



MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

Mississippi State at Tennessee

October 12, 2019 | Neyland Stadium | Knoxville, Tenn.

GENERAL

- MSU's game captains were QB **Tommy Stevens**, P/H **Kody Schexnayder**, S **Brian Cole II**, LB **Erroll Thompson** and 73 **Darryl Williams**.
- Tennessee won the toss and elected to defer to its option. MSU received the opening kickoff.
- Today's attendance was 85,462

DEFENSE

- State extended its streak of consecutive games with a takeaway to 22, which leads the FBS.
- With two interceptions in the first half, MSU upped its season takeaway total to 16.
- State now has six interceptions through six games this season and at least one in five of six games.
- The Bulldogs recorded a sack for the 28th straight game.

QB TOMMY STEVENS

- Started the game at quarterback for the fifth time this season.
- Completed 6 of 11 passes for 67 yards against a pair of interceptions and rushed nine times for 26 yards in the first half.

QB GARRETT SHRADER

- Started the second half at quarterback.
- Finished the game 5-of-10 passing for 79 yards and one touchdown against one interception.
- Fired a 17-yard touchdown pass to WR Dedrick Thomas in the fourth quarter for State's first TD of the day.
- The TD pass to WR Dedrick Thomas ended an 8-play, 90-yard scoring drive that lasted 3:37.
- State's first TD drive (90 yards) was its longest of the season in terms of yardage.

C DARRYL WILLIAMS

- Made his 31st career start in MSU's last 32 games.

WR DEDDRICK THOMAS

- Caught his first TD pass of the season and eighth of his career in the fourth quarter.

WR OSIRUS MITCHELL

- Caught each of his three targets in the first quarter for 22 yards and one first down.
- Has multiple receptions in all six games this season and at least one catch in 21 of 28 career games.

WR Stephen Guidry

- Caught two passes for 36 yards, including a 19-yard reception.
- Nine of his 10 receptions this season have converted a first down.

LB ERROLL THOMPSON

- Racked up a season-high 12 tackles, including 1.0 for loss.
- It was the fourth double-digit tackle game of his career.

CB CAMERON DANTZLER



- Collected his second interception of the season and fifth in his career, when he picked off Tennessee quarterback Brian Maurer in the corner of the end zone on the Vols' first possession.

S BRIAN COLE

- Recorded the second interception of his career when he picked off a pass in the end zone in the second quarter.
- It was his first interception since last season at Kentucky on Sept. 22, 2018.
- Tallied 1.0 tackle for loss to push his season total to 6.5.
- Entering today's game, his 5.5 TFLs led the SEC among defensive backs.

DT FABIEN LOVETT

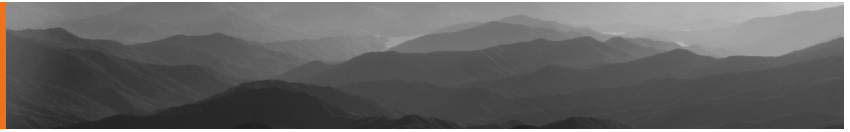
- Logged the first 0.5 tackle for loss of his career.

DT LEE AUTRY

- Registered 1.0 tackle for loss to push his season total to 2.5.

K JACE CHRISTMANN

- Converted a career-long 51-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter to cut Tennessee's lead to 7-3.
- It is the first 50+ yard field goal made by an MSU player since 2002 (53 yards by Brent Smith vs. Tennessee).



Tennessee 20, Mississippi State 10
Oct. 12, 2019 | Knoxville, Tenn. | Neyland Stadium

Mississippi State Postgame Quotes

Head Coach Joe Moorhead

Opening Statement:

"Didn't play well enough in all three phases for all four quarters to have an opportunity to beat an SEC team on the road. I thought we did well on defense for about three and a half quarters, had them pinned back there inside the 10-yard line and then gave up that nine-play, 91-yard drive. I thought we played well throughout the day creating some turnovers, but offensively we couldn't get anything going in the second half. It's my responsibility and I'll get it fixed."

On Garrett Schrader making a case to become the starting quarterback:

"He is. And we'll look at that tomorrow. We went through a week of practice and both of them were a little bit nicked up and Tommy (Stevens) got a little bit healthier and had a good week of practice. After those two first half turnovers we decided to make the change."

On struggling to get the run game going with Kylin Hill:

"We tried to get it going and I think they were doing a good job holding their interior gaps, doing some line movements. We certainly made an effort, but the big thing is we just couldn't find any offensive rhythm. When we're rolling and getting him carries, he's getting four, five, six yards a clip and we're able to continue to use the pass game. The weird thing is we have 20 first downs and converted a decent amount of third downs, but it didn't seem like we ever got in rhythm, particularly in the run game."

On the difference in Mississippi State's offense with Garrett Schrader and Tommy Stevens:

"Tommy had been a guy that had made a lot of plays with his feet throughout his career, but I think Garrett's ability to make plays with his feet by design and improvisation with scrambles."

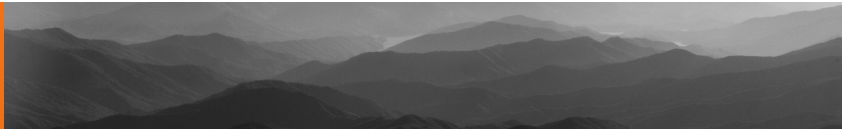
Freshman QB Garrett Schrader

On his ankle injury:

"It was bothering me earlier in the week, but as it got better I felt a little more confident. Ultimately, today is the best I've felt in the past couple weeks. It didn't bother me too much. The strength staff and the training staff did a great job getting me back. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be able to play in the game today. I'm getting better and I'll be ready for next week."

On his interception:

"After the play I got on the phone and coach (Andrew) Breiner said I should have taken the comeback and I made the wrong read and undercut the coverage. It was a bad mistake and it can't happen."



Senior DB Brian Cole II

On Tennessee's third-down conversions:

"A couple of them were coverage busts and a couple of them we just got beat. They're a good team, but we fought though."

On if he feels like the defense made an improvement during the open date:

"Most definitely. I feel like we had a good solid game. I feel like we tried to put the offense in good positions. We can only do so much and then on top of doing so much, we just have to fight and just continue to get better and learn from our mistakes and continue to go hard."

On if he was able to tell that Tennessee was trying to run clock:

"They kept running the same play, to one side, then the boundary, then the other side, then hit us with a pass or something like that. For the most part as a defense, I felt like we played well."