

Daniels, LSU storm back from 13 down to beat Bulldogs, 31-16

By Brett Martel
 BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels emerged from the locker room with red, swollen bruises around his left eye — and a smile on his face.

His fearless scrambles frustrated and wore down Mississippi State while helping LSU open its Southeastern Conference slate on a triumphant note.

“I came over to the sideline and it was bleeding,” Daniels said with a chuckle when asked about his facial cuts and welts. “It is what it is — a battle scar. It’s going to swell up a little bit. But you know, it’s football.”

Daniels accounted for more than 300 yards of offense, including one touchdown passing and one rushing, and the Tigers wiped out a 13-point deficit en route to a 31-16 victory over Mississippi State on Saturday night.

“The one thing I know about this group for certain, and we are still trying to learn more about each other every day, is that they are fighters,” first-year LSU coach Brian Kelly said.



Mississippi State running back Jo'quavious Marks (7) runs the ball past LSU defensive end BJ Ojulari (18) to score a touchdown during the first half of an NCAA college football game in Baton Rouge, La., Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022. (AP Photo/Tyler Kaufman)

Daniels completed 22 of 37 passes for 210 yards without an interception, and also rushed for 93 yards, mostly on scrambles.

LSU (2-1, 1-0 SEC) outscored Mississippi State (2-1, 0-1) 21-0 in the fourth quarter and 31-3 during the

game's final 31 minutes.

The Tigers finished it off with Armoni Goodwin's 47-yard touchdown run with 4:50 left and Jay Ward's interception of Bulldogs QB Will Rogers.

The Tigers didn't take their first lead until early in the

fourth quarter, when they cashed in on Austin Williams' muffed punt on his own 10.

Daniels' spinning, tackle-slipping scramble up the middle on third and goal from the 3 made it 17-16 on what was also LSU's first third-down conversion of the game.

The Tigers widened the margin with a 14-play, 85-yard touchdown drive that consumed six minutes. Daniels connected with Malik Nabers on three drive-sustaining passes — two on third down, followed by a surprise, 27-yard floater on fourth and 3. Josh Williams powered in from 7 yards out on the next play to make it 24-16.

Nabers finished with six catches for 76 yards.

LSU's defense initially looked like it might struggle with third-year Mississippi State coach Mike Leach's "Air Raid" offense. The Bulldogs drove 87 yards for a touchdown on their opening possession, capped by Jo'quavious Marks' 37-yard run.

But the Tigers twice stopped MSU runs on fourth-and-short in the first half to keep the game close.

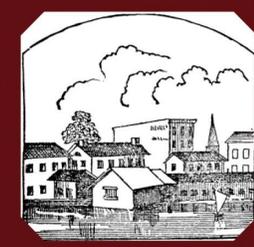
“It is unfortunate because we are explosive; we are just inconsistent,” Leach said. “Explosive is fun and explosive means you can get on a run and hit a lot of dingers on somebody. But in the end, that will catch up to you if you are not consistent. We have got to coach consistency in them. That is what we have to do, starting with me.”

The Bulldogs went up 13-0

IN AND AROUND

LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



William Wright of the Bowling Green Community passed away on 2nd Sunday morning before day. Keep his wife Velma and the rest of the Wright family uplifted in prayer.

Bingo is being enjoyed at the senior citizens feeding center in Lexington.

on Rara Thomas' leaping catch in tight coverage near the left pylon late in the second quarter — a scoring play set up by Dillon Johnson's 35-yard run to the right side.

But LSU's offense suddenly came alive with a 75-yard scoring drive in just 1:28 to make it 13-7 on Jaray Jenkins' 8-yard catch and tackle-breaking surge near the goal line. The drive was fueled by Daniels' scrambles of 13, 15 and 20 yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

Mississippi State: The Bulldogs could not get out of their own way. Three failures on fourth and short were compounded by the muffed punt, a holding call that wiped out an 88-yard kickoff return when MSU was just down by 8, a slew of dropped passes and Rogers' fourth-quarter interception. He finished 24 of 42 for 214 yards and one TD.

LSU: The Tigers' defensive line is regarded as the team's best position group and dominated the line of scrimmage against Mississippi State. LSU sacked

We have started doing word search puzzles again.

Goldia Landfair went to the emergency room 2nd Sunday morning. She's not feeling good. Pray that she will soon be feeling okay. She has a sick daughter in Memphis. Pray for her daughter Cassandra.

Rogers four times and made eight tackles behind the line of scrimmage. The Tigers hit Rogers many more times as he threw and the QB's performance suffered during the second half, when he completed less than half of his throws (11 for 23).

“We came with a mindset that we were going to do our job as a defense,” LSU defensive end Ali Gaye said. “The mentality was to lock them down and bring the energy for (LSU's) offense and let them do their job.”

LINE ITEMS:

LSU had its third different combination of the season along the offensive line with freshmen at both tackle spots.

“It was a really good performance,” Kelly said. “All-in-all, to have two true freshmen and the third different starting lineup we have had up front, I'm really pleased with what they did tonight.”

UP NEXT

Mississippi State: Hosts Bowling Green on Sept. 24.

Wicker, Hyde-Smith move to make distribution of deadly fentanyl chargeable as felony murder

Miss. Senators Cosponsor Bill to Toughen Punishment for Knowingly Dealing Lethal Opiate

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) on Thursday joined U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) in introducing legislation to make the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death chargeable as a felony murder.

In instances of deaths resulting from illegal fentanyl-related opiates, the Felony Murder for Deadly Fentanyl Distribution Act (S.4876) would amend the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to make it a felony to distribute fentanyl and fentanyl-analogs if the dealer has knowledge or reason to know that the substance they are dealing contains fentanyl or a fentanyl-analog.

“The lethal drug fentanyl is destroying lives across the country, and dealers who put it on our streets should be

held responsible,” Wicker said. “This bill would send a strong signal that the federal government will not tolerate this deadly drug which is tearing apart communities, or those who distribute it.”

“The Biden administration has failed to enforce multiple policies to stop fentanyl from coming across the border, even though it is now the leading cause of death for adults aged 18 to 45,” Hyde-Smith said. “This legislation is desperately needed to protect our communities by ensuring harsher consequences to those who knowingly distribute this deadly drug in Mississippi and across the country.”

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data, authorities seized enough fentanyl in July — 2,071 pounds — to kill 469 million Americans. That is up from 680 pounds seized in June as the issue continues to hit close to home for far too many Americans, whether or not they live in a

border-state.

Under current law, the CSA treats all Schedule I and Schedule II drugs the same for purposes of distribution resulting in death by mandating a 20-year minimum and no more than life, despite varying degrees of lethality, availability, and medicinal purposes.

A March 2022 Mississippi State Department of Health report shows a sharp escalation of overall deaths in Mississippi involving fentanyl, including a 125 percent increase in overdose fatalities due to synthetic opioids from 2019 to 2020.

Additional S.4876 cosponsors include Senators Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), and Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

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