



MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

#23 Mississippi State vs. Kansas State

September 14, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium | Starkville, Miss.

Team Notes

- MSU's game captains were QB **Tommy Stevens**, P/H **Kody Schexnayder**, S **Brian Cole II**, LB **Erroll Thompson** and 73 **Darryl Williams**.
- Kansas State won the toss and elected to defer to its option. MSU received the opening kickoff.
- Today's attendance was 54,522.
- State fell to 2-2 in the all-time series with Kansas State and dropped to 12-13-1 against current Big 12 teams.
- Bulldogs making their first career starts (1 – 1 defense): CB **Tyler Williams**
- State had its streak of consecutive wins against non-conference teams during the regular season end at 11.

Offense

- QB **Tommy Stevens** scored MSU's first touchdown of the game on a 2-yard run with 5:39 to go in the second quarter. It was his second rushing touchdown this season and his first since the season opener at Louisiana.
- **Stevens** is responsible for seven touchdowns through three games this season (5 passing, 2 rushing).
- QB **Garrett Shrader** entered the game during the third quarter and put together a 12-play, 79-yard scoring drive that lasted 6:50. He capped the drive with his first career touchdown (5-yard run).
- WR **Osirus Mitchell** caught a TD pass for the third straight game, becoming the first MSU player since WR Chad Bumphis in 2012 to accomplish that feat.
- Each of **Mitchell's** three TD receptions have been for 28+ yards (31 at Louisiana, 28 vs. Southern Miss, 35 vs. Kansas State).
 - The three TD receptions for Mitchell leads the Bulldogs through the first three games.
- **Mitchell** had multiple receptions for the third straight week.
 - It marked the second time this season and the fourth time in his career that Mitchell has had five-plus catches in a game.
- RB **Kylin Hill** finished the game with 111 yards on 24 carries.
- **Hill** logged his fourth run of 20+ yards this season during the second quarter with a 22-yard carry. He has at least one such run in every game this season.
- **Hill** crossed the 100-yard rushing mark for his sixth career 100-yard rushing game.
 - **Hill** became the first Bulldog to rush for 100+ yards in each of the first three games of a season since RB Keefer McGee in 1996 (191 at Memphis, 182 vs. Kentucky, 108 at South Carolina).
 - **Hill** needs three more rushing games to enter MSU's career top 10 in 100-yard rushing games.
- MSU rushed for 200+ yards for the 28th time since 2016 and is 22-6 in those games.
 - The Bulldogs topped 200 yards on the ground for the third straight week and the 11th time in their last 16 games.

Defense

- MSU recovered three Kansas State fumbles on the day (CB **Jarrian Jones**, LS **Paul Blackwell**, C **Darryl Williams**).
- MSU extended its streak of consecutive games with a takeaway to 19, which is the second longest streak in the nation.
- MSU forced two fumbles today (S **Brian Cole II**, RG **Stewart Reese**).
- MSU stopped Kansas State on fourth-and-1 during the Wildcats' opening drive. State's opponents are 0-3 on fourth-down attempts this season.



- State allowed its first rushing touchdown in 33 quarters when Kansas State scored on a 7-yard run early in the second quarter.
- LB **Leo Lewis** equaled a career-high with 12 tackles. He also recorded 12 tackles at BYU during the 2016 season.
- S **Brian Cole** recorded a TFL for the third straight game, pushing his season total to 5.5. He had 2.0 during the game, including one sack for the second straight week.
- S **Jaquarius Landrews** set a career mark with nine tackles.
- MSU extended its streak of consecutive games with at least one sack to 25.

Special Teams

- K **Jace Christmann** tied his career high with a 47-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter. He also hit a pair of 47-yarders during the Auburn and Louisiana Tech games last season.
- P **Tucker Day** boomed a 55-yard punt during the fourth quarter. It marked his third punt of the season and seventh of his career of 50-plus yards.

**K-STATE at
MISSISSIPPI STATE**
BY THE NUMBERS

2,566 – Career passing yards by **Skylar Thompson**, who moved into 15th place in school history.

160:13 – Amount of time into the 2019 season that K-State trailed in a game... The longest to start a season since 2002.

114 – Number of non-offensive touchdowns by the Wildcats since 1999, the most in the nation.

100 – Distance of a **Malik Knowles** kickoff return in the fourth quarter, the Wildcats first 100-yard kickoff return since 2015.

49 – Number of kickoff- and punt-return touchdowns by K-State since 2005, the most in the nation.

25 – Length of a first-quarter punt return by **Phillip Brooks**, a career long (Previous Long: 9 vs. Nicholls)... He also had a 20-yard return earlier in the first quarter.

25 – Consecutive wins by a team coached by **Chris Klieman**.

12 – Touchdown runs by K-State through three games, the most in the first three games since 2012.

10 – Touchdown runs by K-State running backs this season... Last year, Wildcat backs accounted for 13 total touchdowns.

4 – **Chris Klieman** is just the fourth coach in school history to begin his tenure with a 4-0 record.

7 – Tackles by **Jordan Mittie**, his career high as a Wildcat.

3 – Safety **Denzel Goolsby** picked off his third-career pass to set up K-State's first-quarter field goal.

1.5 – Tackles for loss by **Kyle Ball**, tying a career high.



Sept. 14, 2019 /// Davis Wade Stadium /// Starkville, Miss. /// Att: 54,522

 **K-STATE** (3-0/0-0 BIG 12) **31**

 **MISSISSIPPI STATE** (2-1/0-0 SEC)..... **24**

RECORDS...

Kansas State and Mississippi State met for the fourth time in series history on Saturday with the Wildcats evening the series at 2-2... K-State improved to 89-16 in regular-season non-conference games since 1990 and recorded its 16th unblemished in such games during that stretch.

BIG ROAD WIN

The Wildcats earned their first road win in program history over a team that was in the SEC at the time the game was played... Kansas State's last road win over a current member of the SEC was 2008 at Texas A&M when it was a member of the Big 12... The victory over Mississippi State was also the Wildcats' first regular-season road victory over a non-conference Power 5 team since winning 28-24 at Miami in 2011... It was also the program's first regular-season victory over an SEC team since a 23-9 home win over Kentucky in 1982... K-State garnered a road victory for the first time since Nov. 18, 2017 at Oklahoma State (45-40), breaking a five-game road losing streak.

STARTING 3-0

Kansas State has started 3-0 for the first time since 2015 and the fifth time since 2010... Head coach **Chris Klieman** became the fourth coach in school history to win their first three games... Saturday's victory marked the 24th-straight victory by a Klieman-led team dating back to 2017 at North Dakota State.

MORE RUSHING TDs

Kansas State added two more rushing touchdowns on Saturday to bring the season total to 12... It is the most rushing touchdowns by K-State in the first three games of the season since the 2012 team had 13 (5 vs. Western Kentucky, 5 vs. Louisiana Monroe, 3 vs. Eastern Illinois) Of the 12 rushing touchdowns this season, 10 have been by running backs... Last season, the Wildcats had 13 rushing touchdowns by running backs in 12 games.

LEAD FOR LONG TIME

Kansas State was behind in a game for the first time in 2019 in the third quarter, going the first 160:13 of the season without playing from behind... It was the longest by the Wildcats to start a season since 2002 when that squad wasn't behind in a contest until the fifth game of the year... The 2002 squad went 245:26 into the season without playing from behind.

THOMPSON UNDER CENTER

Junior quarterback **Skylar Thompson** made his 17th career start on Saturday, going 10-of-18 through the air for 123 yards and a touchdown, while he rushed for eight yards and a touchdown... The Independence, Missouri, native improved his career passing yardage total to 2,566 to move into the top 15 in school history... He now ranks 15th as he passed **Dan Manucci**, who had 2,505 yards from 1977-78.

TO THE HOUSE

Redshirt freshman **Malik Knowles** returned a fourth-quarter kickoff 100 yards to tie the game... It was the Wildcats' seventh 100-yard kickoff return in school history and the first since **Morgan Burns** had one in 2015 against Iowa State... It was just the third in a road game in school history and first since **Tyler Lockett** did so at Texas Tech in 2011... It was K-State's first KOR score since **Byron Pringle** went 89 yards at Oklahoma State in 2017.

DEFENSIVE HIGHS

Senior defensive tackle **Jordan Mittie** registered a Wildcat career high seven tackles... His previous career high as a Wildcat was four against West Virginia last season... It was his most stops since having seven while playing for Texas State against Arkansas State in 2017... Senior defensive end **Kyle Ball** registered 1.5 tackles for loss to tie his career high, while **Da'Quan Patton** was one shy of his career high with eight stops

#23 Mississippi State vs. Kansas State
MSU Head Coach Joe Moorhead Opening Statement
September 14, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium

JM: “First off, Coach [Chris] Klieman and his staff, that’s a good football team. They were well prepared, and they did what we expected they were going to do, getting two backs, two tight ends and run the ball on you [with] a lot of play action. Defensively, I thought they did a good job trying to stop the run and keeping that thing contained. They did a good job mixing the looks up on the back side, and obviously made some key special teams plays. When you look at the construct of the game, we out gained them [in yardage] 352 to 269. The turnovers were a push. We won third down. Won the red zone. We’re going to look back and see probably three or four plays on each phase, offense, defense and special teams, where we’ll have to make sure we’re making the right calls as a coaching staff. We make a good call when we don’t question the players effort, but we have to make sure we’re executing the plays at critical junctions of the games. Certainly, disappointed in the loss. We had some opportunities there in the second half to put the thing away, and we weren’t able to do it. We have to come in tomorrow, crack the film, have a short memory and get ready to move on to our SEC opener.”

Q: What was the reason Tommy Steven’s didn’t return in the second half?

JM: “When we went into half time, he started stiffening up a bit and didn’t feel like he could make the throws he did in the first half. We decided to let him be.”

Q: What did you see in Osirus Mitchell this game?

JM: “I think he had five [receptions] for 74 [yards]and another touchdown. He was able to swing the momentum there at the end of the first half. He got deep on the post route and was able to make some critical plays. He had good off-season preparation. He had a good game and is practicing really well. He reaped from the benefits today.”

Q: What do you see in the special team plays?

JM: “There on the kickoff return, that was certainly a huge momentum changer. We made a play with the fumble that we got and made a big field goal there in the second half. There were certainly too many penalties. In the coverage game and the return game, we’ve got to make sure we’re getting guys that are running down the field and covering and tackling and getting guys down on the ground. More than anything, I think the most important aspect of that was some of those penalties that were knocking us [backwards]. We’re flipping field position and it was knocking us back and making it a very long field to drive.”

Q: What’s the status of [Cameron] Dantzler and Nick Gibson?

JM: Dantzler is a lower-body [injury]. He didn’t go much during the week. I though he may be able to go, but he just wasn’t able to do it today. Nick Gibson is the same thing with the lower-body. He didn’t do anything this week.”

Q: When you see your quarterback, [Garrett Shrader], fly into the air, do you hold your breath a little bit?

JM: "I think Garrett [Shrader] played very hard. He did excellent in the run game and there's certainly things in the pass game that he needs to clean up. Particularly in the fourth-down area. We have to put the ball in the air more...he bounced up and he was fine. I was more upset that he didn't make the yardage than anything."

Q: How difficult is it to stop that momentum after that kickoff return from Kansas State?

JM: "It tied it up and I think defense made some good adjustments at half time. It's just that you go from being seven [points] up to tied, the momentum goes back the other way. You [have to] get them on the ground there. I think our defense is playing well. We had the opportunity to flip field position. They kicked off and I think we had a penalty on the return which backed us up back to shadow of our goal post. It's two back-to-back special team plays that hurt us."

Q: With 146 yards rushing there, did it seem like the whole defense interior line, especially Fabian Lovett and Jaden Crumedy, made some plays today? I know you have to watch the film, but what's your assessment right now?

JM: "It started off a little slow. Just looking at it, it was 35 rushes for 146 [yards]. Like I said, we made some adjustments in the second half, and brought a few extra numbers in the box maybe to get a little less pressure. I thought we came out in the second quarter and on, we did a better job stopping run."

Q: Now that you've played against Kansas State, how much different is it to you than last year?

JM: "I think they're probably different offensively from a schematic standpoint. Last year they were a lot of 11, some 10 looks. They were primarily two backs and two tight ends today, so a little bit of shift and scheme there. Defensively, coverages were different, but the style of play was the same. Kansas State has always been traditionally solid on special teams."

#23 Mississippi State vs. Kansas State
MSU Student-Athlete Quotes
September 14, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium

Offensive Student-Athletes

WR Osirus Mitchell

Q: What have you seen from Garrett in these past two weeks?

OM: "He one of the toughest guys I've seen. You saw how he tried to jump for that first down. That just shows his toughness, and he puts the team first, so I really like Garrett. I feel like he has a very bright future."

Q: A play like that, how much do you think guys see that?

OM: "He definitely has a lot of respect, and it boosts everyone's confidence up too. He just a freshman, and you can tell that he puts the team first."

Q: How quickly can you put this game behind you and get ready for Kentucky?

OM: "It's already behind me. I'm about to go watch film right now, go to Palmeiro and do a couple drills."

QB Garrett Shrader

Q: Can you take us through the second half?

GS: "This week, after last week, I wanted to stay ready. Just the same thing, prepare like I'm going to start. Looking at them, we knew they were a great team, disciplined, really physical, and that's what we got today."

Q: Does the playbook shrink with you being a true freshman?

GS: "At first, he tries to stay conservative, but I always tell him I want to throw it. It's pretty much the same, depending on situations, he tries to modify it. We all have successors."

Q: Walk us through that long play, where you just took off running.

GS: "I made the decision that we had to get a first down. So I made the decision to go for it. It was all or nothing. I got talked to about that, but I just have to reach the ball, and maybe, I'll get in."

OL Darryl Williams

Q: What was going on with the issues on the snap in the first half?

DW: "That's my problem. I need to fix it. I was holding the ball in between, but I fixed it as the game went on."

Q: What have you seen from Garrett today?

DW: "A guy that competes. Whenever his name is called, he's ready to step in and take charge of the offense. Mainly, he can take charge of a situation that's tumbling down hill. He prepared throughout

the week as if he was going to be the starter. I think he did an excellent job. I think Coach [Andrew] Breiner did an excellent job with him.”

Q: What was the reaction when Garrett when up the air?

DW: “I was wowed. It could have been our season, so I was glad he came out okay. Like I told him, he has to be able to take those kinds of hits.”

Defensive Student-Athletes

LB Tim Washington

Q: How do you feel like the defense did?

TW: "I feel like we did good as a team. We just have to clean up some details tomorrow, keep moving forward and keep getting better."

Q: Brian [Cole] was saying that some of the trouble with the play-action pass came with some of the eye candy they were giving you?

TW: "It's all a part of the game. I think we will watch the film tomorrow and try not to repeat mistakes going into the next game."

Q: You had a couple busts in coverage when they would leak out the tight end, what were you seeing on those plays?

TW: "They were using a lot of play action and just to get our eyes moving in different directions. We will see what really happened tomorrow."

S Brian Cole II

Q: Big second half for the defense. What adjustments did you guys make in the second half to come out and play as well as you did?

BC: "We just put in a different blitz. We really made mistakes in the first half, as you can see. We had to get our [reads] better and get our [reads] right. We put in [a couple of] different plays, which I am not going to talk about, but Coach Shoop came in and made a couple different adjustments."

Q: I understand he showed you lot of fire you guys there in the halftime locker room, what was his message?

BC: "They run a simple offense, as you guys can see, a lot of split zones, powers, zone reads, it really is just downhill plays. We really just have to ball our best and we got to take on the block better. [It's] Just the little things."

Q: You mentioned how they run a simple offense, at times is it had to comeback, because you are used to seeing more complex stuff?

BC: "Exactly, because all the play actions they keep running downhill and running down-hill, next thing you know they [hit the] play action and somebody is leaking out."

#23 Mississippi State vs. Kansas State

Kansas State Quotes

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Head coach Chris Klieman

Opening Statement

CK: "What a great game. What a great finish by our guys. I'm so proud and pleased with the effort our guys had. It wasn't perfect. We knew it wasn't going to be perfect. We were going to face a bunch of adversity, and that's what we talked about all week long; attack the adversity that you face, don't panic, keep believing in each other, rise up and make plays when you have the opportunity. In the fourth quarter, we made some big plays, and obviously, the kick return got us jump-started after we were struggling a little bit. Then, the defense had some great stops and an excellent drive capped off by a touchdown by Dalton. I'm so pleased. Our guys never quit. It was so hot out there. We played a ton of bodies and had guys cramping up, but the guys finished the game. That's one thing we talked about; we need to finish, and they did. The guys were really excited about playing this game."

Q: A lot of the guys in the locker room didn't go to a bowl last year and had a losing season. What did you see in their eyes in the locker room just now?

CK: "Just happy that they were able to go on the road and get a really tough victory. We knew that this was going to be a fourth-quarter affair. We knew that this was going to be a difficult thing. I'm a big believer in whatever we did last week has no bearing on the next week. Whatever we do this week, we're going to enjoy. It's got no bearing on next week. Thank God we don't play so that we can get a chance to get some guys healthy. But it's not going to have any bearing on our next game at Oklahoma State. It's 12 one-week seasons, and we've played three of them. Like I said last week, we better not fall in love with ourselves; we've got a long ways to go. We've got a lot of work to do, but the guys believe. They are understanding our routine so much better. They know what to expect on a Monday practice, a Thursday practice and a pregame meal. Those are the things that we are trying to get going so that the guys feel comfortable so that they can just cut it loose on Saturday and have a blast with their brothers."

LB Elijah Sullivan

Q: How much does the game mean to you because of how the game was last year?

ES: "It means a lot more just because we lost last year, but we knew what we had coming up. At the end of the day, we knew we had to step up and play big. They were an SEC team. They were bigger, but at the end of the day, we got it done."

Q: How hard did you guys try and keep your composure when they had the momentum in the second quarter?

ES: "Coach Klieman did a good job telling us we were going to have adversity. It's our first real game against an SEC team. We had to have a tight-knit team, and we had to get back on track and do our job."

Q: Is there anybody that stood up and had a message for you guys?

ES: "It was the whole team. It wasn't just one person, it was everybody. We have to keep our heads in it. Skylar [Thompson] walks up and down the sideline all the time. He talked to us as a defense. It's a bunch of guys, it's a tight knit group. We have unity and I love it."

RB James Gilbert

Q: What did you think of the running game today?

JG: "We knew they were going to try and stop the rush. That's what they're good at; they have a good defense. We stay with it, rather you get one or two yards. Dalton Schoen made a huge play for us and got us up for the game."

Q: Was there frustration at halftime?

JG: "Not really, we knew we were better than this team. We knew we left some plays out there and made some mistakes. Nobody pointed the finger. We stayed the course and stayed with it. Coach Klieman got us all ready in the locker room. We came out second half and did what we had to do."