TEXAS AT LSU · 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY · ABC

STATUS REPORT



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL JOHNSON

LSU coach Lane Kiffin tries to pump up the crowd as the Alabama offense tries to convert a crucial third-down play in the third quarter on Saturday in Tiger Stadium.

LSU's 6-3 start spurs questions about present, future under Kiffin



Scott Rabalais

It's been nearly one year since Lane Kiffin became the LSU football coach.

In some ways, it's gone by in a flash. Especially in the context of this Saturday's historical game against Texas being LSU's last home game this season.

In some ways, it's felt quite long. From the leaving Ole Miss saga to all of the legal hassles of trying to add Dae'Quan Wright and Zxavian Harris to the roster (remember them?).

I think back to that late November night last year when Kiffin arrived, flying from the middle fingers and insults in Oxford to an adoring throng of LSU fans pressing against the fence at Baton Rouge Metro Airport.

Specifically, I remember the young man who shouted out "We're never losing again!" as Kiffin's motorcade zoomed out of the gate.

That was fantasy. The reality is a long, difficult season in the Southeastern Conference, a season that finds LSU 6-3 overall and clinging to thinning hopes of reaching the College Football Playoff.

So many thoughts about where Kiffin and LSU are right now, I thought it best to break them down piece by piece:

Is the Kiffin era already a failure?

It is far, far too early to draw any conclusions, good or bad. You can have your opinions and I have mine, but LSU can still get in the CFP this season if it finishes 9-3. In fact, ESPN's playoff predictor says the Tigers have a 79% chance to make the playoff if they sweep Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Can LSU close the season 3-0 is the real question. It's a season in which

➤ See **RABALAIS,** page **4C**

Tyson's usage shows how Saints may try to utilize WR

BY MATTHEW PARAS
Staff writer

Analysis

➤ **Panthers at Saints.**
NOON SUNDAY, FOX

Coming off a hamstring injury, Jordyn Tyson had a strict snap count for his NFL debut. The New Orleans Saints rookie wide receiver didn't break it, either.

"No more than 30," Tyson said.

The 21-year-old played just 18 snaps in Sunday's 23-22 overtime win over the Cleveland Browns. Even with limited reps, Tyson's usage and effectiveness provided a glimpse at how the Saints plan to deploy the wide receiver as his workload likely increases.

Coach Kellen Moore used Tyson in ways that were reminiscent of his film at Arizona State. The Sun Devils saw Tyson as a versatile chess piece, and so do the Saints. Tyson had nine snaps apiece between inside and outside. Of the nine snaps outside, Tyson spent five on the left and four on the right.

New Orleans sent Tyson in motion on five of his 16 routes, good for the highest motion percentage of any Saints receiver on Sunday.

Tyson's four catches for 30 yards and a fumble may be considered underwhelming, but don't just look at the box score. A closer examination shows Tyson is just getting started.

"The volume is about what we expected," Moore said. "Again, he hasn't played a lot of football in a long time. So he's been itching to play a ton of football. We've got to build him up the right way. I thought he had a positive impact on the game over those snaps.

"Obviously, the big turnover was a really big

➤ See **TYSON,** page **4C**



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Saints wide receiver Jordyn Tyson makes his first NFL reception before the ball is punched out by Cleveland Browns linebacker Carson Schwesinger and recovered by the Browns on Sunday afternoon at the Caesars Superdome.

LSU women score 100 again in another rout

BY REED DARCEY
Staff writer

The LSU women's basketball team may not have broken any records it set in its first two games of the 2026-27 season on Tuesday, but the No. 9 Tigers (3-0) still coasted to a 100-43 win over McNeese State in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

The Tigers achieved another lopsided margin on the strength of their perimeter defense and transition offense.

The Cowgirls converted only four buckets inside the 3-point arc. LSU, on the other hand, finished with 42 points in the paint and 24 on the fastbreak, which was more than enough to shake off a sleepy first quarter and pick up another comfortable nonconference win.

"I feel like we didn't play as hard as we could have," guard MiLaysia Fulwiley said, "so I think (the LSU coaches) emphasizing to us that we gotta go out there and play hard and just do what we're supposed to do.

"Paint touches helped us get what we wanted to get, and I think we understood that after the first quarter."

LSU set program records for margin of victory in its first two games of the year, wins over Southeastern Louisiana and Texas Southern. It beat the Lions by 94 points on Nov. 2, then turned around last Thursday and walloped the visiting Tigers by an NCAA-record 109 points.



STAFF PHOTO BY PEARL SPURLOCK

LSU point guard Jada Williams tries to take the ball from McNeese guard Carley Hamilton on Tuesday night in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. LSU improved to 3-0 with a 100-43 win.

On Tuesday, LSU had six players score in double figures. Fulwiley stuffed the stat sheet once again, tallying 13 points, seven assists, four rebounds, four blocks and three steals. Mikaylah Williams picked her spots to notch 17 points and eight assists, while sophomore forward ZaKiyah Johnson found enough space in the lane to finish with 14 points and eight rebounds.

Point guard Jada Williams, an Iowa State transfer, scored nine points, grabbed 12 rebounds and assisted on six shots.

➤ See **LSU,** page **4C**

Player accountability fuels Southern's surge

BY TOYLOY BROWN III
Staff writer

➤ **Alcorn State at Southern.**
2 P.M. SATURDAY

Southern is rolling.

It went from tied for last in the SWAC West to fourth, trailing three teams tied for first place at 4-2 by one game.

Southern (5-5, 3-3 SWAC) can't afford to lose its upcoming game against Alcorn State (6-4, 4-2) at 2 p.m. Saturday at A.W. Mumford Stadium if it wants to keep its hopes of a SWAC West title intact.

Coach Marshall Faulk has credited improved health on the defensive line and praised his team's newfound consistency in practices for the team's first winning streak in two seasons.

Another factor in the turnaround is accountability.

Faulk has preached since August how he wants to have honesty as a defining part of the culture at Southern. This exists in terms of player performance and off-the-field conduct.

He followed through on the emphasis of accountability when he didn't play running back Trey Holly in the first quarter of the season opener for "disciplinary reasons," publicly criticized his kickers for their poor play and sidelined multiple key contributors, including his starting quarterback, for "conduct detrimental to the team" in its 41-10 homecoming loss to Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Oct. 3.

But Faulk said the standards being held by his players have been even more influential.

"I think as a coach, I can hold the players accountable," he said. "But what you're seeing now, and if you watch on the field when something goes wrong, it's not this [pointing finger]. They're having conversations about how to fix it. It's when players start to hold their teammates accountable. That's the recipe. That's when it really becomes what it is, and as coaches, as a coaching staff, we step back and let them solve the problem, and then we help them with the solution.

"The teams that win, every team that wins a national championship or wins any kind of championship, they're player-led teams. It has to

➤ See **SOUTHERN,** page **4C**