

Jackson State Spoils TSU Home Opener

Written by Yolande Lazine

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Congressman Al Green with HPD Officer Gary Hicks and wife

The Texas Southern University Tigers wanted their inaugural home-opener to be something special; but despite a night full of memories, Jackson State gave Texas Southern a horrible memory with a 45-35 loss at BBVA Compass Stadium.

Various dignitaries and famous alumni came out to take in the festivities, along with hip-hop rappers Paul Wall, Slim Thug and others who performed in concert prior to the football game.

The Tigers, 1-2, 1-1 Southwest Athletic Conference, went ahead 35-31 when running back Edward Perkins-Loving scored on a 5-yard run with 9:31 remaining in the fourth quarter. Texas Southern had rallied from a 10-point deficit to take a late lead, but Jackson State surged back in the closing minutes to spoil the Tigers long-awaited home opener.

Jackson State quarterback Clayton Moore accounted for six touchdowns, three on passes and three on runs in the game. Moore connected with wide receiver Rico Richardson on huge catches throughout the game and hit him with the game winning catch on a 25-yard touchdown pass with just 1:25 left in the period.

The teams traded touchdowns in the first half. Fred Plummer caught a 53-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Rudy Johnson with 1:30 left in the first half to give TSU a 21-14 lead headed into the lockerroom.

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However, Jackson State roared back in the third quarter as Moore rushed for two touchdowns and Ryan Deising connected on a 27-yard field goal.

Rudy Johnson hit receiver Harry Brown for Texas Southern on a 14-yard touchdown pass to pull the Tigers within three points with 10:17 left. TSU came up with a big play when defensive end Amir Bloom sacked Moore, stripped the ball and recovered it at the Jackson State five-yard line. Perkins-Loving took care of the rest, springing into the end zone on the first play from scrimmage to put the Tigers back in front 35-31.