

WEEK FIVE
MISSISSIPPI ST at AUBURN

Nix helps No. 7 Auburn rout Mississippi State

AUBURN, Ala. -- Seth Williams had eight receptions for 161 yards and two touchdowns, JaTarvious Whitlow ran for three scores and Bo Nix had his best game in an Auburn uniform in the No. 7 Tigers' 56-23 victory over Mississippi State on Saturday night.

Auburn (5-0, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) started fast, scoring three touchdowns on its first eight plays from scrimmage. It was aided by five Miss State penalties and a fumbled kickoff in the first five minutes that resulted in short fields.

Whitlow galloped for a 30-yard score on Auburn's first play. After the Tigers stifled Tommy Stevens and the Miss State offense for minus-22 yards on their first two possessions, Nix and receiver Anthony Schwartz added red-zone rushing touchdowns for a 21-0 lead.

Save for a lost fumble by Williams with 4:30 left in the second quarter, Auburn scored a touchdown on every possession in the first half. Whitlow found the end zone on a pair of 3-yard runs in the second quarter, and Nix dropped a 39-yard pass over Williams' shoulder for the score with 12 seconds until halftime.

Auburn's 42 first-half points marked its most in an SEC half since scoring the same against Vanderbilt in 1990.

Nix led Auburn down the field out of the locker room, too, capping a four-play, 75-yard drive with a 32-yard touchdown pass to Williams.

The Tigers' first punt came with 5:29 remaining in the third quarter.

The true freshman Nix emphatically set a season high for passing yards with 335, while Williams' 161 receiving yards are the most by an Auburn player since Sammie Coates had 206 yards against Alabama in 2014.

The senior Penn State transfer Stevens earned the nod at quarterback for the Bulldogs (3-2, 1-1), but true freshman Garrett Shrader took over in the first quarter after Stevens sustained an injury on a big hit. Shrader instantly catalyzed the Bulldog offense on its first scoring drive of the night.

Bulldogs tailback Kylin Hill, who entered the contest leading the SEC in rushing, was held to 45 yards on 17 carries.

Shrader finished 12-of-23 passing for 209 yards and two touchdowns, and led the team in rushing with 89 yards. He added a rushing touchdown with 50 seconds remaining.

THE TAKEAWAY

Auburn: The Tigers' offense had unsurprisingly leaned on its potent rushing attack through four games. But on Saturday, Nix took full command, accounting for 391 total yards and three touchdowns. His deep-ball accuracy also looked improved from last week, when he overshot a trio of would-be touchdown passes.

Mississippi State: Shrader sparked the Bulldogs offense at times and looks to be a formidable dual-threat weapon moving forward. Injury may have played a factor in Stevens' departure from the game, but Miss State's offense looked more comfortable with Shrader under center.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MSST	6	3	7	7	23
AUB	21	21	7	7	56

Scoring Summary

	MSST	AUB
FIRST QUARTER		
AUB TD 12:55 JaTarvious Whitlow 30 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	0	7
1 play, 30 yards, 0:09		
AUB TD 9:46 Bo Nix 9 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	0	14
5 plays, 47 yards, 1:19		
AUB TD 8:59 Anthony Schwartz 13 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	0	21
2 plays, 18 yards, 0:47		
MSST TD 2:20 Stephen Guidry 9 Yd pass from Garrett Shrader (Jace Christmann PAT failed)	6	21
12 plays, 75 yards, 6:39		
SECOND QUARTER		
AUB TD 13:18 JaTarvious Whitlow 3 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	6	28
11 plays, 78 yards, 4:02		
MSST FG 7:55 Jace Christmann 27 Yd Field Goal	9	28
11 plays, 66 yards, 5:23		
AUB TD 5:33 Seth Williams 39 Yd pass from Bo Nix (Anders Carlson Kick)	9	35
5 plays, 74 yards, 2:22		
AUB TD 0:12 JaTarvious Whitlow 3 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	9	42
11 plays, 84 yards, 2:32		
THIRD QUARTER		
AUB TD 13:28 Seth Williams 32 Yd pass from Bo Nix (Anders Carlson Kick)	9	49
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:32		
MSST TD 2:13 Osirus Mitchell 21 Yd pass from Garrett Shrader (Jace Christmann Kick)	16	49
6 plays, 65 yards, 3:16		
FOURTH QUARTER		
AUB TD 14:16 Kam Martin 7 Yd Run (Anders Carlson Kick)	16	56
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:57		
MSST TD 0:50 Garrett Shrader 7 Yd Run (Jace Christmann Kick)	23	56
8 plays, 78 yards, 3:13		

Team Stats	MSST	AUB
First Downs	21	25
Passes for First	10	13
Rushes for First	8	9
Penalties for First	3	3
Third Down Efficiency	3-12	6-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-1
Total Yards	334	578
Total Plays	64	69
Avg Gain Per Play	5.2	8.4
Net Yards Rushing	118	217
Rushes	38	45
Yards Per Rush	3.1	4.8
Net Yards Passing	216	361
Comp-Att	13-26	18-24
Yards Per Pass	8.3	15.0
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-25	-11
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	6	1
Punt Average	41.7	43.0
Penalties	9	5
Penalty Yards	70	37
Fumbles	3	4
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Time of Poss	32:35	27:25

Individual Stats

RUSHING

MISSISSIPPI ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Garrett Shrader	16	89	5.6	1	24
Kylin Hill	17	45	2.6	0	13
Lee Witherspoon	2	3	1.5	0	2
Nick Gibson	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Tommy Stevens	1	-16	-16.0	0	0

AUBURN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Bo Nix	7	56	8.0	1	30
JaTarvious Whitlow	10	55	5.5	3	30
D.J. Williams	7	32	4.6	0	9
Kam Martin	8	31	3.9	1	16
Anthony Schwartz	3	25	8.3	1	13
Shaun Shivers	4	22	5.5	0	10
Eli Stove	1	3	3.0	0	3
Malik Miller	1	1	1.0	0	1
Team	2	-2	-1.0	0	0
Joey Gatewood	2	-6	-3.0	0	1

PASSING

MISSISSIPPI ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Garrett Shrader	12	23	209	9.1	2	0	
Tommy Stevens	1	3	7	2.3	0	0	

AUBURN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Bo Nix	16	21	335	16.0	2	0	
Joey Gatewood	2	3	26	8.7	0	0	

RECEIVING

MISSISSIPPI ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Farrod Green	3	69	23.0	0	47
Osirus Mitchell	2	33	16.5	1	21
JaVonta Payton	1	30	30.0	0	30
Dedrick Thomas	2	22	11.0	0	12
Kylin Hill	2	21	10.5	0	18
Isaiah Zuber	1	20	20.0	0	20
Geor'quarius Spivey	1	12	12.0	0	12
Stephen Guidry	1	9	9.0	1	9

AUBURN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Seth Williams	8	161	20.1	2	39
Anthony Schwartz	2	67	33.5	0	48
Sal Cannella	2	39	19.5	0	31
Eli Stove	1	27	27.0	0	27
Will Hastings	2	25	12.5	0	21
Jay Jay Wilson	1	16	16.0	0	16
Malik Miller	1	16	16.0	0	11
Zach Farrar	1	10	10.0	0	10