

MAD DOGS/CFL POSTGAME

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The star

-- Memphis kicker Nick Mystrom has made the Mad Dogs early season kicking troubles seem long ago. Mystrom was 6-of-6 Sunday, hitting field goals of 26, 32, 34, 51, 29 and 30 yards on the day, which ties for the third most field goals in a game in CFL history. Mystrom was jubilant after the 51-yarder, performing a celebration which would have drawn a flag in a college game. The field goal was the longest for the Mad Dogs this season, and, thus, the longest in Mad Dogs history. The unsung hero

-- Memphis quarterback Damon Allen got the Mad Dogs into the end zone only once, but he did a fine job of keeping Mystrom's leg warm. The Dogs scored either a touchdown, field goal or single on eight of their first 11 possessions, thanks mostly to Allen, who passed for 218 yards and ran for another 70. Allen had one touchdown and no interceptions.

By the numbers

6: Number of interceptions this season by Memphis linebacker Greg Battle, who had two Sunday. Battle leads the Mad Dogs in the category, two ahead of defensive back Don Odegard.

25: Yards quarterback Damon Allen gained on a run early in the fourth quarter. It was the longest run from scrimmage on the season for Allen, and the second longest run of the season for the Mad Dogs.

2: Kicks the Mad Dogs have blocked this season. Defensive tackle Rodney Harding blocked a 40-yard field goal attempt by Ottawa's Wayne Lamble in the first quarter, which Battle picked up and carried to the Ottawa 40 before tossing the ball back toward a bevy of oncoming Mad Dogs. Defensive back Don Smith picked up the loose ball and took it to the 14, setting up Memphis's first, and only, TD of the game.

1: Number of sacks the Mad Dogs recorded, only the second time this season they have failed to get more than one sack in a game.

Only in the CFL

-- At the beginning of the second quarter, Memphis punter Peter Gardere hit a punt from the Ottawa 53 that went into the end zone for an apparent single.

The officials, however, called a no yards penalty (in the CFL, the kick team must give the returner five yards cushion to catch the ball) on Memphis's return team, which gave Ottawa the option of taking the ball on its own 5 or giving Memphis the single.

Ottawa declined the penalty, choosing to concede the single and take the ball on the 35 (rather than field a kickoff after the score, another CFL option) and Memphis's lead increased to 8-6.

Notes

-- The Mad Dogs played 11 men on their first defensive play from scrimmage in honor of former defensive back David Lee 'Junior' Robinson, who died in a car wreck Sept. 30 during Memphis's bye week.

After the play, a 16-yard completion by Ottawa's Andre Ware to Odessa Turner, there was a minute of silence, during which Robinson's mother, Betty, and wife, Sandra, were presented with a Mad Dogs jersey.

Many players on the field kneeled and bowed their heads, and players on both sidelines and the field raised their helmets and bowed their heads. Ware came over and hugged the Robinsons, and Mad Dog players Don Smith, Jamie Redmond and injured defensive back Ed Berry all approached them as well.

Redmond entered the game on the next play as the Mad Dogs' 12th man. The Mad Dogs will wear a decal bearing Robinson's No. 2 on their helmets the rest of the season.

-- The Mad Dogs have created the David Lee 'Junior' Robinson Memorial Fund for his infant son, David Robinson III. Donations can be made through the Mad Dogs office (315 S. Hollywood) or at any First Tennessee Bank location.

-- Mad Dogs fans may have recognized Ottawa's kicker, Wayne Lammle. The Rough Riders acquired Lammle in an Aug. 7 trade from Toronto. Lammle's field goal on the last play of overtime July 29 at the Liberty Bowl gave the Argonauts a 10-7 victory over Memphis, one of two wins for Toronto this season.

- By Zack McMillin

Mad Dogs' next foe

-- Who: Edmonton Eskimos.

-- When, where: Friday, 8:30 p.m. CDT at Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta.

-- Previous game: First meeting.

Other CFL game

-- Matt Dunigan threw two touchdown passes and scored on a 17-yard run in the fourth quarter, leading the host Birmingham Barracudas to a 38-28 victory over the San Antonio Texans.

A crowd of only 6,859 attended the game at Legion Field.