



Mississippi State University

FOOTBALL

Mississippi State vs. Kentucky
Saturday October 31, 2009
Commonwealth Stadium
Lexington, Ky.

ATTENDANCE : 67,953

TEAM

- Mississippi State captains were Brandon McRae, Tyson Lee, Jamar Chaney and Charles Burns.
- Mississippi State improved to 16-21 all time against Kentucky
- MSU is now 6-13 against Kentucky in Lexington
- Mississippi State finished with a season high 493 total yards, the most since gaining 501 against Arkansas in 2007.
- Mississippi State finished with 348 team rushing yards, a season high and the most since rushing for 351 against Florida in 2000.
- Mississippi State has won two SEC road games for the first time since doing so in 1999.

INDIVIDUAL

- Derek DePasquale's first-quarter 33-yard field goal was his fifth-straight made field goal. DePasquale is now 7-8 for the season with his lone miss coming from 51 yards out.
- Anthony Dixon rushed for 252 yards on 33 carries which was his sixth 100-yard rushing game this season.
- Dixon's 252 yards marked his first career 200-yard game.
- Dixon's 33 carries was a career high
- Dixon's 252 rushing yards was a career high.
- Dixon's 252 rushing yards ranks as the 15th best mark in SEC history for single game rushing yardage.
- O'Neal Wilder's 67 yard TD reception was his first career touchdown reception.
- Tyson Lee's 67-yard touchdown pass to Wilder was the second longest touchdown pass this season for State. It was also the second longest reception this season for the Bulldogs.
- Jamar Chaney had 15 tackles on the night, a career high. Chaney also finished with an interception, half a sack and a fumble recovery.

CAREER UPDATES

- With 252 rushing yards on the day, Anthony Dixon extends his Mississippi State rushing record to 3,604 career rushing yards. Dixon is also MSU's career leader in rushing attempts and 100+ yard rushing games. That mark also moves him into 11th all time in SEC history.
- Dixon now has 15 100+ yard rushing games in his career.
- With two rushing touchdowns on the evening, Anthony Dixon moved within one of ninth place in the SEC record books with 39 career rushing touchdowns.
- Dixon now has 42 career touchdowns which propelled him to a tie for eighth in SEC history for career total touchdowns.
- With 33 rushing attempts today, Anthony Dixon moves within 20 carries of fifth place in SEC history with 835 career rushing attempts.

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Post-Game Quotes

Mississippi State Head Coach Dan Mullen

Opening statement...

"I'm real proud of our guys. It's great to come up here and say that on the other end of it. We came in and fell behind in the first half but kept telling our guys to keep battling; good things are going to happen to you. They continued to battle, they continued to fight and in the end of today they came out on top. I think it was a real big step for this team, our seniors; they're fighting back and have been battling all year. We've come up on some close games and we're really proud and happy for them to win this. It's great for the young kids of our program to see this also. We built a foundation on relentless effort and I think the guys were rewarded today and could see that if you play to that final second, you come out on top."

On the play of Anthony Dixon...

"He had an unbelievable game. He set the school record, 252 yards; we needed every single one of those. He really came up big when [Arnii] Stallworth was down with the injury and kept getting dinged up. [Christian] Ducre getting a little more hurt also. But when those two went down we were kind of limited and we've built so much up on those senior tailbacks, Anthony really stepped up and made a bunch of plays."

On freshman quarterback Tyson Lee's performance...

"Tyson did a great job. He's given us everything he has. He continues to battle and try to improve himself. That's the things for us, I know he gets frustrated at times but the key is for him to not get frustrated and to want to learn and for us to continue to coach him. When you do that, good things are going to happen. You see the improvement. I think he did a decent job today. Interception on the fourth down play, he's trying to make a play, just didn't get enough on it and a miscommunication on the route between him and Leon Berry. Tyson ended up being late but you know what, it didn't stop him. He came right over to his coach and they talked it through. He continued to battle throughout the course of the game."

On the pass to [O'Neal] Wilder from Lee...

"A huge boost to his confidence. You need to give our offensive line a lot of credit. We were able to run the ball a lot when [Kentucky] was loading up the line of scrimmage. The fact that they were all lined up on the line of scrimmage gave us the ability to do play-action and we did a great job with the play-action pass. O'Neal got behind him and Tyson didn't lose his confidence, delivered the ball and I think it was such a huge play in the game. The score was going back and forth and that gave us some momentum."

On the final stop at the fourth down...

"I tell you what, our defense, give them some credit. They have a true freshman quarterback leading them on a final drive down the field and he did a great job, made a couple big plays on that drive. Our guys, and Jamar [Chaney] and the seniors in that group, they've seen a lot of football, they never flinched. At some point they knew we would make our play and on that fourth down they did and it couldn't have been a bigger one for us, these seniors or our football program."

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Mississippi State Players

#22, Jamar Chaney, LB

On the win...

"We worked hard out there, and it feels good to go out and get a win. We didn't play perfect tonight, but we played good enough to win and that's all that matters."

On creating turnovers...

"It's real important. At the end of the game, if you look at who forced the most turnovers, that's usually who won the game. We try not to have turnovers on offense and we create them on defense, that's the name of the game."

On Anthony Dixon breaking the record...

"I'm happy to hear he broke the record, he deserved it. He works hard each and every day during practice."

#24, Anthony Dixon, RB

On setting the career rushing record ...

"It is just another one of those goals that I made and it is a dream come true. It is a goal that I talked about since the first day I stepped foot on campus. I was just out there trying to grind for my team tonight. I am really trying to get to that bowl game. That is the thing that is on the top of the list of goals this year. With this win, we are inching closer to that and for that reason I am happy. I was telling the team, I want to get as many as it takes to get a 'W' and I did that tonight."

On him being able to get yards after contact tonight when last year Kentucky was able to keep him in check for most of the game ...

"I had that on my heart, plus the game that I had when I came up here a couple of years ago. I had some fumbles and I had that on my heart. I was thinking a lot of redemption. I was definitely running hard tonight and my big boys up front were just chugging along too. It was a total team effort. The receivers and tight ends were making the reads and all that. I am just happy right now."

On getting the Wildcat formation rolling tonight ...

"Yeah, it felt good. That was a dream come true I guess I could say too. I always wanted to take a snap from the quarterback position and I am happy with it. It was an important first down and I just didn't want to be denied. I just found a hole, lowered my head and tried to go get it."

#70, J.C. Brignone, OL

On what this win means for the team ...

"It has been a big thing for us this season to just come out and play ball and build on what we have been doing. The things that we did in the offseason and in the summer, we took all of that and used it to play games. We have played a lot of close games that came down to the wire and we couldn't finish so we

knew that coming into this game that we had to win if we wanted a chance at a bowl game and how we wanted things to work out for us. A win like that, coming out and shoving the ball down their throat and doing what we have been doing, is great."

On Dixon setting the record ...

"When you got a running back like Anthony Dixon and you know every time that you block somebody he is going to get three or four yards and sometimes taking it for 60. It is a big thing for us when we see up on that board that we had 316 yards rushing, it just gives us a bigger boast to try to get 400."

On Anthony struggling against Kentucky in the past and if he said anything about wanting redemption ...

"I don't think that he said anything about it. I know that he was focused this week. I think that kind of showed in how he played this week they way he really came out and ran the ball well."

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Kentucky Head Coach Rich Brooks

Opening Comments

"It's extremely disappointing. You have to give Mississippi State credit, they outcoached us, and they outplayed us. We were in position at halftime to take care of business, then immediately turn it over and allow them to go right through us. I'm not sure I remember a team running a ball as effectively on us the way they did and most of it was between the tackles. You've got to give them a lot of credit, they came in here and did what they had to do, and we didn't do what we had to do."

On the second to last offensive possession deciding to not go Wildcat...

"We decided not to do it and when it doesn't work we open ourselves to be second guessed on a lot of things. I can sit here and second guess myself on it as well. We just decided that we thought we had some plays that were working and they took them away and we had a young mistake on the interception. They did a good job, maybe it should have been Wildcat."

How much of it tonight was UK not doing what it needed to do to win?

"Quite a bit of it was not doing what we needed to do. The disappointing thing is that we didn't really tackle; we weren't as physical as we were in the Auburn game, or most of our games. They were more physical up front on both sides of the ball tonight. I guess I didn't get my message to the team. We talked about how physical this game was going to be and they came in and took care of it and we didn't."

Talk about the decision not to play Will Fidler...

"We thought (Morgan Newton) was doing some good things and tried to get a little rhythm going. We talked about it on several occasions, but decided to stay with him. It's damned if you do and damned if you don't almost. He made some really good throws and did some good things, as well as making some mistakes. Right now it seems like we don't have anybody that isn't going to make some mistakes."

Was Randall (Cobb) tired at the end?

"Randall's a little beat up. He's been beat up all week. (Derrick) Locke is a little beat up, we're all beat up. I'm beat up now and I'm going to get beat up a lot more I think. They (Mississippi State) should be too, but they came in and played through theirs and we didn't play through ours very well."

On the series when MSU stopped UK inside the five and Morgan (Newton) ran it on first and second down, were they good defensive plays or not the right read on his part?

"The first one, we wanted to check out of it and he didn't look over to us. That's us, and that's coaching and that's our responsibility. The other one, they just closed it up real good and made a good play on it."

Did they do anything to take Randall (Cobb) away from you?

"They were bringing outside pressure on our Wildcat. The first several times we ran it, it was a disaster. We were thrown for losses and then we decided to do a couple different things and got something going out of it, but it certainly wasn't as successful from start to finish as it was in other games. It's bound to happen, when you've had so much success with it, they're going to try and do something to take it away from you."

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Kentucky Player Quotes

#22, Danny Trevathan, LB

On the loss to Mississippi State...

"This was a tough game and we really needed the win. It really hurts because we couldn't execute like we practiced and hoped. It's going to stick with us for a while, but we need to build on it."

On Mississippi State's Anthony Dixon...

"We did a good job preparing [for him], but I feel that there were little gaps here and there, and we just gave up. He hit it pretty hard and we made minor mistakes. He was looking for creases and he found them. He got big plays out of them and he need to learn how to avoid big plays."

On moving on from the loss...

"It's going to stick with us for a while, but we're going to try to do a good job of getting over it as fast as we can. We have tough games ahead of us and we have to go out and play, put everything on the line and execute. We need to stick together through it and work together."

#91, Corey Peters, DT

On what it like trying to tackle Anthony Dixon ...

"He's definitely a tough back, big, powerful but he's still shifty at the same time, he's just tough. He did a great job and we didn't."

On what can you attribute to Anthony Dixon running the ball like he did ...

"They were definitely more physical and ran the ball down our throat. They just wanted it more but it definitely wasn't a lack of pride. I don't think we'll have an answer until we watch the film and I am looking forward to that."

#12, Morgan Newton, QB

On how he felt about his performance ...

"I'm a competitor. So I didn't think I played all that great, I think I made some plays but left a lot of plays I could have made out on the field. I am just going to take this and get better and try to win back the trust of my teammates."

On what happened on the interception ...

"On the interception I just made a rookie mistake, I was thinking about watch Coach Brooks always tells me and that's not to take sacks in the red zone and that's all I was thinking about. I was just trying to throw it away and I didn't manage to do that."

#18, Randall Cobb, WR

On the loss and how you feel right now...

"This is a big loss for us. This took a lot out of me, and I just hope we can pull things together and get better next week."

On trying to get to the bowl game that you wanted...

"Definitely, this is a big game for us as far as the pecking order for the bowl games, and for us to not come out and play with any emotion - this was a big night with Halloween, a lot of alumni in attendance, we had a blackout - I mean just so many things and we didn't play with any emotion. I don't really know what to say right now."

On what happened against MSU...

"We didn't play across the board, offense, special teams, defense. We didn't do what we had to do to get a victory today."

On not being in the Wildcat formation during the second to last possession...

"I trust this coaching staff. I know they are going to put us in position to win. They call plays and we have to execute them. Would I have liked to have the ball in my hands? Yes, I would have. But I didn't have it. So we have to execute the plays that are called."

On the Bulldogs beating UK on the line of scrimmage...

"I think they beat us across the board, every aspect of the game. We didn't do anything right. We didn't run our plan coming into the game. We didn't run the plays we wanted to run. They put a lot of stress on us offensively. We couldn't move the ball when we wanted to, it was just tough for us."

#4, Micah Johnson, LB

On how you feel right now...

"Very upset. It's a real tough loss. At one point we had the game and they continue to make big plays. One play over and over again, it killed us and that play worked. We got out-executed. That was a game we should have won. We were counting on a win. It's very frustrating for me personally. I played as hard as I could, fighting the pain that I had in my knee. Even before, I got sick on the bus on the way to the stadium. We wanted to play well as a defense, perform well as a defense. They did a really good job offensively. This was very disappointing."

On how Dixon played in this game...

"I can't believe how he played. We did such a good job against him last year, of course they ran a different offense this year. He got his yards off the same play over and over so it's really frustrating."

On if it was the same play over and over, why could it not be stopped...

"It was not mistackling, but the tackling wasn't great. It was just our scheme at that point. That particular play, they had more against us on that side. We were trying to do different things to slow it down, but it still continued to work. I was in a position trying to get over the top of the counter and he cut back. Then I tried to stay behind the counter and then he moved forward. I went over the top to try to bring the safety down. It was just a tough play to defend."