

Ole Miss continues to rack up wins as season comes to a close

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The Ole Miss football team is on the verge of a historic season. The Rebels are currently 8-2 and sit at second place in the SEC west. Lane Kiffin has completely turned the program around in just two years. The Rebels had arguably one of the biggest games in the last 5 years on Saturday against Texas A&M. College Gameday was coming to town for the top 15 showdown between the Aggies and Rebels. The Aggies had won their last 4 straight and one of those was against Alabama. They were playing their best football coming into Saturday, so there was much on the line Saturday night. A win Saturday for Ole Miss is one of the types of wins that great teams win, not just good.

In the first half Ole Miss absolutely dominated everywhere but the scoreboard. The Rebels outgained the Aggies 409-91, yet the rebels were only ahead 15-0 due to a series of misfortune in the red zone. They turned the ball over twice in the red zone and also only got a field goal while being at the 1 yard line at a point. Quarterback Matt Corral

looked healthier than he had been although he was not 100 percent with that bad ankle. He did enough to get the job done. Prep Alumni Jerrion Ealy was a workhorse for the Rebels Saturday night. Ealy was fantastic as he rushed for 152 yards on 24 carries and caught 4 passes for 32 yards.

The Rebels completely shutdown the Aggie offense in the first half and forced a safety. Many were surprised at how they dominated in particular on the defensive line. Defensive lineman Sam Williams had an absolute monster of a game for Ole Miss.

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This is a program defining win for Ole Miss, and it just shows you what Lane Kiffin and company are capable of. Besides the defensive performance the most impressive aspect of the Rebels victory was their play in the trenches. Both fronts for Ole Miss just about dominated the whole game besides a stretch in the 3rd quarter. It was definitely an inspiring performance for Ole Miss. A program elevating win like this is why Ole Miss hired Lane Kiffin. Kiffin had a tweet after the game about the night. He said, "We came here to play in front of crowds like tonight! We came here to play in prime time and be on College Gameday. We came here to play great teams. And most importantly: We came here to win!"

Kiffin has been absolutely brilliant in his first two years as head coach at Ole Miss. At 8-2 and playing Vanderbilt next Saturday the Rebels look to be 9-2 going into the egg bowl. The first 10 win regular season in program history will be on the line as will a guaranteed trip to a New Year's 6 bowl game. Regardless, Kiffin has led Ole Miss to a historic season this year and deserves all the credit in the world.



Matt Corral winds up for a pass for the Rebels in a game against LSU. Photo courtesy of Ole Miss athletics.

Everyone knows about the Rebels high octane offense and their ability to score, but the unit that stole the show on Saturday night was Defensive Coordinator D.J. Durkin's defense. In just a year the Rebel defense looked completely revamped. The Ole Miss defense was absolutely fantastic on Saturday night.

In the second half Texas A&M gained a little more momentum and started to close the gap on the scoreboard. The Rebel offense stalled and A&M began to move the ball better. In the early 4th quarter after a failed fake field goal attempt for Ole Miss the lead was cut to 15-13. After an Ole Miss punt Texas A&M regained pos-

session. A very worried sellout crowd at Vaught Hemingway stadium started to lose confidence, but then the most unlikely hero arose. Backup Linebacker Ashanti Cistrunk probably made the biggest play of his career as he picked off Zach Calzada deep in Aggie territory. Snoop Conner had a 15 yard burst up the middle for a touchdown to give the Rebels some breathing room. On the ensuing possession defensive back A.J. Finley just about put the game away with a pick six to put an exclamation point on the defensive performance and the victory. Ole miss was victorious 29-19.