



2025 Mississippi State Football Postgame Quotes

Starkville, Miss. // Davis Wade Stadium

Mississippi State 19, #7 Ole Miss 38

Jeff Lebbby, Head Football Coach

On what he saw from his defense

"The first two drives the way we started, not what we anticipated, not what we wanted, we did, we settled in. I think the next four drives played well, and then again, they were able to go down the field in two-minute situation, score a touchdown with 11 second left in the half which was frustrating in that moment. So, I thought our guys just settled in and did some really good things. We had them in some situational issues. I had them in some 3rd and longs, we weren't able to get off the field. QB has a big scramble; I believe it's on the first drive where we got a chance to get off the field. And then we did it. We settled in, but man the explosives play the way we were able to throw and catch on the perimeter at the end of the game was what gave them the ability to get away from us, not having the ability to go score and finish drives."

On his decision to start Kamario Taylor

"It was a really hard decision for me as we got back from Missouri, thought about it nonstop Sunday and for me, as hard as it was to make. The result wasn't what we needed. And for us I feel like things had not been great up front. Who's the guy that has the ability, man to make a couple of plays when things aren't perfect and one who's done some good things, and I felt like it was the right time. And again, this was incredibly hard because of my love for Blake, his toughness, how he has led and just continued to be exactly who he was supposed to be. So, for me, again hard but at the beginning of last week, I made that decision."

On giving the fans hope for this next season

"If you look at us from year one to year two, there's been great growth and I think anyone can see that as we continue to build it the right way and build these pieces in the roster are round one, that's going to be important. I think we've got somebody, a man who's going to catch a snap every single down that's going to be an elite player in this conference, in America. And so, building it the right way around him, creating stability for him will be huge. We must go get the pieces that we need up front offensively, and that will be a huge point of emphasis as we get ready for the portal piece of it."

Nic Mitchell, Linebacker

On relationship what relationship with Jeff Lebbby means

"I just told him that I was so grateful for the chance he gave me to be a leader on his team. I'm so blessed. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to go out and play for coach Lebbby. I'll forever remember it. I'm so grateful for this"

On his message to the defense/younger teammates after this game going forward

"We were kind of in the moment, so we, you know, were frustrated about what happened. But they know what it is. They know they got to get back to work. They got to learn from the lessons this year. That team, man that's coming back, they got a lot of a lot of bright futures ahead of them. I'm so grateful for them boys, how hard they worked. And younger guys, especially, so grateful."



Kamario Taylor, Quarterback

On how he felt going into his first start and how he executed

"I feel like I could have executed a lot better. There was some stuff on the field, wish I could get some plays back. But going into this Coach Lebby made sure I was confident. Blake was a very good support with me. Helping me learn what they're doing, what they're trying to do, how they're trying their best with me. They were very supportive. So I wanted to be very comfortable.

On when he found out he would be starting

"At the beginning of the by-week. Coach Lebby came in asking how did I feel about it. Basically, he was telling me, like, we feel like you're going to give our team the best start. Then the team meeting they got momentum off of it."

On what his thoughts are moving forward with Coach Lebby and the offense

"Moving forward, we're going to do some very special things in the days awaiting. We trust Coach Lebby with it 100%. We know he's going to put us in the right positions, so we just got to execute."

On his message to recruits about the future of Mississippi State

"With his offense, I feel like any wide receiver, any O-lineman, they want to come play in his offense to showcase good stuff on tape. I feel like if they are going to stay, see where we're building here. And once they have that conversation with Lebby, because Lebby is very genuine guy, they're going to understand like he means business, and this is something that they want to be a part of."

On his second touchdown run

"We were playing to the field I felt pressured made a couple of guys miss, open field and tried to setup the juke move I did. I tried to make it seem like I was getting tired and bait them up. He got a little close I hit a one stick on him, I've been using that move since I was in middle school, so I knew it was going to work."

On how he gets the team to look forward after a loss at the end of the year

"To understand that we didn't lose to them. We messed up a lot mentally. So, it was more so on us that we lost that game. And like moving forward, we just got to go watch them, clean it up, come back better."

On his overall thoughts of his freshman year

"My overall thoughts, I'm big on goals, so I set goals and then encompass all of them of course. I feel like I did pretty straight as a freshman. As an 18-year-old freshman coming in, learning the new offense, learning the new system, playing with new guys. So, it was very different, but other than that, I feel like I could have done better. But, you know."

On his relationship with Blake Shapen

"It has been very great. When I got the news that I was starting I told him I appreciate him. I told him earlier today he's the reason I came so far as a freshman. I would go in there pick his mind and compete with him everyday and he has been a great support to me. Our relations is like he's my big brother."

On how he felt about being the starting QB

"I had been sitting and waiting patiently and grinding day in and day out. I was kind of nervous when he announced it and at first, he didn't announce it to the whole team, just me and I was kind of nervous. He asked me if I was nervous, and I told him no, but I was nervous. I knew that God gave me this ability to go showcase things he allowed me to do. I was pretty confident but nervous, especially playing in a big game like that."

On why it's important to be an inspiration for younger guys



"It means a lot to me. Because like you see, I got on my face right here. It says 283 baby. It's the little section I'm from in Macon. So, every day, I pray that I'm a motivation to the youth. You know what I'm saying? It's all possible with God. Just knowing what I came from, knowing the things that I overcome, just trying to inspire them, go back and give back to them every chance that I get so they can know that it's possible."

Lane Kiffin, Ole Miss Head Football Coach

Opening statement

"What an awesome day to watch our players at the end and I told them last night as you get older you get joy in other, especially your children and my players are similar and I just wanted them to get another win today so just like every other time we have been in this stadium watch them go over there and fans and the egg bowl trophy and we can celebrate that alone. And on top of that, they are able to win 11 regular season games. No one in the entire state has had 11 wins; that's pretty cool. Especially because the SEC has never been harder, and deeper than it is now, so that's an amazing accomplishment now. And I know the story line about distractions all week and stuff and I'm just going to say we build our teams differently so what you may think is distracting as I understand our fan base or media, I don't think it is. We train our guy from the beginning when we get the and build out teams to focus on what they can control and block out noise. The last game at FU they made an announcement that morning that we are coming here actually, and we in the conference championship that day, so all the players know next year when we go out and win 49-6. So, I think we just train our players that way. I wasn't concerned this week, and they've been doing it for a month, and I would say what we teach our future players and our staff a lot of times what you think might be really bad could be good. So maybe you should think the other way, that all those distractions and the noise outside bonds them together because they know their team, their coach and so they don't worry about that stuff. And everyone says well they are going to be distracted; they won't play well; they should want a different coach. I think it bonds them together to stay focused and makes them play really well. And I'm not the coach for those, I know we have a lot of people here today. If the field goals goes in and you win some games or get a call from the ref, I'm not one to say we played extremely well today. Our guys played well whatever probably 24, 10 or 13 runs once we got the last touchdown at the end of the first half, and if you're distracted and you don't have any negative plays in the entire day offensive, the entire game. Not a sack, not a turnover, not a negative run, not a negative yard. That's players executing well and doing great so I'm happy for them and it's a heck of an accomplishment no ones ever done it before and they did it in a good style today played clean football. Kinda said at half time man our programs are built different. We build players to execute a play well that why we want to make sports center. We don't want to make sports center for starting fights, so you know that was disappointing."
