

WEEK EIGHT
AUBURN AT OLE MISS

OXFORD, Miss. -- If there were any questions whether the Auburn Tigers would be able to bounce back from consecutive disappointing losses, head coach Gus Malzahn figured they were answered in a 31-16 win over Mississippi on Saturday.

"We went through a storm last week with all the negativity that goes with it," Malzahn said. "It either divides -- and I think a lot of people root for that -- or it brings you together."

Lofty preseason hopes for Auburn (5-3, 2/3 Southeastern Conference) were dashed after SEC losses to Mississippi State and Tennessee after a 4-1 start. But the Tigers had everything working together against the Rebels in each phase of the game.

"The third quarter stood out to me because we kind of put that game away," Malzahn said. "We had over 200 yards rushing, which was huge. I'm real happy for our players and staff. It's a very good win."

JaTarvious Whitlow rushed for 170 yards on 19 carries as Auburn rolled up 484 yards total offense without a turnover, to break open a 10-6 halftime lead.

The Tigers put together scoring drives of 68, 75 and 62 yards to build a 31-9 cushion that was never seriously threatened. Anthony Schwartz recovered a fumble in the end zone after a 54-yard run by Whitlow while Malik Miller capped drives with scoring runs of 1 and 2 yards.

Whitlow added a touchdown reception of 3 yards from Jarrett Stidham and Anders Carlson converted a 28-yard field goal to build the halftime lead.

Stidham finished 13-of-22 passing for 215 yards. Seth Williams had four receptions for 83 yards, while Whitlow added four receptions for 38 yards.

Ole Miss (5-3, 1-3) moved the ball, accounting for 447 yards in total offense, but settled for three field goals on three tries in the red zone. Luke Logan converted field goals of 36, 37 and 35 yards, respectively.

"The story of the day is the red zone," Mississippi coach Matt Luke said. "When you get down in the red zone against a good defense, and Auburn has a really good defense, you've got to find a way to score touchdowns."

Jordan Ta'amu was 27 of 46 for 324 yards with a 12-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Brown in the final period after Auburn had built an insurmountable lead. Brown finished with 10 receptions for 155 yards.

THE TAKEAWAY

Auburn: Defensively, the Tigers were brilliant when the game was still in doubt, limiting Ole Miss to field goals and forcing the ball over on downs twice.

Deshaun Davis had 13 tackles, Nick Coe added three sacks and Marlon Davidson blocked a field-goal attempt.

The Tigers face three ranked teams, including archrival No. 1 Alabama in November, but the inspired performance should turn down the volume temporarily on Malzahn's job status. The Tigers need one win to become bowl eligible.

Ole Miss: The Rebels moved the ball effectively, but failure to reach the end zone in three quarters prevented keeping pace with Auburn. The offense performed unevenly after last week's season-ending injury to deep-threat receiver D.K. Metcalf.

The defensive unit was unable to get a stop during the crucial third quarter and finished without forcing a turnover despite an impressive 16-tackle performance from linebacker Mohamed Sanogo.

"Our defense gave us a chance in the first half," Luke said. "But in the second half, it was pounding away, pounding away and finally the dam broke. No excuses."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
AUB	7	3	21	0	31
MISS	3	3	3	7	16

Scoring Summary -----

	AUB	MISS
FIRST QUARTER		
AUB TD 8:36 JaTarvious Whitlow 3 Yd pass from Jarrett Stidham (Anders Carlson Kick)	7	0
MISS FG 5:49 Luke Logan 36 Yd Field Goal		3
11 plays, 77 yards, 3:44		
SECOND QUARTER		
MISS FG 9:16 Luke Logan 37 Yd Field Goal	7	6
8 plays, 51 yards, 2:22		
AUB FG 4:18 Anders Carlson 28 Yd Field Goal	10	6
15 plays, 86 yards, 4:58		
THIRD QUARTER		
AUB TD 12:07 Malik Miller 1 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	17	6
7 plays, 68 yards, 2:53		
MISS FG 8:30 Luke Logan 35 Yd Field Goal	17	9
9 plays, 57 yards, 3:37		
AUB TD 6:53 Anthony Schwartz 0 Yd Fumble Return (Anders Carlson Kick)	24	9
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:37		
AUB TD 3:00 Malik Miller 2 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	31	9
3 plays, 62 yards, 0:58		
FOURTH QUARTER		
MISS TD 2:24 A.J. Brown 12 Yd pass from Jordan Ta'amu (Luke Logan Kick)	31	16
15 plays, 82 yards, 5:03		

Team Stats	AUB	MISS
First Downs	20	27
Total Yards	484	447
Total Plays	68	86
Avg Gain Per Play	7.1	5.2
Net Yards Rushing	269	123
Rushes	46	39
Yards Per Rush	5.8	3.2
Net Yards Passing	215	324
Comp-Att	13-22	27-47
Yards Per Pass	9.8	6.9
Times Sacked	1	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	-5	-34
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	3	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	8	6
Penalty Yards	80	35
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	29:49	30:11

Individual Stats

RUSHING

AUB	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
JaTarvious Whitlow	19	170	8.9	0	54
Shaun Shivers	10	45	4.5	0	13
Kam Martin	4	18	4.5	0	10
Anthony Schwartz	1	16	16.0	1	16
Malik Miller	6	11	1.8	2	9
Jarrett Stidham	6	9	1.5	0	8

MISS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Scottie Phillips	17	59	3.5	0	18
Jordan Ta'amu	19	43	2.3	0	14
Isaiah Woullard	3	21	7.0	0	11

PASSING

AUB	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jarrett Stidham	13	22	215	9.8	1	0	57.8
MISS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jordan Ta'amu	27	46	324	7.0	1	0	54.3
Team	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	--

RECEIVING

AUB	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Seth Williams	2	83	41.5	0	62
Darius Slayton	2	62	31.0	0	35
JaTarvious Whitlow	4	38	9.5	1	27
Anthony Schwartz	2	16	8.0	0	9
Ryan Davis	2	12	6.0	0	9
Malik Miller	1	4	4.0	0	4
MISS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
A.J. Brown	10	155	15.5	1	51
DaMarkus Lodge	5	84	16.8	0	32
Scottie Phillips	2	20	10.0	0	11
Braylon Sanders	3	18	6.0	0	15
Isaiah Woullard	2	13	6.5	0	9
Dawson Knox	2	11	5.5	0	6
Elijah Moore	1	9	9.0	0	9
Octavious Cooley	1	8	8.0	0	8
Miles Battle	1	6	6.0	0	6