



POSTGAME NOTES

GAME 12 • #18 MISSISSIPPI STATE (8-4, 4-4 SEC) AT OLE MISS (5-7, 1-7 SEC) • NOV. 22, 2018 • VAUGHT-HEMINGWAY STADIUM

TEAM NOTABLES

- Senior defensive end Gerri Green and senior quarterback Nick Fitzgerald served as captains. Ole Miss won the toss and elected to receive.
- Coach Joe Moorhead becomes the first Bulldog head coach to win at least eight games in his first season at the helm since Allyn McKeen in 1938.
- Mississippi State's senior class has now won 32 total games, which is good for fifth place in MSU history.
- With tonight's win, MSU improves to 45-64-6 in the all-time series history. The visiting team has now won the last four meetings.
- First-year MSU head coaches are now 11-18-1 versus Ole Miss.

OFFENSE

- MSU has out-scored opponents 185-71 in the first half this season.
- State rushed for 309 yards on the ground Thursday, including 122 yards in the first quarter alone. It is the eighth time this season that MSU has eclipsed the 200-yard rushing mark. MSU has rushed for 200 or more yards as a team 25 times since the start of the 2016 season and it has eclipsed 250 rushing yards in 18 of its last 32 games.
- With 420 yards of total offense, Mississippi State has logged 400+ yards of total offense seven times this season.
- The Bulldogs are now 8-0 this season when logging 300+ yards of offense and 7-0 when the Bulldogs score 24+ points.

DEFENSE

- MSU held its opponents to less than 14 points for the ninth time this season.
- Holding the Rebels to 37 yards on the ground, MSU has kept opponents under 100 yards rushing in six games this season. It has won all six of those contests.
- MSU totaled 11 tackles for loss to bring its season total to 96, which is now just two TFL away from the program's single-season record. MSU has recorded at least seven TFL in nine games this season.
- With Jeffery Simmons' forced fumble and Willie Gay Jr.'s recovery during the first quarter, Mississippi State's defense has recorded at least one turnover in 15-straight games.
- State has recorded an interception in 11 of its 12 games this season with Johnathan Abram's third-quarter interception.

PLAYER NOTABLES

QB NICK FITZGERALD

- Racked up 228 yards of total offense and accounted for three touchdowns with one passing and two through the air.
- For the 20th time in his career, Fitzgerald rushed for over 100 yards in a game, closing the game with 117 yards rushing for two touchdowns. He tied Carnell Williams (Auburn, 2001-04) for fourth in SEC history in career rushing touchdowns (45).
- Eclipsed 1,000 yards rushing for the season, closing the regular season with 1,018 yards on the ground.

RB KYLIN HILL

- Totaled 108 yards on the ground with a touchdown to record his third 100-yard rushing game of his career and the season.
- Scored MSU's first touchdown of the game with a 6-yard run with 5:02 remaining in the first quarter. It was his fourth rushing touchdown of the season and his first since on the road at Kansas State (9/8).

WR DEDRICK THOMAS

- Reeled in a 9-yard touchdown pass with 25 seconds remaining in the second quarter to push MSU's lead to 21-3. It was his second touchdown of the season and the seventh of his career.

DE MONTEZ SWEAT

- Recorded 1.5 to bring his season total to 11.0, which ranks seventh in MSU single-season history. He has recorded 21.5 sacks over his Bulldog career.

S JOHNATHAN ABRAM

- Recorded four tackles, two pass break-ups and recorded his second interception of the season.

DT JEFFERY SIMMONS

- Forced his first fumble of the season during the first quarter, setting up an MSU touchdown drive.

DE GERRI GREEN

- Recorded three tackles, including two tackles for loss to tie his career high.

CB MAURICE SMITHERMAN

- Made an athletic play in the end zone to prevent an Ole Miss score and record his first interception of his season and his first pick since his freshman season in 2016.

LB WILLIE GAY JR.

- Recovered his first fumble of the season during the first quarter, which set up an MSU's touchdown drive.