

Allen opens Bills' new stadium with 5 TDs in win over Lions

BY JOHN WAWROW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Forget the official name of the Buffalo Bills' new stadium. It's Josh Allen's house.

The quarterback quickly put his stamp on Highmark Stadium by throwing three touchdown passes and running for two more scores in a 41-31 victory over the Detroit Lions on Thursday night in the first regular-season game at the \$2.1 billion facility.

And the only time Allen felt emotional was just before kickoff, during the performances of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems.

"I caught myself taking it all in and understanding how

cool what I get to do. My job is the coolest in the world," Allen said. "It's everything I ever wanted, to be the quarterback of an NFL franchise. I'm just very fortunate to have ended up in Buffalo."

After rewriting many of Buffalo's scoring and passing records during his first eight seasons across the street at the old Highmark Stadium, the 30-year-old Allen looked at home at the team's new digs.

Allen scored the first touchdown at the new stadium on a 1-yard plunge 5:51 minutes in. His second rushing TD, a 2-yard run, was the 83rd of his career tying him for 18th on the NFL list with Jim Taylor. And his sixth career five-TD outing, followed a four-touchdown performance in Buffalo's season-opening 36-31 win at Houston.

"Anytime the ball's in his hands, good things happen. And yeah, love that guy,"

said Bills coach Joe Brady, who was so confident in his offense, he elected to take the opening kickoff after winning the coin flip.

"I wanted us to take the ball in this environment and set the tone," Brady said. "That was the start that we needed."

The Bills scored on each of their first four possessions with Josh Palmer's 43-yard TD catch, followed by Dawson Knox's 2-yard reception and Dalton Kincaid's 16-yarder.

Allen finished 20 of 31 for 248 yards, and added 69 yards rushing. James Cook had 134 yards rushing and put the game away with a 1-yard TD run with 2:50 left.

Buffalo's 41 points were the third-most by a team in its regular-season stadium debut, behind only Dallas, which scored 44 in its first game at Texas Stadium in 1971, and Miami scoring 42 in its first outing at Joe Robbie Stadium in 1987.

CENTRAL

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there, and just that steady play," Adams said. "He has been that way all year. He's had a couple ups and downs, but his nine-hole round this year are 36, 36, 33 and 36 in his nine-hole matches. Rylan's average in our 18-hole rounds is 74.7."

Jones was not the only Central Hardin player to shine during the Hardin County Cup. Their top five players contributed and helped the Bruins win the team title by 24 shots over Elizabethtown (448-472). North Hardin was third and John Hardin finished fourth.

Mercer and Ethan Lewis tied for third place. The former shot 39-37-37 while the latter had a pair of 39s and finished with a 35 on Wednesday. Carson Decker overcame a 45 in the opening round to shoot 38-38 at ECC to finish sixth. Avery Miller finished with a 124 total.

The Panthers also

played steady golf in the three rounds.

Charlie Proctor finished second with a 112 score. He shot 41 at Lincoln Trail but rebounded on his home course and shot 36-35. Senior Landon Atcher finished with an even-par 36 in the final round to get fifth place finish with a 116 score. His brother Chase was seventh.

Levi Chadwick was low man for North Hardin with a 138 total.

Gabe Purtteman's 157 score led John Hardin.

"We took the week off that third weekend of August and then we played three straight weekends," Adams said. "We won at Graves County in their tournament at Drake Creek in Western Kentucky, shooting a 299. We came back with a 304 at Montgomery County to place fourth against a field of schools from the Lexington area. We had a solid 307 in Bowling Green this past weekend and won that tournament."

Jones is looking forward to returning to the course where he won the regional championship two years ago. The event in 2024 was played on the East and South courses on the 27-hole lay-out. Golfers will play the South and West courses on Monday.

"I played there last week, and it was my first time playing the West course," Jones said. "I like the layout and have a game plan going in there. I don't want to put a number in my head about what I need to shoot. We have quite a few players in our region, so I just hope to go low."

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