



POSTGAME NOTES

GAME 6 • MISSISSIPPI STATE (2-4, 1-2 SEC) AT BYU (4-3,) • OCT. 14, 2016 • LaVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

TEAM NOTABLES

- Mississippi State fell to BYU in double overtime, 28-21.
- With the BYU victory, MSU now trails the series 1-2 overall. In Provo, it's now 1-1.
- A total of 15 Bulldogs have made their first-career starts in 2016, while 21 have seen the field for the first time.
- Today's attendance was 62,184.
- The Bulldogs are out-scoring opponents 72-45 in second half their last four games.
- MSU is now 4-5 in overtime games, 2-2 on the road.
- This was just the second Double OT game for MSU. In 2010, the Bulldogs lost a double-overtime thriller to Arkansas, 31-28 in a matchup of two ranked teams.
- With Dan Mullen at the helm, MSU is now 3-2 in overtime.
- MSU has now forced 10 turnovers this season, four fumbles and six interceptions.
- Under Dan Mullen, the Bulldogs dropped to 51-3 when leading at the half.

PLAYER NOTABLES

- Redshirt freshman Keith Mixon recorded his second-career touchdown reception in the first quarter, a 44-yard strike from Nick Fitzgerald. His first was a 37-yard reception against Auburn.
- Senior Cedric Jiles made the fifth start of his career and his second in a row.
- Sophomore Mark McLaurin made his first-career start, joining a list of 15 other Bulldogs to record their first starts in 2016.
- Late in the first half, Mark McLaurin also recorded his first-career interception. He finished with four tackles.
- Quarterback Nick Fitzgerald's 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter was his first of the season and fourth of his career.
- Sophomore running back Aries Williams had career highs in both attempts (21) and yards (81).
- Freshman Keith Mixon tied his career high with three rushes.
- Freshman linebacker Leo Lewis had career highs in both total tackles (12) and solo tackles (7).
- Fred Ross had five catches for 69 yards. He moved past Chad Bumphis for the second-most receptions in school history and now has 161 for his career, leaving him one shy of tying David Smith's record of 162.
- Ross is now just three yards shy of becoming the fifth MSU player to have 2,000 yards for a career.
- Ross now has a catch in 28-straight games, currently the longest streak in the SEC.
- Richie Brown had 10 tackles, the second-straight week he's recorded double-digit tackles. On the year, he's had 10-plus three times. For his career, he now has 249 tackles.

BYU TEAM QUOTES

Head coach [Kalani Sitake](#)

Opening Statement

It was a hard-fought game. I'll give Mississippi State a lot of credit for what they did on defense. They really caused some issues for us in our coverage and exposed some of our discipline issues on defense. Overall, just really proud of the guys and the way they played. All of these games that are close, and they're taking their toll.

On fourth-down plays

Just really happy that we made a play. There was a time when there was fourth and long early in the game and we couldn't get out of it. Even some of the third down and long situations that we were in and we couldn't make a play. We were just hoping that things would work our way. Our coverage was good, I think their quarterback made some great throws. I think the key was that Corbin (Kaufusi) came around the edge and was able to put some pressure on him and cause him to throw it. I've mentioned it before in weeks past that we wanted to be disruptive and force a bad throw, and fortunately it worked out in our favor for that one. The other ones we weren't able to get much pressure on the quarterback. When they get to sit there and throw, it's difficult for our DBs to defend the ball. Just really happy that it all worked out and that we got the win. Obviously, there are some things we need to work on and improve on because we don't have much longer between now and the next game. We'll be getting up tomorrow early and getting some work done for Boise State.

On [Taysom Hill](#)'s play

That was nice. It'd be nice if we could do that more often. Mississippi State did some good things on defense. I thought they were able to pressure us quite a bit and we didn't make them pay with our coverage, but overall I thought Taysom did a good job of hanging in the pocket. He took a couple of shots. I wasn't able to watch those roughing the passer calls, but he's willing to take a shot and bide time enough to get guys open and deliver the ball. Sometimes it ends up that he pays the price for hanging in the pocket, but that's what we've asked him to do. To stay in the pocket and find some space. He was able to get some scramble yards in there. There are some things we need to work on, but overall I was pleased with some of the stuff we saw from our O-line. They did some great things on defense. I don't want to take anything away from Mississippi State, but I think we started to figure things out towards the end of the game.

On [Jamaal Williams](#) breaking the all-time BYU rushing record

I think if you had talked to him before he said he'd rather take the win over the record, so we were able to get both. I think they were trying to take him away from the game plan, and it worked for the most part. I think we were a couple of mistackles away from basically blowing up the run game and getting big yards. I'll have to give them credit: they did make some plays. We had some free guys coming through and puncturing our line a little bit, which took away the run game. We'll get better and watch the film. Right now we'll celebrate the win and learn from some of the mistakes that we made.

On overtime strategy

We were at home and we just wanted to keep playing ball. It was a late-night game. I think for them it's a late night also and we just kept playing. I've said before that these guys will keep

playing until the clock says zero and it said zero. So, they played extra downs and I'm just really pleased with the resiliency of our players.

On fans rushing the field

The fans deserve the win. Some of the earlier losses we had were kind of heartbreakers. The leadership took over on this team, the coaches stuck with it and we were able to get some wins. We've built off of everything with some positive criticism. We've tried to motivate our players to keep going. It's worked out so far and we'll just try and keep riding this wave until we get to the next game.

On where the team's at with the tough schedule

No, ahead of schedule would be undefeated. I'm just pleased of the way the guys played. We have not seen a letdown in the effort. When you have guys wanting to do everything they can to help the team win, you can really build on stuff like that and work on that foundation that's already been set with these guys and the leadership that they already give you. So, we keep trying to put ourselves in positions to win games. Eventually it will turn to where we can put more big plays together in all three phases of the game and find ways to win games easier than these nail-biters we've had.

Senior RB [Jamaal Williams](#)

On becoming BYU's all-time rusher

I'm grateful to get it. I have to give credit to all my linemen, tight ends, everyone who blocked for me in my career of rushing. Kudos to almost everyone out there—former linemen, linemen now. I'm grateful to get it. Honestly, I wish I could put them before my name because you can't do it without the line; you can't do it without everybody and their effort. I just wanted to say thank you and I appreciate it.

On student's section's support

I'm just grateful. I feel like I'm on "Taysom-level" now. I saw it in the heat of the moment, but it hit a warm spot in my heart to see the numbers up and the banner. It made me smile. But you have to get back in the game and finish it. Thanks to all the fans. I know it take tremendous effort to coordinate all of that.

Mississippi State's defense

They're a big defense. Their main focus was to keep me from going outside, and they did pretty well. So we started to go inside more and tried to make our shots from there. It was a tough game and we overcame it. I feel like we learned something. I feel like we grew as a team and offense. I'm grateful for my line for not giving up; they kept pushing.

Senior QB [Taysom Hill](#)

On the win

I think that's been what our team has proven this entire season. We're just resilient. When we have an obstacle and we need to get something done, we get it done. I was really impressed with our offensive line, the way they stepped up in overtime. I was impressed with how they ran the ball the way they did and how they stepped up and made plays when we needed to. It was a good win. We trust our defense. They played so well tonight so I wasn't surprised at the result.

On the last touchdown

They ran into the late blitz and they had been doing that all game so I was prepared for it. It was so fun to get the ball to [Tanner Balderree](#), and he worked so hard. Hats off to our guys down field who helped him get into the end zone.

On beating an SEC team

I echo what Kalani said: a win is a win. It was gratifying to win at home in double overtime. We certainly have respect for the SEC, their conference and what they do. We feel confident we can compete with anybody in the country. We don't want to overstate the win, but it was a good win.

Senior DB [Kai Nacua](#)

On the victory

It was amazing. On defense, we did our thing. Everyone did their assignments the best they could and fought to the end. It was a big one for the program and for all of us on the team. We showed we can play with anybody. We've shown that all season long.

On the last play

My job was to read the quarterback and that's exactly what I was doing. I was looking for receivers. I thought he was just going to run out of bounds. I saw the ball come out and Fred (Warner) made a play and the game was over. It was a huge lift off my shoulders. I was exhausted and I was ready to get off the field and go home.

Senior DL [Sae Tautu](#)

BYU's defensive effort

I'm really proud of our boys. Everybody fought hard. It's a tempo team; they go fast. It wore us down, so to have a bunch of guys fight as long as we did, I'm really proud of our guys.

Fans rushing as defense made the winning play

It was awesome. We like hitting people. We're okay with the attention.

Importance of big stops

They were huge. They're a tempo team, so we gathered they were tired. They fought for every inch. Sometimes you lose those battles and don't get yards. To be able to have those guys making clutch plays, it's a big deal. I don't think people realized how tired we are when we're out there making those plays. The effort that our guys put in is a special thing. It's something we're going to remember with our brothers forever, in our hearts forever.

Dancing in the locker room

It's a blast. It's party in the locker room. I love our coaching staff. It's a lot of fun to see coaches that passionate about it.

Junior TE [Tanner Balderree](#)

Physicality of the game

They are a strong team. That was one of the biggest things that stood out from their play all year. They're big. They were really good in their technique and so we had to overcome that and dig deep, use better technique and eventually get there. I think the altitude definitely affects

everyone. I heard them talking a little bit about that; they had a hard time catching their breath. I think by the time they got to double overtime, they were worn down. But I also think our style of play, the offense that we run, really grinds down the team as well.

Hearing the play call in the huddle

I triple-checked that I definitely heard the play right to know what I'm doing, making sure I know my job, going over different scenarios with the coaches before I went out there so I knew I was ready for whatever they threw at us. I stepped in and Nick (Kurtz) had an amazing block that set it up for me to run the corner.

Emotion of getting in the end zone

I would have freaked out, but something kept me in perspective, knowing the game wasn't over yet. Mississippi State still had to go out there, we may have to do it again. So I didn't let myself get too far ahead. Then it was exciting. It was surreal. I didn't know what to think at first when I walked in.

MISSISSIPPI STATE TEAM QUOTES

Head coach Dan Mullen

On penalties in the third quarter

Four personal fouls by one official in the same game. Very interesting. I've never seen that happen before.

On bouncing back from last week's game

Well, we didn't win. So I'm pleased with the effort they gave, but it went.

On what was said after the game

They played really hard and they played hard enough to win the game, we just didn't do a good enough job as coaches to get them ready to make the plays they needed to win.

What was said after regulation

Go make the play to win the game. In overtime, every play is there to be made to win the game.

On quarterback Nick Fitzgerald's growth and maturity in this game

He made some plays at times to win the game and made some good plays to go and do it. That's one of his strengths; that and the ability to make the play if the play breaks down and make something happen.

DB Mark McLaurin

On a strong defensive performance from both teams

We responded real well. We knew what type of a team they were, so we had to keep working and keep fighting and especially prepare for the run. We had to come in today with a different mindset.

On BYU's winning TD at the end of the game

We had called the right call and the coaches gave us a good play but we just missed a tackle and he made a good play for the score.

On his interception

Coach had being teach us the whole week about the pivot routes and the digs and at that time the coaches made a great call and I got the pivot route and made a play on the ball.

On the locker room atmosphere after the game

We just need to keep fighting. We played hard but we just didn't get the outcome that we wanted. Sometimes it just ends that way so we just have to keep going.

QB Nate Fitzgerald

On positives from tonight's game

I think we played a complete game tonight. Really we played more than a complete game tonight and that's something that I don't think we've done until now so it's something good to see. We just couldn't pull it out at the end.

On dropped pass in the end zone during 2 OT

Fred just beat his guy one-on-one. The safety had moved to the center of the field and I just tried to lay it out there for him but sometimes that's just how its happens.