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MISSISSIPPIAN

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MET-CATCH

D.K. Metcalf captures 37-34 road win for Rebels



JOHN GOLLIHAR
STAFF WRITER

Facing the Kentucky Wildcats on Saturday afternoon, the Rebels earned their fourth victory of the season after a late D.K. Metcalf touchdown sealed the 37-34 win.

From the start, a back-and-forth affair resulted in a plethora of points. After the Rebels punted on the first possession of the game, the two teams combined for seven consecutive scoring drives. Jordan Ta'amu continued his impressive play, completing 77 percent of his passes for 178 yards and two touchdowns.

Also impressing through the first half was young tight end Dawson Knox, who has missed time throughout the season due to injury. Coming up with big plays in the middle of the field, two of his three first-half catches converted third downs. His receiving counterpart, Van Jefferson, played a prominent role in the Ole Miss offense; the wide out caught three passes for 64 yards, including a 20-yard score. The home team's run game, however, was quiet as Ta'amu and Jordan Wilkins combined for just 34 first-half rushing yards.

On the other side of the ball, Kentucky provided a balanced attack. Quarterback Stephen Johnson went 19-24 on the day, throwing for 204 yards. The Kentucky signal caller also caught a 32-yard pass

PHOTO COURTESY: DAVID STEPHENSON | AP PHOTO

Wide receiver and Oxford native D.K. Metcalf catches the winning touchdown over Kentucky cornerback Lonnie Johnson during the final play of the Ole Miss versus Kentucky game Saturday night at the University of Kentucky. The Rebels beat the Wildcats 37-34.

SEE **VICTORY** PAGE 8

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunman kills dozens during church service

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP) — A man opened fire inside of a church in a small South Texas community on Sunday, killing multiple people and wounding others before being "taken down," authorities said.

Authorities said a man walked into the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs and began shooting, killing multiple people and wounding others. Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt told the Wilson County News that the shooter had been "taken down," but it's not known how the shooter died. Authorities haven't said

how many were killed or wounded, but a Wilson County commissioner, Albert Gamez, told cable news outlets that emergency officials told him more than 20 people were slain and more than 20 others were wounded, though those figures hadn't been confirmed.

Video on KSAT television showed first responders taking a stretcher from the church to a waiting AirLife helicopter. Some victims were taken by medical helicopter to the Brooke Army Medical Center, KSAT said.

The church is a white, wood-framed building with a double-door at the entrance and a Texas flag on a pole at the front area, according to its website, which was down shortly after the shooting. The website says the church schedule was for a fellowship

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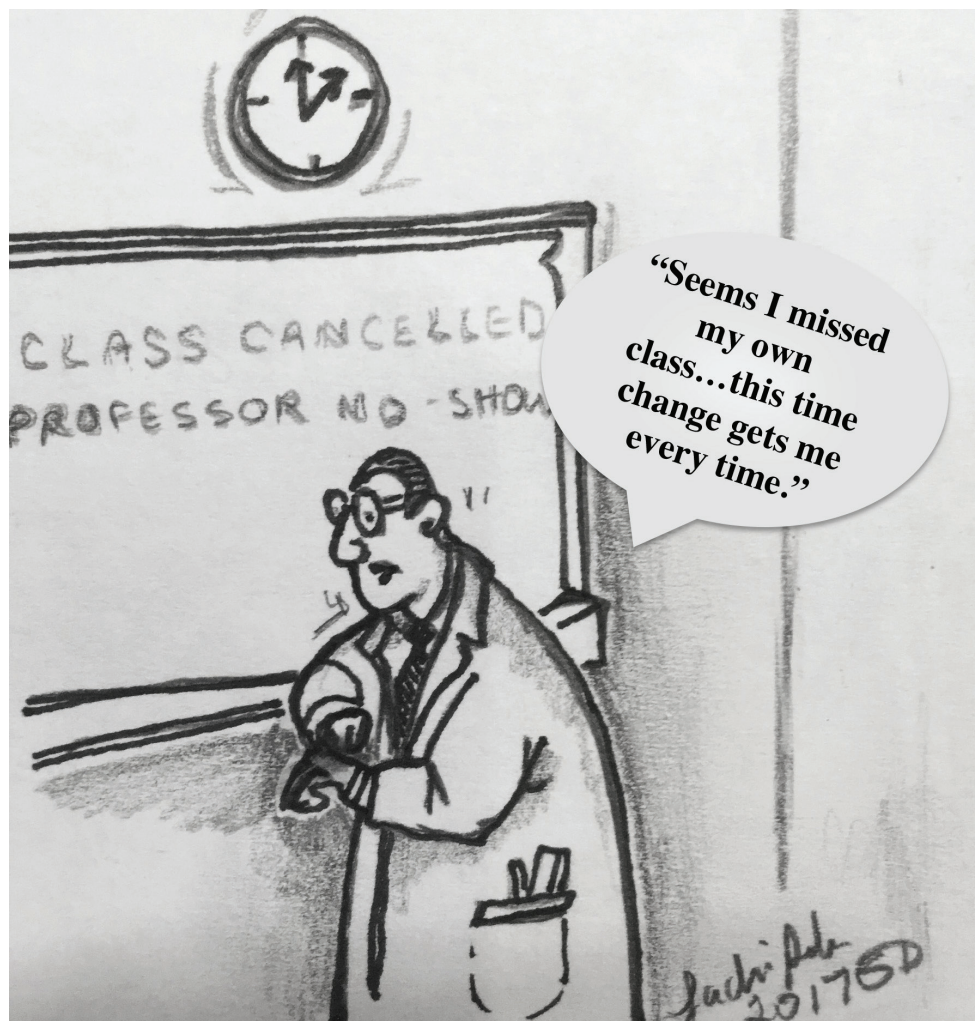
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COLUMN

Flaws in supporting Confederate statues



FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ
STAFF COLUMNIST

This column is responding to Will Hall's column "Statue opinion must be challenged" published Nov. 3

Will Hall's opinion is nothing new, and it might even seem compelling. "Confederate symbols exist to remind people of their ancestors; removing them from public spaces is an authoritarian reaction that plays into the hands of a mob mentality" is a fair way to summarize the author's main point.

However, there are several logical and factual flaws in this apologist narrative.

It's well-intentioned to say Confederate statues don't "provide a venue to advance or glorify the disgusting ideology of

white supremacy, but rather to remember those who came before us." But this claim shows a deep misunderstanding of the very goals of having Confederate symbols in public spaces.

It perpetuates the ahistorical perspective of the Lost Cause by omitting that the soldiers being idealized in those public monuments fought a war to preserve and expand slavery. You cannot say those statues exist to remember Confederate soldiers without saying they idealize the cause to expand the right to own human bodies.

Another troubling flaw in the author's opinion is his neglecting the experiences of the black population in the South and in Lafayette County during and after the war. Hall appeals very effectively to the nostalgic, sanitized views of the Civil War when he says, "The soldier has stood valiantly in memorial to all those who perished alongside him defending their land."

Perhaps he should consider the slave population of Lafayette County in 1860 — 44 percent of the total. Weren't Confederate soldiers fighting not only for "their" land but also to preserve the people they considered property and who were

forced to work that same land?

As for the claim that removing Confederate statues plays into the hands of an authoritarian mob mentality, this affirmation falls under its own weight. The author wants to avoid that "we surrender our history to the hands of mob rule, where the loudest among us have the ultimate power to choose what history we remember and what history we forget."

But that is exactly how Confederate monuments came into existence. Weren't Lost Causers being that "loudest voice," the one that chose the history that was to be remembered and one that terrorized the lives of the black population for years after the Civil War?

Debates around memory and symbols are not exclusive to the U.S. South. In Spain, many still idealize the genocidal age of imperialism in the Americas as a glorious historical period. After the Spanish Civil War in the late '30s, the narrative of fascism as a "savior" for Spain's "moral decay" became a way to legitimize a dictatorship that lasted until 1975 and whose legacy is still embedded in Spanish right-wing parties.

It's revealing to look at other

countries — like Spain, France, the U.K., Russia and many others — to learn how those in power can distort shameful historical events to their advantage.

To improve our debate on Confederate statues, I encourage Hall to reconsider the factual and logical flaws of his position, to escape his blind commitment to a distorted history and most importantly, to listen to the other side.

Francisco Hernandez is a senior international studies major from Valencia, Spain.

CORRECTION

An article about the Turning Point organization in Friday's Daily Mississippian incorrectly described "safe space" on the Ole Miss campus. According to Valeria Ross, director of the UM Office of Leadership and Advocacy, the campus is an intended safe space and includes numerous resources where students can find a person to speak with or find assistance in feeling safe.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

SHOOTING
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breakfast on Sunday mornings, followed by Sunday School. A morning worship service was scheduled for 11 a.m. The first news reports of the shooting were between noon and 12:30 p.m.

Megan Posey, a spokeswoman for Connally Memorial Medical Center, which is in Floresville and about 10 miles from the church, said "multiple" victims were being treated for gunshot wounds. She declined to give a specific number but said it was less than a dozen.

A woman who lives about 10 minutes away from Sutherland Springs in Floresville and was monitoring the chaos on a police scan-

ner and in Facebook community groups, said that everyone knows everyone in the sparsely populated county.

"This is horrific for our tiny little tight-knit town," said Alena Berlanga. "Everybody's going to be affected and everybody knows someone who's affected," she said.

President Donald Trump tweeted from Japan, where he is on an Asian trip, that he was monitoring the situation following the shooting. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called the shooting an "evil act," and promised "more details" from the state's Department of Public Safety soon.

Sutherland Springs is 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio.



PHOTO COURTESY: NICK WAGNER | AP PHOTO

Law enforcement officials work at the scene of a fatal shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, on Sunday. The youngest victim was 5 and the oldest was 72.

Inaugural retreat highlights minority brotherhood

LASHERICA THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

For two years, the Sister-2Sister Leadership Retreat has addressed issues faced by African-American women on the University of Mississippi campus and in the Oxford community. When African-American men expressed their desire for a similar event, the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement (CICCE) launched a brotherly equivalent.

Sponsored by the CICCE, the Career Center, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Office of Student Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct, the inaugural Brother-2Brother Leadership Retreat for men of color was held Friday in Bryant Hall.

During the retreat, Ryan Upshaw, assistant dean of student services, and junior Kenric Wright hosted a session titled "Seat at the Table: Campus Involvement." Different committee members discussed hypermasculinity in black men, mental health, domestic violence and sex.

National Pan-Hellenic

Council President Leonard Swilley, a senior exercise science major, served on the committee and said he felt the need for an event of this nature.

"Currently, there aren't any events on campus that are geared to young black men of color. We needed something that supported and addressed the trials and tribulations that come with not only being a man of color but also being man of color attending a PWI — predominantly white institution," Swilley said.

Senior journalism major Terrence Johnson is the president of Men of Excellence, the largest minority male organization on campus, and he delivered the retreat's opening remarks.

Growing up, Johnson said he never had men of color in his circle, so he felt like an outsider.

"I know there are a lot of black guys who feel like I felt — like the outsider," he said. "I just think it's important to have a prominent minority male presence. I think that this institution, in a lot of ways, glorifies a supremacist, patriarchal society, so I think

that it is important to have men of color in prominence ... Things like this are important — events, programming. All these things are important, especially in spaces like this, the University of Mississippi."

Nearly 60 people registered for the event, which was open to faculty, staff and students.

A committee of African-American faculty, staff and students was formed to plan the retreat and provide a professional and student perspective of being a man of color at the university, according to the center's assistant director Alexandria White.

"Of course, the mission of CICCE is to provide an inclusive space, where all students of all races, genders, sexualities, geographic have a voice, have a seat at the table," White said.

A delegation of 20 students will visit the historic Emmett Till landmarks in Lenore and Sumner on Saturday.

"Emmett Till was about the same age as many of these young men of color when he was tragically murdered for allegedly whistling at a white woman," White said. "So, as we talk about things that are

affecting young African-American males, whether police brutality, inequalities in the criminal justice system, Emmett Till is definitely a past representation of a brutal inequality of the justice system."

Two professional staff and two graduate students will travel to Lenore with the student group. To be a part of the delegation, though, students must be registered for the retreat, for which there was a waiting list.

"We will be taking them to the courthouse where those men were found not guilty," White said. "So, as you can see, we can correlate that to the not guilty verdict of George Zimmermann, the not guilty verdict of the policeman who killed Al Sterling, the not guilty verdict of the policeman who murdered Eric Garner. So, we hope through that trip that they will see how the past sometimes influences the future and how we can continue to make these injustices better and bring light to them in what we can do."

As a part of the closing ceremony, neck ties were distributed, serving as a social and cultural way to further a man's

status. White said the center ordered ties for participants because many young men of color don't have one and some of the participants learned how to tie their new ties at a ceremony after the presentation.

"Many young boys learn to tie a tie from their father. How many of our young boys don't know how to tie a tie?" White said. "How many of our young boys have more gym shoes than professional wear? And that goes across the board; that's for many people. We wanted to provide something that's cultural and that they can use to further their status and their opportunities, and that's a simple tie."

White said the retreat is an avenue for students to interact, learn and grow from people who have similar experiences.

"As we know, men of color have a different path," White said. "They walk through campus, they walk through life different than other people. While we are very inclusive, evolving university, there's always things we can work on. There's always things we can improve on."



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Why Cardi B and Offset are perfect for each other

JYESHA JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

"It ain't never too early to get married now," Cardi B said when asked about an engagement months ago at the BET Awards. Clearly not – Cardi B and Offset shocked the world with their engagement Oct. 27 after dating for less than a year. Many have coined them hip-hop's new power couple, and it's not hard to see why they're a fan favorite. Their dynamic, fun-loving personalities compliment each other perfectly, and even though their upbringings were vastly different, they couldn't be more right for each other.

1. Though they're from completely different regions, neither was brought up with a silver spoon. Cardi B was raised in the Big Apple, where her dad was a taxi driver and her mom was a cashier in the Bronx. Offset is from the South and was raised alongside his Migos counterparts Quavo and Takeoff by Quavo's mom, who was a hairstylist in Atlanta. Their music often speaks of the humble beginnings they had.
2. Cardi B and Offset both value family. The first thing Offset bought as a celebrity was a house for his mom. He also frequently talks about the strong bond he has with his group members who are his cousins. Cardi speaks of her family in her debut hit "Bodak Yellow" when she says, "And I pay my mama bills. I ain't got no time to chill." She's also often seen out with her sister Hennessy.
3. Cardi B and Offset both have a knack for fashion. Together, they were one of the trendiest couples out at New York Fashion Week. They often wear outfits that complement one another.
4. Cardi B's and Offset's rises to fame differed, but they now both enjoy relatively equal success. Cardi B was a viral sensation before she became a reality star turned hip-hop artist. Her Instagram page had half a million followers in 2015, before her first reality show appearance. She gained followers through her unapologetic, no-filter attitude. Offset and Migos, on the other hand, had different roads to fame. The trio was first a regional success, mainly recognized in the Atlanta area. Its breakout hit "Versace" made Migos a household name, and it hasn't left the scene since. Though Cardi has not been making music as long as Offset, it's clear they're both talented artists. As a matter of fact, music is what brought the two together. The two recorded "Lick" together before officially announcing they were a couple.

Cardi B and Offset are now hip-hop's favorite love story. Here's to a great wedding and an even happier (and hilarious) marriage.



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'Thor: Ragnarok' presents dynamic cast of characters

ADAM DUNNELLS
STAFF WRITER

Marvel Studios and Walt Disney Studio Pictures released "Thor: Ragnarok" to theaters nationwide Friday, marking the third entry in the "Thor" trilogy, starring Chris Hemsworth as the god of thunder, Thor.

Tom Hiddleston and Anthony Hopkins both reprise their roles as Loki and Odin, respectively. This installment also stars two newcomers to the series – Cate Blanchett as Hela, the goddess of death, and Tessa Thompson as the superheroine Valkyrie. Prior to the worldwide release, "Thor: Ragnarok" received much critical praise, and, after seeing this film, it is clear why.

"Thor: Ragnarok" sees the titular hero try to stop Hela from destroying their home of Asgard. Hemsworth delivered his best performance as Thor to date, clearly understanding the campy nature that comes with playing a Norse god who is also a superhero. He adds a certain bit of charm that not many actors could, playing a character who is superbly talented at dispatching villains, in spite of

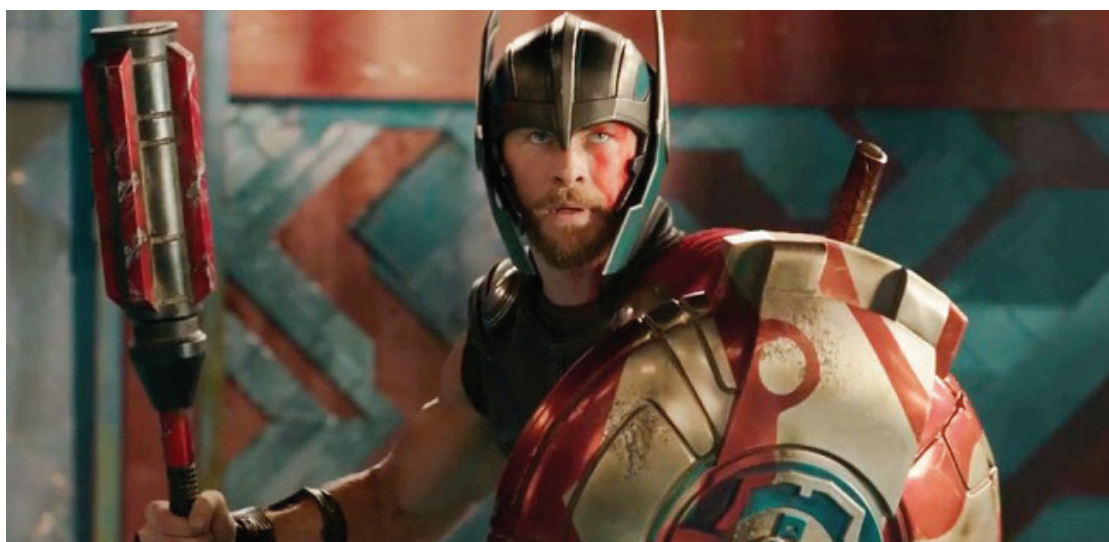


PHOTO COURTESY: UPROXX

the fact that he can also be a bit of a bumbling idiot at times.

Conversely, Cate Blanchett plays a hammy yet elegantly evil Hela, a comically self-aggrandizing "Maleficent" type. Blanchett's Hela is a force to be reckoned with, and she provides a nice foil for Thor's character development.

Though most people would assume his film is a standard, paint-by-numbers action blockbuster, first-time Marvel director Taika Waititi uses moments of comedy to make the movie stand out. Waititi himself plays the lovable Korg, who will definitely be remembered as a fan favorite long

after the movie has run its course.

Interactions between Thor and the Hulk and Bruce Banner also make for an interesting dynamic, making the movie feel, at times, more like a buddy cop action flick than a Marvel superhero film. The production staff seemed to realize the on-screen version of Thor was always meant to be a comedic character, more of a Star-Lord than a Steve Rogers.

Jeff Goldblum also provides a standout performance as the Grandmaster, a hedonistic Elder of the Universe and organizer of the Contest of Champions. Goldblum adds his

unique voice to this character and truly brings him to life in a way only he could. As another antagonist, the Grandmaster provides a threat from a distance, contrasting the physical threat posed by Hela. These two work perfectly in tandem to show Thor's growth mentally, as he must concoct a plan

to escape the Grandmaster and find the strength to defeat Hela.

The ending of this film is exactly the type of fun escapism one has come to expect from a Marvel superhero movie by now. For the final fight, Waititi chose Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song," for the final battle between Hela and her forces and Thor and his team, taking another page from the "Guardians of the Galaxy" playbook by using a classic rock song in the soundtrack.

It's hard to argue that this film was anything but a homerun for the "Thor" series, and a desperately needed one, at that. Waititi brought life to the least interesting member of The Avengers in a superhero movie that will not be soon forgotten.

Grade: **A**

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Volleyball defeats State, faces tough road to playoffs

ETHAN WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Ole Miss volleyball improved its conference record to 6-7 following Sunday afternoon's 3-1 win over the visiting Mississippi State Bulldogs. With just five games remaining in the regular season, every point counts toward keeping the Rebels' playoff hopes alive.

Now 15-11 on the season, Ole Miss easily handled the struggling Bulldogs, but the team will face a variety of talent in its remaining games. The Bulldogs are dead last in the conference, lacking a single SEC win and sitting near the bottom of nearly every major conference stat line. So while Saturday's win certainly boosted the Rebels' momentum, they are not out of the woods yet.

Looking ahead, the Rebels' most daunting task will be their penultimate match against No. 3 Kentucky on Nov. 19. The Wildcats boast a stunning 10-1

record in SEC play and top most every offensive statistical category in the conference. Kentucky's .314 hitting percentage and 14.73 kills/game cast an ominous shadow over the Rebel hopeful.

But Ole Miss won't give up without a fight. This season, head coach Steven McRoberts and his team have found ways to win when the going gets tough.

The wins, including a 3-2 win over SEC opponent Georgia, were no accident. Ole Miss has demonstrated a propensity for highly defensive play, allowing its opponents a .181 hitting percentage, second in the conference. At the same time, the Wildcats rank 12th in the SEC in digs, a worrying statistic for any conference contender.

If the Rebels can continue their defensive prowess against Kentucky's elite offense while also taking advantage of its holes on defense, they could knock down one of the SEC's



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Lexi Thompson spikes the ball during the 3-1 win over Mississippi State on Sunday. The team advanced to 15-11 on the season.

best. Miss' remaining opponents Beyond the menacing appear far more manageable. matchup with Kentucky, Ole Texas A&M, Tennessee and

South Carolina make up three of the bottom four teams in the SEC with an average conference-win percentage of just .343.

Before the Rebels face any of these schools, they will have to travel to Athens, Georgia, for a rematch with the Georgia Bulldogs.

Georgia, sitting at 7-6 in conference play, will hold a slight advantage over the Rebels: the home court. Ole Miss will also have to contend with reigning Freshman of the Week Rachel Ritchie and the Bulldogs' upper-level offense. But the Rebels' victory over the Bulldogs in October bodes well for McRoberts' group.

While Georgia does not pose the offensive threat Kentucky does, it still possesses the weapons to disrupt the Rebels' usually sound defensive play. With a conference-leading 143 service aces, the Bulldogs could easily take control of the game with decisive serving and momentum-shifting serving streaks.

However, like the Wildcats, Georgia's defense has been less than stellar at times, and the team usually hangs around the bottom half of the SEC's defensive rankings. Thus, the Rebel gameplan will be to take advantage of opponent's defensive mistakes while minimizing errors.

Georgia and Kentucky represent unique road challenges for the Rebel volleyball team; both teams are full of talented hitters and setters, but each team's defense leaves something to be desired. But with the season winding down and playoffs looming, Ole Miss cannot afford to leave any points on the table.

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 - 2 Butter substitute
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E	L	S	A	O	N	E	S	L	A	S	S	O		
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A	L	O	S		E	L	S	E	R	O	P	E		
T	A	S	T	E		N	E	E	R		M	A	S	C
S	T	A	Y	S		T	A	S	S		A	T	E	E

- 13 Dog-__ (like some used books)
- 21 Timber wolf
- 22 Gen. Bradley
- 25 From __ Z
- 26 Dissolve
- 27 Fruity drinks
- 28 Daly of "Judging Amy"
- 30 Uptight
- 35 lams alternative
- 36 Counterfeiter catcher
- 37 Comfort
- 39 Piercing
- 41 Abruptly
- 44 Greek portico
- 45 Relative of an ostrich
- 47 __ avis
- 48 Appeared
- 53 Foundations
- 54 Hives
- 55 Light unit
- 56 Beat it!
- 58 "Our Gang" girl
- 61 Apparatus for weaving
- 62 Dresden denial
- 63 Yield
- 64 French summers
- 66 Tree-ring indication

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												3
	3	1			2							8
				5		9				1		
5				6								
1		4						2			9	
						2						7
	5			7		8						
7					1			9	2			
6												

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INTERMEDIATE

5	8	7	4	6	2	3	1	9
9	2	6	5	1	3	8	4	7
1	4	3	8	9	7	6	5	2
7	5	1	2	4	6	9	8	3
6	9	2	3	5	8	4	7	1
4	3	8	1	7	9	2	6	5
2	1	4	6	3	5	7	9	8
8	7	5	9	2	4	1	3	6
3	6	9	7	8	1	5	2	4

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Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

Rebels rise over injury, first-half woes to top Wildcats

JOHN MACON GILLESPIE
STAFF WRITER

After what seemed like endless hours of heartbreak, Ole Miss finally broke through.

In a game in which the Kentucky Wildcats had the Rebels on the ropes in the third quarter, the Ole Miss defense held strong just long enough for head coach Matt Luke and company to storm back into the win column. Quarterback Jordan Ta'amu went 31 of 40 through the air for 382 yards and four touchdowns, including a game-winning jump-ball to D.K. Metcalf in the corner of the end zone with five seconds remaining in the game.

Ole Miss is used to impressive offensive play, but defensive stops have been hard to come by. But that was not the case Saturday, and it made all the difference.

Ole Miss' defense has struggled all season, and that's no secret. It faltered in the first half as Kentucky scored on each of its offensive possessions.

Kentucky led the Rebels 20-17 at halftime and added a touchdown on its first drive of the second half to inflate its lead to 10. If Ole Miss' defense continued its season-long struggles, the Rebels were going to lose another tough football game. Their offense could put up points, but if the defense couldn't come up with a stop, it wouldn't matter.

But then, almost as quickly as the Landshark was named Ole Miss' on-field mascot earlier this year, the "Landshark D" showed up.

Ole Miss forced the Wildcats to punt on four straight possessions, giving the Rebels' vastly improved running game an opportunity to take a 30-27 lead. Ole Miss also found success passing the ball against a floundering Kentucky secondary, and with the stops forced by the defense, Ole Miss' scores paid off. Though Wesley McGriff's



PHOTO COURTESY: DAVID STEPHENSON | JAP PHOTO

Quarterback Jordan Ta'amu looks for room to run between Kentucky defensive end Denzil Ware, left, and linebacker Jamar Watson during the Saturday's game. Ole Miss won 37-34.

unit gave up a late Wildcat touchdown, it put the Rebels in a position to win the game on the following possession.

The defensive improvement, Ta'amu's performance and Metcalf's game-winning reception were all important, but something more important came out of Saturday's 37-34 Rebel win.

Entering Saturday's match, Ole Miss had lost five of its last six games, including a massive meltdown against Arkansas just a week prior. And when it appeared that

the Rebels were out of the game entirely, they charged into the face of adversity and came out with a victory.

Coach Luke has praised the resilience of his team all season long, citing its ability to "get up off the mat" during a year riddled with controversy and painful losses. This time, when the Rebels got up, their resilience led to victory.

But let's not sugarcoat this. Kentucky is a team with visible problems. It may be bowl-eligible, but it is bowl-eligible in the floundering SEC

East, and even though Ole Miss won the game, the play of its defense as a whole is still a massive concern going forward. But when their backs were against the wall, the Rebels overcame the obstacles they faced and picked up a much-needed win.

Ole Miss has faced adversity time and time again in 2017. The departure of its head coach, the injury of its starting quarterback and a self-imposed postseason ban have left this team and fan base calloused to bad news

and miserable scorelines. On Saturday, however, the adversity didn't win — Ole Miss did.

With the final decision from the NCAA's Committee on Infractions on the horizon, the Rebels may soon be called on again to rise above these seemingly unrelenting circumstances.

But Ole Miss has something to celebrate this week. The Rebels won a tough football game Saturday, and that is reason enough to be content, for the time being.

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VICTORY*continued from page 1*

from Lynn Bowden inside the 5-yard line, setting up a Benny Snell touchdown on the ground. Ole Miss was unable to find an answer for Snell, Johnson and the rest of the Wildcat ground attack, who combined for 107 yards in the opening half.

The Wildcats scored touchdowns on the last possession of the first half and the first possession of the second half to take a 27-17 lead. But after digging itself a 10-point hole, the Rebel defense surged. The "Landsharks" forced punts on four consecutive possessions and gave Ta'amu's offense a chance to take control of the match. Two Gary Wunderlich field goals (including a career-long 49-yard kick) and a D.K. Metcalf 58-yard touchdown catch later, the Rebels found themselves on top 30-27, a score that held for most of the fourth quarter.

The tide soon ebbed back in favor of the Wildcats. With just over two minutes remaining in the game, Snell won a footrace to the edge, and Kentucky took a four-point lead.

Ta'amu and the offense were forced to score a touchdown to win the game. So they did.

The JUCO transfer quarterback, calm and collected, led the Rebels on a 14-play drive



PHOTO COURTESY: DAVID STEPHENSON | AP PHOTO

Wide receiver D.K. Metcalf (14) celebrates after catching the winning touchdown during Saturday's game against Kentucky, bringing the final score to 37-34.

that left just five seconds on the clock. Ta'amu connected with six different receivers on the drive, and he picked up 10 yards rushing on the possession. To close out the road win, Metcalf made a spectacular toe-tapping grab in the back corner of the end zone. Ta'amu earned his first win as a starter and the Rebels col-

lected their second SEC win (4-5 overall).

The game's closeness showed up in the stat line. The Rebels only slightly outgained the Wildcats 473-455 in total offense. Ole Miss converted 6 of 13 third downs, while Kentucky converted 7 of their 13. Both teams finished the game without a turnover.

The Rebels' victory is even more impressive considering the key pieces lost throughout the game. Guard Alex Givens left the game with a concussion, and Daronte Bouldin filled in. Jordan Wilkins was slowed down by a preexisting ankle injury but finished the game while Breeland Speaks was ejected late in the first

half after a targeting call.

Ultimately, reversing the despair after last week's loss, the Rebel defense made key stops that allowed Ta'amu and his offense to thrive. The Rebels will next return home to play the University of Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday as head coach Matt Luke hopes to salvage a .500 season.

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