



MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

Mississippi State at Arkansas

November 2, 2019 | Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium | Fayetteville, Ark.

GENERAL

- MSU's game captains were QB **Tommy Stevens**, P/H **Kody Schexnayder**, S **Brian Cole II**, LB **Erroll Thompson** and 73 **Darryl Williams**.
- Arkansas won the toss and elected to defer to its option. MSU received the opening kickoff.
- Today's attendance: 52,256
- MSU's first-time starters: RG **LaQuinston Sharp**; FS **Marcus Murphy**

TEAM

- 640 yards of total offense is a school record for single-game total offensive yards vs. an SEC opponent.
- 460 rushing yards is a school record for single-game rushing yards vs. an SEC opponent.
- MSU has combined to score 106 points against Arkansas in the last two seasons.
- Topped the 600-yard mark of total offense for the third time under **Joe Moorhead** (3-0 in those games) and the first time in an SEC game.
- First time in school history MSU had a running back with 200+ rushing yards (**Kylin Hill**) and another running back with 100+ yards (**Nick Gibson**).
- Third time in school history that State had a player rush for 200+ yards and another player rush for 100+ yards.
- Eclipsed 500+ yards of total offense for the fifth time under **Joe Moorhead** (5-0 in those games).
- First time since the 2017 Egg Bowl that MSU totaled 500+ yards of total offense in an SEC game.
- Rushed for 300+ yards for the fourth time under **Joe Moorhead** (4-0 in those games).
- Scored points on each of its first three offensive drives for the first time this season (TD, TD, FG)
- Scored a touchdown on its first two offensive possessions for the first time since Sept. 7 vs. Southern Miss.
 - 4-yard rush by RB Kylin Hill
 - 33-yard catch by WR **Osirus Mitchell** from QB **Tommy Stevens**
- State's six play, 82-yard, 2:49 touchdown drive on the game-opening drive was the first time since the Southern Miss game that the Bulldogs scored on its first possession of a game.
- Led 14-0 after the first quarter.
- In the first quarter, ran 18 more plays than Arkansas and outgained the Razorbacks 226 yards to 27 yards.
- Won the time of possession battle in the first quarter 12:09 to 2:51.
- State scored first for the 13th time under **Joe Moorhead** and improved to 10-3 when doing so.
- Three different Bulldogs had 25+ yard catches (**Dedrick Thomas**, **Osirus Mitchell**, **Isaiah Zuber**).
- Has a takeaway in 23 of the last 25 games.

RB NICK GIBSON

- Logged a career-high 129 rushing yards on 12 carries after entering the game with 84 rushing yards on the year.

RB KYLIN HILL

- Rushed for a career-high 234 yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries (11.1 yards per carry).
- The 234 rushing yards are the fifth most in a single game in school history.
- Became the 13th different player in school history to rush for 1,000+ yards in a single season.
- Topped the 200-yard rushing mark for the second time in his career (last: 211 at Kansas State in 2018).
- Hill's 200+ yard performance marked MSU's 10th individual 200-yard rushing game in school history.
- Became the third player in school history to rush for 200+ yards in multiple games in a career.
- Racked up 198 rushing yards and three rushing touchdowns on 13 carries in the first half.



- 198 rushing yards in the first half were the most in a half by an MSU player in school history.
- Became the only SEC player with multiple games this season with 100+ yards and 3+ rushing TDs.
- Went over 100 yards rushing for the sixth time this season and ninth time in his career.
- Finished the game with three 30+ yard runs – 62, 58, 37.
- On his first 10 carries, rushed for 134 yards and two touchdowns and averaged 13.4 yards per rush.
- Tied for sixth in MSU single season history for 100-yard rushing games (6).
- Tied for 10th in MSU career history for 100-yard rushing games (9).
- First MSU running back with at least six 100-yard rushing games in a single season
- Took a career-long 62 yard run on MSU's first offensive drive to the Arkansas 3-yard line and then found the end zone on his next carry two plays later.
- Also had a 37-yard run before scoring his second rushing TD of the game four plays later from 2-yards out.
- Logged his seventh rushing TD of the season.
- Has rushed for at least one touchdown in five games this season.
- Became the 16th player in school history to rush for 2,000+ yards in a career.

WR OSIRUS MITCHELL

- His first catch of the game was a 33-yard touchdown.
- Has a team-high five touchdown receptions this season.
- His TD catches have been 31, 28, 35, 21 and 33 yards, respectively.

S MARCUS MURPHY

- Returned his first career interception 32 yards for a TD in the second quarter.

QB TOMMY STEVENS

- Made his sixth start of the season and his first since Oct. 12 at Tennessee.
- Threw multiple TD passes for the third time this season.
- Rushed for a season-high 74 yards on 15 attempts.
- Had three runs of 10+ yards.
- Threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to WR **Osirus Mitchell** in the first quarter.
- Found WR **Dedrick Thomas** for a 17-yard completion in the first quarter.
- Completed passes to nine different Bulldogs on the day.

WR DEDDRICK THOMAS

- Led State in receiving with 59 yards on two receptions.
- Caught a 17-yard pass for a first down in the first quarter.
- His second catch of the day was a season-long 42-yard gain for a first down.



ARKANSAS

FOOTBALL



POSTGAME NOTES: MISSISSIPPI STATE 54, ARKANSAS 24

PREGAME NOTES

- The Razorbacks wore cardinal helmets, cardinal jerseys and white pants, a uniform from Nike that dates back to the 2006-07 seasons. Arkansas has worn it every home game this year.
- Arkansas won the coin toss and deferred to the second half. Mississippi State received the ball to begin the game. Arkansas defended the north end zone.
- Arkansas' captains were seniors McTelvin Agim, Ty Clary, DeJon Harris and T.J. Smith. Agim, Harris & Smith were named permanent captains by head coach Chad Morris and donned a "C" on their left shoulder. It is the second time this season Clary has been named a captain for a game (San Jose State).
- Weather - 54 degrees, sunny, wind NW 10 mph.

GENERAL NOTES

- Saturday marked the 30th meeting between the Razorbacks and Bulldogs. Arkansas is now 16-13-1 all-time against Mississippi State.
- The Razorbacks are now 3-3 vs. the Bulldogs in games played in Fayetteville.
- Arkansas is 62-32-4 on Homecoming.
- The announced attendance for the game: 52,256
- Today's starters: **Offense** - Ben Hicks (QB), Myron Cunningham (LT), Shane Clenin (LG), Ty Clary (C), Ricky Stromberg (RG), Dalton Wagner (RT), Rakeem Boyd (RB), Michael Woods (WR), Treyton Burks (WR), Trey Knox (WR), Grayson Gunter (TE). **Defense** - Mataio Soli (DE), McTelvin Agim (DT), T.J. Smith (DT), Gabe Richardson (DE), DeJon Harris (MIKE), Bumper Pool (WILL), Greg Brooks Jr. (NICK), Montaric Brown (CB), Kamren Curl (SS), Joe Foucha (FS), LaDarrius Bishop (CB).
- DeJon Harris made his 33rd consecutive start, the most on the either side of the ball.
- McTelvin Agim started in his 36th game of his collegiate career, the most by a current Razorback.
- Five freshmen, all true, started today's game for the Razorbacks. A total of 22 freshmen/redshirt played against Mississippi State.

CRIP HALL AWARD

- DeJon Harris was honored with the Crip Hall Homecoming Performance by a Senior Award.
- He finished the game with 12 tackles (5 solo) and 0.5 TFL. It's his fourth double-digit tackle game this year and 19th of his career.
- It is the second consecutive season a defensive player has been voted on as the award winner.
- The award is voted on by the media covering the game and is presented to the senior student-athlete who turned in the top performance of the game.
- It has been recognized every year since 1950 and is named after C.G. "Crip" Hall, who was the Arkansas Secretary of State from 1937-61, and was instrumental in the construction of War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock.

OFFENSIVE NOTES

- Arkansas first touchdown of the game came on a 52-yard rush from Rakeem Boyd with 10:24 remaining in the second quarter.
- It was Boyd's sixth touchdown of the season and Arkansas' ninth rushing score.
- Arkansas recorded 141 yards of total offense in the first half, including 91 rushing yards.
- John Stephen Jones entered the game at quarterback late in the second quarter. He finished the game 4-for-9 for 25 yards and one touchdown..
- Mike Woods hauled in an 11-yard pass from Jones with 4:03 remaining in the third quarter to make it a 45-17 game. It was Woods' third touchdown of the season.
- It was Jones' second TD pass in as many weeks.
- K.J. Jefferson entered the game with 11:30 remaining in the fourth quarter. He finished the game 1-for-2 with 32 yards passing and 26 yards rushing and one rushing touchdown.
- Boyd passed the 100-yard threshold in the fourth quarter for his fourth 100-yard rushing game of the season. He finished with 114 yards on the ground.
- Jefferson ran for a five-yard touchdown with 9:47 remaining in the fourth quarter for his first career score.

DEFENSIVE NOTES

- The Razorbacks posted a three-and-out on the fourth drive of the game, which led to an Arkansas touchdown on the team's ensuing offensive drive. The Razorbacks finished with two three-and-out drives on defense on Saturday.
- DeJon Harris was the first Razorback with double-digit tackles. It marked the fifth consecutive game Arkansas has had at least one player with 10 or more tackles in a game this season. He has four double-digit tackle games this year and 19 over his four-year career.
- McTelvin Agim finished with 1.0 tackles for loss, giving him five-straight games with at least half-a-tackle for loss, pushing his season total to 8.5.
- Bumper Pool also finished with double-digit tackles at a team-leading 13. It is the second game this season Arkansas had multiple players with 10 or more stops.

SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES

- Connor Limpert connected on a 40-yd field goal with 5:00 remaining in the second quarter. It was his 12th made field goal this year and sixth from 40+ yards.
- The field goal came after Mississippi State muffed a punt, which was recovered by long snapper Jordan Silver. It was his first career fumble recovery.

PLAYER NOTES

QB John Stephen Jones

- Played the second and third quarters, completing 4-for-9 through the air for 25 yards and one touchdown.
- It's his second-straight week with a touchdown pass as he connected with Mike Woods in the third quarter to pull Arkansas within 45-17.

QB KJ Jefferson

- Made his first career appearance in the fourth quarter, completing one pass for 32 yards and rushing for one touchdown (5 yards).
- He's the first Razorback quarterback to rush for a touchdown this year.

LB De'Jon Harris

- Finished the game with 12 tackles (five solo), good for second-most on the team. It's his 19th career double-digit tackle game and fourth this year.
- The four double-digit tackle games this year is tied for first in the SEC with Missouri's Nick Bolton.
- Now has 345 tackles in his career, which passes Rickey Williams (343 - 1984-87) for 8th all-time in school history.
- Earned a 0.5 TFL on Mississippi State's first drive of the game, giving him 3.5 TFL for the season, fifth-most on the team.
- Fifth game this year with at least 0.5 TFL; Fourth player on team with 0.5 TFL or more in at least five games this year.

LB Bumper Pool

- Led the team with a career-high 13 tackles, his fourth game this year with nine or more and second with 10 or more.
- Previous high was 10 at Kentucky (10/12/19).
- Saturday's performance against Mississippi State marked his second double-digit tackle game this year and second of his career.
- One of three active Razorbacks with multiple double-digit tackle games in a career (J. Foucha, D. Harris).
- Also had 1.5 tackles for loss, tying a career high set at Kentucky (10/12/19).
- Has at least 0.5 TFL in four of last five games.

RB Rakeem Boyd

- Picked up 80 yards on six carries in the first half, including a touchdown. Finished the game with 114 yards and one touchdown.
- It's his seventh 100-yard rushing game of his career and fourth this season.
- It's also ties for his third-most yards in a game this year (114 vs. Portland St. - 8/31/19).
- He's the first Razorback with a 100-yard rushing game against Mississippi State since Rawleigh Williams III put up 205 yards on 16 carries in 2016.
- The touchdown was a 52-yard score in the second quarter, his sixth rush of 20 yards or more this season.
- Has three scoring runs of 50+ yards this year (Colorado St., Kentucky, Mississippi St.),
- Now has six touchdowns this year, tying for fifth among SEC rushers.
- First Razorback running back since David Williams and Devwah Whaley in 2017 to have six or more rushing touchdowns in a season.

DE McTelvin Agim

- Had a season-high seven tackles in the game, two solo, with 1.0 tackles for loss.
- Has at least 1.0 TFL in five-straight games dating back to Texas A&M (9/28/19) and it's his seventh game overall with 1.0+ TFL.
- Now has 31.5 tackles for loss in his career, needing just 1.5 tackles for loss to crack into the Arkansas career top-10 for TFL.

K Connor Limpert

- 1-for-1 FG - 40 yds
- Is just five field goals away from tying for 6th in career field goals made at Arkansas; Currently has 39 in his career.
- It's his sixth field goal of 40+ yards this year and first since hitting a 44-yarder at Kentucky (10/12/19).
- Has at least one made FG in 19 of his last 20 games and has made at least one FG in every game that he's had a FG attempt, standing at 26 games over the 2017-19 seasons.
- He has made 72 PATs straight, dating back to Oct. 21, 2017. He is now 84/85 over his career.

WR Tyson Morris

- Led the team with two catches for 18 yards. It's his third multi-catch performance this year (San Jose State - 9/21; Texas A&M - 9/28).

WR Treyton Burks

- Hauled in only one catch for 32 yards, but it was his eighth-straight game with at least one reception.
- He's caught at least one pass in every game he's played in this year and now has 20 receptions this season for 320 yards.
- Totaled 134 return yards on five kickoffs in the game. It's the most kickoff return yards in a game for a Razorback since De'Vion Warren totaled 141 against Ole Miss on Oct. 28, 2017.

WR Mike Woods

- Caught his third touchdown pass of the season and fourth of his career late in the third quarter.
- Now tied for the team lead in touchdown receptions (Cheyenne O'Grady).
- His touchdown catch came on fourth down, marking the second 4th-down conversion by Arkansas this year and first for a touchdown.

FS Joe Foucha

- Pulled in nine tackles in the game, third-most on the team.
- It's his third most tackles in a game this year and fourth-straight with eight or more.

DL T.J. Smith

- Finished the game with three tackles, including one solo stop, and 0.5 TFL.
- The three tackles ties his season high and he's totaled at least 0.5 TFL in four of the last five games.
- Now has 13.0 TFL in his four-year career.



ARKANSAS

FOOTBALL



MISSISSIPPI STATE vs ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | FAYETTEVILLE, AR

POSTGAME QUOTES: MISSISSIPPI STATE HC JOE MOORHEAD

JOE MOORHEAD

On scoring 14 in the first quarter...

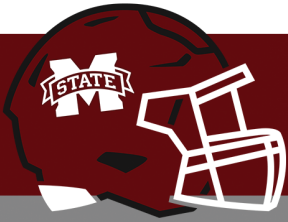
"It was good. It had been since the third or second week since we had hit that, but it didn't show up because it was a scramble. The first play of the game it was a post option route to Harris but he ran into the safety. So, we tried to take a shot down field, but ended up running it well and converting some third downs. We were able to put the ball into the endzone. It's a lot easier when you're not digging yourself in a hole."

On starting Tommy Stevens...

"I know Tommy like a son. When we made the decision it hurt him, but it was the best interest for the offense and team that we needed to move ahead with Garrett. But to his credit he came in, he didn't pout, didn't complain, didn't put his head down, didn't ask why. He kept working. The past two weeks, he's been healthier. Always nice to see one of the good guys get rewarded. Tommy Stevens is one of the good guys in college football."

On ending the losing streak...

"I guess at a certain respect it is, but in this conference or in football in general, wins are so hard to come by. We try to put the losses behind us and move ahead to the next game. I guess in a general sense it is, but also proud that our kids maintained focus."



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MISSISSIPPI STATE vs ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | FAYETTEVILLE, AR

POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS HC CHAD MORRIS & PLAYERS

CHAD MORRIS

On the quarterback play...

"I think when you look at Treyton Burks, how many all-purpose yards he had and opportunities to try and get him the football as much as we possibly can. I do think, as I have said before, that the inconsistency at the quarterback position has not benefitted us."

On the defense's performance...

"Very disappointed. We knew they were a run first football team. They lead the league in rushing. It was evident that we could not stop the run today. Very disappointed in that."

On K.J. Jefferson...

"I don't have any regrets of not playing him early in the season. I thought he played well today. We kept it as simple as possible with him. He did a really good job, he led us down the field. He had a good run and scored a touchdown. It was pretty impressive for your first drive."

On falling behind early...

"When you get put behind that quick, it is difficult. I thought they owned the time of possession in the first half and, for the most part, the entire game. I think that we had the ball two series and you are down. It is tough when you are falling behind, and you are trying to create some kind of momentum. That is hard to do."

On John Stephen Jones...

"He has grit and toughness. I think that he settled in and did a really good job on that fourth down throw. I'm really proud of him."

LINEBACKER DE'JON HARRIS

On Mississippi State's offense...

"I don't think we showed up today. I don't know what's going on. I just have to watch the film for myself. We were in the right positions on time, we just didn't make tackles. We just didn't execute the game plan really. They [Mississippi St.] did the same thing we practiced for, we just didn't make the plays or just make the tackles period. I just felt like overall the defense, we just tackled poorly. It's probably one of the worst tackling games we've had. We've been poor basically all year really."

On K.J. Jefferson in practice...

"He's been giving us a great look all year basically. He's just a dual threat quarterback that can do it both. Just going against him at scout team betters us and just prepares us for upcoming opponents. He showed flashes here and there. We never got to check and see his speed during practice. We were just as excited as the fans to see him. I told him before he went in to tune out the crowd because everyone is going to cheer for you, just settle down after your first drive and do what you do."

On tackling in the SEC...

"It's the SEC. It's a hard, physical conference. I feel like Coach Chavis did a pretty good job in the beginning of the week, we did a lot of tackling, we just didn't make tackles today."

On the team's morale...

"The same way we do every week. We come in every Sunday with our heads up and just put it away after we finish, and just try to make the best corrections and get everybody to understand what they're doing within the game-plan."

DEFENSIVE TACKLE McTELVIN AGIM

On Mississippi State's rushing ability...

"They were basically out-showing us. We weren't tackling well. We weren't setting the edge well, so they basically just took advantage of it. He's [Hill] just a good running back. There's a reason why he's leading the league in rushing."

On keeping the team intact the rest of the year...

"We have 3 games left. A bowl game is out of contention now, but we still have 3 games left. We can't just go out there and lay down. We have to actually play, and basically just build for next year."

On losing C.J. O'Grady and Colton Jackson...

"It was tough to lose both of those guys in the same week. We just have to keep pounding and keep going. Life goes on, it's hard to say it and it's hard to keep pushing forward but we can't stop. This train has to keep going."

On the team morale...

"In the locker room we felt very energized. The game just started and things just weren't going our way. We've had energy against everybody."

WIDE RECEIVER MIKE WOODS

On what he saw from K.J. Jefferson and John Stephen Jones..

"I thought they came in and played great for us. They both provided a spark."

On K.J. Jefferson's performance and how he looked in practice...

"I think he did great. He came in and did what he could. We drove right down the field when he got in. I thought he took advantage of his opportunity. He has looked great in practice. He looked good out there today; the same way he has been looking in practice."

On bouncing back...

"You got to have amnesia, forget about it. The past is the past. We can't do anything about what just happened. Only thing we can do is come back and have a good practice tomorrow."

On how the team finishes this year...

"We got to do our best to keep the young guys up and do our best by leading by example. Come in and work hard every day."

RUNNING BACK RAKEEM BOYD

On K.J. Jefferson & John Stephen Jones...

"They gave us big spark when they got in there. The holes opened more because they are running quarterbacks. They open up the holes a lot more for me."

On Jefferson in practice...

"I knew he was a good quarterback. He had to wait his time, wait his turn. We will see how he is in the future, but I know he is a good quarterback."

On Jones...

"What we saw against Alabama. He passed the ball well. I was pretty shocked with the pass he made to (Mike) Woods. He's a player. He's a state champ. He can play ball like that."

On falling behind early...

"Like I said, it's about pride. It's about effort. You got to finish. We fell behind early. We tried to get back up, but we got to keep fighting."