



MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

Mississippi State vs. #5/4/4 Alabama

November 16, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium | Starkville, Miss.

GENERAL

- MSU's game captains were QB **Tommy Stevens**, P/H **Kody Schexnayder**, S **Brian Cole II**, LB **Erroll Thompson** and 73 **Darryl Williams**.
- MSU won the toss and elected to defer to its option. Alabama received the opening kickoff.
- Today's attendance: 57,607
- MSU's first-time starters: None

TE FARROD GREEN

- Had a 30-yard catch in the third quarter for his second reception of 30+ yards this season.

RB KYLIN HILL

- First SEC player this season to record 1,000+ rushing yards and 10+ touchdowns.
- Scored a rushing touchdown for the third straight game.
- Has a rushing touchdown in six different games this season.
- First Bulldog running back with at least 10 rushing TDs in a season since Josh Robinson in 2014.

DT NATHAN PICKERING

- Recorded one half sack in the first quarter to give him 1.5 on the season.

DE MARQUISS SPENCER

- Matched his career-high in tackles for loss with 1.5 in the first half.

QB TOMMY STEVENS

- Rushed for a season-high 96 yards on 10 attempts.
- Fell just shy of his second 100-yard rushing game of his career when he recorded 113 yards on 11/25/17 at Maryland while playing at Penn State.
- Recorded a career-long 46-yard run on the opening drive of the second half.
- 46-yard run marked his longest since a 45-yard run on 11/5/2016 against Iowa while playing at Penn State.
- Also had a 27-yard run in the first quarter.

LB ERROLL THOMPSON

- Led the team with nine tackles.
- Record one half sack in the first quarter.
- Tallied 1.0 tackle for loss for the second game this season.

CB TYLER WILLIAMS

- Registered a career-high eight tackles and forced his first career fumble.

C DARRYL WILLIAMS

- Made his 35th career start on the offensive line.
- Has started 35 of State's last 36 games.

**POSTGAME NOTES – 5/4/4 ALABAMA AT MISSISSIPPI STATE
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 2019 • DAVIS WADE STADIUM AT SCOTT FIELD • STARKVILLE, MISS.**

NOTES

GAME CAPTAINS: Alabama's captains for today's game at Mississippi State were senior defensive lineman Raekwon Davis, junior wide receiver DeVonta Smith and junior quarterback Tua Tagovailoa.

138-7 UNDER SABAN WHEN LEADING AT THE HALF: Under head coach Nick Saban, the Crimson Tide is 138-7 (.952) when leading at the half. Alabama has held the lead in 55 of its last 69 games dating back to the start of the 2015 season. Alabama is also 122-4 (.968) when leading by seven or more points at the break during the Saban era.

SABAN IN SEC ROAD GAMES: Head coach Nick Saban owns a 56-15 (.789) mark in SEC road games across his time at LSU and Alabama, including a 44-7 (.863) mark with the Crimson Tide. Saban has notched eight perfect SEC road seasons (2003, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2018).

UNRANKED, NO PROBLEM UNDER SABAN: With its 38-7 win at Mississippi State, Alabama has defeated 90 consecutive unranked teams under head coach Nick Saban, the longest streak in FBS history. The current streak began with a win over Colorado on December 30, 2007 in the Independence Bowl. The previous record was 72 games, shared by Miami (Fla.) (1984-95) and Florida (1989-2000). Under Saban, Alabama holds a 94-3 (.970) (90-3, .968 after vacations) mark against unranked opponents.

DEFENSE

10 POINTS OR LESS: Alabama's 38-7 win at Mississippi State marked the 90th time under head coach Nick Saban that the Crimson Tide has held opponents to 10 points or less and the 34th time in the last 69 games dating to the start of the 2015 season.

TURNOVERS, TURNOVERS, TURNOVERS: With freshman Shane Lee's interception in the first quarter against Mississippi State, the Crimson Tide has now forced at least one turnover in 64 of its last 69 contests dating back to the start of the 2015 season. During the current run, the Crimson Tide has forced 113 turnovers (74 interceptions, 39 fumbles) and returned 24 of those miscues for touchdowns.

POINTS OFF TURNOVERS: Alabama has caused at least one turnover in nine of games this season with nine fumble recoveries and 11 interceptions. The Crimson Tide is outscoring opponents, 86-31, in points off turnovers (Sept. 7 vs. New Mexico State – 17; Sept. 14 at South Carolina – 10; Sept. 21 vs. Southern Miss – 14; Oct. 26 vs. Arkansas – 24; Nov. 16 at Mississippi State – 7).

HOLDING OPPONENTS UNDER 300: The Crimson Tide defense held Mississippi State to 270 yards of total offense in Alabama's 38-7 victory over the Bulldogs, marking the 111th time in 177 games (62.7 percent) under head coach Nick Saban that the Tide has held an opponent to less than 300 yards of total offense. The Tide has held 23 of its last 39 opponents below 300 yards, dating back to the start of the 2017 campaign.

OFFENSE

OPENING DRIVE TOUCHDOWNS: Junior running back Najee Harris found the endzone on the opening possession at Mississippi State. With that score, Alabama extended its streak to 33 straight wins when scoring a touchdown on its first offensive possession of a game. The Tide's last loss after finding the end zone on its first drive was to the Oklahoma Sooners in the 2014 Allstate Sugar Bowl.

SCORING STREAK CONTINUES: Alabama extended its school record for consecutive games with a score to 252 thanks to junior running back Najee Harris' 10-yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter at

Mississippi State. The Crimson Tide was last held off the scoreboard in a 9-0 loss to Auburn on Nov. 18, 2000. Alabama has a 196-54 (.784) record over the course of the current streak.

FIRST IN UA HISTORY: In today's contest at Mississippi State, junior running back Najee Harris became the first Alabama player to score three touchdowns in the first quarter of a single game. Two of his scores came by way of the rush while the other was a 19-yard reception.

HARRIS SETS SINGLE-SEASON RECORD: Junior running back Najee Harris recorded his sixth receiving touchdown of the season in today's game at Mississippi State. That mark set the Alabama single-season record for receiving touchdowns by a running back.

IN GOOD COMPANY: With his rushing and receiving touchdowns in today's game at Mississippi State and last weekend's matchup versus LSU (Nov. 9), junior running back Najee Harris became the first UA player since Mark Ingram in 2009 to record rushing and receiving scores in back-to-back games.

250-PLUS AT HALF: For the sixth time in his career, junior quarterback Tua Tagovailoa accounted for 250 or more passing yards with his 256 passing yard performance in the first half at Mississippi State. This season he has accounted for 286 passing yards in the first half at South Carolina (Sept. 14), 301 against Ole Miss (Sept. 28) and 256 in Starkville. His career high for first half passing yards is 334 at Arkansas in 2018, going 10-of-12 with four touchdowns against the Hogs.

– UA –

Mississippi State vs. Alabama

Mississippi State Head Coach Joe Moorhead

November 16, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium

Opening Statement

"Yeah, we had a good week of practice. We knew against a team of Alabama's caliber we were going to have to come in and play a clean game and execute well. We had a few things go our way. Certainly, spotting them a 14-0 lead within the first few minutes didn't help. I thought our kids played hard and competed until the last whistle, but at the end of the day, we didn't coach or play well enough to beat a team like Alabama."

Q: Was the opening kickoff a mishit?

JM: "The game plan with how we've been kicking and not getting touchbacks or kicking in particularly deep and wanting to keep it out of their guys hands. The idea was to sky kick. The first one in the second half where they caught it off the 30 [yard line] was a mishit on his part."

Q: You went with Tommy [Stevens] today. Is he going to be QB1 now?

JM: "Yeah, he's QB1. Garrett [Shrader] is getting over some of the stuff he had health-wise. Tommy [Stevens] had a better week at practice. I thought he ran the ball well, and right now, he's executing his pass game a little bit better. I thought he ran the ball well and completed it decently. We weren't able to push it down the field very much. Tommy is continuing to move forward, and Garrett's continuing to work once we get an opportunity to get him in there."

Q: Any update on Kylin [Hill] or C.J. [Morgan] or any of the other guys who left injured today?

JM: "Kylin is an upper body. We're optimistic there, but that will be day-to-day. Unfortunately, CJ is lower body, and he'll be out for the rest of the year."

Q: You mentioned Tommy [Stevens] running the ball well but not necessarily the completions. A couple of the deep shots that didn't connect; was it more of what Alabama was doing?

JM: "I think it's a combination of things. With the shots that we took down field, one to Osirus [Mitchell], one to [Stephen] Guidry, and a couple throughout the game, they covered them up. We didn't complete it. We knew we were going to have to make an attempt on some explosive plays down the field. Quite frankly, there were a bunch of other ones that we had called where they melted out and got underneath the deeper route. Those were some of the check downs you saw to Kylin [Hill], Dedrick [Thomas] and Nick [Gibson] and Lee [Witherspoon]. There were some other things designed to get the ball down the field. Based on the covers and how they were playing, we had to dump it down."

Q: The top three teams in the division, Auburn, LSU, Alabama, was pretty competitive. You even beat Auburn last year. This year the margin has been a lot wider this year. What do you

think has contributed to that margin? Is it them being that much better or have you all taken a step back?

JM: "I don't necessarily say a step back. I'd say it's a combination of things. We'll continue to look at them and get better."

Q: With two games left, you still have a chance of a bowl game. Is there some confidence that you still have what you want in front of you?

JM: "We have confidence every week. We went into this game with confidence. Obviously, the kids are down. They should be. Never going to be pleased with a loss, but we're going to come in tomorrow and watch film. We'll get better off of it. We're going to reload and get ready for Abilene Christian. We'll be 1-0 next week and get up to five [wins]."

Q: How do you begin to narrow the gap with the front runners in the Southeastern Conference?

JM: "That was an easy question. It's a bunch of things. It's recruiting. It's player development. It's coaching. It's execution. There's a lot of things that we have to do from an entire program standpoint to cut that gap on and off the field. That's what we're working towards every day to bridge that gap."

Q: With Tua [Tagovailoa] going down, that's a pretty unique thing happening. One of the best players in college football. To see that and to see Mississippi State fans rally around it and support him, what was that like for you to see the way he went off?

JM: "You hate it for any kid to get hurt. He's such a great player and a great representative of college football. They're having a very good year. You don't want it to happen. I feel for him, and I'm sure he'll be able to bounce back quickly."

Mississippi State vs. Alabama
Mississippi State Student-Athlete Quotes
November 16, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium

Offensive Student-Athletes

OL Darryl Williams

Q: What are your thoughts on the game today?

DW: "[Alabama] had a great game plan going in. We had a great game plan as well. We had to execute the way we should have to make big plays and score points. Credit to them."

Q: What's the mood right now between the team to get those six game wins?

DW: "Like Coach [Moorhead] said in the locker room, [we have to] go out there and compete. We have got a lot to play for in the season. We get two more games and two more opportunities to get bowl eligible. That's something that this team is trying to do. That's something that we continue to work on in practice is to get bowl eligible and compete for another game."

How frustrating is it to not be able to put everything together?

DW: "It is frustrating, but like I said, I think we didn't execute well enough to make those big-time plays in the pass game. We only ran the run game a little bit. I still think we have to be a balanced offense to beat teams of that caliber. I give credit to Alabama. They had an excellent game plan going in. Credit to those guys."

QB Tommy Stevens

Q: Numbers won't show it, but how close do you feel you are to making big plays and putting big numbers up?

TS: "Obviously, we have got to watch tape tomorrow and we'll fully be ready to see how close we were but like I said, numbers won't show it. I felt like we had a few plays that we were able to be explosive and have some success. We just had missed opportunities. We're going to come in tomorrow, grade it, get better from it and move on."

Q: You've played some really good teams in your career. Where does this Alabama team compare to the teams you've played in the Big Ten?

TS: "I think it's hard to judge right away. Obviously, it's fresh on my mind [compared to] thinking about some of the teams I played against at Penn State. But Alabama is a very good football team. They do things the right way. They don't beat themselves. I'm not telling anybody anything that they don't know. They are a good football team that has had a lot of success."

Q: Did being healthy have an effect on you rushing more in the game?

TS: "It definitely helps. I think successfully is the best way to put it. I always try to think about how it was never a case of 'I don't want the football.' Health does have something to do with it. Success would have to do with me being healthy."

Defensive Student-Athletes

DT Jaden Crumedy

Q: How do you feel the defensive line played today?

JC: "I feel like we played good today, and we went up against some good players. We really just wanted to give it our all and make good plays."

Q: Is there anything positive that you can take from the game today?

JC: "To me, I feel like we did a great job. We played like we can play, and we will keep playing like that."

Q: What was the feeling when some of your teammates were carted off the field?

JC: "It was really a bad feeling. We have to step up for our teammates and play better."

LB Erroll Thompson

Q: Is there still come confidence that you can be bowl eligible?

ET: "Yes, sir. There's still a lot of confidence knowing that we kind of control our destiny. With winning six games, we just have to win out. It's a big task ahead, but I feel like I have confidence in this coaching staff and my teammates as well."

Q: Is it the pressure or the drive to get it done that will lead you to win out?

ET: "I feel like it's a little of both. Pressure, in the sense that we have time to wait. But drive, because you know what you have to do to get there, so a little of both."

Q: How do you feel moving forward?

ET: "I feel confident. These next two, it is what it is. We have to get these two to make a bowl game. I feel like it's a little more pressure here and a little drive, as you said earlier, but I feel confident."

Mississippi State vs. Alabama
Alabama Postgame Quotes
November 16, 2019 | Davis Wade Stadium

Head Coach Nick Saban

Opening Statement

"I was really pleased with the way our team came out and played, especially in the first half. We really wanted to sort of reestablish who we are as a team and go out there and play with great effort, toughness and discipline. We wanted to execute and do our jobs well and be relentless in the way we competed in the game. I thought we did that on both sides of the ball. Obviously, we had some poor judgements and poor decisions in terms of penalties. That created some situations that we had to overcome. In some cases we did. I was really proud of the way our guys competed in the game.

"I know everyone is most interested in Tua's [Tagovailoa] situation. We know he has a hip injury that is going to be evaluated. I do not think it is related to any other injury he has. It is kind of a freak thing that you seldom see. I don't really have anything else to say about that. We will go from there. Raekwon [Davis] has a sprained ankle. DJ Dale has a twisted knee or whatever. A couple other guys are beat up. [Henry] Ruggs [III] came out with a bruised rib. We will see where that takes us. That is about it from the injury standpoint.

"I was really pleased with how our guys prepared all week and came out and played in the game."

Q: What went into making the game time decision on Tua [Tugovailoa]?

NS: "We felt like if he could move in pre-game, which we took him out before pregame before the team ever went out and worked him out. He was good. He was at least as good as he was a week ago, in terms of his ability to move. I do not think anything he did affected his performance in this game in the first half. So, the guy played, and the guy played really well. We hated that we got injured. We hate it for him. We hate it for his family. We hate if any player on our team gets injured. So, godspeed to him and his entire family. Our thoughts and prayers are with him that this is not so serious that it has a long term effect on his future as a player. I really do not know the severity of what he has. We are going to take him to Birmingham, so CAT scans and MRIs [can be done] and find out [what the severity is]. We can second guess ourselves all we want. We told Mac [Jones] to warm up two minutes before the half. Tua wanted to play in the game. I don't really make a lot of decisions based on worrying about guys getting hurt or I would have taken Raekwon [Davis] out and Henry] Ruggs [III] out and everybody else that got hurt out. We have total confidence in Mac. I thought Mac did a good job when he went in the game."

Q: What is the value in putting Mac [Jones] in at the two-minute?

NS: "Look, the way I look at this whole thing is Tua [Tugovailoa] is our number one quarterback. If he is physically able to play, we want to play him in the game. That is what he wanted to do. That is what our team wanted to do. If I would have known if anything bad was going to happen I certainly would not have put him in that situation. We are a team. We are a team that is trying to get better in the long term and the long run to see if we can finish the season the way we want. I hated that the guy got hurt."

Q: How do you coach the players to still be aggressive but not have personal fouls?

NS: "Well, you know, it is the same old stuff. We had a couple of those today. You want guys to play with great emotion but you don't want them to be emotional and make bad decisions. We need to do a better job of that. The penalties have been a problem and it is very disappointing to me that we cannot make better decisions about when the whistle blows to stop playing. So, we will just keep working on it. Obviously, we are emphasizing it. I do not think people want to get a penalty, I just think people have to make better decisions about what do so they do not get a penalty.

Q: Why is the offense not fazed when faced with third-and-long situations?

NS: That has been something we have done a good job of all year long. We don't really want to create those situations, especially in this game because we felt like their MO is trying to give you negative plays. Then they have a pretty exotic third down package of a lot of odd different pressures. We were trying to avoid those situations today. I know we overcame some. Some of them were caused by penalties and things of that nature. We need to do a better job of keeping ourselves out of those situation."

RB Najee Harris

Q: The coaches are very impressed with the way you've been playing the last couple of weeks, how do you feel?

NH: "We'll see in film. I'm doing alright. I have a lot of stuff to work on still. I made a couple of mistakes out there."

Q: With a four-touchdown performance, do you not get to feel good about yourself?

NH: "I'm just hurt about our quarterback [Tua Tagovailoa]. I'm not in the mood to answer questions to be honest, so that is why I'm giving short answers. I'm not trying to be rude to anybody, I'm just not in the mood right now really."

Q: What does that say about what [Tua Tagovailoa] means to this team as a player?

NH: "He means a lot to the team. That's our guy. I came here the same time that he did. We've been friends ever since my freshman year and to see him go down like that really hurts."

Q: A lot of people got injured today. Was this a particularly hard-hitting game?

NH: "No, it's just the wear and tear of the season. It's about that time where people go down with injuries and stuff."

Q: Do you feel like you're seeing the hole better this year? Have you worked on your jump cut or anything? You just seem like you're performing on a really high level.

NH: "It's just more opportunities to see how fast the game is and see things. It's more comfortable."

DB Xavier McKinney

Q: How did you all push through the game?

XM: "I'm just trying to keep going no matter who goes down and no matter what happens. We're just trying to focus on that. I thought during halftime we were just trying to sharpen up what we were already doing and trying to get better with that."

Q: Coming off of last week, what was the focus this week?

XM: "Just do your job. That's kind of the focus all the time; just to do our job. I feel like a lot of the times we have got to have everybody doing their job. If everybody does that, we'll be able to execute well."

Q: What did you see on Shane [Lee]'s interception on their first play of the game?

XM: "I didn't even really see it, but I know he picked it. I saw he got tackled by the quarterback out there, and I was kind of on him for that because he should have scored. That was a big play in the game. It was early. I feel like that was good for us."