

Ole Miss holds off Southeastern Louisiana 40-29

Mississippi running back Jerrion Ealy had flashes of brilliance in preseason practice and in limited appearances in his first two games. The true freshman had that much-anticipated breakout performance Saturday in a 40-29 win over Southeastern Louisiana.

Ealy turned in 273 all-purpose yards, including a 94-yard kickoff return touchdown and a 30-yard scoring run, as the Rebels (2-1) beat back a challenge from the FCS Lions (1-1), who had two drives finish inside Ole Miss territory in the final period. "Man, I'm so proud of Jerrion. Really proud," Ole Miss coach Matt Luke said. "He was the difference in the game with that kickoff return and run. That got us in front and we scrapped and clawed to get the win."

Matt Corral finished 21 of 30 for 239 yards and two touchdowns as well as directing a pair of time-consuming, fourth quarter field goal drives. Luke Logan connected on field goals of 22 and 32 yards that preserved the win.

"On that kickoff return, I saw it open to the left and all I could think was I better score," Ealy said. "It was open and I don't get caught (from behind). Well, it's never happened. On the touchdown run, it's always about the offensive line and the job they do."

Chason Virgil kept the Lions within striking distance with 309 passing yards and two touchdowns on 29-of-44 passing, but was intercepted three times.

"Ultimately, we turned the ball over four times and did not play well on special teams," Southeastern Louisiana coach Frank Scelfo said. "You can't do those things against good teams like Ole Miss and expect to win."

The Rebels never trailed but could not break away despite rolling up 459 yards of total offense, including a game-high 103 rushing yards by Scottie Phillips. Corral threw touchdown passes of 9 and 5 yards to Elijah Moore and Jason Pellerin, respectively.

Virgil threw touchdown passes of 45 and 5 yards to Juwan Petit-Frere and Bransen Schwebel, respectively, in the third quarter to pull the Lions within 34-29 and set up the heroics by the Ole Miss defense.

THE TAKEAWAY

Southeastern Louisiana: A loss to an SEC team did nothing to hurt the reputation of a solid FCS program from a strong conference, the Southland. The Lions rallied from a 17-point deficit in the third quarter and were more than competitive throughout. Devonte Williams finished with 206 all-purpose yards, but was limited in the final period.

"I'm really proud of how we didn't blink when we went down by 17 points," Scelfo said. "We gave ourselves a chance to win in the final quarter, which is all we can ask for."

Ole Miss: The consistency of Phillips was complemented by continued improvement of Corral and the big-play versatility of true freshman Ealy. Defensively, the Rebels struggled, but made enough big plays -- three interceptions, a fumble recovery and two late stops on fourth down -- to seal it.

"I was proud of those fourth-quarter drives," Luke said. "We put them in a two-score situation and that was enough to win."

KICK STAND

The battle of two of the nation's best punters ended in a draw. Ole Miss punter Mac Brown punted four times for a 46.0 average that included a 57-yard best effort. Freshman Austin Dunlap countered with a 47.0 average on four punts, including a 50-yard kick that eventually trapped the Ole Miss returner for an additional 15-yard loss.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SELA	3	14	12	0	29
MISS	13	14	7	6	40

Scoring Summary -----

	SELA	MISS
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
MISS TD 11:01 Elijah Moore 9 Yd pass from Matt Corral (Luke Logan PAT failed)		
12 plays, 72 yards, 3:59	0	6
SELA FG 6:47 Bryce Broussard 30 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 29 yards, 2:29	3	6
MISS TD 6:33 Jerrion Ealy 94 Yd Kickoff Return (Luke Logan Kick)		
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:00	3	13
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
SELA TD 13:12 Marcus Cooper 14 Yd Run (Bryce Broussard Kick)		
5 plays, 57 yards, 2:05	10	13
MISS TD 12:28 Jerrion Ealy 30 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		
2 plays, 82 yards, 0:47	10	20
SELA TD 6:29 Devonte Williams 20 Yd Run (Bryce Broussard Kick)		
10 plays, 74 yards, 4:33	17	20
MISS TD 0:54 Jason Pellerin 5 Yd pass from Matt Corral (Luke Logan Kick)		
9 plays, 52 yards, 3:35	17	27
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
MISS TD 10:27 Scottie Phillips 27 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		
9 plays, 69 yards, 3:00	17	34
SELA TD 6:11 Juwan Petit-Frere 45 Yd pass from Chason Virgil (Bryce Broussard PAT failed)		
9 plays, 78 yards, 4:10	23	34
SELA TD 1:26 Bransen Schwebel 5 Yd pass from Chason Virgil (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
2 plays, 9 yards, 0:42	29	34
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
MISS FG 10:38 Luke Logan 22 Yd Field Goal		
14 plays, 78 yards, 5:43	29	37
MISS FG 0:39 Luke Logan 32 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 69 yards, 4:39	29	40

Team Stats	SELA	MISS
First Downs	20	24
Passes for First	16	11
Rushes for First	4	12
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	5-13	8-17
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-3	1-1
Total Yards	375	459
Total Plays	69	80
Avg Gain Per Play	5.4	5.7
Net Yards Rushing	66	220
Rushes	24	50
Yards Per Rush	2.8	4.4
Net Yards Passing	309	239
Comp-Att	29-45	21-30
Yards Per Pass	6.9	8.0
Times Sacked	3	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-27	-15
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	4	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	6	3
Penalty Yards	53	15
Fumbles	4	4
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Time of Poss	27:56	32:04

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
<b>SE LOUISIANA</b>					
Devonte Williams	13	50	3.8	1	20
Marcus Cooper	5	27	5.4	1	14
Cole Kelley	2	6	3.0	0	4
Javon Conner	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Chason Virgil	3	-15	-5.0	0	0
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>					
Scottie Phillips	26	103	4.0	1	27
Jerrion Ealy	9	95	10.6	1	52
Snoop Conner	9	51	5.7	0	37
Jason Pellerin	0	-1	0.0	0	0
Matt Corral	6	-28	-4.7	0	7

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
<b>SE LOUISIANA</b>							
Chason Virgil	29	44	309	7.0	2	3	--
Cole Kelley	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	--
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>							
Matt Corral	21	30	239	8.0	2	0	67.0

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
<b>SE LOUISIANA</b>					
Juwan Petit-Frere	3	74	24.7	1	45
Austin Mitchell	6	67	11.2	0	15
Devonte Williams	7	65	9.3	0	18
CJ Turner	3	39	13.0	0	35
Bransen Schwebel	5	32	6.4	1	11
Javon Conner	2	19	9.5	0	12
Damien Dawson	1	8	8.0	0	7
Marcus Cooper	2	5	2.5	0	4
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>					
Elijah Moore	7	88	12.6	1	24
Dontario Drummond	2	31	15.5	0	18
Jonathan Mingo	3	25	8.3	0	23
Jason Pellerin	2	24	12.0	1	19
Demarcus Gregory	1	20	20.0	0	20
Octavious Cooley	1	16	16.0	0	16
Miles Battle	1	14	14.0	0	14
Tylan Knight	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jerrion Ealy	1	6	6.0	0	6
Scottie Phillips	2	4	2.0	0	6