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Around the Columns

Navy sinks Tigers

An up-and-down football season came to a disappointing end for Mizzou as the Navy Midshipmen beat the Tigers 35-13 Dec. 31 at the 2009 Texas Bowl in Houston.

Playing in its fifth consecutive bowl game, Missouri (8-5) had no answer for Navy's (10-4) unusual flexbone offense, which amassed 515 total yards to Mizzou's 356 and dominated the time of possession 40:54 to 19:06.



A Navy defender tackles Missouri freshman running back Kendial Lawrence Dec. 31 at the 2009 Texas Bowl in Houston. The Midshipmen defeated the Tigers 35-13. Photo by Jeff Lautenberger/Athletics Media Relations

All seemed well for the Tigers when senior wide receiver Danario Alexander nabbed a 58-yard touchdown reception from junior quarterback Blaine Gabbert on the second play from scrimmage to give Missouri a 7-0 lead with 14:36 to play in the first quarter. But Missouri wouldn't reach the end zone again as the game's most valuable player — Navy quarterback Ricky Dobbs — kept the Midshipmen offense on the field and ran for 166 yards and three touchdowns.

Alexander was the statistical bright spot for the Tigers, finishing with six catches for 137 yards. Junior tailback Derrick Washington led Missouri in rushing with 11 carries for 62 yards.

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