



POSTGAME NOTES

GAME 11 • MISSISSIPPI STATE (4-7, 2-5 SEC) VS ARKANSAS (7-4, 3-4 SEC) • NOV. 19, 2016 • DAVIS WADE STADIUM

TEAM NOTABLES

- Arkansas snapped a four-game losing streak to Mississippi State with the 58-42 victory.
- The win for Brett Bielema was his first against MSU, he was 0-3 before Saturday's contest.
- The loss in Starkville against Arkansas was the Bulldogs' first since 2010.
- A total of 11 seniors started for the Bulldogs against the Razorbacks, four on offense and seven on defense.
- The Bulldogs had 15 of 19 seniors make an appearance in their home finale on Saturday night.
- MSU earned a total of 533 yards of total offense, eclipsing the 500-yard mark for the fourth time this season.
- The Bulldogs earned their seventh 200-yard rushing game of the season after gaining 205 yards on the ground.
- The two-point conversion in the fourth quarter was MSU's first successful attempt through the air since 2003 (at Tennessee).
- Attendance for Saturday night's game at Davis Wade Stadium was 58,538.

PLAYER NOTABLES

- Sophomore Nick Fitzgerald's 459 total yards on Saturday propelled the quarterback past former Bulldog Tyler Russell on MSU's single-season total yardage list. Fitzgerald now has 3,163 total yards on the season to rank third behind Dak Prescott's 2014 (4,435) and 2015 (4,381) totals.
- Fitzgerald reached the 3,000-yard mark for total offense in a season, becoming only the second MSU player to do so (Dak Prescott).
- After earning 131 yards on the ground, Fitzgerald has compiled six 100-yard rushing games this season. The MSU quarterback ranks fourth in the nation in that category.
- Fitzgerald's six 100-yard rushing games this year are a single-season record for an MSU quarterback, the sophomore broke Don Smith's single-season record of five set in 1986.
- Fitzgerald's four rushing touchdowns are tied for fourth all-time in MSU history for a game, the Bulldogs' 12 scores on the ground in the season are tied for ninth in the MSU record books.
- Fitzgerald has earned at least two touchdowns on the ground in five out of his last six games.
- Fitzgerald earned 328 yards through the air, pushing the sophomore over the 2,000-yard mark for the season at 2,178 yards passing.
- The quarterback turned in his third game with at least 300 yards passing and 100 yards rushing on the season. The 300/100 feat has been accomplished only four times in school history, with Dak Prescott recording one 300/100 game.
- After snagging 10 catches, senior Fred Ross now has 194 career receptions. That total ranks first in school history and is tied for 11th in SEC history with Anthony White (Kentucky) and D.J. Hall (Alabama).
- Ross earned a career-best 171 receiving yards to record his 10th 100-yard receiving game of his career and third of the season. The senior receiver holds the school record for most 100-yard receiving games in a career (10).
- Ross hauled in two receiving touchdowns to give the senior 21 for his storied MSU career. The Bulldog ranks third in MSU's record book, only one shy of De'Runya Wilson for second and three behind Chad Bumphis for the school record.
- Ross has now caught at least one touchdown in eight of the last 10 games.
- Senior Kivon Coman earned a career-high 15 tackles, leading all Bulldogs defensively.
- Freshman Jeffery Simmons also recorded a career high in tackles after making six stops.



ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

POSTGAME NOTES

Arkansas at Mississippi State • Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 • Davis-Wade Stadium • Starkville, Miss.

► GENERAL NOTES

- Attendance: 58,538
- Captains: LB Brooks Ellis, OL Dan Skipper, DL Deatrich Wise Jr., DB Jared Collins
- Mississippi State won the coin toss and elected to defer. It's the 10th time in 11 games that Arkansas has received the opening kickoff.
- Offensive Starters: QB Austin Allen, RB Rawleigh Williams III, FB Kendrick Jackson, TE Austin Cantrell, WR Jared Cornelius, WR Keon Hatcher, LT Dan Skipper, LG Hjalte Froholdt, C Frank Ragnow, RG Johnny Gibson, RT Brian Wallace
- Defensive Starters: DE JaMichael Winston, DT Taiwan Johnson, DT McTelvin Agim, DE Jeremiah Ledbetter, SLB Randy Ramsey, MLB Brooks Ellis, WLB Dwayne Eugene, CB Jared Collins, CB Ryan Pulley, FS Josh Liddell, SS De'Andre Coley

► SERIES INFORMATION

- This was the 27th all-time meeting between Arkansas and Mississippi State. Arkansas leads the series 16-10-1.
- Arkansas defeated Mississippi State for the first time since 2011.
- Arkansas improved to 7-6 in games played in Starkville and has won six of the last nine there.

► COACH BRET BIELEMA

- Improved to 25-24 at Arkansas and 93-48 all time.
- Improved to 26-13 as a head coach in the month of November, including a 12-8 mark in road games.

► TEAM NOTES

- Arkansas improved to 7-4 overall, 3-4 SEC.
- Arkansas is 13-5 in its last 18 games.
- Arkansas is 7-4 in the month of November over the past three seasons.

► OFFENSIVE TEAM NOTES

- The 661 yards of offense is the fourth highest in a game in school history and highest ever in an SEC game.
- Each of Arkansas' first two TD drives took just two plays.
- Arkansas scored a TD on the game-opening drive (2 plays, 75 yards in 48 seconds) for the first time since Sept. 17 vs. Texas State.
- Arkansas' game-opening scoring drive was capped by Rawleigh Williams III's 72-yard rushing TD.
- Arkansas rushed for 200+ yards for the fifth time this season.
- Arkansas produced 455 yards of total offense in the first half, the most in a half since Sept. 6, 2014 vs. Nicholls (425).

► QB AUSTIN ALLEN

- Recorded his eighth multiple-TD passing game of the season.
- Threw for 200+ yards for the ninth time this season and 300+ yards for the third time this season.
- His 22 passing TDs rank sixth in single-season school history.

► RB RAWLEIGH WILLIAMS III

- Was responsible for five TDs (4 rushing, 1 passing).
- The last time an Arkansas player was responsible for five TDs was on Nov. 21, 2015 when Brandon Allen threw seven TD passes.
- Eclipsed 100-yards rushing in his first four attempts (122).
- The last time an Arkansas RB rushed for more than 100 yards in the first quarter was on Nov. 20, 2010 at Mississippi State when Knile Davis tallied 117 yards on nine carries.
- It's the sixth time this season and the seventh time in his career that he has gone over the century mark.
- His 72-yard rushing TD on the second play of the game is the longest rushing score of his career.
- Rushed for 191 yards in the first half.
- Rushed for a career-high four TDs and recorded his third multiple-rushing TD game of the season.
- Rushed for a career-high 205 yards.

► WR DREW MORGAN

- Has a catch in 25 straight games dating back to 2015.
- His first catch of the game went for 34 yards.
- Each of his first three receptions resulted in a first down.
- Has a 15+ yard grab in 14 of the last 16 games dating back to 2015.

► WR KEON HATCHER

- Hauled in multiple-TD passes for the second time this season and the third time in his career.
- Has a catch in 28 straight games and a reception for a first down in 28 of his last 29 contests dating back to 2013.
- His first catch of the game went 33 yards.

► RB DEVAH WHALEY

- Ran for 112 yards in the game, his second 100-yard game this season.



HEAD COACH DAN MULLEN

November 19, 2016

Arkansas vs. Mississippi State

Opening Statement

“I want to thank the seniors. I know this is a tough way to go out with our last home game and not finishing on top. We have had a lot of great memories in this stadium. I wish we could have given them a win tonight, but we have to get back to work and get a plan together to move forward and play a little bit better.”

On what was allowing Arkansas to keep getting down the field ...

“I think we had some missed tackles. We had some poor fits and didn’t do a good job of setting the edge of the defense. We didn’t execute clean. There was a combination of different things there, obviously. When you give up that many yards, it isn’t one thing. It’s several different things.”

On 10 plays of 20 yards or more for Arkansas in the first half...

“Some of the passes were poor communication, or we just got beat one-on-one. I don’t have the tally on missed tackles; those are cleaner to the naked eye than maybe the missed fits. If all the sudden someone fits in the wrong gap, or something of that nature, you can’t give up explosive plays like that and expect to win games.”

On how big a swing scoring three-straight times in the first half was for Arkansas...

“I think it was huge and that is on me because we knew they could score points. We had about two or three drives in a row where we didn’t execute clean and had to punt. So offensively, when you know you are going to be in a high-scoring game, you have to be clean offensively and keep matching them score for score.”

On if he expected Arkansas to come out and play like they did ...

“Yeah, I knew they were a pretty good offense. Their quarterback executes very well. They run the ball well. It was a shootout last year, so I expected it to maybe be a similar deal this year. We missed those two possessions and that ends up being really the difference in the game.”



HEAD COACH BRET BIELEMA

November 19, 2016

Arkansas vs. Mississippi State

Opening Statement

“I really like the way our guys responded after starting back on Sunday. It was a week that we kind of had to get right personally, and our guys took a personal challenge to it and responded very well. We knew it was going to be a tough environment coming over today with Senior Day and a lot of pride on that field, but our guys withstood that first quarter charge. I thought that second quarter became the tell of the game when we stayed on track offensively, made some defensive adjustments and held them out for the second quarter. That really became the big difference in the game. We had a lot of guys playing with some injuries that were banged up, but they sucked it up and got out there. We’ve got one more SEC game together. I love this team; I love the way they respond and their reaction to adversity. We’re going to enjoy this last week, even though it’s a short week, as best as we can.”

On the high-scoring games with Mississippi State the past two years...

“It’s kind of been one of these games with Mississippi State. Obviously I would like for us to play a little bit better defensively and in certain areas, especially down there in a tight red zone area. Again, the way football has evolved and the way the rules are set up, it’s an offensive game. We’ll make some changes during the offseason to make sure we’re a bit more solid and can try to put some pressure on the quarterback and make him make some decisions.”

On quarterback Austin Allen’s mindset and performance tonight...

“I brought him in last spring and told him the same thing I told his brother and the same thing I’ve told every quarterback that’s ever played for me: quarterbacks and head coaches get way too much credit when you win and way too much blame when you lose. The difference is, I applied for this job and get all the ramifications of it. But as a quarterback, I just thought he took too much blame. I said, ‘It’s alright to take blame, but don’t go in there and take everything on your back. Other people have to help you out.’ I thought Tuesday’s practice he was exceptional, and Wednesday he was really, really good. And today, it was really fun to watch him. A couple of those first throws, he stepped up and threw strikes. Some of them were second progression and third progression throws, and it just shows the caliber of player he is.”

On Mississippi native tight end Grayson Gunter...

“We don’t have many guys from Mississippi, just [Grayson Gunter] and an offensive lineman we left back home that’s redshirting, but Grayson had that play over here. I asked him on Friday, ‘How many tickets are you getting?’ I think he had ten here, but he goes, ‘You know coach, all my family has tickets anyway.’ I just wanted to make sure they were all wearing Razorbacks colors. He’s a great kid, and to see him have that great play in the first quarter was huge. It was a fun day for a lot of us.”



MISSISSIPPI STATE PLAYER QUOTES

November 19, 2016

Arkansas vs. Mississippi State

QB – Nick Fitzgerald – So.

On having six offensive touchdowns, but not getting a victory...

“We had drives that could have been plays and scored more points to win the game. It is a team effort. We just came up short.”

On how much the offense put it on their backs to help the team in the second half...

“Halftime we told everyone to give their all and do all they possibly could. At the end of the game, if they could leave satisfied with their efforts then great. Whatever happens, happens. As a whole team, we kind of took a deep breath and said ‘okay, let’s go play.’”

On if he was satisfied with his efforts...

“There is always more we could do. We could always do better. Missed opportunities, missed plays, missed reads, missed throws, missed blocks; we have a lot to work on, still. We have a big week coming up. That is what we need to focus on.”

WR – Fred Ross– Sr.

On how frustrating the outcome of the game was...

“Yeah, it was frustrating because we are all competitors and we all want to win the game. We didn’t make those plays to get us over that hump and they did, so congrats to them.”

On how much the offense took it upon themselves in the second half to keep the team in the game...

“It’s the same as the first half. We want to go out and score every drive. When we came out that second half, I think everyone played hard and we kind of made some plays.”

On what happened during that second quarter stretch...

“I don’t know. I mean, they made some plays on defense. Simple as that. They got off a block and we didn’t make a block; something as simple as that. Props to those guys.”

DB –Kivon Coleman– Sr.

On what emotions are going through his mind right now...

“I am hurt. I am sad we had to go out like that, but we gave it all we had and we came out short so it hurts. A lot.”

On what Arkansas did that kept them out of position all night...

“I think it is more of what we’re we not doing. We had guys not lining up right, guys with their eyes in the wrong place; things that we can’t do against an SEC team. They are a great team and things like that we just cannot do.”



ARKANSAS PLAYER QUOTES

November 19, 2016

Arkansas vs. Mississippi State

LB – Brooks Ellis – Sr.

On beating Mississippi State for the first time in his career...

“It felt awesome. It was a great team win. It was good to come here and beat them on their Senior Night. We finally beat them.”

On the performance of Rawleigh Williams III ...

“That was incredible. He really put the team on his shoulders and stepped up. He had an incredible game. It was awesome to watch.”

On winning an SEC game after losing the previous week...

“We are resilient. We keep bouncing back. Once we lose a game, we come back and practice hard. We keep working hard for the next game. That is what we have to do for the rest of the season.”

QB – Austin Allen – Jr.

On the outcome...

“It has been a long time since I can remember beating Mississippi State. We knew if we came out, executed and played with an edge that we would come out victorious. I thought offensively we really came out. We prepared well all week and really took the field today and executed.”

On Rawleigh Williams III...

“We always try to set up the run to get everything else. We saw that it worked with him. The running lanes were great. The offensive line blocked really well. Rawleigh hit the hole hard all day. They played their tails off today.”

On the performance of his receivers...

“Those guys have played their tails off the past week and I knew I had to play well this week. Hats off to all of the guys because they got open for me. It was a great team win all around.”