



**No. 9/9 LSU (1-0) vs. No. 4/6 Clemson (0-1)**  
**Postgame Notes**  
**Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025 · Kickoff 7:52 p.m. ET · ABC**

## GAME INFORMATION

**LSU Captains:** QB Garrett Nussmeier, LB Whit Weeks, LB West Weeks, WR Chris Hilton Jr.

**Coin Toss:** Clemson won, deferred; LSU received

**Weather:** Partly cloudy, 77 degrees

**Wind:** WNW, 5 mph

**Attendance:** 81,500

**Brian Kelly Career Record:** 314-108-2

**Brian Kelly LSU Record:** 30-11

**Brian Kelly vs. Clemson:** 2-3

**LSU vs. Clemson All-Time:** 4-1

## LSU STARTERS

### Offense

QB Garrett Nussmeier, RB Caden Durham, TE Bauer Sharp, WR Destyn Hill, WR Barion Brown, WR Kyle Parker, LT Tyree Adams, LG Paul Mubenga, C Braelin Moore, RG Josh Thompson, RT Weston Davis

### Defense

DT Bernard Gooden, DT Jacobian Guillory II, DE Patrick Payton, DE Jack Pyburn, LB Harold Perkins Jr., LB West Weeks, LB Whit Weeks, S Tamarcus Cooley, S Jardin Gilbert, CB Mansoor Delane, CB PJ Woodland

## GAME NOTES

### General

**1.** LSU faced Clemson for the fifth time overall and for the first time inside Clemson Memorial Stadium.

**a.** The game marked the first meeting between the teams during the regular season.

**i.** All four previous contests have come during the postseason, most recently on Jan. 13, 2020 when LSU captured the CFP National Championship with a 42-25 win over Clemson in New Orleans.

**b.** LSU leads the overall series, 4-1, following Saturday's matchup where LSU defeated Clemson, 17-10.

**i.** LSU and Clemson first met in the 1959 Sugar Bowl at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans. That game was televised nationally on NBC, the first time an LSU football game was televised.

**2.** LSU is 92-35-5 in season openers after the 2025 season opener against Clemson.

**a.** LSU dropped five consecutive season openers coming into the 2025 season, but snapped that streak with a 17-10 win at Clemson. LSU is 23-7 in opening games dating back to 1996.

**b.** LSU's 2015 season-opener against McNeese in Tiger Stadium was declared a no contest due to inclement weather.

**3.** Coming into tonight's game, LSU was after its second true-road win over an AP Top-10 non-conference opponent. LSU defeated No. 9 Texas, 45-38, in Austin in 2019.

**a.** In the SEC era, LSU is now 2-11 in road games against AP Top 10 non-conference opponents. LSU was unranked in all past games with the exception of Clemson in 2025 (LSU No. 9), Texas in 2019 (LSU No. 6), and Notre Dame in 1970 (LSU No. 6).

**4.** For the first time since 2021, LSU started a season with a true road game.

**a.** LSU's first three season-openers under Brian Kelly have come at neutral sites.

**b.** Dating back to 1995, Saturday's game marked the seventh time LSU opened a season in a true road game. LSU is 4-3 in those games.

**5.** Saturday's Top-10 matchup between LSU and Clemson marked the third time in program history the Tigers have opened a season with a Top-10 showdown.

**a.** The most recent came on Sept. 3, 2023, when No. 5 LSU faced No. 8 Florida State at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Fla. In that game, Florida State pulled away in the second half to secure a 45-24 victory.

**b.** The previous Top-10 opener came on Sept. 3, 2011, when No. 4 LSU earned a 40-27 victory over No. 3 Oregon at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. The Tigers forced four turnovers - including a first half punt return strip-and-score by Tyrann Mathieu - and turned them into 20 points.

**6.** LSU head coach Brian Kelly faced Clemson for the fifth time on Saturday.

**a.** Kelly is 2-3 vs. Clemson with all four previous meetings coming while he was the head coach at Notre Dame. Before Saturday, the lone win was in 2020.

**b.** The Fighting Irish and Tigers battled twice that season with Notre Dame winning the regular-season contest, 47-40. Both teams would play one another in the ACC Championship, where Clemson returned the favor with a 34-10 victory.

**c.** The other games included a 24-22 loss in 2015 and a 30-3 loss in the 2018 Cotton Bowl, which served as a semifinal matchup in the College Football Playoff.

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**7.** Following the season opener against Clemson, LSU is 30-11 under Brian Kelly.

**a.** LSU went 10-4 and captured the SEC Western Division title in 2022 followed by a 10-3 mark in 2023. Last year, LSU posted a 9-4 overall mark.

**b.** LSU has won all three bowl games under Kelly and brought a 3-game winning streak dating back to last year's win over Vanderbilt into the Clemson game.

**8.** LSU is 40-31-1 all-time against teams from the current (and expanded) ACC.

**a.** LSU has faced all but 3 current ACC teams (Cal, NC State, Virginia).

**b.** LSU's last meeting against an ACC team in the 2023 season-opener when the Tigers dropped a 45-24 decision to Florida State in Orlando.

**9.** LSU's matchup with Clemson marked the 17th time in program history the Tigers have opened the season against an AP Top-25 opponent, and the third consecutive year they have done so.

**a.** LSU holds a 13-4 record in such games.

**b.** This year's game was the fifth time LSU has opened the season with a Top-25 matchup in an opponent's home stadium.

**i.** The Tigers are now 4-1 in those contests, with the most recent coming on Sept. 12, 2015, when No. 14 LSU defeated No. 25 Mississippi State in Starkville.

**10.** For the first time since the 2019 National Championship season, LSU opened the college football calendar in the month of August.

**a.** It was the first time LSU played in Clemson, S.C.

**b.** Overall, LSU is now 7-0 in August games with the most recent one occurring in 2019 when LSU defeated Georgia Southern, 55-3, inside Tiger Stadium on Aug. 31.

**c.** The LSU-Clemson matchup will be the second time LSU has played in August for a true road game. The first happened in 2007 when the Tigers took down Mississippi State, 45-0, in Starkville.

**11.** Dating back to the 2001 season when LSU captured its first outright SEC title since 1986, the Tigers have done quite well against non-conference opponents, going 97-14 against non-SEC foes during that span.

**a.** Of the 97 wins, 22 have come against top-25 teams. Of the 14 losses, only seven have come during the regular season (2002 at Virginia Tech, 2016 vs. Wisconsin at Lambeau Field, 2017 vs. Troy, 2021 at UCLA, 2022 vs. FSU, 2023 vs. FSU, and 2024 vs. USC). The other seven losses came in bowl games (2003 Cotton Bowl vs. Texas; 2005 Capital One Bowl vs. Iowa; 2009 Capital One Bowl vs. Penn State; 2012 Chick-Fil-A Bowl vs. Clemson; 2014 Music City Bowl vs. Notre Dame; 2018 Citrus Bowl vs. Notre Dame; 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl vs. Kansas State).

**12.** LSU is 13-3 against non-conference opponents under head coach Brian Kelly.

**a.** The Tigers' most recent victory versus a program outside the SEC came against Baylor in the 2024 Texas Bowl. LSU went 4-1 against non-conference foes in 2024.

**13.** 12 Tigers earned their first start in an LSU uniform including TE Bauer Sharp, WR Destyn Hill, WR Barion Brown, C Braelin Moore, RG Josh Thompson, RT Weston Davis, DT Bernard Gooden, DE Patrick Payton, DE Jack Pyburn, S Tamarcus Cooley, CB Mansoor Delane, and LB West Weeks.

**14.** Seven True freshmen played in their first game as LSU Tigers. The list includes CB DJ Pickett, RB Harlem Berry, LB Charles Ross II, S CJ Jimcoily, SNP Silas Hall, DT Walter Mathis Jr., and DT Zion Williams.

**15.** Redshirt freshmen who played four games or less last season also saw the field Saturday. The players include CB Michael Turner Jr., S Joel Rogers, LB Tylen Singleton, OT Weston Davis, OT Ory Williams, and OL Coen Echols.

**16.** 14 transfers saw action for the first time at LSU after 16 joined the Tigers in the offseason. The list includes TE Bauer Sharp, WR Destyn Hill, WR Barion Brown, C Braelin Moore, RG Josh Thompson, DT Bernard Gooden, DE Patrick Payton, DE Jack Pyburn, S Tamarcus Cooley, CB Mansoor Delane, S A.J. Haulcy, WR Nic Anderson, EDGE Jimari Butler, and P Grant Chadwick.

**17.** S A.J. Haulcy sat out the first half of the Clemson game due to an ejection he received in his final game at Houston in the 2024 season for fighting. Haulcy returned in the second half and started for the Tigers.

### Offense

**1.** QB Garrett Nussmeier led the Tigers with the newly-minted No. 18 jersey, going 28-of-38 with 230 yards and 1 TD.

**a.** WR Zavion Thomas was a part of some trickery within the LSU offense, as he threw the first pass of his collegiate career to WR Aaron Anderson for 16 yards and a first down late in the second quarter.

**i.** Thomas became the first LSU player to have a run, pass and catch in the same game since QB Jayden Daniels on Jan. 2, 2023, vs. Purdue in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl. Thomas' rush came in the first quarter for a 14 yard gain.

**2.** LSU's leading rusher from the 2024 season Caden Durham recorded 74 yards on 17 attempts. Durham scored the first LSU TD on the night and the first one of the season

**a.** Five other Tigers had rush attempts including Thomas (3 attempts, 26 yards), RB Ju'Juan Johnson (3 attempts, 8 yards), Nussmeier (4 attempts, 2 yards), Berry (1 attempt, 1 yard), and RB Kaleb Jackson (1 attempt, -1 yard).

**3.** Anderson was the receiving corps' top receiver, catching 6 passes on 7 attempts and recorded 99 yards.

**a.** Eight other receivers caught a pass on Saturday including Johnson, Brown, Sharp, Durham, TE Trey'Dez Green, Thomas, WR Kyle Parker, and WR Chris Hilton Jr.

**4.** RB Caden Durham got in the endzone for the first time this season with a 2-yard rush to bring LSU within one with 8:59 remaining in

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the third quarter.

- a. The TD rush was Durham's seventh of his LSU career.
- b. LSU's drive lasted 3:48 and went for 69 yards on 8 plays.

5. With the LSU offense driving early in the fourth quarter, Nussmeier found TE Trey'Dez Green on a 8-yard TD pass that gave the Tigers a 17-10 lead with 12:18 left in the game.

- a. The TD pass was Nussmeier's 41st of his career and his first of the season.
- b. Green reeled in his first TD reception of the season and the fifth of his LSU career.
- c. The Tigers drove 73 yards on 11 plays and drained 5:51 from the game clock.

### Defense

1. LSU's defense held the Clemson offense to 261 total yards (31 rushing, 230 passing).

2. The Tiger defense spread the tackles around with LSU's top tacklers recording 5 each on the night (LB Harold Perkins Jr., LB West Weeks, CB PJ Woodland).

- a. 18 defenders recorded at least one tackle against Clemson.

3. On the first Clemson drive of the game, defensive coordinator Blake Baker brought a cornerback blitz on third down with PJ Woodland to cement an opening drive three-and-out.

- a. Woodland's sack was the first of his career and the first of LSU's season. The sack pushed Clemson back 12 yards.

4. LB Harold Perkins Jr., who was seeing his first action since suffering a season-ending injury against UCLA in 2024, recorded his first sack since the Tigers' 2023 regular-season finale versus Texas A&M.

- a. Perkins' sack was the 14th of his LSU career and was a loss of 10 for the Clemson offense.

5. Transfer CB Mansoor Delane came away with an INT in the third quarter after LSU's first offensive TD of the night.

a. The INT occurred with 8:15 left in the third quarter and was the seventh INT of his career. The other six happened when Delane played for Virginia Tech from 2022-24.

- b. LSU's offense began the ensuing drive on the LSU 46 yard line.

### Special Teams

1. PK Damian Ramos was a perfect 2-for-2 on point after attempts.

2. Transfer P Grant Chadwick punted 4 times for 167 total yards. He averaged 41.8 yards per kick.

3. Ramos booted a 52-yard field goal in the second quarter to tie the game at 3 with 10:53 left in the first half.

- a. The 52-yarder was a career long for Ramos.

b. Ramos is 1-1 in field goals on the young season and moved his career totals to 46-of-59. He has been at LSU since the 2022 season.

4. With 4:52 remaining in the third quarter, Ramos missed a 46-yard field goal attempt.