

MUSIC CITY BOWL  
MISSISSIPPI ST VS LOUISVILLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Consider the Louisville Cardinals' turnaround in coach Scott Satterfield's debut a smashing success.

Micale Cunningham threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 81 more, and Louisville beat Mississippi State 38-28 Monday in the Music City Bowl.

The Cardinals (8-5) rallied from a 14-point deficit by scoring 31 straight to finish their big turnaround from 2-10 last season. Louisville also finally beat Mississippi State on the field for the first time in six tries, though the series now is tied 3-3 thanks to a pair of forfeits by the Bulldogs in the 1970s.

Satterfield noted Louisville lost 22 scholarship players from last season.

"The guys that stuck it out with us is so rewarding to them to be able to come in here and finish it off with a big-time bowl win," Satterfield said. "I'm so proud of these guys, particularly the seniors. But I'm excited for the young guys who'll be coming back so we can build off this. ... The momentum is going to be huge for us."

Mississippi State (6-7) had been trying to finish the season with a three-game winning streak for the first time since 2013 and only the third time since the end of World War II. Instead, the Bulldogs go home having lost a bowl game in each of coach Joe Moorhead's two seasons.

"This season was a book in and of itself," Moorhead said of a season marred by suspensions. "Certainly 6-7 was not the outcome we desired. To get bowl eligible, win an Egg Bowl and have this opportunity to play in a bowl game to me is a credit to these seniors, a credit to this staff and credit to these leaders that we were able to battle through a ton of adversity this season."

The Cardinals had four sacks and recovered two fumbles, one returned 31 yards for a TD by safety Khane Pass.

"It popped right in my hands, a perfect bounce," Pass said.

Javian Hawkins led Louisville with 105 yards rushing, and he ran for a TD late. The Cardinals outgained Mississippi State 510-366.

Louisville was poised to take control on its opening drive, going from the Cardinals 3 down the field. Cunningham hit Dez Fitzpatrick on a 19-yard pass only to be stripped of the ball by linebacker Willie Gay Jr., with linebacker Tim Washington recovering for the Bulldogs just short of the end zone.

Tommy Stevens led Mississippi State on a 99-yard drive, and he put the Bulldogs up 7-0 with a 3-yard TD run. Mississippi State added an 80-yard drive and went up 14-0 on a 3-yard TD run by Nick Gibson with 10:19 left in the second quarter.

Louisville finally got on the board with a bit of trickery. Micale Cunningham lateraled left to wide receiver Tutu Atwell, who threw back across the field to a wide-open Marshon Ford, who then ran in for a 33-yard TD midway through the second. Ryan Chalifoux added a 31-yard field goal as the first half expired to pull Louisville within 14-10.

Cunningham put Louisville ahead to stay with a 24-yard TD pass to Devante Peete with 5:01 left in the third. Pass scored when he recovered the ball after Gary McCrae chopped it out of Stevens' arms. Cunningham added an 8-yard TD pass to Ford early in the fourth for a 31-14 lead.

"We got down 14 points early in the game, and the kids didn't flinch," Satterfield said. "I mean they kept playing, they kept battling. The next thing you know you're right back in the game. We grabbed the momentum and poured it on."

THE TAKEAWAY

Mississippi State: Junior running back Kylin Hill, the Southeastern Conference's leading rusher with 1,347 yards, stuck around for this bowl despite his plans to enter the NFL draft. Hill came in needing 45 yards to break the Bulldogs' single-season rushing record held by Anthony Dixon, but he finished with 3 yards on seven carries after apparently hurting an ankle early.

"He tried to fight through it," Moorhead said of Hill's injury. "That's credit to him and his toughness and what he thinks of his teammates."

Louisville: The Cardinals lost starting middle linebacker Dorian Etheridge early in the second quarter. The linebacker's left leg was under Bulldogs tight end Geor'quarius Spivey, and Etheridge tried to jerk his leg free and then kicked at Spivey trying to get free. It didn't matter, not with an offense filled with so many playmakers. Atwell caught nine passes for 147 yards, setting the single-season record with 1,276 yards receiving.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MSST	7	7	0	14	28
LOU	0	10	14	14	38

Scoring Summary -----

Quarter	Time	MSST	LOU
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>			
MSST	TD 4:48		
	Tommy Stevens 3 Yd Run (Jace Christmann Kick)		
	8 plays, 99 yards, 4:10	7	0
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>			
MSST	TD 10:19		
	Nick Gibson 3 Yd Run (Jace Christmann Kick)		
	10 plays, 80 yards, 3:49	14	0
LOU	TD 7:57		
	Marshon Ford 33 Yd pass from Tutu Atwell (Ryan Chalifoux Kick)		
	5 plays, 72 yards, 2:22	14	7
LOU	FG 0:00		
	Ryan Chalifoux 31 Yd Field Goal		
	10 plays, 50 yards, 3:14	14	10
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>			
LOU	TD 5:01		
	Devante Peete 24 Yd pass from Micale Cunningham (Ryan Chalifoux Kick)		
	7 plays, 55 yards, 2:21	14	17
LOU	TD 2:51		
	Khane Pass 31 Yd Fumble Return (Ryan Chalifoux Kick)		
	4 plays, 11 yards, 2:10	14	24
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>			
LOU	TD 13:52		
	Marshon Ford 8 Yd pass from Micale Cunningham (Ryan Chalifoux Kick)		
	6 plays, 65 yards, 2:30	14	31
MSST	TD 10:25		
	Stephen Guidry 18 Yd pass from Tommy Stevens (Jace Christmann Kick)		
	9 plays, 75 yards, 3:27	21	31
LOU	TD 2:13		
	Javian Hawkins 5 Yd Run (Ryan Chalifoux Kick)		
	6 plays, 52 yards, 1:47	21	38
MSST	TD 0:27		
	Osirus Mitchell 24 Yd pass from Tommy Stevens (Jace Christmann Kick)		
	7 plays, 86 yards, 1:46	28	38

Team Stats	MSST	LOU
First Downs	24	23
Passes for First	12	13
Rushes for First	9	9
Penalties for First	3	1
Third Down Efficiency	4-11	6-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Total Yards	366	510
Total Plays	62	69
Avg Gain Per Play	5.9	7.4
Net Yards Rushing	145	198
Rushes	36	44
Yards Per Rush	4.0	4.5
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	221	312
Comp-Att	17-26	17-25
Yards Per Pass	8.5	12.5
Times Sacked	4	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-35	-15
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	43.0	44.3
Penalties	2	6
Penalty Yards	20	50
Fumbles	4	1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Possession	28:26	31:34

Individual Stats

RUSHING								
MSST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long			
	Tommy Stevens	17	71	4.2	1	24		
	Nick Gibson	8	54	6.8	1	19		
	Lee Witherspoon	4	17	4.3	0	11		
	Kylin Hill	7	3	0.4	0	6		
LOU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long			
	Javian Hawkins	23	105	4.6	1	24		
	Micale Cunningham	16	81	5.1	0	23		
	Tutu Atwell	1	9	9.0	0	9		
	Hassan Hall	3	4	1.3	0	6		
	Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
PASSING								
MSST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat	
	Tommy Stevens	17	26	221	8.5	2	0	52.5
LOU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat	
	Micale Cunningham	16	23	279	12.1	2	0	90.6
	Tutu Atwell	1	2	33	16.5	1	0	91.4
RECEIVING								
MSST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long			
	Stephen Guidry	6	76	12.7	1	20		
	Osirus Mitchell	2	47	23.5	1	24		
	JaVonta Payton	2	39	19.5	0	27		
	Farrod Green	3	23	7.7	0	16		
	Geor'quarius Spivey	1	13	13.0	0	13		
	Dedrick Thomas	1	11	11.0	0	11		
	Nick Gibson	1	6	6.0	0	6		
	Kylin Hill	1	6	6.0	0	6		
LOU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long			
	Tutu Atwell	9	147	16.3	0	25		
	Marshon Ford	3	53	17.7	2	33		
	Dez Fitzpatrick	2	37	18.5	0	24		
	Justin Marshall	1	29	29.0	0	29		
	Devante Peete	1	24	24.0	1	24		
	Jordan Davis	1	22	22.0	0	22		