

WEEK TWO
 ARKANSAS at MISSISSIPPI

Corral leads Ole Miss past Arkansas 31-17 in an SEC opener

OXFORD, Miss. -- Don't try to make the argument to Mississippi coach Matt Luke that Saturday night's 31-17 win over Arkansas wasn't a work or art.

"It wasn't perfect. But, it looked good to me. This win really gives us something to build on," Luke said, whose club won the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams. "I told these men that we would fight through barriers and obstacles together and we played our hearts out together tonight." The Rebels (1-1, 1-0) got a big performance from Matt Corral, who finished 16-of-24 passing for 246 yards, including a pair of touchdown passes to Elijah Moore. Scottie Phillips added scoring runs of 1 and 26 yards and finished with a game-high 143 yards rushing as the Rebels finished with 483 yards of offense.

"I thought Matt Corral was good. He looked much more comfortable this week," Luke said. "It was great to see Elijah make plays, too. This is an important win for us. We played with a lot of passion."

Arkansas (1-1, 0-1) stayed within striking distance at 17-10 in the third quarter on a 69-yard fumble return for a touchdown from Kamren Curl. Quarterback Nick Starkel, who replaced Ben Hicks in the second half, had a 6-yard touchdown pass to Koilan Jackson in the final two minutes.

"It's hard to win in the SEC on the road. It's really hard when you make as many mistakes as we did tonight," Arkansas coach Chad Morris said. "It's frustrating to walk back in that locker room. Now, it's about a response."

THE TAKEAWAY

Arkansas: It was a disappointing continuation of SEC woes. The Razorbacks have lost 12 consecutive conference games and are 1-17 since November, 2016, the final season under former head coach Bret Bielema. The defense, highlighted by Curl's brilliant individual play, wore out in the final quarter. The offense took a huge step backward and had only one trip to the red zone while the issue was in doubt, capped by a 36-yard field goal by Connor Limpert.

"We can't let this go on to next week," Starkel said. "We have to live by the 24-hour rule and let it go. I think we will do that."

Ole Miss: After closing last season with five consecutive SEC losses, winning the league opener was crucial. A roster filled with newcomers and underclassmen, along with two new coordinators -- Rich Rodriguez on offense and Mike MacIntyre on defense -- appears to be meshing as head coach Matt Luke predicted. The new-look units may not be ready to challenge the SEC heavyweights yet, but the encouraging conference win indicates the Rebels are trending up in a drive for bowl eligibility.

"We've got to get better," Corral said. "Week by week, we've got to get on this stuff and get better. But, this is a good win, a team win."

KEY PLAY

Trailing 10-3 midway through the third quarter, Starkel had a 38-yard touchdown pass to Trey Knox wiped out by an ineligible player downfield penalty. The Razorbacks turned the ball over on downs two plays later. Ole Miss answered with a 71-yard touchdown drive to build what proved to be an insurmountable 17-3 lead.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ARK	0	3	0	14	17
MISS	7	3	7	14	31

Scoring Summary -----

	ARK	MISS
FIRST QUARTER		
MISS TD 8:41 Elijah Moore 2 Yd pass from Matt Corral (Luke Logan Kick)		7
13 plays, 85 yards, 4:35	0	7
SECOND QUARTER		
ARK FG 8:19 Connor Limpert 36 Yd Field Goal	3	7
7 plays, 36 yards, 3:11	3	7
MISS FG 2:24 Luke Logan 33 Yd Field Goal		10
7 plays, 31 yards, 3:06	3	10
THIRD QUARTER		
MISS TD 2:34 Scottie Phillips 1 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		17
8 plays, 71 yards, 2:59	3	17
FOURTH QUARTER		
ARK TD 13:31 Kamren Curl 69 Yd Fumble Return (Connor Limpert Kick)	10	17
5 plays, 27 yards, 2:18	10	17
MISS TD 11:09 Elijah Moore 46 Yd pass from Matt Corral (Luke Logan Kick)		24
5 plays, 74 yards, 2:17	10	24
MISS TD 6:03 Scottie Phillips 26 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		31
5 plays, 66 yards, 3:05	10	31
ARK TD 1:21 Koilan Jackson 6 Yd pass from Nick Starkel (Connor Limpert Kick)		31
7 plays, 81 yards, 2:06	17	31

Team Stats	ARK	MISS
First Downs	18	23
Passes for First	12	10
Rushes for First	5	11
Penalties for First	1	2
Third Down Efficiency	5-15	8-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	0-2
Total Yards	361	483
Total Plays	67	77
Avg Gain Per Play	5.4	6.3
Net Yards Rushing	61	237
Rushes	26	53
Yards Per Rush	2.3	4.5
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	300	246
Comp-Att	25-41	16-24
Yards Per Pass	7.3	10.3
Times Sacked	3	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-21	-7
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	6	4
Punt Average	35.7	49.5
Penalties	7	5
Penalty Yards	55	60
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Time of Poss	27:32	32:28

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
ARKANSAS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Rakeem Boyd	17	67	3.9	0	10
De'Vion Warren	1	12	12.0	0	12
Devwah Whaley	2	2	1.0	0	2
Ben Hicks	4	-5	-1.3	0	6
Chase Hayden	1	-6	-6.0	0	0
Nick Starkel	1	-9	-9.0	0	0
MISSISSIPPI	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Scottie Phillips	26	143	5.5	2	26
Matt Corral	10	46	4.6	0	23
Snoop Conner	8	42	5.3	0	25
Jerrion Ealy	4	7	1.8	0	4
Isaiah Woullard	1	3	3.0	0	3
Octavious Cooley	1	1	1.0	0	1
Elijah Moore	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

PASSING							
ARKANSAS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Nick Starkel	17	24	201	8.4	1	0	49.1
Ben Hicks	7	16	98	6.1	0	0	23.7
Rakeem Boyd	1	1	1	1.0	0	0	50.4
MISSISSIPPI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Matt Corral	16	24	246	10.3	2	0	78.8

RECEIVING					
ARKANSAS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Trey Knox	6	88	14.7	0	49
Mike Woods	6	84	14.0	0	45
Cheyenne O'Grady	3	45	15.0	0	25
Treyton Burks	2	28	14.0	0	22
Devwah Whaley	2	23	11.5	0	14
Koilan Jackson	2	19	9.5	1	13
Rakeem Boyd	1	8	8.0	0	8
Tyson Morris	1	8	8.0	0	8
De'Vion Warren	1	1	1.0	0	1
Chase Hayden	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
MISSISSIPPI	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Elijah Moore	7	130	18.6	2	46
Dontario Drummond	2	38	19.0	0	26
Jerrion Ealy	3	35	11.7	0	26
Octavious Cooley	2	28	14.0	0	18
Jason Pellerin	2	15	7.5	0	13