



POSTGAME NOTES

Game Ten • Mississippi State (7-3, 3-3 SEC) at LSU (8-2, 4-2 SEC) • Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 • Tiger Stadium

TEAM NOTABLES

- Mississippi State fell to 33-70-3 all-time against LSU, including an 18-47-1 mark in Baton Rouge.
- Against the number two passing defense in the country, MSU completed 69.2 percent of its passes (27-of-39) for two touchdowns and one interception.
- The 69.2 completion percentage marked the highest completion percentage by a LSU opponent since Auburn completed 19-of-27 passes (70.4 percent) in 2003.
- The Bulldogs broke the single-season school record with their 20th touchdown pass of the season, while also taking over fifth place for completions in a single season (195).
- State scored on its opening drive for the fourth time this season, while LSU's defense gave up a touchdown on its opening drive for just the second time all year. The Maroon and White had four plays of 10-plus yards on its opening drive after having nine total last week vs. Texas A&M.
- Head Coach Dan Mullen has yet to be shutout in 48 games as MSU head coach, the third-longest stretch without being shutout in school history (90 from 1978 to 1986; 76 from 1990-1997).
- Mississippi State held a lead after one quarter in Tiger Stadium for the first time since 1994.
- The Bulldogs scored their most points through three quarters in Tiger Stadium (17) since 2000 (31).
- State had two quarterbacks throw for touchdowns in the same game for the second time this season (Tennessee).

PLAYER NOTABLES

- Junior quarterback Tyler Russell set career highs in passing yardage (295) and completions (26) and broke the single-season school record with his 17th touchdown pass of the season in the third quarter, while tying the single-season school record with his sixth 200-yard passing game of 2012, giving him seven for his career (tied for sixth).
- In the single-season MSU record book, Russell tied for third in touchdowns responsible for (19), moved to third in passing yards (2,249) and jumped to fifth in total offense (2,280).
- Russell threw for 295 yards and has 3,918 for his career, passing Tommy Pharr (3,720 from 1967-1969) for seventh all-time in school history in career passing yards.
- Senior wide receiver Chad Bumphis extended his school record with his 20th-career touchdown reception, while moving to third all-time on the school's all-time receiving yardage list (2,024). Bumphis tied a career high with nine catches and notched 140 receiving yards, the most allowed to a wideout by LSU since Sept. 24, 2011 (19 games).
- Bumphis is tied with Tennessee's Justin Hunter for the SEC lead in touchdown receptions (eight), which is one shy of Justin Jenkins' school record set in 2003.
- Bumphis finished the contest with nine receptions, passing Jenkins (2000-03) for third all-time in career pass receptions (144).
- Bumphis notched his sixth-career 100-yard receiving game, tied for third most in school history. His three in 2012 alone are seventh in school history for a single season.
- Senior linebacker Cameron Lawrence registered a career-high 15 tackles, and in his last 14 SEC games has amassed 152 tackles (10.9 per game), 10.5 tackles for loss, 5.0 sacks, three forced fumbles, two interceptions & six pass breakups.
- Senior wide receiver Chris Smith tallied a career-high tying seven catches for 56 yards, becoming the first MSU player with three or more catches in nine-straight games since Justin Jenkins did it in 12-straight contests from Nov. 9, 2002 to Oct. 25, 2003.
- Through his first 10 games as a freshman under Head Coach Dan Mullen, Dak Prescott has more passing touchdowns (three) than Tim Tebow did in his debut season under Mullen in 2006 (two). Tebow had seven total touchdowns in his initial campaign under Mullen, while Prescott has six.
- True freshman Devon Bell made a career-long 47-yard field goal, the longest by a MSU kicker since Sean Brauchle nailed a 47 yarder at Houston on Oct. 9, 2010. Coming into the game, Bell was sixth in the nation and led the SEC in scoring among true freshmen kickers.
- Junior defensive end Denico Autry picked up his third sack of the season for -16 yards and his first career fumble forced. Autry finished with a career-best 2.0 tackles for loss and a career-high tying five tackles.
- Sophomore safety Dee Arrington recorded his first career fumble recovery.
- Junior safety Nickoe Whitley tallied his first fumble forced of the season and recorded a career-high 13 tackles, giving him 25 total over his last two games.
- Sophomores Nick Griffin (running back) and Jay Hughes (strong safety) made their first career starts.
- Midseason All-American left guard Gabe Jackson has started all 36 games of his career, marking the longest streak on the team.

LSU FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

#9 LSU vs. #22 Mississippi State

November 10, 2012 – Tiger Stadium (Baton Rouge, La.)

Team Notes

1. LSU's game captains were 30 **Drew Alleman**, 64 **P.J. Lonergan**, 99 **Sam Montgomery**, 46 **Kevin Minter** and 48 **Seth Fruge**.
2. Mississippi State won the toss and deferred to the second half. LSU received the opening kickoff.
3. At halftime, senior finance major Kendall Knobloch of Baton Rouge and senior mass communications major Taylor Cox of Bossier City, La., were named LSU Homecoming queen and king, respectively, for 2012.
4. Tonight's attendance is 92,831.
5. LSU improved to 8-2 overall, 4-2 in SEC play. The win marks the 13th straight season LSU had recorded at least eight wins, which is a school-record streak. LSU has won at least eight games in every season since 2000.
6. With the win LSU coach **Les Miles** is now 19-1 in games following a loss, and the Tigers have not lost back-to-back games in Tiger Stadium since 2001 when LSU fell to Florida and Ole Miss.
7. LSU is 42-5 under **Les Miles** when winning the turnover battle. Against ranked opponents under Miles, LSU is now 21-3 when having fewer turnovers than its opponent.
8. LSU is now 49-0 under **Les Miles** when the Tigers rush for more than 100 yards as a team and hold their opponent to less than 100 yards rushing. LSU finished with 119 rushing yards to Mississippi State's 47.
9. LSU has beaten Mississippi State in 13 straight seasons, and LSU has defeated the Bulldogs 11 straight games in Tiger Stadium dating back to 1992. During LSU's 13 game winning streak against Mississippi State, LSU has outscored the Bulldogs 489-161.
10. LSU is 47-18-1 all-time against Mississippi State in Baton Rouge and 70-33-3 overall against the Bulldogs.
11. LSU has won 19 straight games and 29 of 30 when scoring 20 or more points. LSU is 7-0 this year when reaching the 20-point mark. The last time LSU lost a game when scoring 20 points or more was in 2010 at Arkansas (31-23).
12. Tyler Russell's 40-yard completion in the fourth quarter for Mississippi State is just the third play of 30 yards or more allowed by the LSU defense this season.
13. Tonight marked the 50th game under defensive coordinator John Chavis, and LSU has held opponents to under 100 yards rushing 22 times in those 50 games, including tonight when the Tigers limited Mississippi State to 47 yards on the ground.

Individual Notes

14. QB **Zach Mettenberger** completed 19-of-30 passes for 273 yards and 2 touchdowns in a 37-17 win over Mississippi State.
 - a. **Mettenberger** fired touchdown passes of 19 yards to **Jarvis Landry** with 5:31 to go in the second quarter and 20 yards to **Spencer Ware** with 0:13 left in the second quarter.
 - b. **Mettenberger** is the first LSU quarterback with back-to-back 200-yard passing games since Jarrett Lee did it in 2008 against Mississippi State (261) and Florida (209) in weeks 4 and 5.
 - c. Dating back to the third quarter of last week's Alabama game, **Mettenberger** has thrown for 477 yards in the last six quarters.
15. S **Craig Loston** tied an LSU school record with a 100-yard interception return for a touchdown with 1:13 to play in the fourth quarter. It was Loston's second INT of the season and third of his LSU career.
 - a. Loston tied the school record for the longest INT return in program history previously set by **Greg Jackson** vs. Mississippi State on Nov. 12, 1988, and **White Graves** vs. Kentucky on Oct. 17, 1964.
16. PK **Drew Alleman** made field goals of 28 yards with 0:11 left in the first quarter, 26 yards in the second quarter with 7:59 remaining and 41 yards with 8:29 left in the third quarter.
 - a. **Alleman** became the ninth LSU kicker to make at least 30 field goals in a career. He stands one make away from tying **Mike Conway** and **Pedro Suarez** for seventh place in career field goals at LSU. Conway and Suarez had 33 made FGs in their careers.
 - b. In his last two games against Mississippi State, **Alleman** has drilled 7-of-7 field goals. He had a career-best four last season against the Bulldogs in a 19-6 win in Starkville.
 - c. With four made PATs, **Alleman** has converted 98 straight which continues to rank second in LSU history, trailing David Browndyke's 109.
17. DE **Sam Montgomery** recorded a sack to move into a tie for 10th place in LSU history with Anthony McFarland (1995-98) with 17 sacks in his career. **Montgomery** passed Kenny Bordelon (1972-75) for ninth place in LSU history in career tackles for a loss with 30.5. Bordelon had 30 in his career.
18. LB **Lamin Barrow** recovered his third career fumble and second of the season midway through the second quarter. Barrow also recovered a fumble as a freshman and one earlier this season at Texas A&M.
19. WR **Jarvis Landry** reached his career high in catches (8) and receiving yards in the first half (102). He finished with 9 catches for 109 yards, surpassing his previous best of eight catches vs. Alabama and North Texas earlier this year and 82 yards vs. UNT in the season-opener.
 - a. **Landry** caught his third career touchdown pass and third of the season on a 19-yard strike from Zach Mettenberger with 0:13 left in the first half.
 - b. **Landry** is the second LSU player with 100 yards receiving in a game this season. Odell Beckham, Jr. had 128 vs. Towson earlier this year. He is also the first player with 100 yards receiving in an SEC game since Rueben Randle (134) last year vs. Arkansas.
20. FB **J.C. Copeland** barreled into the endzone from 1 yard out with 0:11 in the third quarter for his fourth rushing touchdown of the year.
21. RB **Jeremy Hill** finished with 48 yards rushing against Mississippi State and has rushed for 477 yards this season, a total that ranks as the 10th-most in a season by an LSU freshman running back. Hill passed Joseph Addai who rushed for 438 yards in his freshman season in 2002.
22. CB **Jalen Collins** set a career high with six total tackles and tied his career high with two PBU's. He also had two pass breakups against Idaho.

LSU vs. Mississippi State
Nov. 10, 2012

LSU HEAD COACH LES MILES

Opening Statement...

“First of all, I just think that Mississippi State under Dan Mullen is a much better football team than they have been. They played a very competitive game. They are much improved. The question was whether this football team would come to play after playing an emotional game a week ago. There is not any question that they were. There is a fundamental feeling in this stadium and in our football building that we are just catching speed. We are just getting the pace that we need. We are not going to sacrifice our movement and our improvement based on the fact that we played a tough game.

“With that being said, I think our passing game is coming. I think that Zach (Mettenberger) is playing extremely well. He has a nice touch on the ball. He knows where he needs to go. He is making quality decisions. I think that our receiving core was on it. I thought that we maybe could have caught a couple more balls. Frankly, I thought they played well. Defense needs to play better pass coverage. There were some mistakes made by some young guys. We’re going to have to spend some time on that. I felt that our defense played awfully well. We certainly bottled up the run. When we needed to make a play, I know that (Craig) Loston takes one that must have been over 100 yards. I know this; after he got back he was incredibly tired.

“Again, our football team is not perfect. I think we were better in special teams, minus the turnover on the punt return. I felt that our kickoff return was better. I felt that our punt team really pinned them down, except that they got out of there occasionally. We need to improve. We are not there yet. Our football team will take pride, effort and energy to improve. If they continue to do that, we will be a hell of a football team.”

On the play of Zach Mettenberger...

“It takes some time to get everyone on page and on pace. I think Zach has that. I think he knows where he wants to go with the ball. He had some nice touch on the ball. The way he uncorks it and makes all the throws. I think our receivers are now in a spot where there is a real chemistry developing there. It will continue. I think that Zach is ambitious. I don’t think how we played in the passing game is enough.”

On the two-minute offense...

“We have to operate the two-minute drill to. We worked on it and kept on it. I think we are getting better. The time and effort that is being spent there is paying dividends and is fruitful.”

LSU OFFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

QB Zach Mettenberger

On the offense’s improvement...

“You’re seeing the coaches have more confidence in us. They are mixing it up, more run-pass, and being

more balanced. Guys are making plays, having confidence, and having fun out there. That's all you could ask for, to have fun out there. We are playing the game we love."

RB Spencer Ware

On bouncing back from last week's game...

"We can't worry about what happened in the past. That game is over. The only thing we can control is going out there and playing our type of football. That's what we did."

On tonight's success in the passing game...

"It's coming along. That's going to open up well for the running game. Now defenses can't just scheme on our run game. They are going to have to scheme on our run game and the pass game, which will make it more difficult for them. We still have to go out there and execute in order to be successful."

WR Jarvis Landry

On the offense's confidence...

"We are very confident. A lot of the guys on offense feel like we got that swag back. That's something we really want to embrace, let it carry over from the Alabama game and show the world that we can be an efficient and effective offense."

On his performance...

"I feel really good about the win. I don't dwell on individual our personal things. I'd rather consider team values more. I tip my hat to the offense, defense and special teams for the things that they have done."

LSU DEFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

LB Kevin Minter

On bouncing back from last week's loss...

"We had to. It's LSU. We win. We felt like we had to come back and get back to what we do."

On the slow start...

"We had to make some adjustments. They did some things we didn't necessarily practice for. Once we got it adjusted, we started stopping them."

On Mississippi State QB Tyler Russell...

"He's grown a lot. He's doing some good things this year. I expect him to be a pretty decent quarterback for Mississippi State."

S Eric Reid

On Zach Mettenberger's progression...

"He's always thrown the ball like that in practice, so I guess things have just started to click for him in the games. We've always known that they can do it, and he's been showing it in the past couple of weeks."

On looking ahead this season...

"We can only control what we can control, and that's how we play. Even though it's not in our hands right now, we're just going to finish the season strong and see what happens."

On tonight's game plan...

"We didn't expect them to come out and throw the ball as much. We were focused on the run, but they came out throwing so we had to a couple of adjustments. We did for the most part. They still did a pretty good job of it, so I'm sure coach is going make some adjustments for next week, but we did good enough to win the game."

MISSISSIPPI STATE HEAD COACH DAN MULLEN**Opening statement ...**

"Tough loss. The kids played hard out there for us tonight. That's not good enough. We're here to play football games. There are little errors you can see along the way and little mistakes we made that we have to get corrected to continue to move forward in the right direction and then put ourselves in the position to win these types of games. When you're going to play a team that's in the top 10, you cannot make those mistakes on the road and expect to win football games. Some of the mistakes were critical errors tonight, and those types of things don't get it done."

On Mississippi State's offense ...

"At times we did okay. We weren't putting up the numbers, but we were throwing the football. When we fell behind, we were in a position to have to throw. I think we continually put ourselves in that position to have to throw the football an awful lot. We weren't as balanced, obviously, as we'd like to be, but that happens as the result of the score in the games."

On Mississippi State's performance ...

"I think we played a lot better this week than we did last week. I was really disappointed in our effort last week. So we challenged our guys. I thought we had a good week of practice, and we improved. Obviously, not to the extent that we needed to win games, but that's going to be a big point. Good football teams continually improve throughout the year. They're better in November than they were in September and October. If we want to finish this and finish off what could be a good to great season, we need to improve this week and come out and perform at a higher level next Saturday."

On the strength of the SEC ...

"It's called the Southeastern Conference. I've seen it before as a head coach, I've seen it plenty as an assistant coach, and I've seen it sitting and watching other people play before we go play on a Saturday afternoon. That's called the Southeastern Conference. That's what separates this conference from other conferences. Where are we? We have like five teams in the top eight in the country in this conference; it's something like that. I mean, nobody else has five teams ranked in the top 25, I don't think, so that's what you sign on for. That's why kids want to play in this league. That's why coaches want to coach in

this league. You want to play against the best, and that's what you have here in the Southeastern Conference."

MISSISSIPPI STATE OFFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

WR Chad Bumphis

On his performance...

"I just try to do anything to make us successful. I came up short, but I'm doing what they ask me to do."

On QB Tyler Russell...

"He's really smart and has a great understanding of the offense. Our coaches trust him and when they call the play he does it."

On his touchdown...

"It was a corner route and he was man-to-man. He told me this week if we wanted to be successful then it would have to be in man-to-man coverage and I beat him."

RB Nick Griffin

On his performance...

"I think I did alright and there is always room for improvement. Tonight we just tried to go out and execute."

QB Tyler Russell

On the game plan...

"We felt some of their players were pretty good at rushing the passer, so we did some things to get the ball out quick and it was effective. Unfortunately they made more plays than we did and all of our guys fought until the end. Sometimes you can fight as hard as you want and still not win the game. If you can take anything out of it, it would be our offense and defense for not giving up."

On the fast start...

"Once we start off quick the defense will step up for us, but unfortunately we weren't able to put the ball in the endzone like we needed to on key drives. When you get the ball down there you have to make the most of it and we didn't."

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

CB Johnthan Banks

On the communication issues and missed assignments in the secondary...

"When you do that type of stuff against good teams, they're going to capitalize on it. We've got to get back to the drawing board on Monday, fix our mistakes and get ready for Arkansas."

On LSU's touchdown drive at the end of the first half...

"That will kind of kill you a little bit. Just straight up too many mistakes tonight. You can't win when you make mistakes."

LB Benardrick McKinney

On the mindset looking forward to playing Arkansas next week...

"We just need to continue to play hard, just run to the ball, scheme better, and listen to our coaches. They're going to put us in the position to make better plays."

On playing a difficult conference schedule...

"It's very hard. LSU has a great football team; they're physical. Playing SEC games back to back, it's very hard. You've just got to stay up to the task, play physical and play hard."