

WEEK ONE
OLE MISS VS TEXAS TECH

HOUSTON -- Just after Mississippi piled up more than 500 yards in a blowout of Texas Tech on Saturday quarterback Jordan Ta'amu was asked about his group of receivers led by A.J. Brown, DaMarkus Lodge and D.K. Metcalf.

"They're so talented," he said. "They're the best in the nation. I believe that in my heart. I'm grateful they're on my side and I can throw to them."

On Saturday the Rebels showed that they have a pretty good running game, too.

Ta'amu threw for 336 yards and two touchdowns and Scottie Phillips ran for a career-high 204 yards and two more scores to give Mississippi the 47-27 win.

Phillips said having such a talented group of receivers helps him out.

"They spread everything out and it gives me a lot more running room," he said. "We've got a veteran o-line and that makes my job a whole lot easier."

Phillips extended Mississippi's lead to 37-20 when scampered 65 yards for a touchdown with about seven minutes left in the third quarter.

Da'Leon Ward's second touchdown on a 9-yard run got Texas Tech within 10 later in the third, but Ta'amu found Brown for a 34-yard touchdown pass on the second play of the fourth quarter to make it 44-27.

Ole Miss coach Matt Luke liked the way Ta'amu spread the ball around on Saturday.

"We go to space and if they want to double-team one we're able to go to the others so I think that's pretty unique," Luke said. "It did work out with a lot of balance and that's good."

Texas Tech freshman Alan Bowman was 29 of 49 for 273 yards and a touchdown after taking over late in the first quarter when starter McLane Carter was injured.

"True freshman, first game, that type of atmosphere, just took a while I think for him to settle in," coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "I was proud of how he protected the football, that's what we asked him to do. Protect the ball. Led some nice drives, a couple we'd like to have back, but I thought overall he handled himself well."

Ta'amu got things going early when he connected with Metcalf for a 58-yard touchdown pass on the second play of the game.

The Red Raiders evened it up when Ward ran 15 yards for a score on their first possession. That touchdown was set up when T.J. Vasher made an Odell Beckham-esque one-handed catch for a 31-yard gain two plays earlier. Vasher grabbed the ball with his right hand as he leapt above the defender and secured it with both hands before crashing to the turf near the sideline.

Ole Miss regained the lead quickly when Jaylon Jones returned the ensuing kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown.

The Rebels were up 17-7 when Carter was injured when he was tackled by a pair of defenders on a run for no gain. He tried to remain in the game but fell to the ground at the line and was helped off the field and then carted to the locker room. Kingsbury said it was a left ankle injury, but said he didn't have any details on the severity of the injury.

Mississippi's first touchdown from Phillips, a run of 39 yards, came next to make it 24-7 late in the first quarter.

Bowman made a nice throw under heavy pressure for a 14-yard TD pass to Ja'Deion High to cut the lead to 27-17 about two minutes before halftime.

THE TAKEAWAY

Mississippi: Ta'amu looked great from the start of this one, using a variety of receivers and running the offense with ease. He'll have one more week to fine tune things before the Rebels begin Southeastern Conference play.

Texas Tech: Bowman handled things pretty well after being thrown into action following Carter's injury. But if Carter is out for an extended period of time he'll need to keep developing for the Red Raiders to succeed. Texas Tech's defense will also have to figure out how to limit big plays after the Rebels exploited it for several on Saturday.

TARGETING

Texas Tech's Desmon Smith and Vaughnte Dorsey were both ejected for targeting on Saturday, causing concern for Kingsbury.

"That can't happen," he said. "We need to be more disciplined and find a way to not do that. We're lacking secondary coming in and to lose those guys obviously didn't help the matter. We've got to talk about it, practice and have to be better."

THEY SAID IT

Texas Tech defensive lineman Broderick Washington on giving up 210 yards rushing: "That really disappointed me because what we work on the defensive line and what we pride ourselves on is stopping the run. Obviously we didn't do it. They came in big chunks though. We just need to minimize the big plays."

Final	1	2	3	4	T	
MISS	24	6	7	10	47	
TTU	7	16	10	0	27	
Scoring Summary -----						
FIRST QUARTER						
TD 14:27						MISS
D.K. Metcalf 58 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)						TTU
2 plays, 69 yards, 0:33						0
TD 10:32						
Da'Leon Ward 15 Yd Run (Clayton Hatfield Kick)						7
10 plays, 90 yards, 3:55						7
TD 10:17						
Jaylon Jones 94 Yd Kickoff Return (Luke Logan Kick)						14
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:15						7
FG 4:30						
Luke Logan 24 Yd Field Goal						17
14 plays, 65 yards, 4:42						7
TD 1:08						
Scottie Phillips 39 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)						24
5 plays, 60 yards, 1:49						7
SECOND QUARTER						
FG 12:17						MISS
Clayton Hatfield 25 Yd Field Goal						TTU
9 plays, 42 yards, 3:51						24
FG 6:41						
Luke Logan 29 Yd Field Goal						27
8 plays, 53 yards, 3:35						10
TD 1:57						
Ja'Deion High 14 Yd pass from Alan Bowman (Clayton Hatfield Kick)						11
11 plays, 75 yards, 4:44						27
FG 0:37						
Luke Logan 39 Yd Field Goal						30
8 plays, 47 yards, 1:20						17
THIRD QUARTER						
FG 7:57						MISS
Clayton Hatfield 41 Yd Field Goal						TTU
11 plays, 65 yards, 3:50						30
TD 7:07						
Scottie Phillips 65 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)						37
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:50						20
TD 5:30						
Da'Leon Ward 9 Yd Run (Clayton Hatfield Kick)						37
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:37						27
FOURTH QUARTER						
TD 14:33						MISS
A.J. Brown 34 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)						TTU
2 plays, 54 yards, 0:20						44
FG 4:09						
Luke Logan 23 Yd Field Goal						47
8 plays, 80 yards, 5:02						27
TEAM STATS						
						MISS
						TTU
First Downs						22
Total Yards						546
Total Plays						60
Avg Gain Per Play						9.1
Net Yards Rushing						210
Rushes						28
Yards Per Rush						7.5
Net Yards Passing						336
Comp-Att						22-32-0
Yards Per Pass						10.5
Times Sacked						0
Yds Lost To Sacks						0
Interceptions						0
Punts						3
Punt Average						30.7
Penalties						7
Penalty Yards						49
Fumbles						1
Fumbles Lost						1
Individual Stats						
RUSHING						
						MISS
						TTU
Scottie Phillips	16	204	12.8	2	65	
Jordan Ta'amu	6	7	1.2	0	7	
Isaiah Woullard	4	2	0.5	0	3	
Tylan Knight	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
TTU						
						MISS
						TTU
Da'Leon Ward	17	90	5.3	2	19	
Tre King	13	31	2.4	0	9	
Alan Bowman	3	19	6.3	0	10	
McLane Carter	3	13	4.3	0	13	
KeSean Carter	1	10	10.0	0	10	
De'Quan Bowman	1	4	4.0	0	4	
Team	1	-3	-3.0	0	0	
PASSING						
						MISS
						TTU
Jordan Ta'amu	22	32	336	Y/A 10.5	2	0
Alan Bowman	29	49	273	Y/A 5.6	1	0
McLane Carter	4	7	49	Y/A 7.0	0	0
RECEIVING						
						MISS
						TTU
DaMarkus Lodge	6	96	16.0	0	31	
A.J. Brown	7	93	13.3	1	34	
D.K. Metcalf	4	81	20.3	1	58	
Braylon Sanders	4	60	15.0	0	44	
Dawson Knox	1	6	6.0	0	6	
TTU						
						MISS
						TTU
T.J. Vasher	4	66	16.5	0	31	
Antoine Wesley	6	65	10.8	0	22	
Ja'Deion High	4	62	15.5	1	22	
KeSean Carter	4	35	8.8	0	14	
Zach Austin	3	27	9.0	0	13	
Tre King	4	23	5.8	0	11	
Dalton Rigdon	2	19	9.5	0	10	
Demarcus Felton	1	8	8.0	0	8	
Seth Collins	1	7	7.0	0	7	
Da'Leon Ward	2	5	2.5	0	4	
Erik Ezukanma	1	4	4.0	0	4	
Ta'Zawn Henry	1	1	1.0	0	1	