



2024 MISSOURI FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES VS. MURRAY STATE - AUG. 29, 2024

TEAM

- Tonight's contest was the earliest start to a season in the 134-year history of the Mizzou program and just the ninth game played by the Tigers in August, moving to 7-2 all-time.
- Missouri improved to 3-0 all-time against Murray State, having had previous meetings with the Racers in 2006 and 2013.
- The Tigers remained unblemished against FCS competition, moving to 22-0 all-time after tonight's result.
- **Eliah Drinkwitz** improved to 29-21 in his 50th game as the Tigers head coach. The fifth-year sideline boss also hiked his home win percentage to .750 (21-7) since taking the helm in 2020, the highest Faurot Field win percentage recorded by any MU head coach (minimum four seasons).
- Mizzou improved to 88-42-5 all-time in season-opening contests, winning 24 of its last 28 openers. The Tigers are also 98-32-4 in home openers, including 4-1 under Drinkwitz and a 68-28-3 overall mark at Faurot Field in season debut games.
- MU has now won 17 straight non-conference games at Memorial Stadium, dating to Oct. 21, 2017. The program record sits at 18 (Sept. 17, 2005-Nov. 17, 2012).
- Missouri moved to 137-76-1 all-time while ranked in the AP poll, including a 71-25 mark at home.
- Mizzou has gone 13 regular-season games in a row without trailing at halftime, which represents the second-longest such streak in program history. The Tigers went 18 games without trailing at the half from Oct. 18, 1997 to Sept. 25, 1999.
- MU hosted a sellout crowd of 62,621 at Memorial Stadium this evening, the sixth-largest crowd for a home opener in Faurot Field history and the Tigers' largest such crowd since Sept. 5, 2015 vs. Southeast Missouri (64,670).
- The Tigers moved to 9-0 against Missouri Valley Football Conference schools, the 48-point victory their largest against MVFC foes.

OFFENSE

- Missouri's offense scored three touchdowns in the first 5:19 of the game, marking the fastest the Tigers have ever scored 21 points to open a contest. The previous fastest 21-point total was 7:25 against Southeastern Louisiana on Sept. 1, 2012.
- MU's 28 points in the first quarter also tied the program record for most points in the first quarter of an opener, last achieved during that Southeastern Louisiana contest.
- Missouri totaled more points than Murray State totaled yards (19) in the first quarter.
- The Tigers' 35 points in the first half marked their most productive opening stanza since Sept. 18, 2021, when MU put up 38 against Southeast Missouri.
- Mizzou's 29 first downs represented its best single-game showing since Sept. 1, 2022, when they also tallied 29 against Louisiana Tech.
- QB **Brady Cook** completed 19-of-30 passes, throwing for 218 yards through the air and one touchdown.
- Cook joined Chase Daniel and Drew Lock as the only Mizzou quarterbacks with 20 career games of 200+ yards through the air.

- Cook tied James Franklin for the third-most career games with both a passing and rushing touchdown (12). The St. Louis native now trails only Corby Jones and Brad Smith, who each recorded 14 such games.
- Combined with fellow QB **Drew Pyne's** 10-of-11, 82-yard performance in his debut game as a Tiger, Mizzou's signal-callers combined to throw for 300 yards.
- Cook connected with WR **Luther Burden III** to score the season's first touchdown just 2:18 into the game. It marked Missouri's fastest start to an opener since 2021 (29 seconds vs. CMU).
- Burden III is now tied for ninth on Mizzou's career TD chart with 16 receiving touchdowns.
- After converting 56-of-58 (.966) red zone trips into points last fall, the Tigers scored on 7-of-7 visits inside the Racers' 20-yard line.
- RB's **Nate Noel** and **Marcus Carroll** rushed for their first touchdowns in the black and gold. Noel ended the game with a team-high 68 all-purpose yards, including 48 rushing yards on 11 attempts.
- RB **Jamal Roberts** scored his first career touchdown midway through the third quarter, as four different Tigers reached the end zone on the ground, the most since five different rushers did so against Louisiana Tech on Sept. 1, 2022.
- Eleven different Tigers registered at least one reception in the contest, the most individual MU pass receivers in a game since 12 players recorded a catch in a win over SEMO on Sept. 18, 2021.
- WR **Marquis Johnson** snagged a career-high four receptions, besting his previous personal best of three catches (at Vanderbilt on Sept. 30, 2023).
- WR **Daniel Blood** led all receivers with five catches for 42 yards – both of which represented career highs for the sophomore.
- Four different players – including three (Carroll, Noel and Roberts) on the offensive side of the ball – scored their first touchdowns as Tigers in the victory.

DEFENSE

- Missouri allowed just 85 yards of offense, marking the first time an opponent was held below the century mark since Sept. 14, 2019 (Southeast Missouri, 94 yards).
- The Racers also managed just 27 passing yards. The last time Mizzou held an opponent to less than 50 yards passing was against Western Illinois on Sept. 17th, 2011 (20).
- Murray State tallied five first downs, the least number allowed by the Tigers since Western Illinois totaled 1 on Sept. 17th, 2011.
- DB **Toriano Pride Jr.** returned a first-quarter interception 25 yards for his first-career defensive touchdown in his first game as a Tiger.
- Pride's touchdown came seven seconds after Noel's TD run in the first quarter – the third shortest interval of time between TDs in school history.
- LB's **Triston Newson** and **Corey Flagg Jr.** led the team in tackles with five apiece.
- DL **Chris McClellan** and LB **Khalil Jacobs** each gathered sacks in the season opener.
- The Mizzou defense prevented Murray State from running a play in Tigers territory until the fourth quarter, tallying just one play in positive field position for the entire game.
- Twenty-six different Tigers combined for the team's 49 tackles this evening, including five freshmen and four transfers.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- K **Blake Craig** went 3-of-3 on field-goal attempts and 6-of-6 on PAT attempts in his first game action as a Tiger. He converted his first career field goal try of 39 yards in the third quarter.
- The last Mizzou field-goal attempt by someone not named Harrison Mevis was by Tucker McCann on Nov. 29, 2019.
- P **Luke Bauer** booted two punts, averaging 48.5 yards and dropping one inside the 20-yard line.