MISSISSIPPI STATE 9 | AUBURN 41

DAVIS WADE STADIUM AT SCOTT FIELD | STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

General Notes

- This was the 98th meeting between Mississippi State and Auburn.
- Auburn leads the series 63-32-3 (wins/losses reflect the on-field record).
- Jeff Lebby and Alex Golesh are meeting for the first time in their careers as head coaches.
    - They have previously met two times when they held various assistant positions (2021, Ole Miss vs. Tennessee; 2016, Baylor vs. Iowa State).
    - Lebby is 2-0 in those meetings.
- **Uniform Combo:** The Bulldogs wore their maroon helmet, maroon jersey, gray pants uniform combo with the interlocking logo on the helmets.
    - Under Lebby, the Bulldogs are 2-2 in this uniform combo.

Game Captains & Coin Toss

- Saturday's game captains were wide receiver Anthony Evans III, mike linebacker Fatt Forrest and Will linebacker Zakari Tillman.
- Mississippi State won the coin toss and elected to defer the opening kickoff of the game.
- Mississippi State is 19-16 on winning the coin toss under Lebby.

Offensive Team Notes

- Prior to today's game, Sanfrisco Magee led the SEC in receiving touchdowns with nine and was second in average yards per reception. Magee added another touchdown, bringing his total on the season to 10 touchdowns.
- Fluff Bothwell ranked sixth in the SEC in rushing attempts and fifth in rushing yards per game before today's game when he added another 12 attempts to his total on the season.
- Before today's performance of four receptions and 89 yards, Anthony Evans III was second in the SEC in receptions and fifth in receiving yards.
- Three players on the offensive side of the ball set new career highs in the game.

Offensive Player Notes

QB AJ Swann

- Before exiting the game with injury, 113 of his 138 passing yards came on four explosive plays of 20+ yards.

QB Brodie McWhorter

- Made his collegiate debut in the second quarter taking his first snaps as a Bulldog.
- Completed his first pass in his first appearance at quarterback in his collegiate career.

WR Sanfrisco Magee

- 12 of his 32 career receptions have been for 20+ yards.
- Of his 10 career touchdowns, nine of them have come on plays of 20+ yards.

- First player since Fred Ross in 2016, to record a receiving touchdown in at least seven games in one season for the Bulldogs.

RB J.J. Hill

- Recorded his first career reception in the third quarter for the Bulldogs.

TE Sam West

- Set two new career highs in receptions (4) and receiving yards (44).

C Canon Boone

- Has started 23 consecutive games at center.

RT Jakheem Shumpert-Perkins

- Has not been flagged for a penalty against Mississippi State through nine games.

Defensive Team Notes

- Eleventh game in a row, the Bulldogs have recorded a sack dating back to the Duke's Mayo Bowl last season.
- Second straight year the Bulldogs' defense has recorded a takeaway in six straight games.
- Eight Bulldogs set or tied a career high.
- Mississippi State has recorded multiple sacks in eight games this season which is the most through 10 games since 2018.
- First safety since Oct. 2, 2021.
- The six tackles for loss mark the 44th game Zach Arnett's defense has recorded at least three or more in his total tenure as defensive coordinator at Mississippi State.
- The Bulldogs have had at least three tackles for loss every game through 10 games which is the first time they have accomplished this feat since 2023.

Defensive Player Notes

MIKE Fatt Forrest

- Recorded his first career interception and the third for the Bulldogs.
  - The pick was Auburn's Byrum Brown's first interception in 125 passing attempts, which was the fifth-longest streak in Auburn history and the longest active streak in the SEC.
  - Sixth straight game Forrest has recorded five or more tackles.

WILL Zakari Tillman

- Became the fifth Bulldog to rack up 10 or more tackles this season.
  - Led the team in total tackles with 10.
  - Third straight game with five or more tackles.

DE Will Whitson

- Recorded his first career safety and the Bulldogs' first since Oct. 2, 2021.
  - Second straight game he's recorded points for the Bulldogs.

S Jardin Gilbert

- Fourth straight game with five or more tackles.

Special Teams Notes

K Kyle Ferrie

- Ferrie was one-for-one in PATs, extending his streak to 100 straight makes.

- Ferrie now has 293 career points, which is the record for most points scored by a single player in their career.

P Ethan Pulliam

- Recorded six punts for 263 yards with a long of 49.

Explosive Plays (5)
(plays of 20+ yards)

- **QB AJ Swann**
  - 20-yard pass to Riley Williams, first quarter
  - 36-yard pass to Anthony Evans III, first quarter
  - 23-yard pass to Anthony Evans III, first quarter
  - 34-yard touchdown pass to Sanfrisco Magee, second quarter
- **QB Billy Puckett**
  - 23-yard pass to Sam West, third quarter
- **TE Riley Williams**
  - 20-yard reception from AJ Swann, first quarter
- **TE Sam West**
  - 23-yard reception from Billy Puckett, third quarter
- **SLOT Anthony Evans III**
  - 36-yard reception from AJ Swann, first quarter
  - 23-yard reception from AJ Swann, first quarter
- **WR Sanfrisco Magee**
  - 34-yard touchdown reception from AJ Swann, second quarter

Career Highs
RB J.J. Hill

- Rushing attempts - 13
- Receptions – 1
- Receiving yards – 3
- Longest Reception – 3

TE Sam West

- Receptions – 4
- Receiving yards – 44

QB Brodie McWhorter

- Passing attempts - 1
- Completions - 1
- Passing yards - 10
- Longest Completion - 10

MIKE Fatt Forrest

- Interceptions - 1

WILL Zakari Tillman

- Pass Breakups – 1
- Tackles - 10

NT Jaray Bledsoe
- Pass Breakups – 1

DE Will Whitson
- Pass Breakups – 1

CB Kelley Jones
- QB Hurries – 1

DAWG Kendell Dolby
- Pass Breakups – 1

DT DJ Reed
- Sacks – 1.0

EDGE LaKendrick James
- Tackles – 4
- Sacks – 0.5
- Tackles for Loss – 0.5