



2025 Mississippi State Football Postgame Quotes

Starkville, Miss. // Davis Wade Stadium

Mississippi State 34, #15 Tennessee 41

Jeff Lebbby, Head Football Coach

On pass protection-

"Yeah, I mean the sacks. There were other times that there was just pressure, and it was effective. They did a really good job, but we have got to play better, we have got to play smarter. Obviously, we lost Albert which was, was a killer, but that's going to be a huge piece of this thing going forward. We got guys that are good enough to do it, and we have to be able to protect against the D-Lines we are about to face.

On player's health-

"I really don't know. I know not having those guys obviously is a huge deal for us, but we'll be able to get them checked out through this evening and tomorrow and see where we are at."

On turnovers-

"We gave them 14 points, and the game is completely different. We are 1st & 10 right out in midfield right after the fake punt probably 13:30 minutes left, and having that issue up front we would have been 1st & 10 at the 38+ yard line, and are up 24-20 and then it's 27-24, it's the difference in the ball game."

Blake Shapen, Quarterback

On approach final drive of regulation-

"There are certain situations like that one where I got to put the ball into playmakers hands for them to make a play. I think there were a few times where we were either short or long on our depth and our route, some miscommunication. I got to be better, I got to play better, I got to make sure we don't go three-and-out in that situation because it can't happen when we got to go win the game."

On the leaders' message to the lockerroom-

"I think we all know that's a game we shouldn't have lost. Obviously, we did, we all came in the lockerroom after the game, and it was a shock that we did lose. For us moving forward, we got to keep our head up. We have a great opponent next week going into a great place to play. We got to move on, I think there's a lot of good things to take away from the game that we did well but there's also a lot of things we got to be able to go clean up moving forward.

Zakari Tillman, Linebacker

On takeaways from the game-

"We obviously have high standards for ourselves as a team. A lot of missed opportunities and we felt like as a team that we're going to need to that clean up this week, and have a better week of practice. Turnovers like that make us feel like we can keep building off it, and we'll definitely be able to dominate in this league."

On personal performance-



"Personally, I feel like I need to focus more on my job a little more at a higher level. As I keep doing that pre-snap, getting pre-snap queues and stuff like that, just thinking before the play, and I feel like I'll be straight, but other than that just executing off of my brothers, I feel like that helps me make plays."

On the defense's mindset late in the game-

"Honestly, these are the games that were built for. We've been doing this since January at winter workouts all the way till now. And I feel like as a team were built for games like this, fourth quarter games and Tennessee was a real team. Like I said, we're going to keep building as a team and just keep getting better."

Fluff Bothwell, Running Back

On how the team was so successful in the running game-

"Just the speech from Coach, just running the ball up and down the field. We knew we were going to do it, and the outcome just came as it was. I mean when you have two backs that just have room to do anything at the rim of the position, you're going to have a good game when it's the run game."

On what the team can take away from the game-

"Just the penalties and the fumble recovery for the pick six. I mean those are little things, I mean that shouldn't have happened, but we are going to fix those things, and Coach always tells us 'Good teams do better' and we are definitely getting better."

Josh Heupel, Tennessee Head Football Coach

Opening Statement

"[Tennessee's] fanbase is awesome. I love the way they showed up and I love the way we competed for four quarters, playing the next play, playing the next series. Offensively, special teams, things can be a lot cleaner. At the end of the day, it's a win for what we considered to be the good guys. At the end of the day, I love competing with these guys. A lot to clean up. Everyone, coaches, players, everybody. A good road win against a good football team, so I'm excited about that and we've got a chance here with the bye week to heal some guys up, get better, and get ready to get back to work."

On the environment-

"Cowbells, you know, I'm not sure the right way to describe it, but it is a noisemaker at the end of the day. We had a couple false starts, on tempo, and in short yardage situations that changed the way the game was played. Those things are a part [of the game]."

DeSean Bishop, Running Back

On Mississippi State's fan base/atmosphere-

"Man, shoutout to Mississippi State. Their fan base and their atmosphere was everything. They gave us a run for our money."

Joshua Josephs, Defensive Line



On Mississippi State's cowbells-

"I didn't expect them to be ringing them for as long as they did to be honest. I thought that we were going to have them quiet by the third quarter, but it's not even the fact that they were loud, it was the ringing sound that was annoying."