



ARKANSAS

vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE



7

OCTOBER 21, 2023

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM

3

GAME NOTES

- » DB Alfahiym Walcott is this year's Crip Hall Award winner, which is presented to the Razorbacks' most outstanding senior in Arkansas' homecoming game.
- » K Cam Little improved to 18-for-18 (100%) from 20-29 yards for his career with his 24-yard field goal in the first quarter.
- » LB Chris Paul Jr. recorded a career high 12 stops (3 solo), including a tackle for a loss of two yards. It's Paul Jr.'s first career game reaching double-digit tackles.
- » DB Alfahiym Walcott tallied his first career INT as a Hog in the first quarter. It was his fifth career INT.
- » Through eight games, the Razorback defense has recorded 12 total takeaways, including eight interceptions.
- » Since the start of the 2020 campaign, the Arkansas defense has totaled 43 interceptions in 44 games.

WEATHER

71°

SUNNY

GAME INFO

CAPTAINS

Landon Jackson, Trajan Jeffcoat, KJ Jefferson, Brady Latham

COIN TOSS

Arkansas won the toss and deferred until the second half.

UNIFORMS

ARK - Red Helmet, Red Jersey, White Pants
MSU - Maroon Helmet, White Jersey, White Pants

ATTENDANCE

71,505

ARK SCORING

FIELD GOAL | 1Q | 12:30

Cam Little good from 24 yards.

STARTERS

ARKANSAS

QB KJ JEFFERSON
 RB RASHOD DUBINION
 WR ANDREW ARMSTRONG
 WR ISAAC TESLAA
 TE FRANCIS SHERMAN
 TE TY WASHINGTON
 LT ANDREW CHAMBLEE
 LG BRADY LATHAM
 C BEAUX LIMMER
 RG JOSH BRAUN
 RT PATRICK KUTAS

MISSISSIPPI STATE

DE LANDON JACKSON
 DT KEIVIE ROSE
 DT ERIC GREGORY
 DE TRAJAN JEFFCOAT
 LB JAHEIM THOMAS
 LB CHRIS PAUL JR.
 CB LORANDO JOHNSON
 S AL WALCOTT
 S JAYDEN JOHNSON
 CB JAYLON BRAXTON
 NB HUDSON CLARK

QB MIKE WRIGHT
 RB JO'QUAVIOUS MARKS
 WR JUSTIN ROBINSON
 WR FREDDIE ROBERSON
 WR LIDEATRICK GRIFFIN
 TE ANTONIO HARMON
 LT PERCY LEWIS
 LG NICK JONES
 C COLE SMITH
 RG STEVEN LOSOYA III
 RT KAMERON JONES

NG NATHAN PICKERING
 DT JADEN CRUMEDY
 DE JUSTIN EBOIGBE
 SAM DONTERRY RUSSELL
 MIKE NATHANIEL WATSON
 WILL JETT JOHNSON
 CB DECAMERION RICHARDSON
 S SHAWN PRESTON JR.
 S COREY ELLINGTON
 S MARCUS BANKS
 CB DECARLOS NICHOLSON



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ARKANSAS QUOTES

Sam Pittman, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening statement:

"I want to congratulate Mississippi State for coming in here without their record-setting quarterback. They had a very aggressive defense and played extremely well. They scored enough points obviously to win. I want to congratulate Coach Arnett and his team."

Coach the field goal try, what happened there since there

"I had decided, it was fourth and four, I think maybe fourth and three, right in Cam's [Little] range. I didn't know what to do to be completely honest with you. I was probably about eight seconds in on the 40-second clock, maybe 10, and I decided to kick a field goal and we didn't get it off in time, that's the truth."

"I did not want to call a time-out at that point because I wasn't sure I even wanted to kick the field goal to be completely honest with you, and we kicked it down to the two or whatever and the fans got real involved in it, but to be honest with you I didn't know what to do and I didn't make the decision fast enough. Once I got it in there, I thought we had plenty of time to kick it, but at that point I wasn't going to burn a time-out because I wasn't sure I was making the right decision anyways."

You talked about how important this game was to win, and given the way the defense played great and given the way the offense played, you got a bye-week coming up, does this force you into a tough situation of making some decisions, whether it's who's calling plays or personnel out there

"Yeah, we got a lot of decisions to make. We owe it to our team. We owe it to our fans. So, we'll figure that part of it out. My biggest thing, to be honest with you, is that the defense has continued to improve. My biggest concern is with the kids and the entire team. Time and time again we ask them, 'If you'll just hold them or shut them out, we'll win.' Now we just weren't able to do it. Defense is improving, offense we got enough talent on offense we ought to be playing better than what we are, and that's on me, I got to figure that out."

Brady Latham, Arkansas OG

"We need to focus on dominating the guys in front of us. I think that's an effort on all five guys and that starts in the film room, the weight room, how we eat, how we prepare. It doesn't just show up on Saturday's."

KJ's been dealing with a good bit of pressure for most of the season

"Yes, that's extremely frustrating, especially as an offensive lineman. You want to pride yourself in protecting KJ. I know it's frustrating for KJ. He's an extremely good player and we need to give him time to make plays. That's something we need to fix."

Chris Paul Jr., Arkansas LB

"I feel like the defense had a great day today> Even though I feel like we played good, we still have things to fix as a defense as a whole."

"It feels kind of terrible. We're all competitors so we don't really like to lose. We stay together. We come together as a brotherhood. We just keep playing Arkansas football."

On the 3rd Down conversion after all the penalties near the MSU goal line

"They just made a great play call, and Mike White is a great quarterback. He made a great play."

Alfahiym Walcott, Arkansas S

"We're frustrated, it's visible, you can see it. The thing I love about this team is we're not going to bend. We're still together. We'll hold together. We have to finish the rest of the season and that's exactly what we're going to do."

"It hurts. Nobody likes to lose, but, like I said, this team is so close-knit, and we've got to move on to the next game. We have a bye week. That gives us a chance to think over the things we need to fix, but we've still got four more games that we need to play so we've got to finish."



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MISSISSIPPI STATE QUOTES

Zach Arnett, Mississippi State Head Coach

General impressions on first SEC win

"They're hard to come by obviously on the road, so we will take it however we can get it. Both teams [were] fighting hard for their first conference victory and we were fortunate enough to make enough plays today and come out with a victory. [I'm] really proud of our guys."

"We played five games in the month of September, and we talked obviously our record wasn't where we wanted it to be, and results weren't where our expectations were, so October has to be a big month for our program. We have three games in the month of October and obviously we are 2-0 right now and [have] set ourselves up with a chance to go 3-0 in the month. We have every opportunity ahead of us as a program."

What he saw from his defense today and adjustments made going into the game

"I don't think anything changed preparation wise. We have a lot of competitors in our program. We have seen the stats, and we know the results. We're not up to our satisfactory level. They went to work during the bye week. That's what you do. There isn't a magic formula. You put in the work, and you show up every day for practice and take a critical eye at situations you failed to perform. Then you go about correcting them. I give all the credit to those guys for really being man enough to take coaching during a bye week last week, actually put it to good use, and go out and see the fruits of their labor."

On Mike Wright recovering from his interception in the beginning of the game

"He's played enough football to know you have to trust your first instinct and rip it in there. That safety will have a chance. He knows he is just a little late on it. He's a football player. Every quarterback has thrown an interception before. You have to move on and play the next play."

What happened on the segment with an illegal snap and two false starts before Justin Robinson's big catch

"I think they were stemming down there on the goal line and getting into different looks, and obviously those require move call. So sometimes when you are playing on the road in a noisy stadium, depending on what your cadence sounds like and what the calls are, obviously we just failed to execute there."

"Someone asked me earlier this week about being the least penalized team and I said we'll find out now that we are on the road in a hostile environment. They had a heck of a crowd here and you are down there in a backed-up situation and [our offense] did a nice job of situationally getting us some stem and move calls, and obviously we have something we need to work on and improve upon. We'll see that for the rest of the season."

On how their defensive front linebackers were able to control the run game

"Obviously, we were not able to play our normal defense the last couple of games before the bye week just because of some attrition and some guys not being ready to go. To get the bye week in there and get them back healthy kind of freshened up the guys like [Jaden] Crumedy and [Nathan] Pickering, the guys who were playing more snaps than you would like big interior guys to play in some of those games."

"We utilized the bye week the right way and they came out and executed. Arkansas, you don't have to watch them on film really long to know how physical they are and how they play. Coach [Sam] Pittman has done a phenomenal job here. He has done a phenomenal job, so we knew we would have to get ready for a physical game because you have to be able to stop the run, so our guys were up to the challenge."

Mike Wright, Mississippi State QB

"Yes, it's a game ball. I wanted to keep it. Whenever you go on the road in the SEC, that's one of the hardest things you could ever do. And that's a great team over there. You look at the difference between their games and it's all been less than 10 points or almost. So, whenever you go into a hostile environment and come out and still win that's a big step for our program."

Coach said you kind of fired the team up with your speech

"As a quarterback you want to give as much confidence as you can to the team, especially before you go out there. And the theme of the message was to go out there and play football, go out there and be you. The emphasis this week was to focus on ourselves, do your job and focus on your assignment. And by any means necessary go and get a win."

Nathaniel Watson, Mississippi State LB

"Grateful for the opportunity to go out and finish the game. Steal the game for our team. It means a lot for defense".

How was that a chip on the shoulder to find your identity as a defense

"It was a big chip, we worked on a lot of fundamentals, tackling, and all that. We came out here and had a decent game. We just played a better game than them. Our message to our offense was we got you. And just keeping them (Arkansas offense) to 3 points and shutting their offense down."

How tough is it to take a guy down like KJ Jefferson

"Oh big. He's like a big bus. He's built like a big bus, that's all I can say."



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MISSISSIPPI STATE QUOTES

Shawn Preston Jr., Mississippi State S

How long were you waiting for a ball like that to come for you to pick off?

"I'm always waiting, you know. I'm just trying to do my job, not wait for plays to come my way. I'm just trying to focus on every play. We take pride in it.

"We rallied behind and held them to three (points). We continued to play good defense and knew it was going to look like a low-scoring game. As a defense, we took it upon ourselves. This is our game, let's do it for ourselves, and let's remember we didn't let them have a touchdown today. We have to build on this. This can't be the Super Bowl for us, we just have to strive to beat our next opponent and opponents in the future."