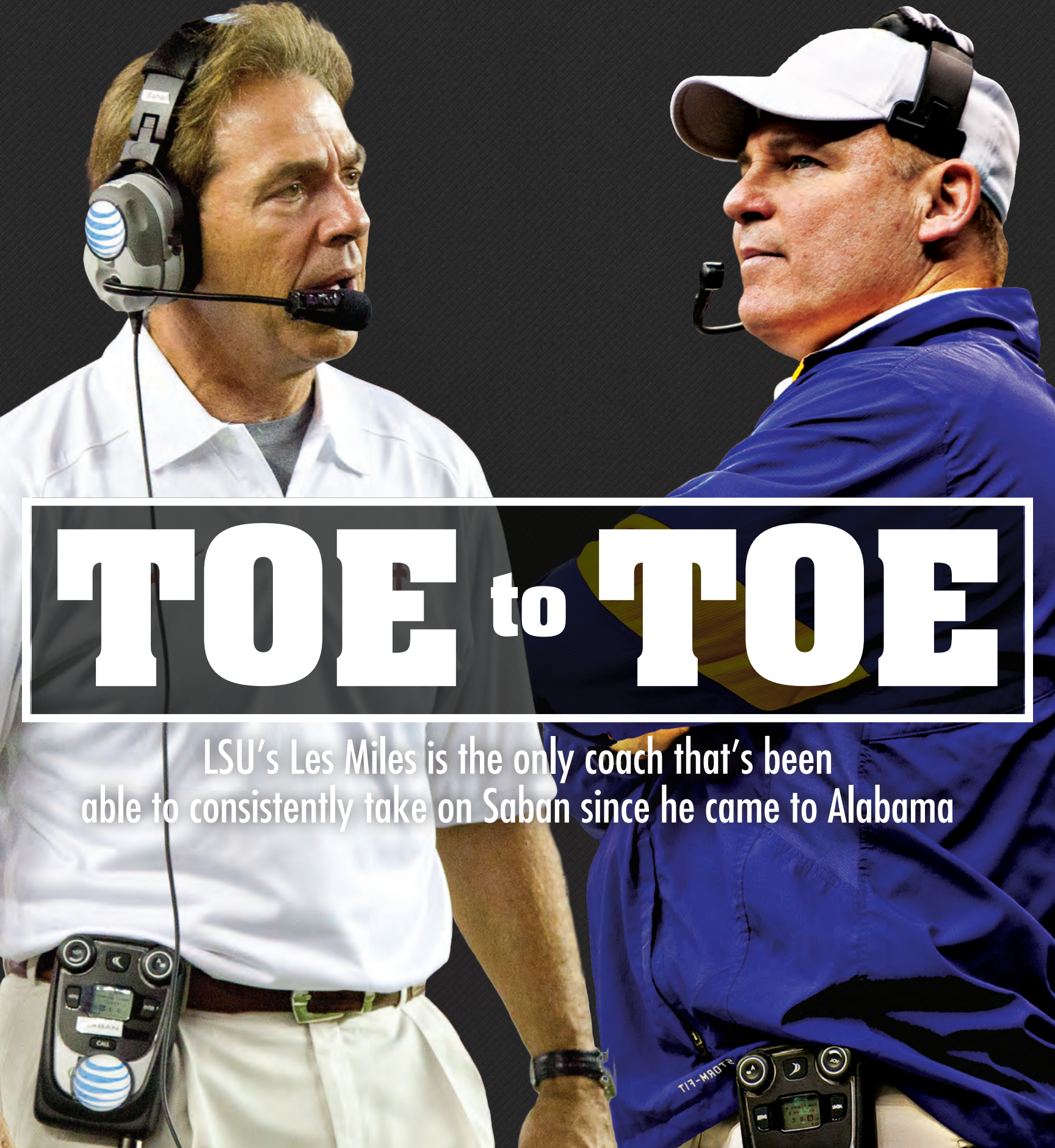


NOV. 9, 2013

The Crimson White

LSU

# GAMEDAY



## TOE to TOE

LSU's Les Miles is the only coach that's been able to consistently take on Saban since he came to Alabama

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 <b>Marc Torrence</b> sports editor 65.3% (32/49)							
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## AP Poll

- Alabama (52)
- Oregon (2)
- Florida State (6)
- Ohio State
- Baylor
- Stanford
- Auburn
- Clemson
- Missouri
- LSU
- Texas A&M
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- Miami
- Oklahoma State
- UCLA
- Fresno State
- Michigan State
- UCF
- Louisville
- Wisconsin
- Northern Illinois
- Arizona State
- Notre Dame
- Texas Tech

## BCS Standings

- Alabama
- Florida State
- Oregon
- Ohio State
- Stanford
- Baylor
- Clemson
- Missouri
- Auburn
- Oklahoma
- Miami (FL)
- South Carolina
- LSU
- Oklahoma State
- Texas A&M
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- UCLA
- Louisville
- UCF
- Arizona State
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# ACROSS THE COUNTRY

A PLAY-BY-PLAY OF IMPORTANT GAMES AROUND THE NATION

### Virginia Tech at No. 11 Miami (Fla.)

Sun Life Stadium - Miami Gardens, Fla., 6 p.m. CST, ABC/ESPN

Miami was handed its first loss of the season last week to Florida State but is still in good shape to face the Seminoles in a rematch in the ACC title game, having already played the tougher part of its schedule. However, the Hurricanes still face at least one potential roadblock with a game against Virginia Tech. Though the Hokies are coming off two straight bad losses, with quarterback Logan Thomas and the offense continuing to struggle as they have for much of the season, the defense remains as good as any in the country, which is enough to give them a chance. The Hokies will also benefit from one of the nation's leading rushers in Duke Johnson, being out for the rest of the season with a broken ankle.

### Nebraska at Michigan

Michigan Stadium - Ann Arbor, Mich., 2:30 p.m. CST, ABC/ESPN

Nebraska is coming off a last-second victory over Northwestern last week, while Michigan is reeling after dropping two of its last three games. The Cornhuskers have one of the best-kept secrets in college football in junior running back Ameer Abdullah, who currently ranks fifth in the nation in rushing with 1,108 yards on the year, but the Wolverines coincidentally have a top-15 rush defense nationally. Nebraska still has a shot at the Big Ten Legends title but must win out in order to do so.

### No. 19 UCLA at Arizona

Arizona Stadium - Tucson, Ariz., 9 p.m. CST, ESPN

Despite having two losses already, both teams still have a chance at reaching the Pac-12 Championship game with a win. Arizona will rely heavily on arguably the nation's best running back this season in Ka'Deem Carey against a UCLA defense that allows 168 rushing yards per game. The Wildcats also have one of the few defenses on the Bruins' schedule with the potential to slow down dual-threat quarterback Brett Hundley.

### Houston at No. 21 UCF

Bright House Networks Stadium - Orlando, Fla., 6 p.m. CST, ESPN2

Any talk that the American Athletic Conference is a one-team league should be put to rest by now. Both Houston and UCF have just one loss each, entering this must-win showdown that has BCS bowl implications on the line. Statistically speaking, Houston freshman John O'Korn and UCF junior Blake Bortles match up fairly evenly at quarterback, though with a higher-rated defense, the Knights may hold the edge. A UCF victory can essentially wrap up the conference title, with the team having already defeated Louisville this season.

### No. 9 Auburn at Tennessee

Neyland Stadium - Knoxville, Tenn., 11 a.m. CST, ESPN

With a record of 8-1, Auburn has proved that it is a completely different team from last season's dismal 3-9 mark. The Tigers still have an outside chance at an SEC West title but must first avoid a potential trap game against Tennessee. The Volunteers are just 4-5 on the year but have been tough at home this season against ranked opponents, with a narrow loss to Georgia in overtime followed by a last-second win over South Carolina. The key for the Vols will be finding a way to slow down Auburn's high-powered rushing attack led by running back Tre Mason, who had 168 yards and four touchdowns last week against Arkansas.

### BYU at No. 24 Wisconsin

Camp Randall Stadium - Madison, Wis., 2:30 p.m. CST, ABC/ESPN

Wisconsin and BYU are both on a roll entering this contest, with both teams bouncing back from two early season losses to stand at 6-2 on the year. Both teams are run-first teams, with the Badgers relying heavily on running backs Melvin Gordon and James White and the Cougars with running back Jamaal Williams and quarterback Taysom Hill, who is also the team's leading rusher. Wisconsin, however, has the fifth-rated rush defense in the country, which may be the difference maker if it can hold its own against BYU's ground game.

# TUG—OF—WAR

Alabama and Louisiana are both breeding grounds for future NFL prospects, but home state loyalty only goes so far in the college football recruiting game

By Nick Sellers | Staff Reporter

It's a commonly held notion that football programs have an advantage over recruits in their respective states, and that's certainly held true in Alabama's case. The Crimson Tide has successfully recruited the top high school player in the state of Alabama every year since 2008, including T.J. Yeldon and Reuben Foster, not to mention current Atlanta Falcon Julio Jones.

The same rule of thumb is true for LSU, with many top recruits from Louisiana going on to don the purple and gold in their college career.

That wasn't the case in January 2012, however, as the nation's No. 1 safety from Dutchtown High School in Geismar, La., announced his decision to attend Alabama over LSU. His name was Landon Collins,

of course, and his recruitment reflects the rivalry-behind-the-rivalry for these two schools, which occurs on the recruiting trail.

"It's kind of an interesting situation and kind of a tough one for LSU," said Scott Rabalais, sports columnist for The Advocate in Baton Rouge. "But [LSU is] still going to get most of the top players from the state of Louisiana."

In 2013, Nick Saban and the Crimson Tide already have a commitment from the No. 1 prospect in the state of Louisiana, offensive lineman Cameron Robinson. Robinson is considered by many recruiting services, including Scout and Yahoo!, to be the top lineman in the country.

Current Alabama players who cut

their teeth playing football in the humid Louisiana fall weather include linebackers Denzel Devall and Tim Williams, wide receivers Kenny Bell and Raheem Falkins, cornerback Bradley Sylve and a few others.

It's not uncommon for elite recruits to be playing high school football in Louisiana, as the state is a breeding ground for future NFL talent along with the likes of Miami-Dade County in Florida and East Texas.

Cody Futrell, sports reporter for The News-Star in Monroe, La., asserts the strength of recruiting in the state.

"I think what sets it apart, and Texas is the same way, is just the amount of money and passion they pour into it," Futrell said. "Just thousands and thousands of



CW File

dollars school districts will pour into it."

It makes sense, then, that two Southeastern Conference powerhouses turn their attention there.

"When you're at the top you're going to be battling for the top players, and that just happens to be in the state of Louisiana," Futrell said.

For Devall, who was also recruited by LSU as a four-star prospect coming out of Bastrop High School, the tug-of-war between the Tide and the Tigers is something special.

"It's a great feeling, but it's your decision where you want to play," Devall said.

Saban admitted it can be an intense recruiting battle when attempting to pluck players from LSU's backyard, which manifested itself in the commitment of Jeremy Hill to the Tigers.

"We obviously thought he was an outstanding player in high school," Saban said. "We recruited him very, very hard. Things just didn't work out for us."





Hill is second in the SEC with 922 yards and 12 touchdowns on the ground.

Home state and family ties are strong with high school football recruits, but as long as Alabama and LSU are battling for the SEC West title, the battle will continue to trickle down to recruiting.

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# TOE to TOE

By Marc Torrence | Sports Editor

LSU's Les Miles is the only coach who's been able to consistently take on Saban since he came to Alabama



**Nick Saban has built Alabama into a machine of destruction in college football.**

**Everyone knows the stats:  
three of the last four BCS National Championships.  
Two SEC Championships.  
A 67-7 record since 2008.**

**He raised the Crimson Tide out of a dark period during the 2000s and brought it back to its former glory.**

But for all of his accomplishments, one team has been able to gain success despite him. Well, relative success. But success nonetheless.

Les Miles and LSU are 3-4 against Alabama since Saban came to Tuscaloosa. Miles is the only coach to beat

Alabama twice in a row under Saban. He has the best record of any coach against Saban who has played him more than twice.

"This is not the kind of game that anybody could not get excited about playing in," Saban said. "Obviously

this rivalry in the last few years has always meant a lot, whether it's national rankings, SEC West. A very meaningful game."

Saban coached at LSU from 2001-2004, bringing its program back to dominance and winning a national title. He left for the NFL's Miami Dolphins before coming back to college football to coach the Tigers' SEC West rivals, the Crimson Tide.

And the games since then have been anything but boring.

Alabama and LSU have consistently been in the SEC and national title pictures most years and have featured immense talent, with most games acting as future NFL showcases of sorts.

"I look forward to preparing against them," Miles said on Monday. "I can tell you that our guys are in college football for these kind of games. We look forward to playing in them. It's a great opportunity for all. Any time you line up against Alabama, there's a rivalry. There's national prestige.

"And the want to make plays against a very quality opponent is there. I think the greatest compliment that we can pay an opponent is our best efforts, and certainly Alabama will get that."

Saban and Miles have met seven times in the last six years, with the extra meeting coming in the 2011 BCS National Championship Game, a re-match of their game two months earlier.

It was a 21-0 blowout, but the Saban-Miles regular season games have all been decided by nine points or less.

"This is an exciting game," Alabama wide receiver Kevin Norwood said. "If nobody's excited about this game, they do not need to be here. It's just the tradition around here, man. It's just awesome, especially playing against these guys."

The games are often decided by one or two plays, and there are a handful of them that stand out.

Trailing 15-13 in the middle of the fourth quarter in 2009, Julio Jones took a screen pass 73 yards for a touchdown that put Alabama up for good.

In 2010, LSU ran a double reverse to tight end DeAngelo Peterson late in the fourth quarter on fourth down to keep a crucial drive alive.

And T.J. Yeldon announced himself to the college football world in 2012, taking a screen pass 28 yards for a touchdown in the waning seconds of the game.

"We know it's going to be blow for

blow," Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron said. "It's always like that no matter what the record is. It is a great rivalry in a way, and it's always two great teams going against each other. Every play does really count."

So what has Miles done to be able to stand with Saban and compete with him year in and year out? Jim Kleinpeter, a journalist who has covered LSU since 1995, says it's their similar backgrounds.



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Miles spent his playing career at Michigan and largely grew up coaching in the Midwest. Saban did the same thing at Kent State and later Michigan State.

"They're both kind of Big Ten oriented," Kleinpeter said. "They both believe in a strong running game and defense, and that's how they like to start. Whatever else they may do to their offenses, they always come back to the running game. They always want to be able to control the game. And I think because

of that, they match up pretty well."

The only time one really got the best of the other was in the championship game. LSU had beaten Alabama in a 9-6 defensive slugfest that featured a series of missed field goals and no scores.

But Alabama came out passing on first down and passing often in New Orleans. It caught the Tigers off guard, and LSU quarterback Jordan Jefferson was thrown off rhythm. The result was a 21-0 shutout, the only shutout in a

BCS Championship Game.

"They used A.J. McCarron to start that game out offensively in a series of throws," Miles said. "We don't see that necessarily being their tack, but then again it could be. It's kind of what they did at their place several years before."

"So we've watched it. We're preparing for their best. And whatever order they call it, I think we'll be ready for. Every time you play an opponent, it's a different year. Same opponent, even same guys, but rightfully a different year."

This year's game doesn't have quite the same hype behind it as it has in past years, because LSU's two losses have put it out of the national championship and SEC West races.

But LSU will be gunning to spoil Alabama's dream season. And if the last six years are any indication, neither team will go down lightly.

"I can tell you that this team does not take on an underdog's mentality," Miles said. "It's a team that really feels like it can play with anyone. And so I don't know that we use it as motivation. It's certainly not been any rallying cry that we wanted to make. I can just tell you that we look forward to playing."

# BEHIND ENEMY LINES

A LOOK AT THE TIGER NATION FROM ITS OWN SPORTS EDITOR



Photo courtesy of The Daily Reveille

The Crimson White spoke with The Daily Reveille Sports Editor Chandler Rome in Baton Rouge, La., to get his take on LSU's slow starts, quarterback Zach Mettenberger and who the X-factor for the Tigers will be

## The Crimson White:

The Crimson White: With two losses this season, this game doesn't have nearly as big of implications for LSU as it has in years past. Has that changed the team's mood at all heading into this year's game?



The Tigers have been notoriously slow starters for much of this season, with Les Miles even questioning his team's first-half desire in LSU's last game against Furman. In your opinion, what do they need to do to avoid falling behind early against Alabama?

## Chandler Rome:

It's been tough to tell since the Tigers had an open date this past week and were not made available to the media as often as usual. But judging from their body language and quotes from the few opportunities we did have to speak with them, the team sees the trip to Tuscaloosa as a golden opportunity to right some wrongs. The players have been blunt in their assessment and disappointment in the Ole Miss debacle and subsequent lackadaisical first half against Furman. I think they'll use the game to showcase on a national stage that they're still playing for something, even though it's not what the ultimate goal was to begin the season.



The common denominator in the Tigers' last two slow starts was interceptions. Zach Mettenberger threw three ugly picks in the first half against Ole Miss, then followed suit with a pick-six against Furman to give the Paladins an early 7-0 lead. Plain and simple, the Tigers can't turn the football over, especially against a dynamic offense like Alabama. Motivation has also been a concern of late. The Tigers looked largely lifeless and apathetic against both Ole Miss and Furman, I think because of a perceived inferiority of both opponents. I know the team recognizes Alabama's firepower and the playmakers

it boasts on both sides of the ball, so I can't see a motivationally based slow start in the cards for Saturday.



After a great start to the season, Zach Mettenberger has hit a bit of a rough patch in his last three outings for LSU. Which Mettenberger should we expect to see against Alabama?



Well, if it's anything like last year's contest and the first six games of this season, we'll see a refined pocket passer who uses the two NFL-caliber receivers he has in his arsenal to his advantage. However, in the last two games, it's been evident that Mettenberger has been too reliant on both Jarvis Landry and Odell Beckham Jr. For example, all three interceptions against Ole Miss were thrown toward Beckham, who was covered very well all evening. Mettenberger handled a raucous Athens, Ga., crowd very well earlier this

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season, even in a loss, so I season, even in a loss, so I don't see the road environment being too daunting. But if he stakes his entire passing attack on forcing balls in to Beckham and Landry in coverage, he could be in for another difficult night.

**CW** This year's LSU defense doesn't have nearly as many recognizable names as what we've grown accustomed to seeing. Who are some players Alabama fans should familiarize themselves with prior to this game?

**CR** There aren't many, honestly. The LSU defense has had flashes of decency littered throughout its season, but I'd characterize the majority of its play as Dumpster fire-esque. The two interior linemen, Anthony "Freak" Johnson and Ego Ferguson, both came into the season with unreal expectations that they have not lived up to. An intriguing name at defensive end is Jermauria Rasco, who has been a nice spark plug to the defense and is quietly replacing Sam Montgomery and Barkevious Mingo very well. Other than Rasco, fans should look for Lamin Barrow in the middle, who is the Tigers' leading tackler, and freshman cornerback Tre'Davious White, who usurped

a starting position earlier this season and has shown flashes of brilliance mixed with rookie mishaps. I'll be interested to see how White keeps his head trying to cover all of AJ McCarron's potential targets.

**Jeremy Hill has the talent and ability to break off a 30-yard run on command and can put games out of reach with his bruising style.**

**CW** It seems like every year, this game is ultimately decided by one big play from a playmaker. In your opinion, who will be the X-factor for LSU in this game, if the Tigers are to win?

**CR** The X-factor in my mind has to be Jeremy Hill, who I think will be the best pure football player

on the field on Saturday. He's had an up-and-down season, starting it off on the bench as he was suspended for his second arrest after an off-campus bar fight, then returned to form by spouting off five 100-yard rushing games in his last six appearances. But a first-quarter fumble against Ole Miss landed him back in Les Miles' bad graces, and he sparingly saw the field in the first half as things spiraled out of reach. Hill has the talent and ability to break off a 30-yard run on command and can put games out of reach with his bruising style. If the Tigers can get him going and keep him churning for 18-23 carries, they shouldn't have a problem moving the football.

Prediction: LSU has given me no reason to believe it can stop Alabama. I have every reason to believe the tandem of AJ McCarron and T.J. Yeldon will shred a young, depleted Tiger defense to the tune of 400 total yards. And, as of late, Zach Mettenberger hasn't given me much optimism about his ability to lead a once potent offense. I think LSU keeps this close, mostly by virtue of Jeremy Hill's running. And, of course, it is Alabama, so the Tigers will have some pep in their step, which has been largely absent of late. Still, Nick Saban and the Tide get it done, pulling away for a comfortable 34-21 win.



# Get in the Game 2013

## Ticket Information for Students

Do this

### Friday

#### Parking for Home Games Played on Saturday

1. Parking and driving will be restricted on Colonial Drive, Wallace Wade and Bryant Drive on the day before and the day of the home football game before and until 3 hours after the end of home games.
2. Students with an Orange Residential Parking Permit who normally park in one of the Gameday restricted areas (Colonial, Tutwiler) are asked to either park in an alternate Orange Residential parking area or the Ferguson Parking Deck beginning at 12:00 p.m. on home football game Fridays. As a reminder, other Orange parking areas can be located by using the parking map on the rear of your parking permit.
3. Students who have orange hangtags can drive from Bryant Drive to Magnolia Drive.
4. Students will be able to take Crimson Ride from parking lots to their residence halls during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and can call 348-RIDE (7433) after hours.
5. Students with commuter hangtags will park as usual on the day before a home football game. On the day of the home football game, they can park free of charge with their permit in the Upper Rec Center lot off 5th Ave. East and the SW corner of Campus Drive and Bryce Lawn Drive as space allows.
6. If you are an orange residential parking permit holder and normally park in Tutwiler, NE Stadium or Colonial Drive, please be sure to take advantage of your temporary free parking deck access to the Ferguson Parking Deck made available each Friday at noon until midnight for each home game. Simply swipe your Action Card in the "A-Slot" in one of these respective parking decks for free access. DO NOT swipe in the "B-Slot" or \$5 will be deducted from your Bama Cash account. Remember, your Action Card will be activated each home game Friday for this parking deck access. Your vehicles must be back in the Orange Residential zone by Monday morning at 7 a.m.

Remember:

- Students who do not move their cars from the designated lots by 5 p.m. on the day before a home football game will be towed at their own expense (\$100).

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### Saturday

#### Getting Into the Stadium on Game Day

1. Bring your Action Card!
2. Follow the signs that lead to Gate 30 (upper deck) and Gate 31 (lower deck). Students will be able to enter through Gate 30 and 31 only.
3. Students with disabilities are encouraged to enter through Gate 35, which offers easier access to the wheelchair platforms.
4. The student section will include seating in the upper and lower bowls. Your ticket bowl assignment will be designated in MyTickets.

5. Lines will be very long, so expect delays. Give yourself 60 to 90 minutes to get into the stadium, whether or not you participate in student organization seating. **Student organization seating is in effect until 45 minutes before kickoff.**
6. Bringing prohibited items will increase the amount of time it takes to get into the stadium. (See list below.) UA is not responsible for items left at the entrance to the student gates. Prohibited items that are left at the gates will be discarded by security personnel.
7. If you donate your ticket after 5 p.m. Wednesday, you'll receive a half-point (.5) penalty.
8. Tickets can be available on Game Day. Don't forget to check MyTickets for available tickets.

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- The student section will open 2 1/2 hours before the game. Lines will be long so give yourself plenty of time to get into the game.
- Use your ticket! Students who do not use tickets assigned to them will receive 2 penalty points for each game their ticket goes unused. Students who receive 3.5 or more penalty points will not be able to purchase postseason tickets for this year and regular season and postseason tickets for fall 2014.
- You can take your name off the waiting list by logging into MyTickets and following the instructions to take your name off the waiting list for the ticket bank.
- You must track your own penalty total. You will receive the following penalty points per game if:
  - You don't attend the game yourself: 2 penalty points
  - You don't transfer your ticket to another UA student or donate it to the ticket bank: 2 penalty points
  - You upgrade your ticket to general admission: 1 penalty point
  - You make a donation after 5 p.m. on Wednesday: .5 penalty point
- If your Action Card is lost on Game Day, replacement Action Cards are available at 104 Student Services Center starting 3 hours prior to kick-off through the beginning of the halftime. Replacement cost is \$30 and is billed to your student account. **Temporary Action Cards are not accepted for Game Day entrance at student gates.**

#### CHANGES FOR 2013

- Access MyTickets from mybama.ua.edu or UA's mobile app. For more information about UA's mobile app visit m.ua.edu/app from your mobile device's browser.
- Students enter through Gate 30 (upper deck) or Gate 31 (lower deck).
- Penalty points for non-use increase from 1.5 to 2 points.
- The deadline to avoid a late donation penalty has moved from Friday to Wednesday before the game.
- You may donate your ticket until 1 hour before kickoff.

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