



# POSTGAME NOTES

Game Seven • Middle Tennessee (4-3, 2-1 Sun Belt) at Mississippi State (7-0, 3-0 SEC) • Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012 • Davis Wade Stadium

## TEAM NOTABLES

- Mississippi State plays next Saturday at No. 1 Alabama, where the two squads will face each other as unbeaten for the first time since Oct. 3, 1942.
- The Bulldogs are just one of 11 teams in the FBS to remain undefeated as of 10 p.m. CT Saturday, climbing to 7-0 for just the second time in the 113-year history of the program (1999).
- MSU's nine-game winning streak is tied for the third-longest winning streak nationally behind Alabama and Oregon (11-straight, 10-straight). The streak is also the third-longest in school history (13 from 1942-44, 10 from 1940-41).
- State won its 15th-straight non-conference game (16-2 under Head Coach Dan Mullen), the second-longest streak in school history behind MSU's school-record 18-game streak against non-league foes from 1941-47.
- Mississippi State's six-game home winning streak is its longest since a school-record 16-game stretch from Sept. 5, 1998-Nov. 11, 2000.
- With their eighth-straight win against teams from the state of Tennessee, MSU improved to 5-0 all-time against Middle Tennessee and 50-21-3 overall in homecoming games.
- The Bulldogs have scored 25 points or more in seven-consecutive games for the first time in school history, while their 257 points scored are also the most points scored through seven games in school history.
- Tonight was the ninth time since the start of the 2000 season, and the fifth time under Dan Mullen, where MSU's opponent failed to score a touchdown.
- The 95 points allowed by State through the first seven games is the lowest total allowed through the first seven contests of a MSU season since the 1999 team held opponents to 74 points.
- Mississippi State has 16 touchdown passes so far this season, tied for fourth most in school history.
- Mullen bettered his record to 27-0 when leading after three quarters, while the Bulldogs won their 37th-straight contest when holding a lead entering the final period.
- Dan Mullen has yet to be shutout in 45 games as MSU head coach, tying for the third-longest stretch without being shutout in school history (90 from 1978 to 1986; 76 from 1990-1997; 45 from 1997-2001).
- Davis Wade Stadium recorded its 21st-straight sellout with an attendance of 55,108.
- The MSU defense has started four of the last five games with three-and-outs.
- State dominated time of possession in the first quarter, owning 24 total plays to MTSU's four.

## PLAYER NOTABLES

- Senior All-American Johnthan Banks tied Walt Harris' 17-year-old school record with his 16th-career interception, tying him with David Amerson of North Carolina State for the lead among active FBS players.
- Junior quarterback Tyler Russell is one of just three FBS quarterbacks with 15-plus passing touchdowns and less than two interceptions (Colby Cameron, Louisiana Tech; A.J. McCarron, Alabama).
- Russell tied Chris Relf (28) for fifth-most career passing touchdowns in school history and passed Omarr Conner (3,080) for ninth for most career passing yards by a MSU quarterback (3,266).
- Junior running back LaDarius Perkins' career-long 64-yard touchdown run in the third quarter made him one of just two running backs in the FBS (Adam Muema, San Diego State) with a rushing touchdown in every game this season. Perkins has four 100-yard rushing games in his last five games after recording one 100-yard game in his first 28 career contests.
- Senior wide receiver Chris Smith tallied a career-high seven catches, including a career-best two touchdown receptions. Smith became the first MSU player with three or more catches in five-straight games since Chad Bumphis did it in seven-consecutive games from Nov. 21, 2009 to Oct. 9, 2010.
- Sophomore wide receiver Robert Johnson's career-long 23-yard touchdown reception was also his first-career touchdown reception.
- Nine of redshirt freshman Dak Prescott's 20 rushes this season have been for either a first down or a touchdown.
- Midseason All-American left guard Gabe Jackson has started all 33 games of his career, marking the longest streak on the team.



## DAN MULLEN QUOTES

Oct. 20, 2012

Mississippi State vs. Middle Tennessee

### ***Opening Statement:***

“We had a pretty good night. I am pleased with how we performed coming out of the locker room in the second half. Statistically before half time, nothing was really sticking out other than the fact that we didn’t score on two red-zone opportunities. We had a turnover and there were several silly penalties and mental errors. I was very impressed with how we came out in the second half. We had several new guys playing and they all took advantage of the opportunity. That is something we talk about a lot in practice; you have to prepare for your opportunity and you have to jump on it when it is presented to you to make plays happen. I think that a lot of different guys made big plays tonight.”

### ***On the momentum change after Johnthan Banks went down:***

“Everyone’s heart kind of jump into their throat on that play. Perkins touchdown really turned everything around. We had seen seams throughout the night and we were able to jump on that. Obviously Banks’ play was key with the momentum as well. His turnovers certainly helped get us into the short field and when that happened our guys relaxed in a good way. After Banks got his interception and got back up, our guys decided to stop worrying and just play and execute.”

### ***On Tyler Russell’s efficiency:***

“He has done a great job preparing. He has seen defenses similar to this for the past three or four years. Middle Tennessee’s kids played really hard for them tonight, but Russell was very efficient tonight. Our offensive line did a really good job of protecting him tonight as well. Tyler holds the ball sometimes, but he holds the ball for the right reasons to make sure he is taking the opportunities that he wants. I think he is getting more and more comfortable in our offense. He made some tough reads tonight and I thought he played very well.”

### ***On the emphasis of the upcoming game against Alabama:***

“This week is huge for our program. This is right where we want to be. When I took the job here, these are the type of games that we wanted to play in. Our guys are going to be excited for the opportunity to be able to go play the No.1 team in the country.”



## MISSISSIPPI STATE PLAYER QUOTES

Oct. 20, 2012

Mississippi State vs. Middle Tennessee St.

### **17 – Tyler Russell –Jr. –QB**

#### ***On Perkins' plays energizing the team:***

"I told him at halftime that I needed some help in getting the team going. I told him to put the team on his back and that is what he did."

#### ***On Chris Smith's redemption from fumbles:***

"Chris is one to never get down on himself. This goes back to high school. He always wants to practice harder and get better."

### **8 –Chris Smith–Sr. –WR**

#### ***On maintaining his confidence from his fumbles:***

"I cannot let anything hold me down. Even the best receivers in the NFL fumble balls. I just have to keep going for my team."

#### ***On being comfortable with Tyler Russell as his QB:***

"I feel great because we have been playing together since our high school days. We still learn from each other."



**RICK STOCKSTILL**

**Oct. 20, 2012**

**Mississippi State vs. Middle Tennessee**

***Opening Statement:***

“It was a one-score game at the half and we felt good about where we were at. We felt good about what we were doing. In the first half we had a hard time on third down, I think they converted seven out of nine on third downs in the first half. We kept hanging in there and forced Mississippi State to a field goal and got some pressure on the other field goal that they missed. In the second half they got the big run for a touchdown and then we turned it over for two-straight possessions on their side of the field; it just gave them some easy short fields. They got up four scores and then just blitzed us every down. They manned up on the outside and brought secondary and linebacker blitzes every time. They had us in a one-dimensional mode because of the score. We just couldn’t get anything going in the second half.”

***On the effort of the Blue Raiders:***

“I loved the effort. I told the guys afterwards that I thought they competed their tails off to the very end. We were just out-manned at times. I told them that there was something special about this team and that I loved their character. We have to put this one behind us and get ready for North Texas.”



## MTSU PLAYER QUOTES

Oct. 20, 2012

Mississippi State vs. Middle Tennessee

### **10 –Logan Kilgore –Jr. –QB**

#### ***On the remainder of the season:***

“We feel really good. I think that nonconference games are on the schedule so you can challenge yourself and learn things about yourself. Just watching Jeremiah Bryson at the end of the game, he showed that we never quit. Obviously this doesn’t hurt us for the North Texas game, so we’ve just got to come out there and win these conference games.”

#### ***On improving offensively:***

“We need to play assignment football. We had a few fundamental mistakes tonight. I have full confidence in our running backs and receivers, and I’m excited moving forward.”

### **26 –Jordan Parker –Fr. –RB**

#### ***On filling in for the injured Benny Cunningham:***

“It went OK, but we didn’t win the game. I need to improve all-around and try to be a complete tailback.”

#### ***On playing as a true freshman:***

“It feels good. I like pressure. I wanted this opportunity and didn’t want to get redshirted, so I’m glad that this all happened.”