

WEEK TWO
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AT OLE MISS

OXFORD, Miss. -- Jordan Ta'amu threw for 448 yards and five touchdowns, Scottie Phillips ran for 107 yards and two more scores, and Mississippi survived an upset scare by beating Southern Illinois 76-41 on Saturday.

SIU led 38-35 at halftime in a game that was much more competitive than originally anticipated. In fact, this one was downright bizarre.

The Salukis (1-1) had never beaten a team from the Southeastern Conference and were 3-30 coming into the game against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents. But they pushed the Rebels (2-0) to the brink for three quarters on Saturday, flinging the ball all over the field against a completely unprepared Ole Miss defense.

The Rebels finally broke the game open early in the fourth quarter when Vernon Dasher snagged an interception and ran it back 88 yards for a touchdown and a 55-41 lead. The play seemed to break the Salukis' spirit and the Rebels piled up the points in the waning minutes for the win.

Southern Illinois' Sam Straub completed 29 of 47 passes for 382 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions. D.J. Davis ran for 121 yards.

Ole Miss defensive coordinator Wesley McGriff said earlier in week that he expected Southern Illinois to rely heavily on the running game. Instead, the Salukis threw five straight pass plays on the first drive, including a 9-yard TD from Straub to Nigel Kilby.

Kilby was one of many SIU receivers who were running coverage-free in the first half. Straub had little problem connecting against the oft-confused Ole Miss defense, completing 19 of 25 passes for 299 yards and four touchdowns before halftime.

The problem for SIU was Ole Miss scored nearly as fast. Ta'amu threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns in the first half while Phillips ran for two more scores. The dizzying first half ended with Southern Illinois holding a three-point lead.

The lead wouldn't last, but it was certainly entertaining. The two teams combined for nearly 1,300 total yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

The Ole Miss offense was very, very good. The Ole Miss defense was very, very bad. It's probably slightly more complicated than that, but not really. The Rebels have an offense that's among the best in the nation, but it isn't going to matter if they can't figure out how to tackle anyone.

It was a terrific effort from Southern Illinois, which had a 4-7 record last season, but played toe-to-toe with a SEC opponent. The Salukis ran out of gas in the fourth quarter, but shouldn't be ashamed by anything that happened on Saturday.

NASTY WIDE OUTS

The Ole Miss receivers -- also known by the nickname Nasty Wide Outs (NWO) -- had another huge game. A.J. Brown caught eight passes for 158 yards and two touchdowns. D.K. Metcalf caught seven passes for 93 yards and a touchdown. Braylon Sanders -- filling in for the injured DaMarkus Lodge -- caught four passes for 133 yards and a touchdown.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SIU	21	17	3	0	41
MISS	14	21	14	27	76

Scoring Summary

Time	SIU	MISS
FIRST QUARTER		
SIU TD 13:04		
Nigel Kilby 9 Yd pass from Sam Straub (Nico Gualdoni Kick)		0
5 plays, 56 yards, 0:50	7	
MISS TD 9:57		
Scottie Phillips 7 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		7
11 plays, 65 yards, 3:07	7	7
SIU TD 6:32		
Landon Lenoir 7 Yd pass from Sam Straub (Nico Gualdoni Kick)		7
6 plays, 75 yards, 3:25	14	7
MISS TD 5:31		
Braylon Sanders 30 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)		14
3 plays, 81 yards, 0:55	14	14
SIU TD 1:01		
Sam Straub 2 Yd Run (Nico Gualdoni Kick)		14
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:30	21	14
SECOND QUARTER		
MISS TD 14:52		
Elijah Moore 50 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)		21
4 plays, 87 yards, 1:04	21	21
SIU FG 8:12		
Nico Gualdoni 22 Yd Field Goal		21
14 plays, 70 yards, 0:00	24	21
MISS TD 6:40		
A.J. Brown 38 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)		28
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:32	24	28
SIU TD 4:06		
Raphael Leonard 9 Yd pass from Sam Straub (Nico Gualdoni Kick)		28
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:34	31	28
MISS TD 1:17		
Scottie Phillips 6 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		35
10 plays, 75 yards, 2:49	31	35
SIU TD 0:49		
Raphael Leonard 70 Yd pass from Sam Straub (Nico Gualdoni Kick)		35
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:28	38	35
THIRD QUARTER		
MISS TD 11:22		
A.J. Brown 46 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)		42
2 plays, 59 yards, 0:24	38	42
SIU FG 5:00		
Nico Gualdoni 26 Yd Field Goal		42
8 plays, 35 yards, 3:02	41	42
MISS TD 3:48		
D.K. Metcalf 5 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)		49
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:12	41	49
FOURTH QUARTER		
MISS TD 14:42		
Vernon Dasher 88 Yd Interception Return (Luke Logan PAT failed)		55
12 plays, 74 yards, 3:59	41	55
MISS TD 12:00		
Isaiah Wouillard 2 Yd Run (Isaac Way Kick)		62
7 plays, 52 yards, 1:36	41	62
MISS TD 9:34		
Victor Evans 56 Yd Fumble Return (Luke Logan Kick)		69
6 plays, 34 yards, 2:20	41	69
MISS TD 1:42		
Matt Corral 1 Yd Run (Patrick Nasiatka Kick)		76
10 plays, 70 yards, 5:51	41	76

Team Stats

	SIU	MISS
First Downs	32	31
Total Yards	607	646
Total Plays	93	67
Avg Gain Per Play	6.5	9.6
Net Yards Rushing	219	167
Rushes	45	32
Yards Per Rush	4.9	5.2
Net Yards Passing	388	479
Comp-Att	30-48	24-35
Yards Per Pass	8.1	13.7
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-11
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	3	2
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	8	9
Penalty Yards	48	75
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	37:33	22:27

Individual Stats

RUSHING

SIU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
D.J. Davis	16	121	7.6	0	32
Sam Straub	10	36	3.6	1	6
D.J. Hampton	4	32	8.0	0	25
Raphael Leonard	2	15	7.5	0	12
Javon Williams Jr.	4	14	3.5	0	10
Chris Perkins	4	11	2.8	0	6
Matt Quarells	1	8	8.0	0	8
Jonathan Mixon	2	6	3.0	0	4
Je'Quan Burton	1	2	2.0	0	2
Darrell James	1	-4	-4.0	0	0

MISS

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Scottie Phillips	15	107	7.1	2	31
Tylan Knight	4	26	6.5	0	12
Isaiah Wouillard	7	23	3.3	1	7
Armani Linton	3	12	4.0	0	8
Matt Corral	1	1	1.0	1	1
Jordan Ta'amu	2	-2	-1.0	0	5

PASSING

SIU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Sam Straub	29	47	382	8.1	4	2	149.5
Stone Labanowitz	1	1	6	6.0	0	0	150.4
MISS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jordan Ta'amu	23	33	448	13.6	5	0	233.7
Matt Corral	1	2	31	15.5	0	0	180.2

RECEIVING

SIU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Raphael Leonard	6	117	19.5	2	70
Landon Lenoir	9	83	9.2	1	28
Jacob Robert Varble	5	59	11.8	0	29
Darrell James	5	51	10.2	0	21
Jaylon Graham	1	30	30.0	0	30
D.J. Davis	2	28	14.0	0	25
Nigel Kilby	2	20	10.0	1	11
MISS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
A.J. Brown	8	158	19.8	2	46
Braylon Sanders	4	133	33.3	1	55
D.K. Metcalf	7	93	13.3	1	51
Elijah Moore	1	50	50.0	1	50
Alex Weber	1	31	31.0	0	31
Floyd Allen	1	10	10.0	0	10
Scottie Phillips	2	4	2.0	0	4