MISSISSIPPI STATE 34 | TENNESSEE TECH 16

DAVIS WADE STADIUM AT SCOTT FIELD | STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

General Notes

- This was the first meeting in program history between Mississippi State and Tennessee Tech.
- The Bulldogs are 14-13 in home finales since 2000.
- Mississippi State has recorded their first lead in a game since September 27th.
- MSU went into halftime leading for the first time since facing Missouri on September 27th.
- **Uniform Combo:** The Bulldogs wore their white helmet, maroon jersey, white pants uniform combo with the interlocking logo on the helmets.
    - Under Lebby, the Bulldogs are 3-2 in this uniform combo.

Game Captains & Coin Toss

- Saturday's game captains were center Canon Boone, safety Jardin Gilbert and safety Tanner Johnson.
- Mississippi State lost the coin toss and received the opening kickoff of the game.
- Mississippi State is 7-9 on winning the coin toss under Lebby.

Offensive Team Notes

- Xavier Gayten recorded a 90-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter, which is the first 90+ yard run since 1979 for the Bulldogs.
    - Tied for the third longest rush in program history.
- MSU recorded their longest offensive play since 2019 on a 90-yard rush in the fourth quarter.
- Mississippi State recorded 400+ total yards of offense for the fourth time this season.
    - They have accomplished this feat every year during Jeff Lebby's tenure.
- This was the sixth game this season; the Bulldogs had a single player rush for over 100 yards, which is the most since 2019.
- Before today's performance of eight receptions and 129 yards, Anthony Evans III was tied for first in the SEC in receptions and fifth in receiving yards.
- Mississippi State recorded 8 explosive plays of 20+ yards, which was the second highest of the season.
- Six Bulldogs set or tied a new career high.

Offensive Player Notes

QB Billy Puckett

- Recorded the longest touchdown pass of his career on a 53-yard pass to Anthony Evans III.
- Set or tied four new career highs.

RB Kolin Wilson

- Rushed for his first career rushing touchdown.

RB Xavier Gayten

- Recorded his longest rush in his career on a historic 90-yard run.
- Set new three new career highs.

SLOT Anthony Evans III

- Made his 24th consecutive start as a Bulldog.
- Leads the team in explosive plays with 13.
- He now ties program record for the most 100+ yard receiving games in a season with five.
    - Has tied Fred Ross (2015), Tony Burks (2006), and Mardye McDole (1978).
- Tied for second most career games with 100+ yard receptions in Bulldog history with eight.
- Is only 71 yards away from becoming the fifth Bulldog to record a 1,000-yard receiving season.

C Canon Boone

- Has started 24 consecutive games at center.

RT Jakheem Shumpert-Perkins

- Has not been flagged for a penalty against Mississippi State through eleven games.

OT Isaiah Dent

- Made his first career start at left tackle.

Defensive Team Notes

- Twelfth game in a row, the Bulldogs have recorded a sack dating back to the Duke's Mayo Bowl last season.
- Second straight year the Bulldogs' defense has recorded a takeaway in seven straight games.
- MSU held the opposing team to their lowest points scored all season.
    - The third fewest points allowed all season by MSU.
- Eight Bulldogs set or tied a career high.
- Mississippi State has recorded multiple sacks in 10 games this season, which is the most through 11 games since 2018.
- The 10 tackles for loss mark the 45th game Zach Arnett's defense has recorded at least three or more in his total tenure as defensive coordinator at Mississippi State.
- MSU recorded double-digit tackles for loss for the first time since they played Texas last year on October 25, 2025, when they had 12.
- The Bulldogs have had at least three tackles for loss every game through 11 games which is the first time they have accomplished this feat since 2023.
- Seven rushing yards allowed in the first half are the fewest allowed under Jeff Lebby.

Defensive Player Notes

CB Kelley Jones

- Made his 24th consecutive for the Bulldogs.

S Jardin Gilbert

- Picked off a pass for his first interception as a Bulldog.
- Led the team with 10 tackles.
    - Second straight game he has recorded 10 or more tackles.
- Fifth straight game with five or more tackles.

Special Teams Notes
K Kyle Ferrie

- Ferrie was four-for-four in PATs, extending his streak to 104 straight makes.
- Ferrie scored two field goals in the game from 48 and 36 yards.
- Ferrie now has 303 career points, which is the record for most points scored by a single player in their career.
- Ferrie reached the 300-career point mark as he continues his historic career as a Bulldog.

P Ethan Pulliam

- Recorded one punt for 42 yards.

Explosive Plays (8)
(plays of 20+ yards)

- **QB Billy Puckett**
  - 53-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Evans III, second quarter
  - 41-yard touchdown pass to Marquis Johnson, third quarter
  - 28-yard rush, second quarter
- **RB J.J. Hill**
  - 26-yard rush, first quarter
- **SLOT Anthony Evans III**
  - 53-yard touchdown reception from Billy Puckett, second quarter
  - 21-yard punt return, second quarter
- **RB Kolin Wilson**
  - 31-yard kick return, second quarter
- **WR Marquis Johnson**
  - 41-yard touchdown reception from Billy Puckett, third quarter
- **RB Xavier Gayten**
  - 90-yard rushing touchdown, fourth quarter
- **RB Cooper Crosby**
  - 25-yard rush, fourth quarter

Career Highs
QB Billy Puckett

- Passing touchdowns – 2
- Longest pass – 53
- Passing yards – 232
- Completions - 17

RB Kolin Wilson

- Rushing touchdowns – 1
- Longest kick return – 31

RB Cooper Crosby

- Rushing yards – 29
- Longest rush - 25

WR Marquis Johnson

- Receiving touchdowns – 1

RB Xavier Gayten

- Longest rush – 90
- Rushing touchdowns – 1
- Rushing yards – 100

MIKE Fatt Forrest

- Sacks - 0.5

EDGE LaKendrick James

- Sacks – 0.5
- Tackles for Loss – 1.5
- Pass Breakups – 1
- Tackles - 8

NT Jaray Bledsoe

- QB Hurries – 2

WILL Zakari Tillman

- QB Hurries – 1

S Jardin Gilbert

- Interceptions – 1

DE Will Whitson

- Tackles for Loss – 2.5

DE Jayson Jenkins

- QB Hurries – 3

S Tanner Johnson

- Pass Breakups - 1