

OLE MISS 16 — MEMPHIS STATE 21

OLE MISS	7	9	0	0	—	16
MEMPHIS STATE	0	6	15	0	—	21

A late week downpour that continued Friday night, and into Saturday morning should have been an omen for one of the teams to stay away from Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. At the outset, the way they ran on the soggy stadium turf, it appeared the Rebels were undoubtedly the fittest.

But as the night continued, the Rebs simply could not stand prosperity. Advantageous they were not. Sticky-fingered they were not. In the end they were victimized by a peppery MSU quarterback, Lloyd Patterson, and a staunch Tiger defense that did not allow Ole Miss across midfield in the closing 15 minutes.

After an exchange of punts to launch the '76 campaign, the Rebs got untracked from their own 40. With Michael Sweet and James Storey chewing up chunks of yardage, the parade marched to the MSU 15 where on second down Sweet fumbled (the first of seven Reb bobbles on the evening) the ball over.

The Tigs were apparently in no mood to move the pigskin as Patterson mishandled the first snap and George Plasketes pounced on the ball at the 10. No sooner had the Rebs lined up than Storey stormed into the line and with a fine second effort, burst out and romped in unmolested. Hoppy Langley hit the PAT.

Memphis State fumbles, recovered by Mike Pittman, Plasketes and Bob Grefseng, kept the Rebels in easy range on the ensuing series. Langley was off target on his first collegiate try near the end of the first period from 43 but connected on a 45-yarder on the second snap of the second stanza, with another 45-yard success seven plays thereafter.

Patterson headed for the airways, for 44 yards in the next drive, teaming with Ricky Rivas, then Ernest Gray from 15 yards out for the six-pointer. A short Bengal punt, aided by an interception-turned fumble, set the Rebs in motion in the waning moments of the first half but again it was three points from Langley, 27 yards out, for the only—and last—Reb points.

Four OM turnovers, three fumbles and an interception, changed the flavor of the second half. But in the three-play, 76-yard opening march of the second 30 minutes, it was too much Patterson and Rivas, a pass and run that spanned 55 yards. A two point pass made it 16-14 Rebs.

Following Sweet's fumble at the Reb 33, it took the Tigers just three plays to score and win, James King running 17 yards for the TD. Bobby Williams converted.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Storey, 61 yards on 19 carries
Passing: Ellis, 5 of 15 for 28 yards
Receiving: Griffin, 2 for 11 yards
Tackles: M. Pittman (7-4), Robertson (7-1)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	M.S.U.		O.M.	M.S.U.
First Downs	11	18	Punts-Average	7-45.3	6-36.0
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	9-2-0	8-9-1	Punt Returns-Average	3-4.7	3-26.7
Rushing Attempts-Yards	47-145	52-129	K.O. Returns-Average	4-20.5	4-16.8
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	15-5-28	18-9-176	Field Goals Att.-Made	4-3	1-0
Total Offense-Plays	173-62	305-70	Penalties-Yards	6-54	3-25
Interceptions By-Ret.	0-0	2-19	Fumbles-Lost	7-4	11-6

SCORING SUMMARY

OM - Storey, 10 run, Langley kick (5:20 1st)
 OM - Langley, 45 FG (14:21 2nd)
 OM - Langley, 45 FG (12:04 2nd)
 MSU - Gray, 15 pass from Patterson, kick failed (4:24 2nd)
 OM - Langley, 27 FG (0:03 2nd)
 MSU - Rivas, 55 pass from Patterson, Patterson pass to Wright (13:52 3rd)
 MSU - King, 17 run, Williams kick (1:09 3rd)

OLE MISS 10 — ALABAMA 7

OLE MISS	7	0	0	3	—	10
ALABAMA	0	0	7	0	—	7

In the first days following Ole Miss' stunning 10-7 conquering of Alabama, the first SEC loss for the Tide since 1972, Rebel coach Ken Cooper summarized, "It was not a pretty win but a sweet one."

Begging your pardon, coach, but the overwhelming majority of the record-setting throng of 47,500 (estimated) fans that packed Mississippi Memorial Stadium came away with a beautiful picture.

And it was sweet, too. Particularly in light of the defeat at the hands of Memphis State the prior Saturday. But as all who stalk 'the great bear' will testify, victory does not come easy.

Both teams had early uprisings stall before the Rebels found their way into the end zone. Reminiscent of the '74 game between the two schools when Gary Turner intercepted a pitchout and raced 42 yards for a touchdown, this time Turner tipped a Jeff Rutledge pass near the Bama 20 (scrimmage line) and alert senior linebacker George Stuart plucked it out of the air and surrounded by a convoy of blockers, galloped into the end zone. Hoppy Langley was good on the point after.

Each side had opportunities in the second chukker but the Tide and Rebs fumbled the ball back to each other twice during the first eight minutes. Halftime analysis proved true what many had suspected, the punting contest that had developed between Bama's Rod Nelson and OM's Jim Miller was dead even, four boots, 40.3 yards a whack.

By the time the final whistle did blow, it was the freshman duo of Miller and Langley that told the tale along with a spirited Red and Blue defense. Accomplishing little against the Rebel front wall, Rutledge went to throwing. He connected once for 32 yards to Thad Flanagan and the other 11 to Ozzie Newsome and Calvin Culliver swept right for three yards to climax a 56-yard surge in 11 plays. Bucky Berrey converted.

A 43-yard Miller punt to the UA six set the stage for the winning three-pointer. Bama kicked out to midfield and in nine plays the Rebs were at the 17 with a fourth and two situation. Enter Langley with his 34-yard effort and exit with a 10-7 lead.

Bama wasn't through. Rutledge passed his team to the Tide 47 where with just 20 seconds left the pass-flea flicker carried to the OM 40 but then only 13 seconds remained. Going for broke, Rutledge hurled toward the Rebel goal line but it was all Cardinal coated jerseys with Charlie Moss intercepting at the seven.

Ole Miss joined the nation's elite as No. 20 in one wire poll. Cooper was National Coach of the Week by UPI and Stuart rated UPI and AP Regional Defensive Player of the Week laurels. And Miller, he punted nine times for a 40.0 avg., just two returned for only 12 yards.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Sweet, 65 yards on 13 carries
Passing: Ellis, 6 of 7 for 45 yards
Receiving: R. Fabris, 6 for 30 yards
Tackles: Coleman (9-2), Stuart (8-3)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	U.A.		O.M.	U.A.
First Downs	11	13	Punts-Average	9-40.0	7-41.1
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	6-4-1	8-5-0	Punt Returns-Average	2-10.0	2-6.0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	46-110	49-145	K.O. Returns-Average	2-21.5	1-19.0
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	13-9-63	17-7-104	Field Goals Att.-Made	1-1	0-0
Total Offense-Plays	173-59	249-66	Penalties-Yards	2-8	3-25
Interceptions By-Ret.	3-24	0-20(F)	Fumbles-Lost	5-2	5-2

SCORING SUMMARY

OM - Stuart, 24 Int. Ret., Langley kick (13:54 1st)
 A - Culliver, 3 run, Berrey kick (7:22 3rd)
 OM - Langley, 34 FG (13:01 4th)

1976

OLE MISS 34 - TULANE 7

OLE MISS	7	14	6	7	—	34
TULANE	0	0	0	7	—	7

Parties are for "home-folks". On this humid Saturday afternoon, it was a coming out festival of sorts for the offense. Before friends, some 33,000 strong, there was no better occasion.

It all started with a deafening roar that greeted the Rebs on their arrival to the Hemingway Stadium surface. Sort of a "Good job against Bama, do it again" cry.

The aroused offense, which went to the air just six times and relied on a "crazy-option", parlayed its efforts with a gritty defense that was growing stronger week by week. Together they answered the crowd's mandate.

A comedy of errors took hold initially. Tulane fumbled on its first series. Ole Miss followed suit. A bad snap prevented the Greenies from trying a field goal. The Rebs were forced to punt. George Plasketes crushed QB Tommy Hightower causing another fumble.

This time, no exchange. From the Tulane 17, OM covered the span in five plays as soph TB Reg Woullard scurried off tackle for three yards late in the first period. Hoppy Langley added the seventh point. More give and take, fumbles by each side deep in Green Wave territory ended the quarter.

But the next 15 minutes offered more excitement. After a Tim Ellis pass to Robert Fabris for 16 yards geared the second Reb scoring push, Michael Sweet began sweeping ends and turned the left side from the four for 13-0 less than three minutes into the second quarter, Langley converting. The next time the Rebs touched the ball, they drove 70 yards in 10 attempts, Woullard amassing 62 yards along the way and Tyrone Richards scoring from the three. Again Langley was true.

On its second series in the third stanza, Ole Miss went in motion from the Tulane 45. Woullard totaled 30 yards in the surge with Sweet packing the mail the final 15 yards. A bad snap foiled the EP. In the fourth period, rookie speedsters Leon Perry and Freddie Williams provided the impetus for the 33 yard drive, Perry going in from the three. Langley bagged his fourth point after.

No sooner had Reb faithful finished whooping it up that Reginald Scott gathered Langley's kickoff at the Tulane five and raced unscathed 95 yards for six points with Ed Murray toeing the point.

Woullard joined a privileged few who had rushed for 135 yards (21 tries) as he had. Ellis shared time with soph Bobby Garner who with Woullard, electrified the house with their last second option-dash routine.

For the Rebels, it was their finest offensive explosion since 1973. And in the poll that appeared early the following week, Ole Miss had climbed three notches—to 17th.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Woullard, 135 yards on 21 carries

Passing: Ellis, 1 of 3 for 16 yards

Receptions: R. Fabris, 1 for 16

Tackles: Turner (7-3), Robertson (6-2)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	Tulane		O.M.	Tulane
First Downs	21	12	Punts-Average	4-47.0	5-39.4
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	19-1-1	5-5-2	Punt Returns-Average	4-8.3	1-5.0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	74-376	45-111	K.O. Returns-Average	1-34.0	5-30.6
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	6-2-18	17-8-88	Field Goals Att.-Made	0-0	1-0
Total Offense-Plays	394-80	199-62	Penalties-Yards	10-85	5-65
Interceptions-By-Ret.	1-5	1-11	Fumbles-Lost	3-2	6-5

SCORING SUMMARY

OM - Woullard, 3 run, Langley kick (13:19 1st)
 OM - Sweet, 4 run, Langley kick (12:51 2nd)
 OM - Richards, 3 run, Langley kick (4:51 2nd)
 OM - Sweet, 15 run, pass failed (8:35 3rd)
 OM - Perry, 3 run, Langley kick (7:27 4th)
 TU - Scott, 95 KO return, Murray kick (7:13 4th)

OLE MISS 28 - SOUTHERN MISS. 0

OLE MISS	7	7	7	7	—	28
SOUTHERN MISS.	0	0	0	0	—	0

Billed as the dedicatory game for M. M. Roberts Stadium, a sellout gathering of 33,000 witnessed a prime example of guests being rude at celebrated moments.

Instead of acting their designed role as visitors, the Rebels went methodically about their business, scoring once in each quarter and in the end went home happy (with the 28-0 whitewash) and sad (All-American end candidate Gary Turner was scratched from the remainder of his senior term with a knee injury).

Michael Sweet and Reg Woullard, the tailback tandem that destroyed Tulane the week before, got assistance from fullback James Storey and an effective offensive line in computing 310 yards by rushing alone.

Sweet, who collected 111 yards for the game and 79 in the first half, went to work after Danny Fischer returned a USM punt 11 yards to the Eagle 39, rolling up 20 yards on three trips around a seven yard pickup by Storey. On third and three from the USM eight, Sweet continued his assault on the Southern ends by speeding in from the touchdown. Hoppy Langley made it 7-0.

The Golden Eagles responded by driving to the OM 41 before forced to punt. Working from the 20, Sweet permitted Woullard into the limelight but not before his own 19 yard scoot to the Southern 37 sparked the 80-yard uprising. Woullard rambled to the 24 on the next play and six plays later, took a pitchout from Ellis and went in from the seven. Langley again scored on the PAT, 14-0.

By halftime Sweet had registered more rushing yardage than the Eagles could muster in total offense. Southern opened the second half with a rejuvenated effort, carrying to the Reb 31 before fumbling. Even though Sweet fumbled it right back, Rickye Hicks intercepted a Kenny Alderman pass to apply the stops.

Southern promptly stiffened and Jim Miller's punt was recovered by Reggie Pace after it grazed a USM defender, at the Eagle 37. Five plays thereafter Ellis threaded a 24 yard TD pass to Robert Fabris ahead of Langley's placement.

Both teams forfeited chances of reaching the end zone at the close of the third quarter and throughout the final period via fumbles and interceptions but in the waning moments Ole Miss' John Beck recovered a bobble at the USM 29. Seven plays later just one tick remained on the scoreboard when Southern mysteriously called time as the pigskin rested on the two. Freddie Williams crashed over when play resumed, Robin Lavinghouze splitting the uprights.

The Reb defense recorded its first shutout since the '74 lidlifter, while the offense went over the 300 yard rushing level for the second week in a row. Sweet notched his fifth 100-yard game.

The win raised the Rebels another spot, to 16th in AP balloting.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Sweet, 111 yards on 22 carries

Passing: Ellis, 2 of 5 for 28 yards

Receiving: R. Fabris, 1 for 24 yards

Tackles: Pittman (6-3), Plasketes (6-1)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	USM		O.M.	USM
First Downs	21	5	Punts-Average	5-40.2	7-42.6
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	19-1-1	3-0-8	Punt Returns-Average	6-8.2	1-0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	72-310	36-114	K.O. Returns-Average	1-15.0	3-17.7
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	5-2-28	15-4-67	Field Goals Att.-Made	0-0	0-0
Total Offense-Plays	338-77	181-51	Penalties-Yards	3-15	3-24
Interception By-Ret.	2-3	0-0	Fumbles-Lost	4-4	4-3

SCORING SUMMARY

OM - Sweet, 8 run, Langley kick (time unknown - clock broken)
 OM - Woullard, 7 run, Langley kick (12:30 2nd)
 OM - Fabris, 24 pass from Ellis, Langley kick (7:22 3rd)
 OM - Williams, 2 run, Lavinghouze kick (1:00 4th)

1976

OLE MISS 0 — AUBURN 10

OLE MISS	0	0	0	0	—	0
AUBURN	3	0	0	7	—	10

There are days and then there are days. For the Johnny Rebs, 16th ranked nationally into their second SEC confrontation of '76, October 2 was just one of those days they'd as soon toss from memory.

Ole Miss had averaged 31 points a game in the two games ahead of the bout with the Plainsmen and a mean of 22 ppg for all four games of the fall.

But Auburn's rock-ribbed defense would have no part of Rebel passing or running. Options were shut to a stand still and there were no back-breaking passes. The Rebs could manage but six first downs on the steamy 84-degree Mississippi Memorial Stadium floor and 80 yards total offense.

Now on the other hand the Ole Miss defense was near peak form. Auburn was fortunate in adding up 10 first downs and just 197 yards in total offense. A short punt actually set up the Tiger field goal and a fumble at the OM nine in the last minute paved the way for the six-pointer.

The War Eagles got on the scoreboard on the next to last play of the first quarter. Beginning at its own 47, Auburn reached the Ole Miss 22 in five snaps, the big gainer a 19-yard sprint by Secdrick McIntyre. On first down at the 22, McIntyre got two. But on second down end Bob Grefseng tore into QB Phil Gargis causing his pass attempt to go awry and on third down, it was end George Plasketes sacking Gargis for a loss of nine. That brought on Irish soccer kicking Neil O'Donoghue who boomed a 44-yarder through the goal posts.

It stayed that way until Bobby Garner fumbled deep in Reb land with Kim Sellers recovering at the nine. McIntyre gained two and John Sistrunk got two before Gargis scored from the five on a keeper. O'Donoghue's PAT ran it to 10-0.

Pete Robertson, with a career high of 19 tackles, Plasketes, Bryan Niebuhr, Mike Pittman and company solidified their reputation as one of the league's staunchest defenses, in their first game without injured Gary Turner.

However the Rebs could only cross midfield twice the entire day. They hit the 49 yard line late in the third quarter and had to punt. On the last series of the third period and opening drive of the fourth quarter, the Rebels advanced from the Auburn 45 after a short punt to the 30. But two incomplete passes, a penalty and a sack snuffed that rally.

Ole Miss had miserable field position throughout the contest, particularly in the first half. In the first 30 minutes the Rebs started from their own 17, 20, 15, 20, 42, 18 and 20.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Sweet, 57 yards on 15 carries
Passing: Ellis, 5 of 13 for 35 yards
Receiving: R. Fabris, 4 for 33 yards
Tackles: Robertson (15-4), Plasketes (4-7)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	A.U.		O.M.	A.U.
First Downs	6	10	Punts-Average	11-35.3	8-38.5
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	4-2-0	6-3-1	Punt Returns-Average	5-2.4	2-8.5
Rushing Attempts-Yards	40-45	54-140	K.O. Returns-Average	1-17.0	1-23.0
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	14-5-35	11-5-57	Field Goals Att.-Made	0-0	3-1
Total Offense-Plays	80-54	197-65	Penalties-Yards	7-50	4-46
Interceptions By-Ret.	1-0	1-0	Fumbles-Lost	6-2	1-1

SCORING SUMMARY

AU - O'Donoghue, 44 FG (:21 1st)
 AU - Gargis, 5 run, O'Donoghue kick (:50 4th)

OLE MISS 21 — GEORGIA 17

OLE MISS	3	15	3	0	—	21
GEORGIA	7	7	0	3	—	17

Seemingly their SEC title hopes still floundering somewhere in Mississippi Memorial Stadium where a week before they suffered a disappointing loss to Auburn, the Rebels returned home to regroup.

Homecoming skirmishes by custom attract larger than normal crowds and on this Saturday afternoon, a Hemingway Stadium record of nearly 36,500 fans was on hand to aid in the regrouping. Bowl scouts were in attendance too. They had come to watch the nation's fourth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs claim victim number five.

Georgia started fast, as Sherman marching through the Peachtree state. After an Ole Miss rally stalled at the UG 36, QB Ray Goff raced 70 yards on Georgia's first possession for a quick 7-0 lead after Alan Leavitt connected.

The Rebs came right back, but a drive sparked by a 29-yard haul by Michael Sweet faltered at the Bulldog 28. Hoppy Langley answered the alarm with a 44-yard three-pointer with just 32 seconds left in the first quarter.

A booming Miller punt had backed Georgia to its own 25 early in the second stanza but Goff hooked up with flanker Gene Washington on a 75-yard bomb and the Dogs were back on top after Leavitt's placement 14-3.

But thereafter most of the fireworks were sounded by the Rebs. With seven minutes left in the half Eddie Cole fell on a Georgia fumble at UG 25. The Tim Ellis-Sweet combo that had worked much of the half clicked again, Ellis first pegging a 13-yarder to Sweet, then running three times himself for the TD, going in from the five. Bidding for two, again it was Ellis to Sweet and the margin became 14-11.

The Bulldogs could not move on the ensuing kickoff and a Bucky Dilts punt traveled but nine yards as the second period wound down. Ellis faded to pass from the Georgia 36, targeted Reg Woullard down the left side and that twosome with Langley's EP brought a hurried 18-14 intermission advantage.

Ole Miss applied the pressure in the second half. On third and three from the OM 48, Ellis cut between guard and tackle and carried 47 yards to the Georgia five. Three plays netted a single yard and Langley responded with a 21-yard field goal.

Georgia recovered a Sweet fumble at the OM 31 midway thru the fourth quarter but could not gain a first down and went to Leavitt from 42 yards out for three.

Reb coach Ken Cooper, called it "the greatest Ole Miss win over a ranked team since the win over national champion Maryland in 1952." Mike Pittman was selected National Lineman of the Week while Ellis carted off Regional Back of the Week honors. It was a big day in Oxford and by Tuesday the Rebs were back at No. 16.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Sweet, 117 yards on 24 carries
Passing: Ellis, 6 of 10 for 114 yards
Receiving: Sweet, 2 for 46 yards
Tackles: Pittman (12-5), Coleman (11-9)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	U.G.		O.M.	U.G.
First Downs	15	10	Punts-Average	8-30.6	11-33.5
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	10-4-1	6-3-1	Punt Returns-Average	3-7	3-(-7)
Rushing Attempts-Yards	55-233	38-153	K.O. Returns-Average	1-13.0	3-10.7
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	14-6-114	19-8-144	Field Goals Att.-Made	2-2	1-1
Total Offense-Plays	347-69	297-57	Penalties-Yards	6-31	3-25
Interceptions By-Ret.	0-0	0-0	Fumbles-Lost	3-1	4-1

SCORING SUMMARY

GA - Goff, 70 run, Leavitt kick (7:14 1st)
 OM - Langley, 44 FG (:32 1st)
 GA - Washington, 75 pass from Goff, Leavitt kick (13:04 2nd)
 OM - Ellis, 5 run, Ellis pass to Sweet (4:45 2nd)
 OM - Woullard, 36 pass from Ellis, Langley kick (1:30 2nd)
 OM - Langley, 21 FG (9:51 3rd)
 GA - Leavitt, 42 FG (9:11 4th)

1976

OLE MISS 7 - SO. CAROLINA 10

OLE MISS	7	0	0	0	—	7
SO. CAROLINA	3	0	7	0	—	10

The battle cry lives on but the score remains the same. Some Rebel die hards will tell you there was no doubt that Reg Woullard was already in the end zone when he fumbled with just 95 ticks remaining a year ago at Columbia. Others persist in saying that at least one official had already signaled touchdown.

So be it. The scoreboard did not change and the 16th ranked Rebs, who again displayed sturdy defense, emerged on the short end of this intersectional battle for the third consecutive year.

Carolina went to work early on the Ole Miss secondary. Ron Bass hit Phillip Logan, who had the back-breaking catch in '75, with an 18-yarder to the SC 49 ahead of Kevin Long's 47-yard sprint to the Rebel four. Three plays produced one yard but the Gamecocks came away with three points on Britt Parrish's 20-yard FG.

Patiently the Rebels went to work. Michael Sweet gathered 15, Tim Ellis and Robert Fabris teamed for a 16-yarder, Ellis to Sweet and 14 more. Woullard hurdled for a first down at the nine and finally on third and goal, Ellis lofted a 10-yarder to TE Curtis Weathers who crossed with 2:10 left in the first. Hoppy Langley made it 7-3.

Defense and punting drew the spotlight until a 24-yard Reb punt gave the Gamecocks possession at the Ole Miss 29 in the third chukker. Two plays netted four yards but on third down, Bass threw for 17 yards and the SC ace flipped an eight yard aerial to Clarence Williams swinging out of the backfield for the TD. Parrish converted at the 5:45 mark.

Ole Miss was allowed in Carolina territory but twice in the second half. The Rebels worked their way to the 45 at the outset of the closing 15 minutes but no further.

Then the famous stretch drive. Starting with 3:54 on the clock, Ellis flooded the airplanes. From the 20, two of three successes still left fourth and two but the junior QB spied FB James Storey in the right flat and Storey, who almost broke it, rolled all the way to the Carolina 27. Ellis' next three attempts were off the mark. Again fourth down but 10 yards ahead. This time it was Ellis to Fabris for 17 yards to the 15 (as result of a five yard penalty). Storey gained five more on a pass. Then on second down from the 10, Ellis carried on the right side until he reached the line of scrimmage when he pitched to a trailing Woullard, who skirted the end untouched until met near the goal line by cornerback Rick Sanford whose jolt ripped the ball loose with SC's Bill Currier recovering.

The good news, bad news saga continued. Freshman Jim Miller unloaded an 82-yard punt in the third quarter to break the school record while Sweet tore up a knee on a kickoff return four plays ahead of Miller's feat and was lost for the year.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Sweet, 44 yards on 16 carries

Passing: Ellis, 14 of 26 for 163 yards

Receiving: Clark, 4 for 26 yards

Tackles: Plasketes (8-5), Coleman (7-6)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	S.C.		O.M.	S.C.
First Downs	11	13	Punts-Average	10-43.7	8-45.8
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	3-6-2	9-4-C	Punt Returns-Average	4-6.0	2-4.5
Rushing Attempts-Yards	43-56	47-187	K.O. Returns-Average	1-15.0	1-24.0
Pass. Att.-Comp.-Yds.	26-14-163	17-9-86	Field Goals Att.-Made	0-0	2-1
Total Offense-Plays	219-69	273-64	Penalties-Yards	8-69	4-27
Interceptions-By-Ret.	0-0	1-20	Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1

SCORING SUMMARY

SC - Parrish, 20 FG (10:09 1st)
 OM - Weathers, 10 pass from Ellis, Langley kick (2:18 1st)
 SC - Williams, 8 pass from Bass, Parrish kick (5:45 3rd)

OLE MISS 20 - VANDERBILT 3

OLE MISS	3	3	7	7	—	20
VANDERBILT	3	0	0	0	—	3

One of the few plus avenues of a dozen fumbles in one football game is that spectators rarely have a dull moment. Combine the mishandling with four pass interceptions and 10 penalties and without stretching the imagination, the adage of "a comedy of errors" lurked in the wings.

Of the six fumbles by Ole Miss, four went over to Vandy. But when the drizzling rain was not playing havoc and the Rebs were surehanded, they were tough. Like 437 yards total offense, an impressive 297 yards churned out by infantry troops.

The Rebels turned the ball over the first two series but the Commodores could not dent the solid Reb defenses which lit the fire when Charlie Moss tipped a Mike Wright pass and Mike Forester returned it five yards to the VU 17. Reg Woullard rammed for 12 but Hoppy Langley had to be summonsed and he responded with a 21 yard perfect shot.

Vanderbilt turned right around and tied it on Greg Martin's 31-yard toeing to climax an 81-yard drive in seven plays.

Then it was Ole Miss' turn again. After the kickoff, Ellis had a 30-yard strike to tall Curtis Weathers, Woullard carried for 19 and Ellis spotted Mark Clark with a 19-yard pass. Again down close the fuse fizzled and Langley kicked a 28-yard field goal which held for a 6-3 halftime lead thanks to a rugged goalline stand by the Rebels. Vandy threatened with a first and goal at the four but four downs later the ball rested at its originating point.

The Commodores stormed to the Ole Miss nine early in the third period but Brad Pittman thwarted that uprising with an interception in the end zone. With 56 seconds showing in the quarter, the Rebs fired again. An incomplete pass and a five yard screen pass set up Ellis' 47-yard pitch and run job with Weathers, who streaked down the sidelines by the Rebel bench virtually unhindered. Langley bagged another one-pointer.

Vandy kept coming back for more. The Black and Gold picked its way to the OM 15 where with five minutes to go George Plasketes aborted that rally with a fumble recovery.

Freshman Leon Perry, pressed into extensive service with Michael Sweet on the sidelines, barreled for four short gains before breaking loose on a 58-yard touch-down jaunt. Perry darted left, broke one tackle and plowed over a would-be-tackler in a one-on-one collision heard (and felt) throughout Dudley Field. Langley's eighth point ended all scoring.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Perry, 129 yards on 21 carries

Passing: Ellis, 8 of 14 for 135 yards

Receiving: Weathers, 3 for 92 yards

Tackles: Stuart (12-6), Coleman (12-3)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	V.U.		O.M.	V.U.
First Downs	22	16	Punts-Average	1-46.0	5-34.2
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	14-4-4	7-7-2	Punt Returns-Average	3-7.3	1-0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	51-297	53-114	K.O. Returns-Average	0-0	5-10.2
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	14-8-135	22-11-163	Field Goals Att.-Made	4-2	2-1
Total Offense-Plays	432-65	277-75	Penalties-Yards	3-21	7-76
Interceptions-By-Ret.	3-25	1-17	Fumbles-Lost	6-4	6-2

SCORING SUMMARY

OM - Langley, 21 FG (4:17 1st)
 VU - Martin, 31 FG (1:42 1st)
 OM - Langley, 28 FG (13:21 2nd)
 OM - Weathers, 47 pass from Ellis, Langley kick (:00 3rd)
 OM - Perry, 58 run, Langley kick (1:11 4th)

1976

OLE MISS 0 - LSU 45

OLE MISS	0	0	0	0	—	0
L.S.U.	7	24	14	0	—	45

Back in the late 1950's and in the early 60's, every Ole Miss football rooster knew too well the reputation of famed "Heartbreak Hollow". To another generation, it spelled Tiger Stadium, LSU.

But not even the injuries of other eras could keep the Rebs close in this one. The frustration of '76 that had been building in Tigertown went in part out the window with the blasting of the Rebs. What was a 3-2-1 Bengal record before the game shined brighter afterwards even with the three blots on perfection. And too, other suggestions for the wide margin carried to the '75 squabble in Jackson when Ole Miss rallied in the waning seconds and seized a 17-13 decision, despite Tiger cries of an illegal pass.

Many of the season long Rebel hindrances again made their presence felt in Baton Rouge, primarily inability to hold on to the football. Then too, the Rebel defense, which had risen to third in the league in total defense, and to first in rushing defense, was riddled by injury and troop support, however game, proved thin.

Neither side generated excitement in its first series but the Tigers' Steve Jackson pilfered a Tim Ellis overhead at the Reb 48 midway thru the first quarter. Six plays distanced that yardage as swivel-hipped Terry Robiskie skirted in from the 18. The next Tiger series carried to the OM six where a stout resistance necessitated Mike Conway booting a 20-yard fielder on the first snap of the second stanza.

Trouble lay ahead. Fast Freddie Williams returned the kickoff 50 yards to the Bengal 48 but Ellis was intercepted 10 seconds later. Bobby Moreau engineered a 12-play 65 yard LSU march, Moreau tallying from the eight. Bobby Garner tried it next for the Rebs but pitched errantly with the Tigs covering at the OM 32. On the second play of that set, Pat Lyons heaved a 32 yard bullet to Bruce Hemphill making the count 24-0. Another Ellis pickoff and a 15-yard stepoff against Ole Miss for roughness gave LSU the ball on the Reb 39. On the fifth play to follow, Robiskie crashed into the end zone losing the ball, only to have Moreau grab the pigskin and the six points.

A third quarter Ole Miss drive died at the Bengal 36. No sooner had the LSU defense gotten off the field than Charlie Alexander slashed off right tackle for 64 yards and 38-0. Jackie Casanova applied more heat as he intercepted a Leon Perry fumble in mid air and raced to the OM seven. Holding firm, the Rebs would not surrender, rebuffing all four bucks on the part of Robiskie.

But when it rains, it pours. Perry had five yards on the very next play but coughed the ball up when hit by Steve Ripple with Casanova once more the covering culprit. This time there was no denying, though Robiskie in three attempts was unsuccessful, bowing to Robert Dow for the final yard. Conway added his seventh PAT.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Richards, 26 yards on 4 carries
Passing: Ellis, 4 of 17 for 62 yards
Receiving: R. Fabris, 2 for 33 yards
Tackles: Coleman (8-4), Stuart (7-1)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	LSU		O.M.	LSU
First Downs	8	25	Punts-Average	5-43.4	5-33.4
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	4-4-0	20-5-0	Punt Returns-Average	1-1.0	2-6.0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	38-70	76-426	K.O. Returns-Average	7-23.7	1-14.0
Passing Att.-Comp.-Yds.	18-4-62	10-7-86	Field Goals Att.-Made	0-0	1-1
Total Offense-Plays	132-56	512-86	Penalties-Yards	3-38	6-62
Interceptions-By-Ret.	1-0	3-72	Fumbles-Lost	6-5	4-2

SCORING SUMMARY

LSU - Robiskie, 18 run, Conway kick (6:52 1st)
 LSU - Conway, 20 FG (14:56 2nd)
 LSU - Moreau, 4 run, Conway kick (10:11 2nd)
 LSU - Hemphill, 27 pass from Lyons, Conway kick (8:33 2nd)
 LSU - Moreau, fumble recovery in end zone, Conway kick (11:46 2nd)
 LSU - Alexander, 64 run, Conway kick (8:33 3rd)
 LSU - Dow, 1 run, Conway kick (3:40 3rd)

OLE MISS 6 - TENNESSEE 32

OLE MISS	0	0	0	6	—	6
TENNESSEE	14	10	8	0	—	32

Omens often carry mysterious overtones, be they subtle or blatant. Ole Miss got the word in Knoxville some four hours before the kickoff when the lights went out at their hotel near Neyland Stadium.

And when Bobby Garner, subbing for the injured Tim Ellis, was intercepted on the second set of downs, the flickering had moved to the artificial surface on Shields-Watkins Field. Five fumbles and four more interceptions later, the Rebs were still scrapping, but by then in vain.

After the first UT aerial swipe, the Vols moved behind the running of Mike Gayles and fleet Stanley Morgan to the Rebel five where an interference call prevented a TD momentarily as Morgan scampered over from the one on the very next play.

A fumble on the kickoff that followed put UT in business at the 26 but another of those ever-increasing goal line stands by the Rebs halted Frank Foxx at the two. Jim Miller arched a 65 yard punt and the Volunteers were guilty of a major penalty to set them back to their own 26. However, Randy Wallace hit Morgan with a slant in pass and the race was on between him and Ricky Hicks with Hicks finally the winner from behind at the Rebel four. In two plays Foxx scored from a yard away.

Early in the second quarter a bad pitchout gave the Orangemen the ball at the 21. Bob Grefseng's sack stymied that bid for a TD, though Jimmy Gaylor socked a limp-looking field goal from 33 yards out. On their next possession the Vols put the scoreboard to work again as Wallace and A-A Larry Seivers combined on two passes for 33 yards and Bobby Emmons banged quickly for 14 yards and it was 24-0.

The Rebels crossed midfield for the first time when they put together two first downs and advanced from their own 29 to the Vol 38. But a fourth down interception killed those doings. UT emerged with two more field goal opportunities before intermission and could not capitalize.

The two teams swapped fumbles at the outset of the third period until the Volunteers wrapped things up with an 83-yard drive, Emmons running for 37 yards, Wallace throwing to Emmons for 28 and Hubert Simpson diving over from the two. A two point conversion was lagniappe.

Freddie Williams' fast feet averted a shutout in the fourth quarter. Williams and James Storey ran for a first down and Storey added seven more yards before freshman Williams took Garner's pitch 61 yards down the sidelines for the touchdown. The try for two points on the conversion was denied.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Williams, 119 yards on 11 carries
Passing: Garner, 3 of 14 for 46 yards
Receiving: Clark, 2 for 20 yards
Tackles: Coleman (17-3), Plasketes (11-3)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	U.T.		O.M.	U.T.
First Downs	12	19	Punts-Average	4-45.0	4-36.5
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	10-2-0	10-7-2	Punt Returns-Average	1-7.0	3-6.3
Rushing Attempts-Yards	55-214	43-190	K.O. Returns-Average	5-16.8	1-21.0
Passing Att. Comp.-Yds.	14-3-46	15-9-204	Field Goals Att.-Made	0-0	3-1
Total Offense-Plays	260-69	394-68	Penalties-Yards	7-44	4-50
Interceptions-By-Ret.	0-0	5-35	Fumbles-Lost	6-5	2-2

SCORING SUMMARY

TN - Morgan, 1 run, Gaylor kick (7:53 1st)
 TN - Foxx, 1 run, Gaylor kick (1:54 1st)
 TN - Gaylor, 33 FG (12:04 2nd)
 TN - Emmons, 14 run, Gaylor kick (8:46 2nd)
 TN - Simpson, 2 run, Gaylor pass to Hough (8:40 3rd)
 OM - Williams, 61 run, pass failed (8:58 4th)

1976

OLE MISS 11 — MISS. STATE 28

OLE MISS	3	0	0	8	—	11
MISS. STATE	0	6	10	12	—	28

After disappointing back-to-back outings against LSU and Tennessee, Ole Miss faced another stern test in archrival Mississippi State. No bowl games hinged on the outcome as in some bygone times. The Bulldogs were 8-2 but probation prevented their post-season visitation. The Rebels were hoping for a second straight 6-5 campaign.

And for the first 27 minutes at rain-soaked Mississippi Memorial Stadium, it appeared that the Rebels might attain that desire. Stopping the 'Dogs first offensive, Tim Ellis got the Rebels moving from the OM 44. Ellis' 31-yard pass to Curtis Weathers meant a first down at the MSU 15. Three downs produced nothing and freshman Hoppy Langley connected on a 31-yard field goal.

That's the way it stayed until just before the half. Langley missed on a 32-yard try while Kinney Jordan was short on a 40-yard effort for the Bulldogs. State took advantage of a Rebel miscue when an Ellis pass was nicked and picked off by Wil Coltharp at the OM 10, Coltharp taking it to the six. Ole Miss stiffened forcing Jordan to go for three from 19 yards, 3-3.

On the third play after the kickoff, Ole Miss fumbled at its 31 with Mike Lawrence recovering as just 19 seconds remained. Bruce Threadgill's first pass was off the mark but he flung a 26 yarder to Robert Chatman and Jordan toed a 23 yard field goal with two seconds left.

In the second half though, State scored the first time it got the ball, though it had to call on Jordan again as once more the Reb defense was stingy inside the 10. Jordan's 22-yarder made it 9-3.

After Ole Miss was unsuccessful on a fourth and two at the MSU 43, Threadgill drove the 'Dogs 57 yards in seven plays for the game's first six-pointer. Dennis Johnson had an 11 yard burst but the longest play of the march was Threadgill's 17-yard TD pass to Chatman. Jordan converted.

Early in the fourth quarter the Bulldogs distanced 80 yards in 11 snaps with Threadgill throwing four yards to Duncan McKenzie for the TD, set up by Johnson's 22-yard run. Twice a try for two points failed.

When Bobby Garner was sacked at the Reb 38 on fourth down the Bulldogs went for more and got it on Threadgill's passing, Walter Packer's churning and Johnson powering over from the one. Once more the 'Dogs tried for two points and again came up short.

On the first play after the kickoff, freshman Leon Perry put Ole Miss back on the board with an 80-yard jaunt to paydirt, his second lengthy TD spring of the year. Ellis flipped a short pass to Freddie Williams for the two-pointer.

REBEL SUPERLATIVES

Rushing: Perry, 93 yards on 3 carries
Passing: Ellis, 8 of 22 for 114 yards
Receiving: Weathers, 4 for 73 yards
Tackles: Coleman (9-5), M. Pittman (8-5)

THE YARDSTICK

	O.M.	M.S.	O.M.	M.S.
First Downs	12	19	5-42.6	5-43.6
(Rush-Pass-Penalty)	6-6-0	14-5-0	4-5.3	4-(3-8)
Rushing Attempts-Yards	44-148	51-265	5-18.8	3-0
Pass. Att.-Comp.-Yds.	27-10-127	20-9-107	3-1	4-3
Total Offense-Plays	275-71	372-71	5-47	5-35
Interceptions-By-Ret.	0-0	1-3	6-2	3-2
Punts-Average				
Punt Returns-Average				
K.O. Returns-Average				
Field Goals Att.-Made				
Penalties-Yards				
Fumbles-Lost				

SCORING SUMMARY

OM - Langley, 31 FG (9:45 1st)
 MSU - Jordan, 19 FG (1:19 2nd)
 MSU - Jordan, 23 FG (1:02 2nd)
 MSU - Jordan, 22 FG (9:17 3rd)
 MSU - Chatman, 17 pass from Threadgill, Jordan kick (2:05 3rd)
 MSU - McKenzie, 4 pass from Threadgill, run failed (8:39 4th)
 MSU - Johnson, 1 run, run failed (4:44 4th)
 OM - Perry, 80 run, Ellis pass to Williams (4:30 4th)

1976 Facts 'n Figures

TEAM STATISTICS

	O.M.	OPP.				
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	150	163	Sweet, tb	7	84	12.0 33 0
By Rushing	104	98	Woullard, tb	4	50	12.5 36 1
By Passing	36	56	Williams, tb	2	25	12.5 18 0
By Penalty	10	9	Griffin, te	2	11	5.5 10 0
TOTAL RUSH-PASS PLAYS	731	735	Richards, fb	2	10	1.0 3 0
NET RUSH-PASS YARDS	2823	3256	Fischer, ftk	1	10.0	10 0
NO. RUSHING ATTEMPTS	565	554	PUNTING			
NET YARDS RUSHING	2004	1974	No. Yards	71	2875	40.5 LP BLK
Yards Lost Rushing	379	358	Avg.			82 0
YARDS GAINED PASSING	819	1282	PUNT RETURNS			
NO. PASSES ATTEMPTED	166	181	No. Yards	35	204	5.8 LP TD
NO. PASSES COMPLETED	68	86	Avg.			14 0
Pct. Completions	41.0	47.5	No. Returns	1	1	1.0 1 0
PASSES INTERCEPTED BY	11	16*	KICKOFF RETURNS			
Yards Int's Returned	57	177	No. Yards	13	226	17.4 LP TD
Average Return	5.2	11.1	Avg.			24 0
AVERAGE GAIN PER GAME	256.6	296.0	Williams, fb	7	170	24.3 50 0
Avg. Gain Rushing	182.2	179.5	Sweet, tb	6	135	22.6 34 0
Avg. Gain Passing	74.4	116.5	Woullard, tb	1	17	17.0 17 0
AVERAGE GAIN PER PLAY	3.9	4.4	Richards, fb	1	15	15.0 15 0
Avg. Gain Per Rush	3.5	3.6	SCORING			
Avg. Gain Per Pass	4.9	7.1	—Extra Points—			
Avg. Gain Per Comp.	12.0	14.9	TD Kick Pass Run FGA-FG TP			
AVERAGE PLAYS PER GAME	66.5	66.8	Langley, ks	0	13-13	14-9 40
Avg. Plays Rushing	51.4	50.4	Sweet, tb			20
Avg. Plays Passing	15.1	16.4	Woullard, tb			18
NUMBER PUNTS	71	69	Perry, tb			18
Yards Punted	2870	2662	Williams, te			14
Avg. Punt	40.4	38.6	Weathers, tb			12
PUNT RETURNS	36	29	Storey, fb			6
Yards Returned	205	127	Stuart, lb			6
Average Return	5.7	4.7	Richards, fb			6
KICKOFF RETURNS	28	25	Fabris, se			6
Yards Returned	563	448	Ellis, qb	1	1	2-0
Average Return	20.1	17.9	Lavinghouze	0	1-1	1 0
NO. PENALTIES-YARDS	52-393	43-433	Garner, qb	0	1-0	1 0
FUMBLES—FUMBLES LOST	52-31	47-26	Team			0 0
TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS	18	22	PASS INTERCEPTIONS			
By Rushing	13	14	No. Yards			LP TD
By Passing	4	7	Moss, rcb	4	14	3.5 14 0
By Pass Interception	1	0	Hicks, fs	2	3	1.5 3 0
By Kickoff Return	0	1	Stuart, lb	1	24	24.0 24 1
FG'S ATT.—Made	14-9	16-9	B. Pittman, ss	1	6	6.0 6 0
EP'S ATT.—Made	18-16	22-19	Cole, lb	1	5	5.0 5 0
By Kicking	15-14	18-17	Forester, dt	1	0	0.0 0 0
By Passing	3-2	4-2	Nasif, lcb	1	0	0.0 0 0
TOTAL POINTS	153	180	DEFENSIVE LEADERS			
Avg. Points	13.9	16.4	T A F I PD TGP TDR			
*Totals Include Intercepted Fumble of 34 Yards.			Coleman	92	41	1 0 0 4/33 1/3
			Plasketes	72	43	3 0 0 4/50 2/10
			M. Pittman	68	33	1 0 0 5/31 5/10
			Stuart	66	46	5 1 2 1/6 1/1
			Robertson	49	16	1 0 0 3/9 1/1
			Grefseng	41	26	3 0 0 3/14 3/19
			Niebuhr	38	16	1 0 0 1/8 2/3
			Jordan	33	7	1 0 1 2/20 4/4
			Hicks	33	11	0 2 5
			B. Pittman	32	16	2 1 1/2 6/9
			Moss	29	7	1 4 5 2/5
			Cole	28	18	0 1 2
			Nasif	24	6	1 1 4
			Cage	21	9	1 1 0 0
			Forester	20	9	1 1 0 0
			Turner	19	6	1 0 0 2/20
			Kitchens	18	11	0 0 0 0
			McNeal	13	3	0 0 0 0
			Dantzler	11	5	0 0 0 2/18 2/7
			Jones	11	7	0 0 2
			Beck	7	4	1 0 1
			Day	6	1	1 0 0
			Johnson	5	1	0 0 0 1/15
			Hinton	4	0	0 0 0 0
			Dotson	3	1	0 0 0 1/11
			Rucker	3	1	0 0 0 0
			Perry	3	0	0 0 0 0
			Storey	2	0	0 0 0 0
			Weathers	2	0	0 0 0 0
			Fabris	2	0	0 0 0 0
			McAlpin, R.	2	0	0 0 0 0
			PASS RECEIVING			
			No. Yards Avg. LP TD			
			Fabris, se	20	220	11.0 24 1
			Clark, flk	12	120	10.0 19 0
			Weathers, te	10	213	21.3 47 2
			Storey, fb	8	84	8.4 45 0

T—Tackles. A—Assists. F—Opponents Fumbles Covered. I—Opponents Passes Intercepted. PD—Passes Deflected. TGP—Times Got to Passer for Loss. TDR—Times Dropped Runner for Loss.

1976