



2025 Mississippi State Football Postgame Quotes

Starkville, Miss. // Davis Wade Stadium

Mississippi State 24, #12/10 Arizona State 20

Jeff Lebby

Opening Statement –

"Just to get it started man, what an atmosphere. What an evening. That is Davis Wade at it's finest. I think the funnest thing about it for our guys, everything we've been through as we're year two in a program. To see our university show up the way we showed up tonight for a top 10 team coming in here is special. That's what I told the guys, so much to be thankful for, and we're just getting started."

On how he is feeling right now and the message this game sends –

"I think for me, the message it sends is that we're trending in the right way. We've got a ton of work to do, but to find a way to win after all the things that happened inside that game. The way we started, then the things that happened in the second half, and then to get the ball back with no time outs, it's down a field goal, go right down the field and score. There's belief man. There's belief inside our walls. Our guys know what we're capable of. We've got to continue to play a lot better, to go do what we want to do, but, man, what an incredible night for our program."

On if after ASU's 1st-and-goal drive he believed they still had a chance to win it –

"I knew if we got the football back, that we would have a chance to go score. The talk and the thought right there was to make sure we used all our timeouts, find a way to fight like heck to hold them to a field goal. You talk about some proud moments as a football coach inside that game. There's none prouder than finding a way to hold them to a field goal at the two-yard line after what had happened on that drive. For us to be able to bore our neck, hold them to a field goal, get the ball back. We got plenty of time to go play because of how we do play. There was a lot of balls especially after we got the second downs stop, it felt like we got a real chance to hold these guys to a field goal."

On Shapen and Thompson sharing the moment at the end of the game with the touchdown –

"Those two guys have been so consistent. They're the same people every single day, and they're really good football players. So, for them to have that opportunity in that moment tonight could not feel any better than those two guys were the ones that made the play to go in."

Kenny Dillingham

On the environment in Davis Wade and how it compared to other schools –

"Awesome environment. It was as good I've been in. Fans were great, the stadium was great, I mean, everything about it was awesome. This is what college football is supposed to be about. Unfortunately, we wound up on the other side of a really good football game. That's the nature of football; you play really good games. You either win them or you lose them, and last year we won a lot of them. It's unfortunate to come out on the other side of one of these."

Brenen Thompson

On his two big touchdown receptions –

"It's a surreal moment for me. I got here in January and heard all about all the hardships that this team went through last year. Being in that position to go make that play is surreal. I'm so happy for my teammates, coaches and the fans."

On beating the Arizona State defense scheme –

"Obviously, there's a lot of film and preparation that goes into that. Ultimately, it's about going out there and doing my job, and I feel like I did that tonight."

On the confidence of the team –



"We run the two-minute drill every week in practice. It started with the defense on the goal-line stop. Without that, I'm not in that position to make that long touchdown. We go two-minute every week in practice, so it's about executing. None of the guys freaked out, we knew what we had to do, and we got it done."

Blake Shapen

On the emotions after the game-winning drive -

"Yeah, it's amazing. I mean these are moments that I live for. You know all the guys on our team; this just shows a lot about our team. I mean you look at last week, going into halftime no one budged. You look at this week, we are up 17-0 and we come out and we end up giving up 17 unanswered points. You know for us to stay true to who we are and believe, that was the biggest thing, but the emotions are very high right now and I am very blessed to be in this position."

On the fans at tonight's game –

"I mean it was awesome. I mean you all saw it; the cowbells were ringing and all black. They had a huge impact on the game today and I think that is a big thing to tell them is like we need that every single home game. Having home field advantage playing good teams like Arizona State, we need to have home field advantage, and we had that tonight. I am super excited to play in Davis Wade in front of these fans every single Saturday."

On the teams' thoughts after the 3rd down stop to force the field goal –

"I don't think anyone on the sidelines had doubts ever during the game. I mean this team has a lot of belief in them and all the guys, I never lost belief or anything like that. Even when they get three points right there, it's like let's go score. We know what we got to go do and that's an emphasis to the offense and you know we never lost faith and that was a big deal on the sideline. Everyone kept their energy up and you know no doubt or anything like that. That's the biggest thing for me, whenever you feel doubt or anything like that on the sideline, being able to lift those guys up and get us going no matter what's happen previously."

Issac Smith

On the crowd and what it meant to the team –

"Electric! ... it was awesome; For us playing Defense even we got to be used to that. Being able to communicate with hand signals and verbally, but you know we might not be able to hear that, but it sure did not feel like a high school game tonight."

On 'Starkville vs. Everybody' and what that means and how tonight demonstrates that mentality - "Last year we were the underdogs in everything. I know we were the underdogs tonight. We feel good to just prove to the world that we've been busting our tails to go out here and win. That's what Lebby's motto is 'Compete and Win'. Tonight, we did that, we competed in all four quarters, and we won."