

Sports & Entertainment

Wrap-Up!

Memphis Tigers blowout Ole Miss in statement win over an SEC opponent



By William M. Larsha, Jr., Senior Sports Correspondent The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway

MEMPHIS- The Memphis Tigers took on 16th ranked Ole Miss on Saturday December 28,2024 at home in the FedEx Forum. For those wondering how the Tigers would bounce back after a disappointing loss to Mississippi State the previous week, their questions were positively answered. The Tigers left the Forum with an impressive 87-70 win over an SEC opponent. The Tigers are now 10-3 on the season.

Colby Rogers led the scoring with 28 points. He was 6-9 on 3 pointers. P. J. Haggerty poured in 17 points. The Tigers got off to quick start in the 1st half. They built a 12-point lead midway

through. Ole Miss then began sinking 3 pointers to tighten the game. The Tigers only led by 2 points at the end of the half.

The 2nd half proved to be a lot different for the Tigers. They blitzed the Rebels by 15 in the 2nd half. Along with Rogers' hot shooting, contributions from big men Mousse Cisse and Dain Dainja were huge. Cisse played his best game as a Tiger with 20 points. Dainja added 18 off the bench. The Tigers also stepped up their defense to aid in the victory. They held Memphis product Matthew Murrell to only 7 points. The win put Coach Penny Hardaway's Tigers back in the AP top 25 at number 21. They also returned to the USA Today top 25 at number 25

The game was their last non-conference contest of the year. They begin an 18-game conference schedule on January 2, 2025 at Florida Atlantic. "We can't fall back now because we're done with the non-conference," Hardaway said last week. "It's going to get even tougher, because everybody's expecting for us to win every game. So, every game now is a big game. We can't lose our fight ever again. If the ball's not falling, who cares - we still have to fight."

Big man Moussa Cisse named American Athletic Conf. Player of the Week



Moussa Cisse

IRVING, Texas, December 30, 2024 - University of Memphis big man Moussa Cisse has been named the American Athletic Conference Player of the Week, the league office announced Monday. It is the first-career AAC player of the week honor for Cisse.

In the Tigers' only game last week, an 87-70 home win over No. 16 Ole Miss on Saturday, Cisse came out on a mission against his former team and reg-

istered a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds in 20 minutes. He also swatted a game-high three blocks.

The fifth-year center finished 4-of-9 from the floor and 5-of-8 from the free throw line, his second-most makes of the season at the stripe.

It was Cisse's first double-double in his last 41 games, but the 15th of his career.

Seven of his 11 rebounds in the win were on the offensive end, the most by a Tiger since DeAndre Williams in 2022.

Memphis Tigers have racked up three-straight AAC player of the week nods, with Tyrese Hunter (Dec. 16) and PJ Haggerty (Dec. 23) grabbing the last two.

In total, there have been eight player of the weeks in the conference this season, and Memphis has been awarded the top honor in five of those.

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Men's Basketball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Memphis Grizzlies medical update on guard Ja Morant

MEMPHIS, Tenn. , December 30, 2024 - The Memphis Grizzlies announced the following medical update for guard Ja Morant: Morant has been diagnosed with a Grade 1 AC joint sprain in his

right shoulder, which occurred during the Grizzlies' game against the New Orleans Pelicans on December 27. He is considered week-to-week, and further updates will be provided as appropriate.

Tennessee Titans conclude season at home against Houston Texans

Tennessee Titans (3-13) vs. Houston Texans (9-7) Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 • Noon CST • Nissan Stadium • Nashville, Tenn. • TV: CBS



Fans in Nashville can stream live Titans games on mobile devices with NFL+, which offers access to local games and all primetime games on phones and tablets. Out of market, fans can watch every Sunday afternoon game with Sunday Ticket. More information on ways to watch NFL games can be found at nfl.com/ways-to-watch.

ville market. The broadcast team includes play-by-play announcer Tom McCarthy, analysts Ross Tucker and Jay Feely, and reporter Amanda Balonis.

Fans in Nashville can stream live Titans games on mobile devices with NFL+, which offers access to local games and all primetime games on phones and tablets. Out of market, fans can watch every Sunday afternoon game with Sunday Ticket. More information on ways to watch NFL games can be found at nfl.com/ways-to-watch.

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans action across the Mid-South with the "Voice of the Titans" Mike Keith,

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans (3-13) conclude their 2024 season this week with a home game against the division-rival Houston Texans (9-7). Kickoff at Nissan Stadium (capacity 69,143) is scheduled for noon CST on Sunday, Jan. 5.

The Texans have already clinched the AFC South title in 2024. They are locked into the AFC's No. 4 seed in the postseason, which begins next week with the wild-card round.

In the first meeting of 2024, played on Nov. 24 at NRG Stadium, the Titans defeated the Texans 32-27. The contest featured five lead changes, culminating with a 70-yard, go-ahead touchdown reception by tight end Chig Okonkwo with less than 10 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. The Tennessee victory broke Houston's three-game winning streak in the all-time series, which the Titans lead 24-21.

THE BROADCAST

This week's contest will be regionally televised on CBS, including Nashville affiliate WTVF NewsChannel 5, as well as on Paramount+ in the Nash-

NFL announces FedEx Air and Ground Players nominees of Week

N.Y. N.Y., December 30, 2024- The NFL announced that the nominees for FedEx Air & Ground NFL Players of the Week for Week 17 are:

Cincinnati quarterback JOE BURROW completed 39 of 49 attempts (79.6 percent) for 412 yards and three touchdowns with a 122.1 rating. He also rushed for 25 yards and one touchdown.

New York Giants quarterback DREW LOCK completed 17 of 23 attempts (73.9 percent) for 309 yards and four touchdowns with a 155.3 rating. He also rushed for one touchdown.

Tampa Bay quarterback BAKER MAYFIELD completed 27 of 32 attempts (84.4 percent) for 359 yards and five touch-

For the 2024-25 NFL regular season, FedEx is once again working with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) to make donations of \$2,000 in the name of the winning players (\$4,000 total) to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country.

downs with a 153.0 rating.

Cincinnati wide receiver TEE HIGGINS recorded 11 receptions for 131 yards and three touchdowns.

New York Giants wide receiver MALIK NABERS recorded seven receptions for 171 yards and two touchdowns.

SageSpring Wealth Partners names former NFL player Winston Justice CEO of the Private Wealth division from sports page 1

ence." Before joining SageSpring, Justice served as a vice president at AllianceBernstein global headquarters in Nashville, where he managed assets for multigenerational family offices, entrepreneurs and nonprofits. His financial career also includes roles at Wells Fargo Securities and PIA's Alternative Investments Group.

During his NFL career, Justice co-founded Elixir Coffee, a Philadelphia-based specialty coffee company known for quality and community focus. Later, he partnered with former NBA player Jamal Mashburn to launch a venture capital fund targeting healthcare and education. These ventures helped him build strategic and operational skills that now shape his approach to wealth management. "I'm honored to join SageSpring and lead the Private Wealth business for the firm," Justice said. "Our focus will be on enhancing

"Winston's diverse background in professional sports, entrepreneurship and wealth management makes him the ideal leader to drive SageSpring's next phase of growth," Dobyne said. "His innovative approach and deep understanding of client needs will be instrumental in expanding our services and market presence."

our advisory platform, developing specialized investment solutions, and expanding our reach to better serve our clients' evolving needs."

Justice holds an MBA from George Washington University and the Certified Investment Management Analyst designation from the Yale School of Management. He was previously an adjunct professor of finance at

analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Ramon Foster, executive producer/gameday host Rhett Bryan and co-host Amie Wells.

LAST WEEK AT JACKSONVILLE

The Titans were in Jacksonville last week for their second clash with the Jaguars in a four-week span. A drive by the Titans offense stalled at Jacksonville's 26-yard line in the final minute, preserving the Jaguars' 20-13 victory.

Quarterback Mason Rudolph registered his fifth start of the season and completed 19 of 31 passes for 193 yards. He found tight end Nick Vannett for an eight-yard touchdown.

With 1,000-yard rusher Tony Pollard (1,017) inactive due to injury/illness, second-year running back Tyjae Spears recorded his second career start. Spears responded with a career-high 95 rushing yards on 20 carries before exiting in the third quarter due to a concussion. The Titans' 159 total rushing yards against the Jaguars amounted to their second-best total of the season. On the defensive side of the ball, the Titans limited the Jaguars to 173 net passing yards, marking the 11th time in 2024 that the Titans kept their opponent under 200 passing yards. They enter

Week 18 ranked second in passing defense, allowing only 177.9 passing yards per contest, as well as third in overall defense (307.3).

THE TEXANS

The Texans clinched their second consecutive AFC South after beating the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 15. Since then, they have suffered a 27-19 loss at Kansas City and most recently a 31-2 loss at home against the Baltimore Ravens. Their Christmas contest with the Ravens, played on a Wednesday, provides them 11 days to prepare for the finale against the Titans.

Quarterback C.J. Stroud has started every game for the Texans in his second NFL season. The 2023 second-overall draft pick has followed his Rookie of the Year campaign by passing for 3,677 yards with 19 touchdowns and 12 interceptions in 2024. Head coach DeMeco Ryans is in his second year leading the Texans. In 2023, he led his team to a 10-7 record and a division title—Houston's first playoff berth since 2019.

Houston became the first club in NFL history to win a division with a rookie quarterback and first-year head coach, and Ryans and Stroud have combined to repeat the accomplishment in 2024.

The Kody Norris Show is nominated for seven SPBGMA Awards from sports-Ent. 5

FEB 06 - Sellersville Theatre / Sellersville, Pa.
FEB 07 - Ragamuffin Hall/ Mifflin, Pa.
FEB 08 - Court Square Theater / Harrisonburg, Va.
FEB 14 - Palatka Bluegrass Festival / Palatka, Fla.
FEB 15 - Bill's Music Shop & Pickin' Parlor / West Columbia, S.C.
FEB 28 - Lake Havasu Bluegrass Festival / Lake Havasu City, Ariz.
MAR 01 - Lake Havasu Bluegrass Festival / Lake Havasu City, Ariz.
MAR 08 - SMBA Concert Series at Goodwill Fire Hall / York, Pa.
APR 04 - James Wimmer Memorial Bristol Bluegrass Spring Festival / Bristol, Va.
APR 19 - Bluebirds and Bluegrass at Dauset Trails Nature Center / Jackson, Ga.
APR 26 - Flagler Museum / Palm Beach, Fla.
For additional concert information and The Kody Norris Show's full schedule, visit their website at thekodynorrisshow.com.

About The Kody Norris Show: The Kody Norris Show continues bringing bluegrass music to both core fans of the genre and new audiences. They are a youthful voice in bluegrass music, and insiders have awarded them multiple IBMA & SPBGMA Nominations and wins, including Entertainer of the Year, Instrumental Group of the Year, Guitar Performer of the Year for Kody Norris, and Fiddler of the Year for Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris. The Kody Norris Show's album All Suited Up (2021) charted at #7, and Rhinestone Revival (2023) at #8 on the Billboard charts. Their trademarked high-energy style delivers an unrivaled live show experience. The band has played the Ryman Auditorium, Grand Ole Opry, SiriusXM, and other stages worldwide. The Kody Norris Show is truly one of a kind. For more information, visit thekodynorrisshow.com.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 30th Annual Black History Month Special in February 2025!

Email events, press releases and photos to MSTnews@prodigy.net or MSTsports@prodigy.net or BlackInfoHwy@prodigy.net