



Tayton Swift gives a stiff arm and picks up a handful of yards for Forrest. F



Liam Bell (6) catches a block and scrambles forward for a short gain against Cascade.

# Champs race past Rockets in 5-AA clash

By **Chris Siers**  
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CHAPEL HILL — On a night when virtually nothing seemed to go right for the home team, the visiting Cascade Champions claimed a monster, 49-0 win at the Rock on Friday night over the Forrest Rockets.

In the game, Cascade out-gained the Rockets, 359 total offensive yards to just 85 yards for Forrest.

Cascade jumped out to the early lead and never looked back, with quarterback Xamarion Dixon putting the Champions up early on a 34-yard run with 6:40 to go.

Dixon went to the air as time expired in the quarter on a 30-yard pass and a successful two-point conversion put Cascade up 15-0 after one quarter.

Dixon found the end zone for his second rushing touchdown mid-way through the

second quarter and after a missed kick after, the 21-0 lead held through the remainder of the half.

It was a monster third-quarter by Connor Huie, highlighted by touchdown runs of 65 ad 51 yards, that eventually put the game out of reach.

Cascade entered Friday night's Region 5-AA contest having won three of its last four, including three shutout victories.

In the previous two games, Cascade outscored its opposition 95-0.

For the Rockets, it's been a tough slate over the past month, dropping four of their last five, with the last win coming in a 17-9 victory over Summertown.

With three games left on the slate, the Rockets sit idle before wrapping up the regular season with region games against Richland and Mt. Pleasant, and against non-re-

gion opponent East Robertson.

The Rockets will be back at home on October 14, hosting the Richland Raiders.

Cascade	15	6	22	6	—	49
Forrest	0	0	0	0	—	0
First Quarter						
C —	Xamarion Dixon	34	run,	(Isaac Chapa kick),	6:40.	
C —	Hayden Dowell	30	pass from Dixon,	(Sawyer Lowor 2 pt.)	0:00.	
Second Quarter						
C —	Dixon	4	run,	(kick failed),	8:03	
Third Quarter						
C —	Connor Huie	65	run,	(Chapa kick),	11:27	
C —	Huie	51	run,	(Loworn 2 pt. good),	5:07	
C —	Huie	11	run,	(Chapa kick),	2:25	
Fourth Quarter						
C —	Dixon	23	run,	(kick failed),	9:10.	



Players who earned all-conference selections were, Fletcher Fields (MVP), Isaac Cruse, Jacob Tincher, Davey Estrada and Shawn David.



Jason Patrick goes in for the sack.

# Unbeaten Middle Rockets claim championship

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Forrest Middle Rockets weren't playing around Thursday night, hosting No. 2 Fayetteville City Tigers in a heated championship matchup, securing the win 40-16.

The Tigers started the game by running the clock down to 3:44 before scoring their first touchdown, a three-yard quarterback keeper by Fernando Leslie.

The two-point conversion was good, giving the Tigers an 8-0 lead.

Forrest wasted no time re-

sponding, scoring on their second play of the drive, Fletcher Fields going on a 32-yard touchdown run. Quarterback Isaac Cruse found Tristan Goad on the two-point conversion, tying up the score 8-8.

Fayetteville City's Leslie and Keenan Hockett tag teamed over the last 2:50 of the first quarter, working the ball to their own 33-yard line, where they began the second quarter. With 5:21 left in the second, the Tigers grasped their second and last touchdown of the game, but not before Forrest's Jason Patrick got the sack at the 22 yard

line.

Jacob Tincher, Fields, and Goad came together to keep moving the chains for the Rockets, and Quincy Mitchell sealed the deal with a nine-yard cruise into the end zone. Tincher added the extra two, evening the score at 16-16.

The Rockets weren't letting up on defense, Reed Strasser making a big stop in the backfield, while Goad provided superb coverage to force an incomplete pass. The best play of the game came when Patrick blocked the Tigers punt, allowing Forrest to take over at the 23 yard line. Fields took advantage, scor-

ing on the next play with 38 seconds left in the half.

Before the Tigers could make it out of the half without more damage, Cruse made an interception, snatching another possession for the Rockets.

The second half didn't hold a great start for either team, Forrest fumbling and Fayetteville City with the recovery, only to turn the ball back over on downs.

Tincher took off on a 32-yard sprint, placing the Rockets on the four yard line, where he finished the drive in the end zone. Fields tacked on the extra two, the Rockets

leading 30-16.

Forrest's stellar defense continued, pushing the Tigers back to their own four yard line, ultimately resulting in a safety, giving the Rockets a 32-16 lead with 51 seconds left in the third quarter.

After the Tigers were forced to punt on their first drive of the fourth, the Rockets took over at the forty-nine. Goad, Fields, and Tincher teamed up to move the ball upfield, where Cruse dipped across the goal line from the one. Cruse handled his own extra two, giving the Rockets a 40-16 lead, which held for the remainder of the game.

# Texas A&M looks to rev up offense in trip to Alabama

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**  
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Texas A&M's offense has sputtered all season, remaining stagnant despite a quarterback change.

As the Aggies prepare to visit top-ranked Alabama on Saturday, coach Jimbo Fisher is adamant that they can turn things around if every player simply makes a commitment to doing things right on every play.

"Football's the ultimate team game," he said. "It's all 11 at all times to play and do well."

Texas A&M was expected to compete for

the SEC title entering the season, but a loss to Appalachian State in Week 2 and a mistake-filled blowout loss at Mississippi State last week has dropped the team out of The AP Top 25 poll and has it searching for answers on how to get on track.

Fisher constantly preaches about the importance of creating good practice habits that will translate into games. He said the lack of execution hasn't come from a poor effort and he believes the team's hard work will pay off soon.

"We haven't been perfect yet," Fisher said. "It hasn't all clicked yet. We have to keep working at it and we

have to give them the confidence and we have to give them the knowledge and educate them and coach them well to make sure they're in the right space and doing the right thing consistently in practice to allow it to go into the game."

The Aggies rank last in the SEC and 105th in the nation in total offense with just 335 yards a game. They are also scoring the fewest points in the conference at just 21.8, a total that is 108th in the country.

Things could get even tougher this week when they face an Alabama team that ranks fourth in nation by allowing just 236.4 yards a game.

Texas A&M started

the season with Haynes King at quarterback, but he was benched after the loss to the Mountaineers and replaced with LSU transfer Max Johnson. But so far, the switch hasn't done anything to get the offense going.

Johnson lost a fumble — one of four turnovers against the Bulldogs — before injuring his hand late in the fourth quarter last week and his status for Saturday's game is in question. King had a tough time filling in for him after the injury. He had a touchdown run soon after he came in, but threw two interceptions after that, including one that was returned for a touchdown.

Despite his performance, Fisher raved about King's attitude and how well he's dealt with the benching.

"He has been a tremendous, tremendous human being, handling the situation as well as any human can ever be expected to," Fisher said. "And he actually was a benefit and a help to Max on the information and things that are going on."

While much of the criticism for Texas A&M's offensive woes has been directed at the quarterback, a bigger problem might be the subpar play of the offensive line. It's an inexperienced group that includes three sophomores and a freshman.

The unit has improved since the beginning of the season, but still has plenty of work to do if the Aggies expect to compete with the Crimson Tide this weekend.

"They did progress," Fisher said. "And I think we're running the ball very well. We're getting better on pass pro. I think those guys did a good job on the edges."

While A&M has been inconsistent in its passing game, the running game has steadily improved this season. Running back Devon Achane has been the star of the team and ranks third in the SEC by averaging 93.2 yards rushing a game.