



MSU COACH QUOTES

Oct. 24, 2015

Kentucky vs. Mississippi State

Dan Mullen

Opening Statement

“I’m really pleased. We wanted to play more of a complete game and tonight I think we accomplished that. Defense and special teams certainly had the best performance of the night. We keep developing and that’s really what you want to do. I think we have been playing much better than the start of the season and what you want is to get better as the season goes on. We have a bye week coming up right now and that gives us a chance to get some of our guys healthy and give some guys some rest so they can be ready to move forward to the second part of the season. This three-game stretch was huge for us. It gave us a chance to get back home and to get some big wins. There is still a lot of things we can improve on. We did miss two red zone opportunities and lost a chance on some drives because of dropped passes. When you miss red zone opportunities and aren’t able to score the field goal it is not good and we need to get better down there. We also had six penalties for 62 yards and that is not like us. That’s pretty disappointing for us, especially when one of them called back a touchdown, but we will take the win. It is a really good win for us and we can take this week and build off of it and improve.”

On the defense having a slow start

“The first drive of the game we stalled on them and gave up a third down conversion. You have to give Kentucky credit too because they had some really good plays and they have some great players. We just had a few missed tackles. I really think the problem on our defense is just missed tackles. We need to work on making those plays to start off the game the right way. That first miss on third down was a big one and we need to improve on that.”



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Mark Stoops

Opening Statement

“Obviously not a very good night. We did not play very good; we did not coach very good; and obviously that was not the result we were looking for. I felt like they played a very good football game. We knew that going into it that it was going to be very difficult with Dak (Prescott) and the way he handles a game, and with the matchups outside at receiver. That definitely held true. They kept us off balance tonight and did a heck of a job. Like I said, they were a lot better football team and a lot better coached. We’ll get back to work; that’s one football game that we’re not very proud of, but there is nobody that is going to sulk or pout or any of that. We’re going to go back to work; we’re going to get better and get ready for our next opportunity. Same thing offensively, we did some good things. I think the game got away from us very quickly at the end of the first half when it was 14 to 10. Three minutes to go in the game, and I knew we were having a hard time. We were getting a few stops, but I knew it was going to be difficult, and I really wanted to get out of that half. I think we threw three straight incompletes, and missed a field goal and the rest was really history from there. It really went downhill from there. We’ve got to do some things to offset that. We’ve got to stop them. We’ve got to be able to run the ball, whether we have it first and ten at the 30 or at least move the clock a little bit and try to get some yards; try to get some points, and try to get out of that half. The complete opposite happened there, and I think the game got away from us very quickly there.”



MSU PLAYER QUOTES

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#15 – DAK PRESCOTT – QB

On running the ball

“The guys were giving me running lanes. It was something I wanted to do. I wanted to take advantage of the lanes they were giving me. It was something I have to do going forward.”

On Kentucky leaving the box open against them

“It was honestly a weird look. I don’t think anybody has left the box open like that ever against me. I was quick to change to that play and it was an easy touchdown.”

On Brandon Holloway

“He is a guy you get the ball to quick. If you give him some room, he is going eat it up fast. He is a fast player so we just have to give him the ball more.”

#42 – BENIQUEZ BROWN – LB

On Taveze Calhoun’s interceptions

“It was great. He works hard every day. He deserves it after he got hurt (early in the season). We were really excited to see him go out there and make those plays. He really deserved it.”

On the front seven

“Coach [Dan Mullen] preaches to us every day to get in the backfield and make sure we get our feet across the line of scrimmage. There is nothing that we are really doing different. We are just understanding the defense more and making sure we make the big plays.”



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#45 – Josh Forrest – LB

On mistakes made during the game

“We had mistakes like losing contain, taking our eyes off our man on passing when we are in man-to-man coverage, things like that.”

On the way the game changed in the second quarter

“Their momentum really helped them a lot. It kind of had us tired. The tempo, they had a really good tempo. Every time they got a first down, they were running to the ball. That was a really big factor.”

On bouncing back

“We just have to go back to work Monday. There is nothing we can do about it now. That is the only thing we can do is just go back to work. That is how everyone is looking at it.”

On what changed after the three-and-out drive

“They spread us out a lot. Their tempo really hurt us. We got the three-and-out and when they came back and got the first down, they started their tempo. It was hard to sub how we wanted to.”



POSTGAME NOTES

GAME EIGHT • KENTUCKY (4-3, 2-3 SEC) AT MISSISSIPPI STATE (6-2, 2-2 SEC) • OCT. 24, 2015 • DAVIS WADE STADIUM

TEAM NOTABLES

- Mississippi State became bowl eligible for a school-record sixth straight season.
- The Maroon and White improved to 22-21 all-time against Kentucky and have not lost against UK in 2,548 days (Nov. 1, 2008).
- The Bulldogs have won seven straight games against the Wildcats, making head coach Dan Mullen a perfect 7-0 versus UK.
- MSU's 586 total yards of offense were the second most in school history in an SEC game. The Bulldogs tallied 593 total yards of offense versus Kentucky in Starkville on Oct. 12, 1991.
- State is tied with Alabama for the best record in the SEC over the last 24 games (19-5).
- After entering the game with an SEC-low four passing touchdowns allowed, UK gave up three to MSU.
- After starting the game a perfect 7 for 7, MSU's defense held UK quarterback Patrick Towles to a 45.6 completion percentage the rest of the game (16 for 35).
- MSU has won 28 straight games against unranked teams at home (29-1 under Mullen) and 17 straight games overall.
- State has outscored its opponents 62-12 in the fourth quarter through eight games this season with zero touchdowns allowed (Best in SEC).
- The Maroon and White have won 12 of their last 13 home games and are 22-4 (.846) at home the last four seasons.
- The Bulldogs improved to 47-1 under Dan Mullen when leading at halftime (4-29 when trailing).
- Dak Prescott's 63-yard pass completion to Brandon Holloway marked MSU's 14th play of 40-plus yards, the most in the SEC and the fifth most nationally.

PLAYER NOTABLES

- Senior quarterback Dak Prescott joined former Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel and former Clemson signal caller Tajh Boyd as the only FBS quarterbacks in the last 15 years with 348-plus passing yards, 100-plus rushing yards, three passing touchdowns and three rushing touchdowns in a single game.
- By accounting for a career-high six touchdowns, Prescott passed Manziel for sixth in SEC history with 96 career touchdowns responsible for. The six touchdowns responsible for tied the single-game school record set by Jackie Parker on Nov. 8, 1952 vs. Auburn.
- Prescott finished the game with 2,302 rushing yards, breaking the school record for career rushing yards by a quarterback (2,280 by John Bond from 1980-83).
- By passing Bond, Prescott now ranks third in SEC history for career rushing yards by a quarterback behind Arkansas' Matt Jones (2,535 from 2001-04) and Florida's Tim Tebow (2,947 from 2006-09).
- Prescott recorded his ninth career 100-yard rushing game, fourth most among active FBS players. The mark ties Don Smith (1983-86) for the most in school history.
- Prescott is now tied for or is in sole possession of 26 school records (1 single-game, 12 single-season, 13 career).
- Prescott threw for 348 yards, his fifth career 300-yard passing game and his 13th career 250-yard passing game. Prescott now has thrown for 300-plus yards in consecutive games for the first time in his career.
- Prescott threw his first interception of the season, snapping his streak of 288 straight passes without an interception. The streak was a school record, the longest active streak in the nation and the third-longest streak in SEC history.
- Senior cornerback Taveze Calhoun had a career-high two interceptions, becoming the first Bulldog with multiple picks since Richie Brown had three on Oct. 4, 2014 vs. Texas A&M.
- Junior defensive end A.J. Jefferson finished the game with 22.5 career tackles for loss, the 10th most in school history.
- Senior tight end Darrion Hutcherson caught his first career touchdown pass in the third quarter.
- Redshirt freshman defensive lineman Cory Thomas notched his first career interception in the fourth quarter.
- Sophomore kicker Westin Graves missed his first field goal attempt of the season. He was the first MSU kicker since at least 1990 to start the season 8 for 8 on field goal attempts.
- Junior wide receiver De'Runnya Wilson had a season-high 91 receiving yards on six catches, scoring his 18th career touchdown (second in MSU history).
- Junior running back Brandon Holloway had a career-high five catches for 98 yards and a touchdown.
- Junior linebacker Richie Brown has tallied 68 tackles through eight games, the most by a Bulldog since Cam Lawrence had 70 in 2011.
- Senior linebacker Zach Jackson collected a career-high 2.0 tackles for loss.
- Junior safety Kivon Coman totaled a career-best nine tackles.

KENTUCKY POSTGAME NOTES

Kentucky at Mississippi State

Davis Wade Stadium -- Starkville, Miss.

Oct. 24, 2015

FINAL SCORE: Mississippi State 42, Kentucky 16

Team Records and Series Notes

- Kentucky is 4-3, 2-3 in the Southeastern Conference. Mississippi State is 6-2, 2-2 in the SEC.
- Mississippi State leads the all-time series 22-21. Mississippi State leads the series in Starkville, 12-7.
- Kentucky will return to action on Oct. 31, hosting Tennessee in a 7:30 p.m. ET kickoff at Commonwealth Stadium. The game will be televised live on the SEC Network with **Brent Musburger**, **Jesse Palmer** and **Maria Taylor** on the call. The game will be live on the UK Sports Radio Network, with **Tom Leach**, **Jeff Piccoro** and **Dick Gabriel** voicing the action.

Team Notes

- Kentucky generated 423 yards total offense, surpassing 400 yards for the second consecutive game. It is the first time that UK had 400 yards offense in consecutive games since the first three games of the 2014 season.
- Kentucky had 30 first downs, the first time UK had 30 first downs since getting 37 vs. Tennessee in 2007.
- Kentucky led 10-7 at the end of the first quarter. It was the first time that UK scored at least 10 points in the first quarter vs. a Southeastern Conference opponent since getting 14 vs. Tennessee in 2009.
- UK's game captains were Patrick Towles, A.J. Stamps, Jordan Swindle and Josh Forrest.

Individual Notes

- Junior QB **Patrick Towles** made his 19th consecutive start.
 - Towles completed 23 of 42 passes for 218 yards.
 - Towles now has 4,681 passing yards in his career, moving past Rick Norton (4,514) for sixth place on the UK career passing list.
 - Towles had a two-yard QB sneak for a touchdown, his fourth rushing TD of the season and 10th of his career.
- Redshirt freshman QB **Drew Barker** got his first game action as a Wildcat. He completed 7 of 9 passes for 42 yards and also ran three times for 20 yards.
- Sophomore TB **Boom Williams** rushed 18 times for 95 yards.
 - Williams has 1,037 rushing yards in his career and became the 35th player in UK history to rush for 1,000 yards in his career.
 - Williams reached 1,000 yards in the 16th game of his career. Over the last 30 years, he is the second earliest Wildcat to reach 1,000, trailing only Moe Williams, who reached career yard 1,000 in his 13th game.
 - With Boom Williams and Jojo Kemp reaching the 1,000-yard mark in career rushing this season, it marks the sixth time in school history that two Wildcats have reached 1,000 career yards in the same season – also Sonny Collins and Doug Kotar in 1973; Chris Hill and Rod Stewart in 1978; Mark Higgs and Marc Logan in 1985; Damon Hood and Moe Williams in 1994; and Derek Homer and Anthony White in 1998.
- Sophomore WR **Garrett Johnson** caught five passes and led UK with 74 receiving yards.
- Sophomore WR **Dorian Baker** led the Wildcats in catches with seven receptions for 56 yards.
- True freshman TE **C.J. Conrad** set career highs with six catches for 56 yards.
- True freshman cornerback **Chris Westry** intercepted a second-quarter bomb by Dak Prescott. It is his second interception of the season (also vs. South Carolina). It is the first time this season that Prescott has been intercepted.
- Sophomore **Austin MacGinnis** made 3 of 4 field goals, good from 44, season-long 48 and 31 yards.
 - MacGinnis extended his successful streak to seven in a row before missing a 48-yarder in the second quarter.
 - MacGinnis is 11-of-13 in 2015 and 32-of-40 in his career.
- Sophomore nose guard **Matt Elam** made his first career start.
- Seniors **Landon Foster** and **Farrington Huguenin** played in their team-leading 43rd career games.
- Junior center **Jon Toth** started his team-leading 30th consecutive game.