards to the UT48, 1ST DOWN NIU (D. Morley).	P2
1-10	UT 48	Me'Co Brown rush for 2 yards to the UT46 (Nick Reveiz).	
2-8	UT 46	Dan Nicholson rush for 6 yards to the UT40 (Eric Berry), PENALTY UT holding (D. Willingham) 10 yards to the UT30, 1ST DOWN NIU.	X3
1-10	UT 30	1st and 10.	
1-10	UT 30	Me'Co Brown rush for 1 yard to the UT29 (Nevin McKenzie;Nick Reveiz).	
2-9	UT 29	Dan Nicholson pass incomplete to Kyle Skarb.	
3-9	UT 29	Timeout Northern Illinois, clock 10:55.	
3-9	UT 29	Dan Nicholson pass incomplete to Marcus Perez (D. Willingham).	
4-9	UT 29	Mike Salerno field goal attempt from 46 MISSED - wide right, spot at UT29, clock 10:45.	

10 plays, 40 yards, 3:57

TENNESSEE drive start at 10:45, PENALTY UT false start (J. McClendon) 5 yards to the UT24.

1-15	UT 24	1st and 15.	
1-15	UT 24	Arian Foster rush for 3 yards to the UT27 (Mike Sobol).	
2-12	UT 27	Nick Stephens pass complete to Gerald Jones for 7 yards to the UT34 (Mike Krause).	
3-5	UT 34	PENALTY UT false start (J. McClendon) 5 yards to the UT29.	
3-10	UT 29	Nick Stephens pass complete to Josh Briscoe for 14 yards to the UT43, 1ST DOWN UT (Mike Sobol).	P1
1-10	UT 43	Arian Foster rush for 1 yard to the UT44 (Jake Coffman).	
2-9	UT 44	Nick Stephens pass incomplete to Gerald Jones (Jake Coffman).	
3-9	UT 44	Nick Stephens pass complete to Josh Briscoe for 8 yards to the NIU48, fumble forced by Melvin Rice, fumble by Josh Briscoe recovered by NIU Tranchitella at NIU48, Tranchitella for 4 yards to the UT48 (Kevin Cooper).	

6 plays, 23 yards, 2:55

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 07:50.

The play was reviewed, and upheld.

1-10	UT 48	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Landon Cox for 9 yards to the UT39 (D. Willingham).	
2-1	UT 39	Me'Co Brown rush for 3 yards to the UT36, 1ST DOWN NIU (Walter Fisher).	R4
1-10	UT 36	Dan Nicholson sacked for loss of 3 yards to the UT39 (Wes Brown).	
2-13	UT 39	Timeout Northern Illinois, clock 06:21.	
2-13	UT 39	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Marcus Perez for 8 yards to the UT31 (Dennis Rogan;D. Morley).	
3-5	UT 31	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Landon Cox for 10 yards to the UT21, 1ST DOWN NIU, PENALTY UT roughing passer (Demonte' Bolden) 10 yards to the UT11, 1ST DOWN NIU.	X6
1-10	UT 11	1st and 10.	
1-10	UT 11	Dan Nicholson rush for loss of 1 yard to the UT12 (Eric Berry).	
2-11	UT 12	Dan Nicholson sacked for loss of 1 yard to the UT13 (Rico McCoy).	
3-12	UT 13	Dan Nicholson pass complete to Marcus Perez for 5 yards to the UT8.	
4-7	UT 08	Mike Salerno field goal attempt from 25 GOOD, clock 02:53.	

Northern Illinois 3, Tennessee 0

9 plays, 40 yards, 4:57

Mike Salerno kickoff 70 yards to the UT0, Lennon Creer return 15 yards to the UT15 (David Bryant;Tyler Clasey).

TENNESSEE drive start at 02:46.

1-10	UT 15	Nick Stephens pass incomplete to Brandon Warren.	
2-10	UT 15	Nick Stephens pass complete to Austin Rogers for 10 yards to the UT25, 1ST DOWN UT (Chase Carter;Bradley Pruitt).	P2
1-10	UT 25	Nick Stephens pass complete to Denarius Moore for 6 yards to the UT31 (David Bryant).	
2-4	UT 31	Arian Foster rush for 3 yards to the UT34 (David Bryant;Chase Carter).	
3-1	UT 34	Arian Foster rush for 2 yards to the UT36, 1ST DOWN UT (Tim Mccarthy;Josh Allen).	R3
1-10	UT 36	Nick Stephens pass complete to Austin Rogers for 4 yards to the UT40 (Bradley Pruitt;Josh Allen).	

END OF 1st QUARTER: Northern Illinois 3, Tennessee 0

Play-by-Play Summary (1st quarter)
Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

Quarter Summary	Score	Time Poss	1st Downs				Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
			R	P	X	T	3rd	4th			
Northern Illinois	3	09:12	1	3	2	6	2-4	0-0	8-7	7-9-0-53	0-0
Tennessee	0	05:48	1	2	0	3	1-2	0-0	4-9	6-8-0-49	4-30

Play-by-Play Summary (2nd quarter)

Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

2-6 UT 40 Start of 2nd quarter, clock 15:00.
 2-6 UT 40 Arian Foster rush for no gain to the UT40 (Cory Hanson).
 3-6 UT 40 Nick Stephens pass complete to Luke Stocker for 5 yards to the UT45 (Mike Sobol).
 4-1 UT 45 Chad Cunningham punt 37 yards to the NIU18, fair catch by Me'Co Brown.
8 plays, 30 yards, 4:21

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 13:25.

1-10 NIU 18 Just. Anderson rush for 5 yards to the NIU23 (Wes Brown;Robert Ayers).
 2-5 NIU 23 Dan Nicholson pass complete to R. Cunningham for 3 yards to the NIU26 (Dennis Rogan;Nevin McKenzie).
 3-2 NIU 26 Just. Anderson rush for 3 yards to the NIU29, 1ST DOWN NIU (Rico McCoy;Nick Reveiz). R7
 1-10 NIU 29 Demarcus Grady rush for no gain to the NIU29 (Nick Reveiz).
 2-10 NIU 29 Dan Nicholson pass complete to Nathan Palmer for 5 yards to the NIU34 (Wes Brown).
 3-5 NIU 34 Dan Nicholson pass complete to R. Cunningham for 18 yards to the UT48, 1ST DOWN NIU (Eric Berry), PENALTY UT holding declined. P8
 1-10 UT 48 Just. Anderson rush for loss of 4 yards to the NIU48 (Nevin McKenzie).
 2-14 NIU 48 Dan Nicholson pass incomplete to Nathan Palmer.
 3-14 NIU 48 Dan Nicholson pass intercepted by Eric Berry at the UT36, Eric Berry return 48 yards to the NIU16.
9 plays, 30 yards, 4:38

TENNESSEE drive start at 08:47.

1-10 NIU 16 M. Hardesty rush for 6 yards to the NIU10.
 2-4 NIU 10 Gerald Jones pass incomplete to Josh Briscoe.
 3-4 NIU 10 Nick Stephens pass complete to Gerald Jones for no gain to the NIU10 (Mike Sobol), PENALTY UT ineligible downfield on pass (Gerald Jones) 5 yards to the NIU15, NO PLAY.
 3-9 NIU 15 3rd and 9.
 3-9 NIU 15 Nick Stephens sacked for loss of 4 yards to the NIU19 (Tranchitella;Larry English).
 4-13 NIU 19 Daniel Lincoln field goal attempt from 36 GOOD, clock 06:50.

Tennessee 3, Northern Illinois 3

4 plays, minus 3 yards, 1:57

Chad Cunningham kickoff 65 yards to the NIU5, Me'Co Brown return 20 yards to the NIU25 (Josh Hawkins;J. Williams).

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 06:44, NIU ball on NIU25.

1-10 NIU 25 Me'Co Brown rush for 3 yards to the NIU28 (Walter Fisher;Rico McCoy).
 2-7 NIU 28 Timeout Northern Illinois, clock 05:49.
 2-7 NIU 28 Dan Nicholson pass incomplete to Greg Turner (D. Willingham).
 3-7 NIU 28 PENALTY UT pass interference (D. Willingham) 10 yards to the NIU38, 1ST DOWN NIU. X9
 1-10 NIU 38 Demarcus Grady rush for 2 yards to the NIU40, out-of-bounds (Rico McCoy).
 2-8 NIU 40 Demarcus Grady rush for 2 yards to the NIU42 (Wes Brown;Dan Williams).
 3-6 NIU 42 Demarcus Grady pass incomplete to R. Cunningham (Eric Berry).
 4-6 NIU 42 A. Dittbenner punt 32 yards to the UT26, downed.
5 plays, 17 yards, 2:25

TENNESSEE drive start at 04:19.

1-10 UT 26 Nick Stephens pass incomplete to Gerald Jones.
 2-10 UT 26 Arian Foster rush for 16 yards to the UT42, 1ST DOWN UT (Melvin Rice;Bradley Pruitt). R4
 1-10 UT 42 Arian Foster rush for 4 yards to the UT46 (Tim Mccarthy).
 2-6 UT 46 Arian Foster rush for loss of 1 yard to the UT45 (Mike Sobol).
 3-7 UT 45 Nick Stephens pass incomplete to Gerald Jones (Josh Allen).
 4-7 UT 45 TEAM punt 10 yards to the NIU45 (blocked by Patrick George).
5 plays, 19 yards, 2:02

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 02:17, NIU ball on NIU45.

1-10 NIU 45 Chad Spann rush for 4 yards to the NIU49 (Robert Ayers).
 2-6 NIU 49 Chad Spann rush for 1 yard to the 50 yardline (Demonte' Bolden;Wes Brown).
 3-5 NIU 50 Demarcus Grady sacked for loss of 5 yards to the NIU45 (Nevin McKenzie).
 4-10 NIU 45 Timeout Tennessee, clock 00:39.
 4-10 NIU 45 A. Dittbenner punt 40 yards to the UT15, Gerald Jones return 1 yards to the UT16 (Patrick George;Tyler Clasey).
3 plays, 0 yards, 1:46

TENNESSEE drive start at 00:31.

1-10 UT 16 TEAM rush for loss of 2 yards to the UT14.
 End of half, clock 00:00.
1 play, minus 2 yards, 0:31

END OF 2nd QUARTER: Tennessee 3, Northern Illinois 3

Quarter Summary	Score	Time Poss	1st Downs				Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
			R	P	X	T	3rd	4th			
Northern Illinois	0	08:55	1	1	1	3	2-5	0-0	10-11	3-7-1-26	0-0
Tennessee	3	06:05	1	0	0	1	0-3	0-0	7-19	1-4-0-5	2-15

Play-by-Play Summary (3rd quarter)

Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

Start of 3rd quarter, clock 15:00, NIU ball on NIU30.
Mike Salerno kickoff 70 yards to the UT0, Lennon Creer return 31 yards to the UT31 (David Bryant).

TENNESSEE drive start at 14:55.

1-10	UT 31	Arian Foster rush for 5 yards to the UT36 (Brandon Bice), PENALTY NIU offside (Brandon Bice) 5 yards to the UT36, NO PLAY.	
1-5	UT 36	Nick Stephens pass complete to Gerald Jones for 43 yards to the NIU21, 1ST DOWN UT (Bradley Pruitt).	P5
1-10	NIU 21	Arian Foster rush for 4 yards to the NIU17 (Cory Hanson;Bradley Pruitt).	
2-6	NIU 17	Arian Foster rush for no gain to the NIU17 (Tim Mccarthy;Mike Krause).	
3-6	NIU 17	Nick Stephens pass incomplete to Gerald Jones.	
4-6	NIU 17	Daniel Lincoln field goal attempt from 34 GOOD, clock 12:37.	

Tennessee 6, Northern Illinois 3

5 plays, 52 yards, 2:24

Chad Cunningham kickoff 65 yards to the NIU5, Me'Co Brown return 15 yards to the NIU20 (Tauren Poole), PENALTY NIU illegal block (Greg Turner) 10 yards to the NIU10, 1st and 10, NIU ball on NIU10.

1-10	NIU 10	Change of possession, NIU ball on NIU10, 1st and 10.	
		<i>0 plays, 0 yards, 0:06</i>	

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 12:31.

1-10	NIU 10	Demarcus Grady rush for 5 yards to the NIU15 (Robert Ayers).	
2-5	NIU 15	Me'Co Brown rush for 2 yards to the NIU17 (Robert Ayers).	
3-3	NIU 17	Demarcus Grady rush for 1 yard to the NIU18 (Dan Williams;Nevin McKenzie).	
4-2	NIU 18	A. Dittbenner punt 46 yards to the UT36, Gerald Jones return 12 yards to the UT48 (Nolan Owen).	

3 plays, 8 yards, 2:31

TENNESSEE drive start at 10:00.

1-10	UT 48	Nick Stephens pass complete to Denarius Moore for 52 yards to the NIU0, 1ST DOWN UT, TOUCHDOWN, clock 09:49.	P6
1-G	NIU 03	Daniel Lincoln kick attempt good.	

Tennessee 13, Northern Illinois 3

1 play, 52 yards, 0:11

Chad Cunningham kickoff 68 yards to the NIU2, Me'Co Brown return 23 yards to the NIU25 (J. Williams).

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 09:40.

1-10	NIU 25	Demarcus Grady pass complete to Landon Cox for 17 yards to the NIU42, 1ST DOWN NIU (Eric Berry).	P10
1-10	NIU 42	Me'Co Brown rush for 2 yards to the NIU44 (Demonte' Bolden).	
2-8	NIU 44	Demarcus Grady pass incomplete to Willie Clark.	
3-8	NIU 44	Demarcus Grady pass complete to Willie Clark for 35 yards to the UT21, 1ST DOWN NIU (M. Johnson).	P11
1-10	UT 21	Demarcus Grady rush for 9 yards to the UT12 (Eric Berry).	
2-1	UT 12	Me'Co Brown rush for 1 yard to the UT11, 1ST DOWN NIU (Rico McCoy).	R12
1-10	UT 11	Just. Anderson rush for 2 yards to the UT9 (Demonte' Bolden).	
2-8	UT 09	Demarcus Grady pass incomplete to Nathan Palmer, QB hurry by Wes Brown.	
3-8	UT 09	Timeout Northern Illinois, clock 05:33.	
3-8	UT 09	Demarcus Grady rush for 2 yards to the UT7 (Rico McCoy).	
4-6	UT 07	Mike Salerno field goal attempt from 24 GOOD, clock 04:45.	

Tennessee 13, Northern Illinois 6

10 plays, 68 yards, 4:55

Mike Salerno kickoff 70 yards to the UT0, touchback.

TENNESSEE drive start at 04:45.

1-10	UT 20	M. Hardesty rush for 3 yards to the UT23 (Alex Kube;Tracy Wilson).	
2-7	UT 23	Nick Stephens pass incomplete (Craig Rusch).	
3-7	UT 23	Nick Stephens sacked for loss of 14 yards to the UT9 (Larry English), fumble by Nick Stephens recovered by NIU Mike Krause at UT9.	

3 plays, minus 11 yards, 0:48

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 03:57.

The play was reviewed, and upheld.

1-G	UT 09	Demarcus Grady rush for 1 yard to the UT8 (Walter Fisher;Nevin McKenzie).	
2-G	UT 08	PENALTY NIU delay of game 5 yards to the UT13.	
2-G	UT 13	PENALTY NIU sideline interference 5 yards to the UT18.	
2-G	UT 18	Demarcus Grady rush for 3 yards to the UT15, out-of-bounds (Rico McCoy).	
3-G	UT 15	Demarcus Grady rush for 7 yards to the UT8 (Rico McCoy;D. Morley).	
4-G	UT 08	Mike Salerno field goal attempt from 25 GOOD, clock 01:31.	

Tennessee 13, Northern Illinois 9

4 plays, 1 yard, 2:26

Mike Salerno kickoff 58 yards to the UT12, Lennon Creer return 7 yards to the UT19 (Josh Allen).

Play-by-Play Summary (3rd quarter)

Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

TENNESSEE drive start at 01:27.

1-10 UT 19 Nick Stephens pass complete to Denarius Moore for 7 yards to the UT26 (Cory Hanson).
 2-3 UT 26 Gerald Jones rush for 2 yards to the UT28 (Cory Hanson;Craig Rusch).
 3-1 UT 28 Clock 00:00.

END OF 3rd QUARTER: Tennessee 13, Northern Illinois 9

Quarter Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4th			
Northern Illinois	6	10:01	1	2	0	3	1-4	0-0	11-35	2-4-0-52	4-25
Tennessee	10	04:59	0	2	0	2	0-2	0-0	5-(-5)	3-5-0-102	0-0

Play-by-Play Summary (4th quarter)

Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

3-1 UT 28 Start of 4th quarter, clock 15:00.
 3-1 UT 28 Nick Stephens rush for no gain to the UT28 (D.J. Pirkle;S. Williamson).
 4-1 UT 28 Chad Cunningham punt 53 yards to the NIU19, Me'Co Brown return 7 yards to the NIU26 (Morgan Cox).

3 plays, 9 yards, 2:06

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 14:21.

1-10 NIU 26 Chad Spann rush for no gain to the NIU26 (Nick Reveiz;Ben Martin), PENALTY NIU illegal procedure (R. Cunningham) 5 yards to the NIU21, NO PLAY.
 1-15 NIU 21 Demarcus Grady rush for 7 yards to the NIU28 (Chris Walker).
 2-8 NIU 28 Demarcus Grady rush for 3 yards to the NIU31, out-of-bounds (Nevin McKenzie).
 3-5 NIU 31 PENALTY NIU false start (Willie Clark) 5 yards to the NIU26.
 3-10 NIU 26 Demarcus Grady pass incomplete to Chad Spann, QB hurry by Chris Walker.
 4-10 NIU 26 PENALTY NIU 12 men on the field 5 yards to the NIU21.
 4-15 NIU 21 A. Dittbenner punt 37 yards to the UT42, Gerald Jones return 9 yards to the NIU49 (R. Cunningham;Patrick George).

3 plays, minus 5 yards, 2:16

TENNESSEE drive start at 12:05.

1-10 NIU 49 Arian Foster rush for 10 yards to the NIU39, 1ST DOWN UT (Tracy Wilson). R7
 1-10 NIU 39 Arian Foster rush for 3 yards to the NIU36 (Josh Allen).
 2-7 NIU 36 Arian Foster rush for 6 yards to the NIU30 (David Bryant).
 3-1 NIU 30 Arian Foster rush for 7 yards to the NIU23, 1ST DOWN UT, out-of-bounds (Chase Carter). R8
 1-10 NIU 23 Arian Foster rush for 3 yards to the NIU20 (Tim Mccarthy).
 2-7 NIU 20 Arian Foster rush for 11 yards to the NIU9, 1ST DOWN UT, out-of-bounds (Alex Kube;Tracy Wilson). R9
 1-G NIU 09 Arian Foster rush for no gain to the NIU9 (Tranchitella).
 2-G NIU 09 M. Hardesty rush for 5 yards to the NIU4 (Tracy Wilson).
 3-G NIU 04 Timeout Northern Illinois, clock 07:26.
 3-G NIU 04 Timeout Tennessee, clock 07:26.
 3-G NIU 04 Nick Stephens sacked for loss of 10 yards to the NIU14 (Larry English).
 4-G NIU 14 Daniel Lincoln field goal attempt from 32 MISSED - wide left, spot at NIU20, clock 06:39.

10 plays, 35 yards, 5:26

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 06:39.

1-10 NIU 20 Demarcus Grady pass incomplete to Nathan Palmer (D. Willingham).
 2-10 NIU 20 Demarcus Grady pass complete to Nathan Palmer for 6 yards to the NIU26 (Eric Berry;D. Willingham).
 3-4 NIU 26 Demarcus Grady pass incomplete (Gerald Williams).
 4-4 NIU 26 A. Dittbenner punt 43 yards to the UT31, Gerald Jones return 0 yards to the UT31 (Tranchitella).

3 plays, 6 yards, 1:06

TENNESSEE drive start at 05:33.

1-10 UT 31 Arian Foster rush for 3 yards to the UT34 (Larry English;Alex Kube).
 2-7 UT 34 Timeout Tennessee, clock 04:53.
 2-7 UT 34 Nick Stephens rush for 2 yards to the UT36 (Bradley Pruitt).
 3-5 UT 36 Nick Stephens pass incomplete to Austin Rogers.

The play was reviewed, and upheld.

4-5 UT 36 Chad Cunningham punt 46 yards to the NIU18, downed.

3 plays, 5 yards, 1:37

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 03:56.

1-10 NIU 18 Ryan Morris pass incomplete, QB hurry by Robert Ayers.
 2-10 NIU 18 Demarcus Grady rush for 4 yards to the NIU22, out-of-bounds (D. Willingham).
 3-6 NIU 22 Ryan Morris sacked for loss of 1 yard to the NIU21 (Nevin McKenzie;Dan Williams).
 4-7 NIU 21 Timeout Northern Illinois, clock 02:46.
 4-7 NIU 21 Ryan Morris rush for 6 yards to the NIU27 (Dennis Rogan;Demonte' Bolden).

4 plays, 9 yards, 1:22

TENNESSEE drive start at 02:34.

1-10 NIU 27 M. Hardesty rush for 9 yards to the NIU18 (Melvin Rice).
 2-1 NIU 18 M. Hardesty rush for no gain to the NIU18 (David Bryant;Tim Mccarthy).
 3-1 NIU 18 M. Hardesty rush for loss of 1 yard to the NIU19 (Tranchitella;Alex Kube).
 4-2 NIU 19 Timeout Tennessee, clock 00:18.
 4-2 NIU 19 M. Hardesty rush for loss of 2 yards to the NIU21 (Tim Mccarthy).

4 plays, 6 yards, 2:21

NORTHERN ILLINOIS drive start at 00:13.

1-10 NIU 21 Demarcus Grady pass complete to Team for loss of 19 yards to the NIU2 (Dennis Rogan), PENALTY NIU illegal forward pass declined.
 2-29 NIU 02 Clock 00:00.
 End of game, clock 00:00.

1 play, minus 19 yards, 0:13

FINAL SCORE: Tennessee 13, Northern Illinois 9

Play-by-Play Summary (4th quarter)
Northern Illinois vs Tennessee (Oct 04, 2008 at Knoxville, Tenn.)

Quarter Summary	Score	Time Poss	1st Downs				Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
			R	P	X	T	3rd	4th			
Northern Illinois	0	04:57	0	0	0	0	0-3	0-1	5-19	2-6-0(-13)	3-15
Tennessee	0	10:03	3	0	0	3	1-5	0-1	16-46	0-1-0-0	0-0

TENNESSEE POSTGAME NOTES

Northern Illinois at Tennessee ♦ Oct. 4, 2008 ♦ Neyland Stadium ♦ Knoxville, Tenn.

"Stephens Bomb to Moore is Difference in UT's 13-9 victory"

Noting Tennessee

- Tennessee improves to 2-3; Northern Illinois falls to 2-3 on the year.
- The Vols entered the game unranked in both the Associated Press and USA Today polls; Northern Illinois was also unranked in both polls.
- Tennessee returns to action Oct. 11 when it faces Georgia in Sanford Stadium. Kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m. ET, and the game will be televised by CBS.

Tennessee-Northern Illinois Series

- Today's contest marked the first meeting between the two programs.
- It was only the fourth meeting between UT and a member of the Mid-American Conference. The Vols have won all four games.

Phillip Fulmer's Record

- Tennessee head coach Phillip Fulmer's record now stands at 149-48 (.756) in 17 seasons with the Vols.
- Fulmer now owns a 31-1 record against non-BCS schools.

Stephens Makes First Career Start

- Sophomore quarterback Nick Stephens made his first career start and became the 14th different quarterback to start for UT in Phillip Fulmer's 17 year career.
- The Flower Mound, Texas, native completed 11 of 18 passes for 156 yards and one touchdown.
- Stephens 43-yard bomb to Gerald Jones on the first drive of the third quarter was the second longest pass play of the season for UT at that time. On the next possession, Stephens connected with Denarius Moore for a 52-yard touchdown. That play is the longest for UT this season. It also marked the first career touchdown pass for Stephens and the first career touchdown reception for Moore.
- Stephens has only appeared in two games this season but he is responsible for three of the four longest pass plays by UT this season.

Moore and Jones Lead Vol Wideouts

- Sophomores Denarius Moore and Gerald Jones led UT's receivers with three receptions each. Moore led the team with 65 yards and Jones finished with a career-high 50 receiving yards.
- Josh Briscoe and Austin Rogers had combined to catch only six passes in the first four games but the duo caught four receptions in the first quarter tonight.

Foster Continues Climb Toward Top of Tennessee Career Rushing List

- Senior Tennessee tailback Arian Foster netted 75 yards on 18 carries today, moving past Jamal Lewis (2,677) into fourth place on UT's all-time rushing list with 2,732 yards. Johnnie Jones occupies third place on that list with 2,852 yards.
- Foster made his 19th consecutive start today, it is the second-most consecutive starts by a UT tailback in the Fulmer era (1992-present). Jay Graham tops that chart with a string of 24 starts during the 1995 and 1996 seasons.

Noting the Defense

- Senior linebacker Nevin McKenzie led the Vols with a career-high nine tackles.
- Sophomore safety Eric Berry grabbed his team-leading third interception of the season in the second quarter. He returned the pick 48 yards to set up UT's first score of the day. The Fairburn, Ga., native now has eight career interceptions and has returned them for 271 yards. The 271 yards puts him in fifth place on UT's all-time interception yardage list. Current Vol Network radio announcer, Tim Priest, has the most all-time interception return yardage with 305.
- Walter Fisher, Nevin McKenzie and Nick Reveiz made their first career starts tonight. McKenzie and Reveiz set career-highs in tackles while Fisher finished one short of tying his career-high.
- Senior defensive end Robert Ayers had a season-high five tackles and fellow DE starter Wes Brown tied his career-high with five tackles.
- Senior defensive back DeAngelo Willingham had a career-high three PBUs.
- The Vols had a season-high four sacks tonight.
- UT has allowed only one rushing touchdown this season and that came in the first game of the season. The defense has not allowed a rushing touchdown in the last four games.

Miscellaneous Notes

- Today's attendance was 99,539.
- Tennessee's game captains today were seniors Walter Fisher, Ramon Foster, DeAngelo Willingham and junior Montario Hardesty.
- Sophomore placekicker Daniel Lincoln hit two of three field goals tonight and is now five of eight for the season.
- The Vols were penalized six times in the first half but were not called for a penalty in the second half.

Quarterbacks in Their First Career Start Under Phillip Fulmer

Date	Player	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Result
9/5/1992	Heath Shuler	8-9-1	130	2	W, 38-3 vs. SW Louisiana
9/3/1994	Jerry Colquitt	3-4-0	23	0	L, 23-25 at UCLA
10/1/1994	Peyton Manning	7-14-0	79	0	W, 10-9 vs. Washington State
9/5/1998	Tee Martin	9-26-0	143	2	W, 34-33 at Syracuse
9/2/2000	Joey Matthews	9-15-1	50	1	W, 19-16 vs. Southern Miss.
9/16/2000	A.J. Suggs	17-29-1	140	0	L, 23-27 vs. Florida
10/21/2000	Casey Clausen	17-24-0	213	2	W, 20-10 vs. Alabama
10/12/2002	C.J. Leak	1-3-0	9	0	L, 13-18 at Georgia
11/16/2002	James Banks	3-8-0	90	1	W, 35-17 at Mississippi State
9/5/2004	Brent Schaeffer	7-10-0	123	1	W, 42-17 vs. UNLV
10/2/2004	Erik Ainge	17-35-4	173	1	L, 10-34 vs. Auburn
11/20/2004	Rick Clausen	19-30-2	189	2	W, 38-33 at Vanderbilt
11/11/2006	Jonathan Crompton	16-34-1	174	2	L, 14-31 at Arkansas
10/4/2008	Nick Stephens	11-18-0	156	1	W, 13-9 vs. Northern Illinois



Tennessee Quotes

Head Coach Phillip Fulmer: “First of all, I want to say a really special thank you to all the fans. At the Vol Walk, I was taken aback at the encouragement and energy of that group and really appreciate the same thing all night long.

“We’ll take the win. We’ve been on the short end of a couple of those like that. It was a good football team we played tonight. Defensively, I thought again we played very well. Offensively, we made some steps, I think, in the right direction. We’re still not as efficient as we need to be. It seems like everything we do is really hard for us. Like everyone in the stadium pulling for Tennessee, I was very excited about the two big plays we made (offensively). Great play, great throw, outstanding call. It’s something for us to build on. We’ll take the film, look at it, correct it, learn from it and obviously we’ve got a big challenge next week at Georgia.

(Regarding quarterback Nick Stephens) “He was extremely poised. There are still a couple of things. The clock was really close a couple of times managing it. It was his first big game. Early especially, I thought he was really in rhythm. I thought he did a nice job.

“When you’ve got a lead and the other team’s not doing very much, you want to be really careful about tossing the ball. It hasn’t happened to me but a couple of times, but a couple of times we’ve tried to finish a game and we’ve hit the fullback’s hand or butt or the tailback doesn’t look it in and kicks it around. We were trying to be safe.

Our defense has played at a very high level this year.”

DE Robert Ayers

On the game ...

“I feel like we came out and gave a good effort against a good Northern Ill. team. We knew they were going to be tough to slow down on offense. There is a lot to go back and look at and get better for next week. ”

On NIU’s running quarterback...

“We felt like we did a good job in pursuit. They broke contain a couple of times but we did a good job of getting them out of bounds and staying in our rushing lanes.”

On getting pressure on the quaterback...

“That’s our goal. We pride ourselves on getting pressure. WE are not always going to get the sack but if we can get pressure and make the quarterback not be able to get comfortable in the pocket it will pay off in the long run.”

DB Eric Berry

On his interception ...

“We have been working on it ever since the Florida game when Percy (Harvin) caught that pass in the slot for a first down. Chief (John Chavis) made me tag the slot receiver so I would have him man to man. I just kind of bated the quarterback a little bit and went out for the interception.”

QB Nick Stephens

On the offense...

“I felt like we moved the ball well tonight. We did a great job at times and we stopped ourselves. We left some points on the field but it’s time to go back to the practice field and get better for next week.”

On his protection...

“With the time that the O line was giving me I could make my reads and I wasn’t rushed. Receivers were coming opened everybody was doing their part and we were moving the ball. We just have to keep on that pace. ”

WR Gerald Jones

On Nick Stephens in the huddle before his first snap...

“I think when he first got in they had called a timeout. He was waiting on the tv timeout and he was rushing the ref. The ref told him he had 30 seconds and then 10 seconds later he asked the ref again how much time he had. But he was ready; he was more pumped up than anybody on the offense.

2008 Northern Illinois Football

NIU at Tennessee – Oct. 4, 2008

Neyland Stadium – Knoxville, Tenn.

Huskie Post-Game Notes

***NIU All-America candidate Larry English, the 2007 MAC MVP, added to his sack total with 2.5 takedowns for losses totaling 26 yards, and caused a fumble in the third quarter. English has 27 career quarterback sacks, second in Northern Illinois history and eighth all-time in the Mid-American Conference. He has 3.5 sacks on the season.

***Freshman Me'co Brown made his first career start at tailback for the Huskies.

***The Huskies blocked their third punt of the season when Patrick George partially blocked the punt of Vol punter Chad Cunningham in the second quarter.

***Northern Illinois quarterback Dan Nicholson left the game in the second quarter with a left (non throwing) shoulder injury. Safety Mike Sobol left the game in the third quarter with a concussion and did not return.

***When Tennessee scored a touchdown with 9:49 left in the third quarter, it marked the first touchdown given up by the Huskies in 10 quarters, since the last quarter of the Western Michigan game on Sept. 6. NIU has now surrendered just one touchdown in its last 12 quarters.

***Northern Illinois was held with out a touchdown for the first time since last year's Wisconsin game, a 44-3 loss.

***Landon Cox recorded the best day of his Huskie career with 3 catches for 40 yards and a career-long 16-yard reception.

***Freshman receiver Willie Clark had a 35-yard reception which was just his second career catch and the longest of his career. Freshman Nathan Palmer recorded his first catches since the Western Michigan game.

***Freshman DeMarcus Grady's career long completion came in the 35-yard completion to Willie Clark; the freshman also recorded his longest career stint at quarterback and had career highs in rushes (15).

***Rookie Huskie kicker Mike Salerno established new career highs for field goals made (3) and attempted (4) in the contest. Salerno has hit nine field goals on the season.



Northern Illinois Quotes

Head Coach Jerry Kill: “First of all, I have a tremendous amount of respect for Coach Fulmer and Tennessee and the football tradition here. The opportunity to play Tennessee is a dream. It is a tremendous dream for us and I thought our kids played as hard as you could ask anybody to play. We had a chance to win but the big thing is they are bigger, faster and stronger. They have a good football team. There is no question about that. A tremendous defensive football team.

I think they put together a good scheme and we knew we had to stop the run. We were worried about their physical-ness and certainly the tailbacks. We said we had to lineup, stop the run and make them throw the football. We tried to get as many people in the box as we could and they hit us on a couple but, you have to do that to stop the run. The bottom line is in the game of football you have to be able to stop the run and you have to be able to run the football. They ran the ball a little bit better than we did and that’s what it came down to.

That’s the thing about playing Tennessee, they are so physical but, that’s Southeastern Conference football.

(On preparing for QB Nick Stephens) “It’s not easy and you don’t know exactly what they are going to do in his first start. You don’t know if they are going to be conservative or if they are going to get down the field with it. I thought they did a great job of doing what they should do with the young man on his start. He had a couple deep balls and made some plays.

DeMarcus Grady, QB: *(Increased playing time)* “We just had to be prepared. Coaches talk about being ready and it’s showed this season, we’ve used all of our quarterbacks. It’s all about being ready.”

(Confidence builder) “Absolutely, our whole team feels like we have a great team. Our coaching staff works hard. I feel confident about next week and the upcoming MAC games.

They’re a little faster than the MAC. You just have to make plays and if it wasn’t for those guys up front, I wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

Larry English, DE: “The coaches prepared us well this week and last week having the game defensively that we had, really gave us momentum and confidence coming into this game. We came in here with a lot of confidence. We really just knew one thing; that we were going to come in and play hard. We knew that they obviously had a lot of talented football players. I think the defense played a really good game despite two big plays and those are two we obviously wish we could have back.”