

LSU vs. Mississippi State
Nov. 10, 2012

LSU HEAD COACH LES MILES

Opening Statement...

“First of all, I just think that Mississippi State under Dan Mullen is a much better football team than they have been. They played a very competitive game. They are much improved. The question was whether this football team would come to play after playing an emotional game a week ago. There is not any question that they were. There is a fundamental feeling in this stadium and in our football building that we are just catching speed. We are just getting the pace that we need. We are not going to sacrifice our movement and our improvement based on the fact that we played a tough game.

“With that being said, I think our passing game is coming. I think that Zach (Mettenberger) is playing extremely well. He has a nice touch on the ball. He knows where he needs to go. He is making quality decisions. I think that our receiving core was on it. I thought that we maybe could have caught a couple more balls. Frankly, I thought they played well. Defense needs to play better pass coverage. There were some mistakes made by some young guys. We’re going to have to spend some time on that. I felt that our defense played awfully well. We certainly bottled up the run. When we needed to make a play, I know that (Craig) Loston takes one that must have been over 100 yards. I know this; after he got back he was incredibly tired.

“Again, our football team is not perfect. I think we were better in special teams, minus the turnover on the punt return. I felt that our kickoff return was better. I felt that our punt team really pinned them down, except that they got out of there occasionally. We need to improve. We are not there yet. Our football team will take pride, effort and energy to improve. If they continue to do that, we will be a hell of a football team.”

On the play of Zach Mettenberger...

“It takes some time to get everyone on page and on pace. I think Zach has that. I think he knows where he wants to go with the ball. He had some nice touch on the ball. The way he uncorks it and makes all the throws. I think our receivers are now in a spot where there is a real chemistry developing there. It will continue. I think that Zach is ambitious. I don’t think how we played in the passing game is enough.”

On the two-minute offense...

“We have to operate the two-minute drill to. We worked on it and kept on it. I think we are getting better. The time and effort that is being spent there is paying dividends and is fruitful.”

LSU OFFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

QB Zach Mettenberger

On the offense’s improvement...

“You’re seeing the coaches have more confidence in us. They are mixing it up, more run-pass, and being

more balanced. Guys are making plays, having confidence, and having fun out there. That's all you could ask for, to have fun out there. We are playing the game we love."

RB Spencer Ware

On bouncing back from last week's game...

"We can't worry about what happened in the past. That game is over. The only thing we can control is going out there and playing our type of football. That's what we did."

On tonight's success in the passing game...

"It's coming along. That's going to open up well for the running game. Now defenses can't just scheme on our run game. They are going to have to scheme on our run game and the pass game, which will make it more difficult for them. We still have to go out there and execute in order to be successful."

WR Jarvis Landry

On the offense's confidence...

"We are very confident. A lot of the guys on offense feel like we got that swag back. That's something we really want to embrace, let it carry over from the Alabama game and show the world that we can be an efficient and effective offense."

On his performance...

"I feel really good about the win. I don't dwell on individual our personal things. I'd rather consider team values more. I tip my hat to the offense, defense and special teams for the things that they have done."

LSU DEFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

LB Kevin Minter

On bouncing back from last week's loss...

"We had to. It's LSU. We win. We felt like we had to come back and get back to what we do."

On the slow start...

"We had to make some adjustments. They did some things we didn't necessarily practice for. Once we got it adjusted, we started stopping them."

On Mississippi State QB Tyler Russell...

"He's grown a lot. He's doing some good things this year. I expect him to be a pretty decent quarterback for Mississippi State."

S Eric Reid

On Zach Mettenberger's progression...

"He's always thrown the ball like that in practice, so I guess things have just started to click for him in the games. We've always known that they can do it, and he's been showing it in the past couple of weeks."

On looking ahead this season...

"We can only control what we can control, and that's how we play. Even though it's not in our hands right now, we're just going to finish the season strong and see what happens."

On tonight's game plan...

"We didn't expect them to come out and throw the ball as much. We were focused on the run, but they came out throwing so we had to a couple of adjustments. We did for the most part. They still did a pretty good job of it, so I'm sure coach is going make some adjustments for next week, but we did good enough to win the game."

MISSISSIPPI STATE HEAD COACH DAN MULLEN**Opening statement ...**

"Tough loss. The kids played hard out there for us tonight. That's not good enough. We're here to play football games. There are little errors you can see along the way and little mistakes we made that we have to get corrected to continue to move forward in the right direction and then put ourselves in the position to win these types of games. When you're going to play a team that's in the top 10, you cannot make those mistakes on the road and expect to win football games. Some of the mistakes were critical errors tonight, and those types of things don't get it done."

On Mississippi State's offense ...

"At times we did okay. We weren't putting up the numbers, but we were throwing the football. When we fell behind, we were in a position to have to throw. I think we continually put ourselves in that position to have to throw the football an awful lot. We weren't as balanced, obviously, as we'd like to be, but that happens as the result of the score in the games."

On Mississippi State's performance ...

"I think we played a lot better this week than we did last week. I was really disappointed in our effort last week. So we challenged our guys. I thought we had a good week of practice, and we improved. Obviously, not to the extent that we needed to win games, but that's going to be a big point. Good football teams continually improve throughout the year. They're better in November than they were in September and October. If we want to finish this and finish off what could be a good to great season, we need to improve this week and come out and perform at a higher level next Saturday."

On the strength of the SEC ...

"It's called the Southeastern Conference. I've seen it before as a head coach, I've seen it plenty as an assistant coach, and I've seen it sitting and watching other people play before we go play on a Saturday afternoon. That's called the Southeastern Conference. That's what separates this conference from other conferences. Where are we? We have like five teams in the top eight in the country in this conference; it's something like that. I mean, nobody else has five teams ranked in the top 25, I don't think, so that's what you sign on for. That's why kids want to play in this league. That's why coaches want to coach in

this league. You want to play against the best, and that's what you have here in the Southeastern Conference."

MISSISSIPPI STATE OFFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

WR Chad Bumphis

On his performance...

"I just try to do anything to make us successful. I came up short, but I'm doing what they ask me to do."

On QB Tyler Russell...

"He's really smart and has a great understanding of the offense. Our coaches trust him and when they call the play he does it."

On his touchdown...

"It was a corner route and he was man-to-man. He told me this week if we wanted to be successful then it would have to be in man-to-man coverage and I beat him."

RB Nick Griffin

On his performance...

"I think I did alright and there is always room for improvement. Tonight we just tried to go out and execute."

QB Tyler Russell

On the game plan...

"We felt some of their players were pretty good at rushing the passer, so we did some things to get the ball out quick and it was effective. Unfortunately they made more plays than we did and all of our guys fought until the end. Sometimes you can fight as hard as you want and still not win the game. If you can take anything out of it, it would be our offense and defense for not giving up."

On the fast start...

"Once we start off quick the defense will step up for us, but unfortunately we weren't able to put the ball in the endzone like we needed to on key drives. When you get the ball down there you have to make the most of it and we didn't."

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEFENSIVE PLAYER QUOTES

CB Johnthan Banks

On the communication issues and missed assignments in the secondary...

"When you do that type of stuff against good teams, they're going to capitalize on it. We've got to get back to the drawing board on Monday, fix our mistakes and get ready for Arkansas."

On LSU's touchdown drive at the end of the first half...

"That will kind of kill you a little bit. Just straight up too many mistakes tonight. You can't win when you make mistakes."

LB Benardrick McKinney

On the mindset looking forward to playing Arkansas next week...

"We just need to continue to play hard, just run to the ball, scheme better, and listen to our coaches. They're going to put us in the position to make better plays."

On playing a difficult conference schedule...

"It's very hard. LSU has a great football team; they're physical. Playing SEC games back to back, it's very hard. You've just got to stay up to the task, play physical and play hard."