

# CROSSTOWN CLASSIC

## Chargers beat Lafayette, win third consecutive Crosstown Classic

By Jake Kamman  
sports writer

In the 49th annual Crosstown classic meetup against Lafayette, Oxford had a very strong performance beating their rival 46-7.

"Anytime you can start fast in a game, you are at a huge advantage. I was proud of our team for setting the tone early in the game," head coach Chris Cutcliffe said.

The defense had a great showing, only allowing seven points the entire game, with those seven points being scored in the late in the fourth quarter.

"I know that on defense our goal was to stop the run and make them throw, which we did a very good job of and only allowed 10 rushing yards and one first down in the first half," junior kicker Jack Tannehill said. "By the end of the game we had forced three turnovers; two of them being pick-sixes."

Tannehill proved to be a weapon on special teams, kicking a 47 yard career high field goal, as well as seven touchbacks and five extra points, totaling eight points.

"We have one of the best kickers in Mississippi, Jack Tannehill who made a lot of great touchbacks on the kickoffs and some huge field goals even a career long," senior outside linebacker Rontavious "Dude" Person said. "Lafayette's punting unit gave us great field position for the offense to make plays. We take special

teams really serious under Coach Dodson, the special teams coach."

Senior quarterback John Meagher was 10 for 15 passing with 186 total yards and two touchdowns. He led the offense and fed off the defensive stops.

"I think the biggest key to our success last Friday was the ability to move the ball and finish drives," Meagher said.

"Our number one goal right now is to be better each week than we were the previous week. I thought we were better against Lafayette than we were against Grenada, so we achieved that goal."

**Chris Cutcliffe**  
head coach

"We scored on each of the first four drives we had in the first half, and that completely demoralizes Lafayette's defense. We were able to run and throw the ball all night long which helped us win the game like we did."

This is the third straight year the Chargers has defeated the Commodores, bringing the overall record of the Crosstown Classic to 27-

19-2 with Oxford leading.

"I definitely think that everyone took this game as seriously as possible due to it being a rivalry game," Tannehill said. "I don't think that we played harder than usual because I think

that we always give 100 percent as a team, but I do think that it made us realize how good we actually can be when we take a game as serious as that one."

Oxford has wins against Northwest Rankin, Grenada and now Lafayette, with a tough loss against Starkville in August, which brings their record to 3-1.

"Our number one goal right now is to be better each week than we were the previous week," Cutcliffe said. "I thought we were better against Lafayette than we were against Grenada, so we achieved that goal."

Meagher is an important piece of the Charger team, being a captain, a vocal leader on and off the field and a very talented quarterback.

"John played, and always plays, a huge leadership role for our team," Tannehill said. "Being as smart and as talented as he is, he is always a source of confidence for everyone when it comes to game time. He has an 'all gas, no brakes' mentality, and I think that everyone feeds off of that in a very positive way."

This Charger team has big intentions for this season and believe that they can make it a long way, if key factors come together throughout the season, according to Person.

"We have the talent, players, the best coaching staff in MS, the best fans and student section. We just have to keep playing great football and don't let up," Person said.

