



OLE MISS REBELS vs ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018

POSTGAME QUOTES: OLE MISS HEAD COACH MATT LUKE

Opening statement...

"It was an emotional win. I'm proud of the guys that continued to fight. We had a lot of guys play through injuries. DK (Metcalf) went out early. (DaMarkus) Lodge sprained his ankle. AJ (Brown) hurt his thumb. Those guys kept battling and kept competing. We couldn't get off the field in the first half. I'm so proud of those guys for continuing to battle. They got a stop when they needed it in the second half and it was just enough to get us the win. I don't think we played our best football in the first half. You knew it was going to be tough with all the guys we had to put in there. I think we had one punt and missed a field goal, so that was the difference in the first half. We were able to get a touchdown when they were kicking field goals. I'm just really proud of the guys for continuing to battle."

On the third down stop late in the fourth quarter...

"It was a big play by Willy Hibbler to knock that ball down. Not only did it get us off the field, but it saved us a timeout. I was going to have to use one there if they completed that pass. You feel better when you're backed up when you have two timeouts."

On the tight ends play tonight...

"They made some big plays tonight. Big third down conversion to (Octavious) Cooley on that first scoring drive. Last year against Arkansas, the strip kind of haunted him. It was special for him to be able to break a tackle and score a touchdown. It really sparked us and changed the game."

On his feeling about the big picture...

"That was a big win. They're all tough to get on the road, doesn't matter what your record is. Credit to coach Morris for getting those guys to continue to fight. They're getting better every week. We have a one game season before our bye against Auburn. Just one win at a time."

On Jordan Ta'amu's Performance...

"We had a lot of screens on the outside and a lot of draws on the inside. Some of them were called, but some were scrambles. The majority of his runs came on the quarterback draw."

On defensive adjustments at halftime...

"We just talked about playing smarter. (Vernon) Dasher on the targeting was tough. He's trying to go make a play. Ten points of penalties in the first half, guys are flying around playing hard, but we have to play smarter."

On his team's poise late in the game...

"I'm just glad we're on the winning side of this game. We kind of got the hog of our back, so to speak. We have veteran offensive lineman and a veteran quarterback. I think that showed down the stretch."

On how this affects his team's confidence moving forward...

"I think they're one week better. It was a really good performance tonight when you look at the yards. We would've liked to score more touchdowns. We had to settle for some field goals in the red zone, one we missed, one we made. Threw an interception in the end zone."

On the game winning drive...

"Once we broke the run I was feeling pretty good that we could run the clock down. If we could score a touchdown that would take all the pressure off the kicker. If we didn't score, we could run the clock down and basically kick an extra point."



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POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS HEAD COACH CHAD MORRIS

Opening Statement ...

"First of all, I want to thank our fans, incredible environment. Thank you. You showed up, you were here. You did not disappoint and considering the weather. Being loud and into the game, what an environment. Very impressive. I give Ole Miss credit. They're fast and we knew they were one of the top offensive units in the country and one of the top in our league. I want to give them credit. I thought we did some things that didn't help ourselves out, but I want to give them credit, to Coach (Matt) Luke and his team. I thought Ty Storey was the toughest football player in the stadium, without a doubt. Cole (Kelley) did some good things. He came in and provided a spark at times for us. I thought he did some good things. I loved the way we ran the football. That's what we're trying to do. We had Devwah (Whaley) and Rakeem (Boyd) going. The pace they were going at was very impressive. I hate that they couldn't finish the game. Defensively, I thought all year long if you asked me what unit you wanted on the field with 97-yards to go, definitely, defensively, because we've been playing very well. Credit again Ole Miss tonight, they made some plays on that last drive. They picked up some key first downs in the second half, which was critical. Our special teams unit with Connor Limpert and Jack Lindsey and our battery of Jordan Silver, the snap, the punt, the hold, the protections; I thought that was very good. I thought we did some good things. With the returner falling down, that pinned us. He was just trying to make a play. We get a play up the sidelines and get a personal foul on the sidelines and that was very disappointing right there. We're going to continue to go to work and we're going to continue to do the right things and continue to make progress."

On injury status of Ty Storey, Rakeem Boyd, Devwah Whaley and Ryan Pulley's ejection ...

"I do not know. Obviously, we lost our composure, which is very disappointing. I think Boyd's was a back, Whaley's was an ankle and we'll reevaluate Ty Storey tomorrow. Sosa (Agim) was a knee."

On Ole Miss defense against Ty Storey ...

"I don't know, I can't go into that without watching the film. I thought that Ty was playing extremely well. He showed his toughness and his grit and I was very proud of Ty tonight."

On Ole Miss quarterback Jordan Ta'amu's performance ...

"I think that a guy that rushes for 154 yards and passes for 387, he had a heck of a night. His ability to see the field when the pocket collapses around him, to keep his eyes open and down the field. That's why he's one of the top quarterbacks in our league from passing efficiency to running the football."

On missing starting quarterback and two running backs at the end of the game ...

"I don't know so much about that. I'm not here to make an excuse. I think our guys played hard. We would love to have those guys out there. I think that Rakeem (Boyd) was on pace to have another career night. Devwah (Whaley) as well."

On wide receiver pass play ...

"That was an outlet. His first option was the running back in the middle of the field. He was setting up as he was getting through, but that was an outlet."

On losing leads late in the game ...

"I think the biggest thing we have to do is we'll continue to go back to work. That's what I shared with our players in there. That's what I shared our players in there, it's not going to change. Our formula is not going to change. We're going to keep getting back in there and getting better. We've got to win plays. That was my message the whole second half after halftime. I could not care less what the score is, we've got to win more plays in the second half than they do and you will like the outcome. You can't let one play affect the next one regardless of what the score is."