

OLE MISS POSTGAME NOTES

GAME 11 * VS. LSU * NOVEMBER 21, 2009 * 2:30 P.M. CT * CBS

SERIES INFORMATION

- This game marked the 98th all-time between the Ole Miss Rebels and LSU Tigers dating back to 1894 ... LSU holds a 55-39-4 advantage in the series.
- Ole Miss has won two straight in the series for the first time since taking three straight from 1997-99.
- The Rebels end a four-game skid to the Tigers at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium ... LSU holds an 8-5-1 all-time edge in Oxford.
- This marked the second game of the Magnolia Bowl series and first to be played in Oxford ... Both have been won by Ole Miss.
- LSU is Ole Miss' second-most played opponent besides Mississippi State.

CAPTAINS (*All Seniors*)

Daverin Geraldts (C), Marshay Green (CB), Kendrick Lewis (FS), Patrick Trahan (LB).

GENERAL NOTES

- Ole Miss improves to 4-3 against ranked teams and 3-2 vs. top-10 teams under head coach Houston Nutt ... The Rebels are 1-1 against ranked teams this year.
- Today's attendance was 61,752, which is the fourth largest crowd in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium history.
- Ole Miss is off to its best start since 2003, when the team opened at 9-2 overall ... The Rebels were 7-4 at this point a year ago.
- Ole Miss has opened SEC play 4-3 for the second straight year.
- Today marked the final home game for 27 Ole Miss seniors.

OFFENSIVE NOTES

- Senior Dexter McCluster topped 100 rushing yards for the second straight week and fourth straight SEC game with 148 yards on 24 carries ... He also notched his first career completion and passing TD on a 27-yarder to Shay Hodge ... With 903 yards this year, McCluster needs 97 yards to become just the fourth Rebel all-time to rush for 1,000 yards in a season ... It would be the sixth 1,000-yard rushing season in school history.
- With seven receptions for 117 yards, senior WR Shay Hodge registered his fourth 100-yard receiving game of the year, which ties the Ole Miss single-season record ... He also hauled in his seventh TD of the year (first from McCluster) and 21st of his career, which ranks second all-time at Ole Miss.
- Junior QB Jevan Snead finished 14-of-21 for 206 yards ... He posted his sixth 200-yard passing game of the year and 13th of his Rebel career ... Snead posted his fifth interception-free game of the season.
- Freshman Jesse Grandy rushed for a three-yard TD, marking his second rushing score and fourth TD overall.
- Junior WR Markeith Summers recorded a career-high 90 receiving yards on three catches.

DEFENSIVE NOTES

- With LSU's 290 yards(40 rushing), Ole Miss held the opposition under 300 yards of total offense for the second straight game, sixth time this year, including five SEC games, and 10 times under head coach Houston Nutt.
- The Rebels posted a season high 11 TFLs, including career highs of 3.0 each by senior DE Marcus Tillman and senior LB Patrick Trahan.
- Tillman was credited with five tackles, with 3.0 TFLs, one sack, two QB hurries and one pass break-up.
- Trahan topped the team in tackles with six along with 3.0 TFLs and a forced fumble.
- Senior CB Cassius Vaughn recorded his second interception of the year and fourth of his career ... Vaughn was also credited with five tackles with a TFL.
- Senior DE Emmanuel Stephens recorded a career-high 2.0 sacks He finished with three stops with a QB pressure.
- Junior DE Kentrell Lockett totaled five tackles with a sack and two QB hurries.

SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES

- Senior K Joshua Shene posted career highs for FG makes and attempts, connecting on 4-of-5 ... Shene was good from 45, 33, 25 and 23 yards, while his other 45-yard try was blocked ... With a pair of PATs, Shene posted a career-high 14 points.

LSU vs. Ole Miss
Nov. 21, 2009 – Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (Oxford, Miss.)
Postgame Notes

Team Notes

1. LSU's game captains were 97 **Al Woods**, 68 **Josh Dworaczyk**, 91 **Charles Alexander**, 8 **Trindon Holliday** and 30 **Josh Jasper**.
2. LSU won the toss and deferred to the second half. Ole Miss received the opening kickoff.
3. LSU players wore a sticker on the back left of each helmet with the initials "DR" for Dr. Bob Rivet who died Monday at the age of 76. Rivet served as a team doctor for the LSU football team for more than 20 years.
4. Tigers extending their notable consecutive starts streak today were: LT **Ciron Black** (50), OG **Lyle Hitt** (31), LB **Harry Coleman** (24) and RT **Joseph Barksdale** (24).
5. Tigers making their first career starts today: TE **Tyler Edwards**. LSU has now used 14 first-time starters in 2009.
6. LSU blocked a field goal attempt by Ole Miss' Joshua Shene with 7:52 to go in the first quarter and returned it for a touchdown. The last time LSU blocked a field goal was Nov. 8, 2008 when Ricky Jean-Francois blocked an attempt by Alabama.
 - a. It marked the first time LSU blocked a field goal attempt and returned it for a touchdown since Mario Stephenson returned a block 55 yards for a TD at Arizona State on Sept. 10, 2005.
7. This was the seventh straight game – Georgia, Florida, Auburn, Tulane, Alabama, Louisiana Tech and Ole Miss – LSU did not allow a first-quarter touchdown.
8. LSU's **Brandon LaFell** recovered an onside kick in the fourth quarter. It marked the first recovered onside kick for LSU since Dec. 31, 2008 when the Tigers completed a successful onside kick against Georgia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. LSU is now 1-for-1 on onside kicks this season.
9. Despite the loss LSU still leads the all-time series against Ole Miss, 55-39-4.

Individual Notes

10. DT **Al Woods** blocked a field goal attempt by Joshua Shene in the first quarter. It was the first blocked kick of his career.
11. CB **Patrick Peterson** returned a blocked field goal 53 yards for a touchdown with 7:52 left in the first quarter. It marked his second career touchdown. His first TD came on a 37-yard interception return at Mississippi State.
12. QB **Jordan Jefferson** tossed his 13th touchdown pass of the season and 17th of his career on a 17-yard pass to Rueben Randle with 0:11 left in the first quarter.
 - a. **Jefferson** fired his second touchdown pass of the game (14th of the season, 18th of his career) to Randle with 1:17 left in the game.
13. WR **Rueben Randle** hauled in his first career touchdown reception on a 17-yard pass from Jordan Jefferson with 0:11 left in the first quarter. It was the eighth catch of his career.
 - a. **Randle** caught his second touchdown pass of the game and of his career on a 25-yard strike from Jefferson with 1:17 left in the game.
14. PK **Josh Jasper** connected on a 50-yard field goal with 6:23 remaining in the second quarter. It was his second career FG of 50 yards or more. His career long was a 52-yarder against Louisiana-Lafayette this season.
15. WR **Brandon LaFell** has now caught a pass in 39 straight games (38 of those multiple-reception games) dating back to the 2007 Sugar Bowl versus Notre Dame.
 - a. **LaFell's** streak is the fifth longest streak in the nation. Central Michigan's Bryan Anderson leads the nation with 51 consecutive games with a catch.
16. DB **Karnell Hatcher** shattered his previous career high of 3 total tackles by racking up 10 tackles against Ole Miss.

POST GAME QUOTES
Ole Miss Head Coach
Houston Nutt

Opening comments

“What a win for these seniors. What a way for them to go out in Vaught-Hemingway. They’ve got a lot of heart. I’m really proud of them. It took everybody. I was concerned when we didn’t score right down there in the end. I was prepared for overtime. When they didn’t make the two-point conversion, I was scared about the onside (kick). We teach the front line if it’s too hot let it go, and the second line will get it. They timed it up just right, and they have great athletes. You were holding your breath every play. Our defense was outstanding. They got some sacks at the right time, got pressure on them at the right time. Our guys just played. We dedicated this game to the seniors. I’m really proud of them.”

On allowing McCluster to throw

“I don’t mind him throwing the ball when he’s away from the traffic. When you’re in the wild rebel you’re at least 5 foot 8, and he can’t see the play. We knew all eyes would be on him. I was trying to get it so he would have time to really stretch it. He did a beautiful job of selling it, and as soon as I saw the safety and the corner suck it, and Shay sold it too. He broke down like he was going to crack the safety like he’d been doing the previous play. When you’re running counters, in their mind its stop No. 22 and here he comes, it’s going to be a three-yard gain.”

On the play of Jevan Snead

“Awesome. To handle the clock the way you want to, manage the game, make some key throws, and he didn’t throw an interception. That’s the bottom line. Don’t turn it over. When you don’t turn it over, you have a chance. We’ve become a good offense when we don’t turn it over.”

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POSTGAME QUOTES

#4 QB Jevan Snead

On the play of the offense

"I think we did a great job. There were a couple of times where we stopped ourselves, but as a whole I think we did an awesome job. I couldn't be happier."

On having Dexter McCluster at running back

"I think anyone in the country would be glad to have him back there at running back. I'm extremely happy for him."

On winning on Senior Day

"It was amazing. We knew coming in we were playing this game for our seniors; all of them. To come in and win a game like this, it's a feeling I really can't explain right now."

#22 WR/RB Dexter McCluster

On the play of the offense

"The offense played good. The offensive line was very physical. I think they pretty much dominated the whole game and opened the lanes. It was good, hard football. The receivers were out there catching the ball, so I think we did pretty good. We managed the ball game and went out there and got points."

On winning on Senior Day

"It is what we wanted. We wanted to go out with a bang. We wanted to win. The last home game was very emotional, but it was good to go out there and win it for us."

#3 WR Shay Hodge

On tonight's game

"It was a great game, down to the wire. I think the offense played very well. It was a great way to go out on senior night. I'm very proud of Jevan. He played great tonight."

On his touchdown

"It was a trick play. They both went after Dexter (McCluster) because he's been running the ball so well, but they didn't expect him to throw it."

#7 LB Patrick Trahan

On the team's performance

"We just came together as a team, and it's just what we've been wanting this whole season. When we get everything clicking on all sides, we're hard to stop."

On playing against LSU

"Coach called each play and I just ran them. Playing this team is a big thing, being from Louisiana. I was thankful that coach called the play, and I ran it to the best of my ability."

#40 DE Kentrell Lockett

On the team's performance

"It was about coming together for 60 minutes, working hard and coming out with the victory. We knew coming into this game that it was going to be a big challenge for the defense, and we were up to the challenge."

On blitzing the quarterback

"The coach sent me because I was hungry, I needed to eat, and the quarterback was my lunch."

On defeating LSU

"That's what it's all about, having bragging rights that we beat Louisiana. We beat LSU my last two years. We came here to protect our house."

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LSU Head Coach Les Miles

Opening Statement

“We played a very inspired game, a very competitive game. I can only tell you that the management at the back end of the game was the issue. I think the blame without question is when my quarterback needs to throw it away and we’re calling a timeout to save as much clock time as we can but then we’re late to the field. Again, I take that to myself. Down to the one with one second, they had a difficult time getting the chains moved. We could have gotten lined up to kick a field goal with one second. That would certainly have been the end of the game that we would have foreseen. It’s interesting, I felt like the team played awfully hard. I felt like our defense played better in the second half than in the first. I think guys came back from mid-game issues. It’s my fault that we didn’t finish first in that game.”

On the end of the game

“We were throwing balls that should have been ruled incomplete. If he steps back there to throw understanding the situation and it’s not there, let it go. He’s trying to keep the play alive and that puts us in the initial issue. We were close enough to kick the field goal at that point, even though long, close enough to kick. Then we throw a screen to pick up some yards down the boundary and get out of bounds and so that was ill-fated as well. That play, the clock ran down, timeouts were being called verbally and I didn’t relate to the official apparently and that was the mistake. We didn’t know that it hadn’t been called and then we come down to nine seconds and the opportunity to get a first down and we make it the play there after. It was a very long position to be in to go for the Hail Mary, then, we make a great catch. Those seconds that ticked off before would certainly have made a difference because if we clock that ball, we then have to opportunity to kick the field goal to win.”

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#7 CB Patrick Peterson

On the halfback pass that gave them the lead for good

"They had a nice running game going. I didn't see any of my teammates, and I thought I could make the tackle. Shay Hodge made a great play and got behind me for the touchdown."

On the field goal block

"Coach talked to us about being one of the best field goal blocking teams in the country. Al Woods got a great jump on the ball and blocked it, and I saw it come out to the left. I saw (Kelvin) Sheppard try to get the ball too, but I decided to get it and I ran it to the end zone."

On the onside kick and being out of bounds

"I really can't speak on that. I just thought I was going to get the ball, but it was too high. I think they said whenever I came down with it, the ball was out of bounds, when my feet were in."

#54 LB Jacob Cutrera

On Halfback pass

"They weren't really trying play-action fakes like that. Everybody flew to the ball real hard. They got a player open, and they just did a good job and made the play."

On Dexter McCluster

"He's a great back. He's a tough guy to catch, he's so quick. He's just unbelievable, the way he saw the holes in the defense. It was incredible."

#80 WR Terrance Toliver

On that last play

"On the last play we were trying to score a touchdown before time expired."

On lining up in different spots during the game

"Because of injuries, we had to switch to different positions this game. I played some of the Z and the X, and we were going from four-wide to three-wide."

On Jordan Jefferson

"He was pretty confident. We just couldn't convert on certain plays, but he was very confident. He threw the ball well. The Ole Miss defense was getting in the backfield a lot, and a lot of times he had to throw out of desperation."