TEAM NOTABLES

- Mississippi State fell to Auburn 38-14, the first victory for the Tigers in the series since 2013 and first in Starkville since 2010.
- With the Auburn victory, MSU now trails the series 26-62-2 and 6-13-1 in Starkville.
- A total of 15 Bulldogs have made their first-career starts in 2016, while 21 have seen the field for the first time.
- Today’s attendance was 60,102.
- The Bulldogs are out-scoring opponents 65-24 in second half their last three games.
- Nick Fitzgerald’s 20-yard run was MSU’s 10th run of 20 or more yards this season. State entered the contest second in the SEC and 14th nationally in the contest.
- MSU has now forced eight turnovers this season, three fumbles and five interceptions.

PLAYER NOTABLES

- Redshirt freshman Keith Mixon snagged the first touchdown reception of his career in the third quarter, a 37-yard strike from Nick Fitzgerald. Mixon’s team-high 55 receiving yards were a career high.
- Senior Cedric Jiles made the fourth start of his career and first since Sept. 23, 2013, against Troy.
- Freshman Farrod Green made his first-career start, joining a list of 14 other Bulldogs to record their first starts in 2016.
- Kivon Coman grabbed his second interception of the season on the first drive of the game. He has recorded interceptions in back-to-back games for the first time in his career.
- Marquiss Spencer recorded his first-career sack in the third quarter on a critical third-down stop.
- Senior Torrey Dale forced the first fumble of his career late in the third quarter. It was recovered by junior Traver Jung, the first fumble recovery of his career.
- Freshman Jamal Couch’s 23-yard reception in the fourth quarter was a career-long.
- Fred Ross grabbed his 15th-career touchdown reception with an eight-yard strike from Nick Fitzgerald. He moved into sole possession of fifth place in school history in the category.
- Ross became the sixth MSU player to notch 1,900-career receiving yards (1,928).
- Ross has a catch in 27-straight games, currently the longest streak in the SEC.
- Richie Brown’s 14 tackles is the highest total by a Bulldog defender this season and the most since Cameron Lawrence had 15 against LSU on Nov. 10, 2012.
GAME NOTES
>> Captains: Montravius Adams, Carl Lawson, Alex Kozan, Marcus Davis
>> Weather: 70 degrees at kickoff
>> Coin Toss: Mississippi State wins the toss and defers; Auburn will receive
>> Attendance: 60,102

TEAM NOTES
>> This was Gus Malzahn’s 40th win as a college head coach. He is 40-18 overall and 31-15 at Auburn.
>> Auburn has won 17 of its last 21 SEC road openers since 1996 and 9 of its last 13 road openers overall
>> Jalen Harris was a first-time starter for Auburn; the Tigers have had nine first-time starters this season
>> Auburn has had more than 30 minutes of possession in four straight games (TAMU, 31:04; LSU, 32:11; ULM, 33:15; MSU, 33:22)
>> Auburn is 24-4 under Malzahn when scoring first.
>> The Tigers are 25-8 when rushing for more than 200 yards under Gus Malzahn.
>> Five different receivers have a touchdown catch for Auburn this season
>> Auburn has held five of six opponents in 2016 and six of its last seven opponents under 20 points
>> 35 is the most points Auburn has scored in the first half since scoring 38 vs. San José State in the first half last season. It’s the most points scored in the first half of an SEC game since 38 vs. Mississippi State in 2003 and the most in any half of an SEC game since 2010 (38 vs. Arkansas, 2nd half).
>> Auburn’s 335 yards total offense are the most in the first half since 383 vs. Alabama in 2014.
>> Mississippi State’s 91 total yards in the first half were Auburn’s fewest yards allowed in half vs. an SEC opponent since LSU (90) in 2014
>> It was Auburn’s largest halftime lead in an SEC game since a 42-6 advantage vs. Vanderbilt in 1990. It was the largest halftime lead in an SEC road game since leading Florida 35-0 n 1970
>> This was Auburn’s first first-half shutout of an SEC opponent since 2008
>> Auburn has scored 446 points in 14 road games under Gus Malzahn (31.8 ppg)

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/OFFENSE
>> Kamryn Pettway records his first multiple touchdown game with three rushing scores in the first half, giving him three scores for his career. It’s the third multiple-TD game by an Auburn running back this season. The last Auburn player to rush for three TD in a game was Peyton Barber vs. Arkansas last season.
>> Pettway has a new career high for carries with 398; his previous best was 20 vs. Texas A&M earlier this season. Those 39 carries rank fourth all-time in Auburn records.
>> With a career-best 169 yards, Pettway has passed the 100-yard rushing mark for the third time this season (also Arkansas State, Texas A&M). Auburn is 25-8 under Malzahn with a 100-yard rusher in his Auburn head coaching tenure. Auburn has produced a 100-yard rusher in 33 of 46 games under Malzahn.

>> Pettway’s 27 first-half carries were the most ever in a half by an Auburn player who gained 100 yards in the first half. According to ESPN Stats, it’s the second-most carries in a first half in college football in the last 10 years.

>> Sean White has passed the 1,000-yard passing mark for the season; his 185 passing yards in the first half today marks his best half since 189 vs. Arkansas in the second half last season

>> Kam Martin’s 42-yard reception from Sean White was the longest catch of his career

>> Ryan Davis’ first-quarter TD reception was his first career TD catch. It was Sean White’s sixth TD throw of the season and seventh of his career.

>> White has passed for 200+ yards in seven of 12 career starts. White is 117-179 (65.4) for 1,401 passing yards in his starts vs. Power 5 teams

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/DEFENSE

>> Marlon Davidson’s forced fumble in the first quarter was the first of his career; the recovery by Montravius Adams was the second of his career

>> Montravius Adams’ fumble recovery for a score in the second quarter was his first career touchdown; the last Auburn player to score on a fumble recovery was Justin Garrett vs. Louisville in 2015. The last Auburn player to recover two fumbles in a game was Eltoro Freeman vs. Georgia in 2011.

>> This is Carl Lawson’s third career multiple-sack game and the second in the last three contests. Lawson has 11 career sacks.

>> Tré Williams has surpassed 100 tackles for his career (107 total), the fourth current player to record 100+ tackles at Auburn. This was Williams’ third game this season as Auburn’s leading tackler

>> Stephen Roberts records his first career interception in the fourth quarter

>> Johnathan Ford had six tackles on Saturday to increase his career total to 253, moving Ford to fifth on the Auburn career tackle list since 2004, passing Will Herring (250, 2002-06) and Craig Stevens (252, 2005-10).

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/SPECIAL TEAMS

>> Daniel Carlson has converted 118 consecutive PAT, the second best streak in Auburn history

>> Carlson is 13-14 on field goal attempts this season and 54-65 (.831) for his career, fourth best in SEC records

>> Carlson has kicked 30 consecutive touchbacks on kickoffs and is 30-31 for the season

>> Auburn’s second-quarter punt was its first punt attempt in 17 drives
**Opening Statement**

“You look at the game, and it starts up front. They physically won the line of scrimmage, and you’re not going to win many football games if you’re not winning the line of scrimmage. One of the things we take a lot of pride in is being physical and winning the line of scrimmage. Put on top of that, you start doing a lot of things in the course of the game that aren’t going to help you win, whether it’s dropped passes, silly penalties, red zone – they were 5-for-5, and we were 1-for-3 in the red zone today. We give up, their defense scores a touchdown on us off a turnover. Missed field goal, all the little things, you’re not going to win a game in the Southeastern Conference if you do those things. We’ve got to make sure we get all that stuff fixed, because we have a really short week, and we’re going to have to turn around quick, get guys healthy, and go play next Friday night.”

**On the momentum swing after missing the field goal…**

“It shouldn’t be [a momentum swing], but we have really young football players. They’re learning, and they get swayed by momentum a lot. The emotions when you have a lot of first-time guys out there on the field, you feel energy. When good stuff happens, it can be really positive for you because they can play almost above themselves. When bad things happen, it can be really negative because it lingers with them and can pull them down. When you have a veteran group, the highest emotion doesn’t always pull them up, but the lowest don’t pull them down. They keep themselves in check a little more.”

**On his speech to the team at halftime…**

“‘We’ve got to come out and play in the second half, and just relax.’ They are such a young group; they acted like the world’s about to end. It’s halftime of a football game. ‘Relax, come out, play with some pride in the second half, take pride in every single snap of your performance.’ For the most part, I thought we played with a little bit better sense of urgency in the second half. We have a young football team, and I see signs at different times of a group that’s going to be okay in the end. It’s a process, and it’s going to take a while to get there.”

**On Nick Fitzgerald and the offensive performance…**

“We’ve got a really young team; it’s not him. He’s not blocking, he’s not catching. There’s 11 guys on offense that have to execute all together, and he’s got to lead it. I’ve got to lead it. We’ve got to be able to run the ball. We didn’t run the ball well today and we fumbled the ball, dropped [the ball], penalties. In the first half, every time you’d see we had a drive going, all of a sudden we’d get a big penalty – a big negative yardage play. It’s just execution across the board.”
Opening Statement
“First of all I am very proud of our team with our first road game against a good team and getting a good victory. I am proud of the guys and how they responded to the eleven o’clock kick. We were concerned about getting up and getting off to a fast start and our guys were able to do that. We took a 35-0 lead at halftime and that gave us some breathing room. On offense we were able to run the football. Defensively, what really stood out to me was after we turned the ball over that first drive and they were able to hold them and they missed the field goal. I thought that was a key point in the game. Defense played great again. We’re glad that we have the off week now. I really like the momentum we have now. We talked about getting better each week and we have done that. I think we’re in a good spot. We have a lot of guys that are banged up because it was a very physical game and we were kind of beat up coming into this game. We have some momentum. I am very proud of our players and coaches.”

On how important it was for Kamryn Pettway to step up when Kerryon Johnson went down…
“KJ went down fairly early. Kamryn Pettway had to carry the load. He carried it 39 times against a good run defense. They are one of the best in the conference and one of the best in the country. So I was really happy with the way he carried the load. KJ was unable to come back, so we will see how his ankle is. It is good we have an off week.”

On Sean White finding success…
“He did a great job managing the game again. I think coach Rhett Lashlee did a good job putting him in some good situations too. We are a run-play action team, and when we are able to run the football, it opens up the pass. I think Sean was very efficient throwing the football and made some very timely throws.”
QB – Nick Fitzgerald- So.
On how to handle a loss…
“Losing is never fun. That kind of loss is pretty depressing, but you have your pity party now and get back to work tomorrow.”

On the first half…
“In the first half, we didn’t make plays; we didn’t execute to the best of our ability. Going into halftime, we thought ‘don’t let go of the rope,’ as Coach Mullen would say. Don’t let this get out of hand. Go out on the field with pride in what you do and show it on the field. Whatever happens, happens.

On what Auburn did to succeed…
“They are a good football team, but they didn’t do anything special. It wasn’t anything crazy that we couldn’t handle. We just didn’t execute what we needed to execute.”

LB – Richie Brown – Sr.
On how to respond to this game…
“It’s always a tough one whenever you lose, but you’ve got to stick together as a family. There are going to be good times and bad times when you are a football player; you’ve just got to learn how to get back up and keep fighting.”

On making sure urgency is a priority at the start of the game…
“It’s tough because you go into a week thinking you had a great week, and the urgency’s there. The thing is that you have a lot of young guys, and when they get caught up in the moment of the game, they almost can become a deer in the headlights and it shocks them for a little bit. You can see that, and that’s kind of why we have had some games where we don’t start playing well until the third or fourth quarters. I think the young guys are just getting used to playing in these kinds of games.”

On helping young players develop …
“Unfortunately, sometimes, it takes experience and games. There is only so much you can simulate in a practice or off of the field. There is only so much coaches and players can do to help that situation, but we are going to keep fighting.”

WR – Keith Mixon– Fr.
On the touchdown…
“It was a great play call by Coach Mullen. I just made the play.”

On the message in the locker room after the first half…
“It never feels great being down. Coach Mullen wanted us to give relentless effort and just play Mississippi State Football. He told us ‘Don’t give up; come back out the second half and just keep playing.’”
QB – Sean White – So.
*On taking a large lead…*
“I think we continued that, especially in the first half and got off to a big lead.”

*On his play…*
“I don’t know if it was anything particular. We just did a good job with tackling the holes in certain zones that they were playing. Kyle [Davis] did a really good job taking a couple hits across the middle, and I think all day the receivers did well.”

OL – Austin Golson – Jr.
*On keeping momentum…*
“They’re a really good defense. To be able to move the ball like that against them, it gives us a lot of momentum moving forward.”

*On playing multiple positions…*
“Well, for me I feel really comfortable in both positions. Coach asked me to do it, and I have no problem with doing whatever is best for the team. It’ll be that same way moving forward.”