

## North Texas defeats Army in last seconds of the game

North Texas beat Army 52-49 Saturday with a game-winning field goal that came in last five seconds of the game.

The Mean Green (8-3) and the Black Knights (8-3) were tied 49-49 with less than a minute and a half in the fourth quarter when sophomore quarterback Mason Fine lead the team down the field to set up senior kicker Trevor Moore for a successful 39-yard field goal.

Fine broke the Mean Green single-season passing yards record with 386 yards during the game. His record is expected to grow with one game left in the regular season. Fine also tied the North Texas record for single-season passing touchdowns Saturday with 26 total touchdown passes in 2017 so far.

“It just shows how great this team is and how much work we have put in from the coaching staff down to the players,” Fine said. “It’s not so much of an individual record as it is a team record.”

Jeffery Wilson scored two touchdowns but left the game after injuring his ankle in the fourth quarter. Wide receiver Jalen Guyton left the game with a concussion after being hit by Army safety Rhyan England late in the first half.

“You never want to see one of your teammates go down like that,” senior wide receiver Turner Smiley said. “It gave us energy because you want to play well for him.”

North Texas never fell behind Army during the course of the game, and 52 points is the largest number of points the Army defense has allowed all season — even in their September game against NCAA fifth ranked Ohio State.

“Their defense is very solid,” head coach Seth Littrell said. “But I thought our offense did a great job of hitting some explosive plays through the air.

This game was the third time North Texas played Army in the last 13 months. Last December, Army defeated the Mean Green 38-31 in overtime at the Zaxby’s Heart of Dallas Bowl.

“The three games we have had against them have all been wars,” Littrell said. “Not only do their men play extremely hard, but they are also extremely classy. It’s been a very fun matchup.”

North Texas home games have seen a spike in attendance since last year. Attendance for home games this season has increased by an average of 2,500 people each game, and North Texas saw its third biggest crowd a week before at the homecoming game

against UTEP. Littrell said he hopes this is a new standard that ensures an advantage for the Mean Green at home.

“Our crowd was unbelievable tonight,” Littrell said. “You have to give them a lot of credit. They are a huge reason why we have won a lot of these games — showing up and having that much energy.”

The Mean Green win over UTEP last week clinched the C-USA West title. North Texas will face FAU in Boca Raton, Florida for the C-USA championship game. The last time the Mean Green played the Owls, they lost 69-31 after starting the second quarter down 24-0.

“I think it’s exciting for North Texas to have the opportunity to redeem ourselves,” junior computer science major Jose Rodas said. “If we could win this game, it would really show all of the progress the team has made throughout the season.”