

WEEK FOUR
FLORIDA AT MISSISSIPPI STATE

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Feleipe Franks threw for 219 yards and Florida's defense dominated in the Gators' 13-6 victory over No. 23 Mississippi State on Saturday night.

Coach Dan Mullen won in his return to Starkville, guiding Florida to success in his first appearance at Davis Wade Stadium since leaving Mississippi State in November after nine mostly successful seasons.

Florida wasn't great offensively, but it didn't matter. The Gators (4-1, 2-1) broke through in the third quarter when Franks threw a lateral to Kadarius Toney, who then threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Moral Stephens for a 10-6 lead.

From that point forward, Florida slowly grinded toward the win. A 10-play, 36-yard drive in the fourth quarter led to a 21-yard field goal by Evan McPherson -- giving the Gators a 13-6 lead -- and the Mississippi State offense was never able to respond.

Mississippi State (3-2, 0-2) had its chances to win and led 6-3 at halftime. The Bulldogs looked like they were going to break the game open in the third quarter when Nick Fitzgerald fired a perfect pass downfield to Osirus Mitchell, but the ball bounced awkwardly off his hands and fell to the turf.

The Bulldogs had one more chance late in the fourth quarter, but Fitzgerald was sacked on fourth down. Mississippi State has scored just one touchdown over the past two games.

Mullen's Gators took the field to plenty of cowbells and lots of boos before Saturday's game, though the reception wasn't much worse than most opposing teams get in Starkville.

Once the game started, highlights were limited. Both teams stuck to a conservative, ground-based offense that produced no first-half touchdowns and the Bulldogs took a 6-3 lead into halftime.

THE TAKEAWAY

Florida has now won three straight games since losing to Kentucky in the second week of the season. The Gators leaned on their defense one week after the offense carried them to a 47-21 win over Tennessee.

It was another ugly performance from Mississippi State, which also lost to Kentucky 28-7 last week. The Bulldogs have no rhythm offensively and are struggling to both run and pass. It's obviously very early in the coach Joe Moorhead-Mississippi State marriage, but right now, it's a little rocky in Starkville. Mississippi State managed just 202 total yards.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FLA	0	3	7	3	13
MSST	3	3	0	0	6

Scoring Summary -----

	FLA	MSST
FIRST QUARTER		
MSST FG 3:28		
Jace Christmann 34 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 59 yards, 6:09	0	3
SECOND QUARTER		
FLA FG 10:24		
Evan McPherson 39 Yd Field Goal		
15 plays, 68 yards, 8:04	3	3
MSST FG 3:30		
Jace Christmann 39 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 67 yards, 6:54	3	6
THIRD QUARTER		
FLA TD 8:26		
Moral Stephens 20 Yd pass from Kadarius Toney (Evan McPherson Kick)	10	6
6 plays, 73 yards, 2:48		
FOURTH QUARTER		
FLA FG 5:22		
Evan McPherson 21 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 36 yards, 5:13	13	6

Team Stats	FLA	MSST
First Downs	20	15
Total Yards	357	202
Total Plays	66	58
Avg Gain Per Play	5.4	3.5
Net Yards Rushing	118	104
Rushes	34	32
Yards Per Rush	3.5	3.3
Net Yards Passing	239	98
Comp-Att	23-32	11-26
Yards Per Pass	7.5	3.8
Times Sacked	1	6
Yds Lost To Sacks	-10	-39
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	5	6
Punt Average	37.2	37.7
Penalties	11	2
Penalty Yards	90	15
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	33:47	26:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
FLA					
Lamical Perine	10	55	5.5	0	22
Dameon Pierce	4	30	7.5	0	14
Jordan Scarlett	10	21	2.1	0	8
Kadarius Toney	2	20	10.0	0	16
Feleipe Franks	6	-4	-0.7	0	4
Team	2	-4	-2.0	0	0
MSST					
Kylin Hill	9	41	4.6	0	12
Nick Fitzgerald	20	32	1.6	0	11
Aeris Williams	3	31	10.3	0	17

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
FLA							
Feleipe Franks	22	31	219	7.1	0	1	43.2
Kadarius Toney	1	1	20	20.0	1	0	100.0
MSST							
Nick Fitzgerald	11	26	98	3.8	0	0	9.7

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
FLA					
Josh Hammond	3	47	15.7	0	20
Trevon Grimes	4	34	8.5	0	12
Van Jefferson	4	29	7.3	0	12
Lamical Perine	2	24	12.0	0	16
Freddie Swain	2	21	10.5	0	12
Moral Stephens	1	20	20.0	1	20
C'yontai Lewis	1	18	18.0	0	18
Tyrie Cleveland	2	16	8.0	0	10
Kadarius Toney	1	9	9.0	0	9
Kyle Pitts	1	9	9.0	0	9
Lucas Krull	1	6	6.0	0	6
Dameon Pierce	1	6	6.0	0	6
MSST					
Osirus Mitchell	3	35	11.7	0	12
Dedrick Thomas	2	21	10.5	0	17
Stephen Guidry	2	18	9.0	0	15
Jesse Jackson	1	8	8.0	0	8
Farrod Green	1	8	8.0	0	8
Kylin Hill	2	8	4.0	0	10