



MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

Mississippi State at #7/7 Auburn

September 28, 2019 | Jordan-Hare Stadium | Auburn, Ala.

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**.
- Auburn won the toss and elected to defer to its option. MSU received the opening kickoff.
- Tonight's attendance was 87,451.
- MSU-Auburn series all-time is now 64-27-2 in favor of the Tigers.

Offense

- QB **Tommy Stevens** started for the Bulldogs for the second time this season.
- QB **Garrett Shrader** replaced **Stevens** in the first quarter at the 8:59 mark and put together a 75-yard scoring drive (12 plays, 6:39) that was capped by a 9-yard touchdown pass to WR **Stephen Guidry**.
- **Shrader** finished the game 12 of 23 passing for 209 yards and two touchdowns.
- **Shrader** also ran 16 times for 89 yards and one touchdown.
- **Stevens** did not return to the game and finished 1-of-3 passing for seven yards.
- **Shrader's** first-quarter TD pass to **Guidry** was the first of his career.
- **Guidry's** 9-yard TD reception in the first quarter was his second of the season and fifth for his career.
- On MSU's first scoring drive, **Shrader** accounted for three of the Bulldogs' first downs. He moved the chains with a 10-yard completion to WR **Dedrick Thomas** and then twice with his feet with runs of 24 and 3 yards.
- K **Jace Christmann** converted his first field-goal attempt of 27-yards in the second quarter.
- **Christmann** missed his first PAT attempt in 96 career tries on State's first scoring drive. He had previously made 95 straight.
- **Shrader's** 47-yard completion to TE **Farrod Green** late in the second quarter was the Bulldogs' longest passing play from scrimmage on the year. It also was Green's longest reception since his career-long 62-yard catch in the 2017 season opener against Charleston Southern.
- **Green** equaled a career high in catches (3) and set a career high in receiving yards (69).
- WR **Osirus Mitchell** caught his fourth touchdown of the season late in the third quarter from **Shrader**.
- **Mitchell's** TD catch was 21 yards. All four of his TD catches this season have been for 20+ yards (35, 31, 28, 21).
- **Mitchell** had multiple receptions for the fifth straight week.

Defense

- With a fumble forced and recovered by LB **Leo Lewis** in the second quarter, the Bulldogs extended their streak of consecutive games with a takeaway to 21, tying Houston for the longest streak in the nation.
- **Lewis** later recovered another fumble in the third quarter.
- **Lewis' takeaways** upped State's season-total to an FBS-best 14.
- **Lewis** led the Bulldogs in tackles during the first half (5) and also had a tackle for loss. He finished the game with eight total tackles.
- **Lewis** and S **C.J. Morgan** led MSU in total tackles for the game (8).
- DT **Nathan Pickering** registered his first career sack.
- DE **Jaden Crumedy** recorded his first career tackle for loss.
- DE **Kobe Jones** logged his first tackle for loss of the season (a 4-yard sack).
- With **Jones' sack**, MSU extended its streak of consecutive games with at least one sack to 27.
- DE **Fletcher Adams** collected a tackle for loss for the second straight game and now has 2.0 on the season.

Auburn vs. Mississippi State final notes
September 28, 2019; Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, Ala.

- >> Captains: Derrick Brown, Marlon Davidson, Jeremiah Dinson, Daniel Thomas
- >> Coin Toss: Auburn wins the toss and elects to defer. Mississippi State will receive
- >> Eagle Flight: Aurea from ramp above Section 46
- >> Attendance: 87,451 (capacity)

TEAM NOTES

- >> First-time starters for Auburn: none
- >> Auburn has scored in 85 consecutive games, the second-longest streak in school history
- >> The last time Auburn scored on its first offensive play was vs. Arkansas in 2016, a 78-yard rush by Eli Stove
- >> Auburn's 21 points in the first quarter tied the school record for points in the first quarter versus SEC opponents; has eight times previously, the most recent in 2016 vs. Arkansas; Auburn scored 21 points in the first quarter vs. Mississippi State in 1994
- >> Five rushing touchdowns for Auburn ties the most scored by Auburn in a half (previous: 2003 vs. Mississippi State)
- >> 42 points in the first half ties the most points in a half against an SEC opponent (previous: 1990, Vanderbilt)
- >> 42 points is the most scored in a half by Auburn vs. Mississippi State; the previous high was 38 points in both 1969 and 2003
- >> 56 points ties the most Auburn has ever scored vs. Mississippi State; Auburn was a 56-0 winner over the Bulldogs in 1970

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/OFFENSE

- >> Bo Nix rushed for his second touchdown of the season on a 9-yard run in the first quarter
- >> Nix' 39-yard and 32-yard TD passes to Seth Williams give Nix seven touchdown passes this season. Williams has four scores this season and nine for his career
- >> Nix records his first career 300-yard passing game; it's the fourth 300-yard passing game by a freshman in Auburn history; the three previous were by Stan White in 1990
- >> Williams has recorded the second 100-yard receiving game of his career (previous: 109 vs. Liberty, 2018); his total of 161 yards is the most by an Auburn receiver since Sammie Coates had 206 yards vs. Alabama in 2014
- >> Ja'Tarvious Whitlow has 1,250 career rushing yards, moving him to 39th on the Auburn career rushing list, passing Fred Beasley (1,241 from 1994-97)
- >> Whitlow scored his fifth touchdown of the season on a 30-yard run in the first quarter. It's his longest TD run of the season and second-longest of his career (long: 66 yards vs. Purdue).
- >> Whitlow's second rushing TD of the game came on a 3-yard rush in the second quarter. Whitlow's third rushing score of the game came on a 3-yard run in the second quarter. He has 13 career rushing touchdowns and 15 overall scores.
- >> Whitlow records his third career game scoring multiple touchdowns
- >> Anthony Schwartz scored his second rushing touchdown of the season and seventh rushing TD of his career with a 13-yard run in the first quarter
- >> Kam Martin is now 36th all-time at Auburn with 1,361 career rushing yards, passing William Andrews (1,347 from 1976-78)
- >> Martin's fourth-quarter touchdown run was his second touchdown of the season and the eighth rushing score of his career

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/DEFENSE

- >> Zakoby McClain recorded the first forced fumble of his career. Jordyn Peters' fumble recovery was the second of his career
- >> Jeremiah Dinson's QB sack was his second of the season and fourth of his career
- >> Dinson's fumble recovery was his first of the season and fourth of his career
- >> Owen Pappoe's forced fumble was the first of his career
- >> K.J. Britt's sack gives him 1.5 for the season and for his career
- >> Daniel Thomas was the leading tackler with six.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/SPECIAL TEAMS

- >> Auburn holds the SEC record for consecutive PAT with 299, an SEC record and the longest current streak in the nation. With eight PAT today, Anders Carlson is now 66-66 on PAT for his career

Auburn 56, Mississippi State 23
Sept. 28, 2019
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Mississippi State Head Coach Joe Moorhead

Opening statement...

"Against a good football team like this, we went into the week talking about how small the margin of error is. We come out and spot them 21 before the band even gets in their seats. You don't give yourself a chance. You're fighting out of a corner the whole game. I thought some of our warts got exposed today - our deficiencies and weaknesses - and they took advantage of them. The first and biggest thumb goes back to me. Myself and our coaches have to make sure to put the kids in position to be successful with the calls. We've got to make sure that we're out there making them play. Too many penalties. I think we won the turnover battle. We didn't win third-down, we didn't win the red zone and we certainly didn't win the explosive play battle. And when those things happen against a team like Auburn, you're not going to win the football game and that's what happened. So we were 0-1 this week. We're going to learn from it. We're going to correct it. We're headed into the bye week and move on and we'll be 1-0 next week against Tennessee."

On what made Bo Nix so difficult to defend tonight...

"He's obviously a coach's son. Very poised and polished. And well coached for a true freshman/early enrollee. He can beat you with his arms and his legs, and he demonstrated that tonight. He's got time back there patting the ball, counting Mississippis, throwing down the field. We have to make sure we're doing a good job of across the board. The kid's a good player and he's going to be a really good player in the future, too."

On the tough start to the game...

"I thought the clock was getting run when we came off the sideline early. We had the delay of game. And then we took the sack. And then we punt and gave them a position on the 30 and get a one-run play. It's not ideal. And then the next drive, we have third down and whatever and we have the little dig route coming from the backside and we catch it, it's a conversion and the ball gets dropped. That leads straight to points and it kind of snowballs from there. Against this team, you can't spot them 21 off the bat. It's less than ideal."

Darryl Williams, OL, Sr.

On the difficulty in the run game...

"It wasn't anything different. It was more of the offensive line not being on the same page during certain points of the game."

On being down 21-0 so early...

"We need to claw and dig back in. Auburn did an excellent job of playing on defensive."

On getting guys refocused...

"I told guys to lock in. There was a lot of game left, so that was all I could really tell them then."

On the message for the team for upcoming weeks...

"We have to regroup. We have a bye week to get guys healthy and work on the little things."

Kobe Jones, DE, Jr.

On challenge getting back into the game...

"It was a challenge. They were winning the field position battle. They got the ball on the 30 like four consecutive times. It was definitely a challenge. We just tried to keep our composure and take it one play at a time. I just didn't go in our favor today."

On difficulty defending Auburn's run game...

"I think it is a little hard against Auburn because they give you a lot of variety of looks and you just have to turn the keys and play with confidence and just hope you are where you are supposed to be."

On defending Bo Nix...

"When the opportunity presented itself and we got a chance to hit him, I feel like we did that for the most part. But I feel like those guys came out pretty confident with a great game plan and they executed it better than us."

On what makes it so difficult to defend Bo Nix...

"Tonight, like I said, I feel they had a great game plan and, overall, I feel that's what gave us our biggest challenge because he was just on point. He didn't make a bad read. He was just confident. Whether he was going to tuck and run or run and look to throw. He just had a great game today."

Garrett Shrader, QB, Fr.

On providing a spark on offense tonight...

"Just running the ball early, being aggressive in the running game. Quarterback running game is normally what helps us out. I mean obviously we have Kylin [Hill] and me running the ball helps, too."

Jaquarius Landrews

Q: When you compete long enough, you are going to have a game like this. What can you take away from a game like this?

A: All we can do is try to learn from our mistakes. Of course, they were ready and they came prepared. So we just have to get back in, learn from our mistakes, make corrections and get ready for the next week.

Q: What were you seeing from Bo Nix tonight and what made him so dynamic?

A: He was pretty confident in himself. He did some good calling on the field, they were prepared for us, they watched our film, and they found our weakness. They did a good job preparing for us and all we can do is just learn from that.

Q: Is it good to have a bye week this week?

A: It is good, even if we would have won. All we have to do is learn from our mistakes and keep going.

Farrod Green:

Q: What is the attitude of the team after a game like this?

A: It is tough, but it is behind us now. There isn't anything we can do about now except to watch the film, correct the mistakes, and move on.