

LSU FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

LSU (6-7, 3-5 SEC) VS. KANSAS STATE (8-5, 4-5 Big 12)

January 4, 2022 -- NRG Stadium (Houston, Tx.) [Neutral Site]

TEAM NOTES

1. The LSU Captains were **K Avery Atkins**, **OL Chasen Hines**, **OL Ed Ingram**, **DB Todd Harris Jr.**, **DL Soni Fonua**, **OL Austin Deculus**, **WR Jontre Kirklin**, **OL Liam Shanahan**, **DB Darren Evans**, and **DB Lloyd Cole**.
2. Kansas State won the coin toss and elected to receive.
3. The Tax Act Texas Bowl marked LSU's 53rd appearance in a bowl game. The Tigers now own a 28-24-1 mark in bowl games.
4. With the loss, LSU finishes the 2021-2022 season 6-7, 3-5 in the SEC.
5. Announced attendance for the game was 52,207..
6. In his only game as Interim Head Coach, Brad Davis is 0-1.
 - a. LSU is now 1-1 all-time against Kansas State.
7. Kansas State's second touchdown drive of the game was the longest scoring drive (18-71) by an LSU opponent since 9/7/19 against Texas (19-86).

OFFENSIVE

1. **QB Jontre Kirklin** made his first career start at the quarterback position for the Tigers after playing the last four seasons at WR. He finished the night 7-11 with 183 yards and three touchdowns. He also led the Tigers in yards rushing at 61 yards on 11 attempts.
 - a. Two previous QBs have earned their first career start in a bowl game: Matt Flynn in the 2005 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (W, 40-3, over No. 9 Miami) and Anthony Jennings in the 2014 Outback Bowl (W, 21-14, over Iowa).
 - b. Kirklin threw his first career touchdown and the Tigers' first of the game on a 23-yard pass to WR **Jaray Jenkins** in the second quarter.
 - c. Kirklin completed a 15-yard pass to WR **Malik Nabers** in the fourth quarter for the Tigers' second touchdown of the night.
 - d. Kirklin completed an 81-yard pass to WR **Chris Hilton** in the final seconds of the game for the Tigers' third touchdown of the night. The pass was the longest pass completed by the LSU offense this season.
2. The Tigers offense spread the wealth, with Kirklin throwing TD passes to three wide receivers in **Jaray Jenkins**, **Malik Nabers** and **Chris Hilton**.
 - a. Jenkins and Hilton had one reception each for a touchdown at 23 and 81 yards, respectively.
 - b. Nabers finished the night with two receptions at 17 yards with one touchdown.
3. **RB Corey Kiner** finished the night with the most rushing attempts by the Tigers at 14 with 53 yards.

DEFENSE

1. The Tigers defense finished the night with 67 tackles, two sacks, six tackles for loss, four pass breakups and four QB hits.
2. DBs **Todd Harris** and **Jay Ward** led the Tigers on defense with nine sacks each. Ward tallied two pass breakups with Harris tallying one.

3. DB **Pig Cage** and DE **BJ Ojulari** each accounted for a sack.
 - a. Cage finished the night with six tackles (four of them solo), one sack, and three tackles for loss.
 - b. Ojulari finished the night with six tackles (four of them solo), one sack, one tackle for loss, and one QB hit.

SPECIAL TEAMS

1. K **Avery Atkins** punted three times for 135 yards with an average of 45 yards and a long of 48 yards.
 - a. Atkins went 1-2 on kickoffs for touchbacks.
2. PK **Preston Stafford** finished the night 2-2 on PATs.