



2025 Mississippi State Football Postgame Quotes

Starkville, Miss. // Davis Wade Stadium

Mississippi State 38, Northern Illinois 10

Jeff Lebby, Head Football Coach

On defensive adjustments on unscripted plays–

“Yeah, I thought our guys did a great job adjusting. Got a couple of new things both sides of the ball early that we were able to get adjusted, talk through, but you’ve got to give it to the guys to be able to go execute and our guys did execute. We bent at times, but we found ways to bow are necks, and Isaac makes a great pick and played lights out on that side of the ball keeping them out of the endzone there and proud of that group.”

On the defense second half..

“Just finding a way to get off the field situation. I thought fourth down in this game was one of the biggest turning factors. I mean just for us I think we were 4-for-4 on fourth down. That being able to get off the field defensively on fourth down was huge. It was that played a huge part in how the game ended up.”

On the team being 4-0 for the first time since 2014 and how that affects the team’s confidence going into conference play..

“I think for us, we have a tough football team. I think we have a team that will respond right away when things aren’t perfect. There’s been those moments in a lot of different ways, whether it was week one, week two, week four, there have been moments where things haven’t been perfect. Our guys have responded the right way. Good football teams do that. Tough football teams do that. We are going to have to continue to trend that way to go get done what we want to get done.”

Blake Shapen, Quarterback

On being able to get out of bounds and avoid unnecessary hits...

“I mean, I’ll start with the out of bounds play. I can’t be taking unnecessary hits like that. I mean, one of the first pulls I had I think we were on the thirty-yard line going in and you have just got to get out of bounds in that situation. I felt like I could have made a cut and got inside on them, but instead I ended up lowering my shoulder for some dumb reason. You just can’t do that. You’ve got to be able to get out of bounds. I took a lot of unnecessary hits, aside from that one, but yea. Got to be able to get down.”

On how he makes tough decisions mid-play...

“I think, for one, you want to stay in the pocket for as long as you can. I think there were a few times that I left the pocket before I should have. I could have settled in and gotten to my next read, and I didn’t, so that’s something I need to clean up. Obviously, whenever you do break contain of that pocket, being able to navigate those guys in whatever direction that you want them to go, but, obviously, that’s something that we work on whenever I break the pocket for them to create scramble rules and go to wherever they are supposed to go. That is something that we work on all the time.”



Davon Booth, Running Back

On what it takes to stay focused...

"It's going to be a big week, you know, Tennessee. They're coming into Starkville, and we've got to just stay focused and don't get on our high horse you know... about being 4-0 you know. It's a new week. New game."

On Blake Shapen taking unnecessary hits...

"No, I don't like that. No, we need Blake. Blake has got to stay away from all contact, you know. I think he did it last week as well. He lowered his shoulder, and I told him 'Blake don't do that ever again.' He's scaring me."

Fluff Bothwell, Running Back

On Fluff getting past the 100 rushing-yard mark...

"It's a big achievement but at the end of the day it can be really unmeaning. The biggest thing that means a lot to me is for us to keep winning and keep stacking days."

On Fluff being the type of player that gets stronger as the game goes on...

"It feels good knowing that's my type of play style and knowing that I'm being useful on the offense and being helpful. Anything to help us win."

Nic Mitchell, Linebacker

On what was said at half time...

"I feel like we just came out as a team with a lack of energy in the first half. We were sluggish and not playing up to our standard, so we tightened up in the locker room at half time and came out with the right mentality."

On the defense rotation and how they are performing...

"I think they are doing really good. It's a lot of guys rolling. I feel like they're handling the game plan really well. It's just like any other team we've got to keep getting better, so we're doing good right now for sure."