



2025 Mississippi State Football Postgame Notes

Starkville, Miss. // Davis Wade Stadium

Mississippi State 34, #15 Tennessee 41

General Notes

- Mississippi State and Tennessee met for the 48th time, and the 11th time in Starkville. This was the first meeting in Starkville since 2012.
- Tennessee now leads the all-time series, 31-16-1.
- When the game is played in Starkville, Tennessee now leads, 6-5.
- **Uniform Combo:** Mississippi State wore all white with the Maroon Interlocking logo on the helmet. The uniform is a tribute to the 2000 "Snow Bowl" team.
 - This is the first time since 2023 that State has worn the Interlocking logo when they wore them against Kentucky.
 - It's just the 8th time ever wearing the Interlocking logo on a white helmet, and the first time since 2002
- **Attendance:** 60,417
 - The game was officially called a sellout
 - This was the largest attendance at Davis Wade Stadium since Nov. 12, 2022, when State hosted #1 Georgia.
 - This was the 19th largest crowd in Davis Wade Stadium history
- Mississippi State has scored in 61 consecutive games dating back to October 21, 2020.
- The Bulldogs fell to 3-1 at Davis Wade Stadium in 2025.
- This was the first time Mississippi State has gone to overtime since their game against Arizona on Sept. 9, 2023.
- Mississippi State won the coin toss in overtime and elected to defend first.
- This was Mississippi State's first overtime game since Sept. 9, 2023, when the Bulldogs defeated Arizona 31-24.

Game Captains & Coin Toss

- **Game Captains for State:** #6 Davon Booth (RB), #40 Nic Mitchell (LB), #76 Albert Reese IV (OL)
- Mississippi State won the toss and elected to receive.
- Mississippi State has received the opening kickoff in 21 of the last 22 games and 17 of 18 games under Coach Lebby.
- Mississippi State is 8-9 on the coin toss under Jeff Lebby.

Offensive Team Notes

- Mississippi State has outscored its opponents 62-16 in the first quarter this season and 103-40 in the first half.
- Mississippi State has already had two 100-yard rushing games this season, tying the total in 2023 and 2024.
- The 198 rushing yards ties Georgia's total this season as the most rushing yards against Tennessee.
- The Bulldogs have run for at least 180 yards in four of their five games this season.
- MSU's 57 rushing attempts were tied for seventh most since 1995.



Offensive Player Notes

Blake Shapen

- Has thrown a touchdown pass in 20 consecutive games. After Iowa State's Rocco Becht failed to throw a touchdown pass against Arizona on Sept. 27, Shapen's streak is the longest in college football.
- Extended his consecutive start streak to 30 games.

Fluff Bothwell

- Bothwell made his first career start.
- Bothwell ran for 134 yards, the second game in a row that he has ran for 100+ yards.
 - This was the second highest total of his career (143 yards at USA)
- Bothwell had two rushing touchdowns, bringing his team-high season total to six.
 - This was his third multi-touchdown game this season, and the eighth time in his career.
 - Became the 15th MSU player since 1995 to have three multi-touchdown games on the ground in the same season.

Davon Booth

- Booth's 5-yard touchdown in the second quarter was his third touchdown in the last two games.

Seydou Traore

- Scored a 2-yard touchdown, which gives him touchdown receptions in back-to-back games.

Jordan Mosley

- Mosley had three receptions, which is his most in a single game this season.

Anthony Evans III

- With Evans' five receptions, he now has had at least four receptions in every game this season.

Defensive Team Notes

- Mississippi State only allowed Tennessee three offensive points in the first quarter which is the lowest UT has scored all season in the first quarter.
 - Tennessee averages 20.8 points in the first quarter.
- This was the fifth straight game that the Bulldogs have not allowed a first quarter offensive touchdown to open a season, which is the first time since 2018.
- State has recorded a sack in five straight games to start the season.
 - In 2023, State recorded a sack in seven straight games to open the season.
- Mississippi State has allowed its fewest offensive points through four games since 2018 (74).
- First time since 2021, that MSU has opened a season with an interception in each of their first five games.
 - In 2021, State had an interception in each of its first five games.
- The Bulldogs picked up their third multi-turnover game of the season.

Defensive Player Notes



Tyler Lockhart

- Recorded his first QB hurry (2).

Jahron Manning

- Earned his first interception as a Bulldog.

Zakari Tillman

- Registered his first sack of the season.
- Secured his first interception of the season in the fourth quarter.
- Led the team in tackles for loss (2).

Brylan Lanier

- Collected the first pass breakup of his career.

Branden Jennings

- Led the team in tackles with 10 and was the first State player of the year to record double digit tackles.

Special Teams Notes

Kyle Ferrie

- Ferrie was 4-4 in PATs, extending his streak to 51 straight makes.
 - He is 84-for-89 in PATs in his career.
- Ferrie's 51-yard field goal in the second quarter was his second made field goal over 50 yards.
 - Both of his field goals of 50+ yards have come this season with his 55-yard record setting kick against Southern Miss.
- Ferrie went 2-3 on FG's with makes of 51 and 38. His lone miss came at 42 yards.
 - Those two field goals were Ferrie's 31st and 32nd made FGs and now is tied for 5th place all time with Jace Christmann and Derek DePasquale.
- Ferrie's 10 points this game moves him into 10th place all-time in Mississippi State history passing Westin Graves and moves within two points of eighth place.

Ethan Pulliam

- Had a career-long 67-yard punt that was downed at the 1-yard line.
- His first punt of the day resulted in a muffed punt with the Bulldogs recovering.
- Had two punts go for over 50 yards, and three that landed inside the 20-yard line.

Explosive Plays (3)

(plays of 20+ yards)

- **Fluff Bothwell**
 - 20-yard run, second quarter
- **Ayden Williams**
 - 49-yard reception from Shapen, fourth quarter
- **Anthony Evans III**
 - 21-yard reception from Shapen, fourth quarter

Career Highs



- **Ethan Pulliam**
 - Longest Punt – 67 yards
- **Ayden Williams**
 - Longest Reception – 49 yards
 - Receiving Yards – 49 yards
- **Fluff Bothwell**
 - Rushing Attempts – 23 attempts
- **Jahron Manning**
 - Pass Break-ups – 3
- **Jaray Bledsoe**
 - Tackles for loss – 1
- **Branden Jennings**
 - Tackles – 10
 - Pass Breakups – 1
- **Tyler Lockhart**
 - Quarterback Hurries – 2
 - Tackles – 10
- **Zakari Tillman**
 - Interceptions – 1
 - Tackles for loss – 2
- **Tony Mitchell**
 - Tackles – 3
- **Jayven Williams**
 - Tackles – 3
- **Kedrick Bingley-Jones**
 - Tackles – 3
- **Brylan Jennings**
 - Pass Breakups – 1