

LSU Tiger Sports Weekly

LSU Wins Despite Turnovers

Les Miles snarled. Jimbo Fisher all but blushed. Both LSU football coaches, the reputed offensive-minded head coach and his offensive coordinator, were on the same page about the many self-inflicted wounds the Tigers overcame Saturday in a 21-17 victory over Florida. Miles opened his postgame news conference by crediting LSU's defense for the victory, calling it the one area on the team most responsible for winning the game. He praised Joseph Addai for his career-high 32 carries, 156 rushing yards and a touchdown. He credited punter Chris Jackson for another outstanding game, and he all but tipped his cap to wide receiver Bennie Brazell, whose 43-yard touchdown reception on LSU's first possession began the afternoon with the stuff of sunny optimism. It was the first of two first-quarter touchdown throws by quarterback JaMarcus Russell, whose 27-yard scoring pass to Dwayne Bowe gave the Tigers a 14-0 advantage. Russell completed 14 of 22 passes for 236 yards on the day.

Despite those and other highlights, including Miles' first victory in Tiger Stadium and a three-game Southeastern Conference winning streak, Miles made no secret about where his attention will be this week -- on the same problems he pledged to correct last week. Turnovers and penalties. Penalties and turnovers. In a matchup of the SEC's two most penalized teams, the Tigers seemed determined to maintain their status as the leader in the clubhouse. Officials flagged

LSU 11 times for 84 yards, adding heft to a season of evidence suggesting the Tigers offense is its own reset button, negating gains and prompting many do-overs. Make that a reset button with a companion setback button. LSU committed five turnovers, losing its three fumbles and throwing two interceptions.

"We have to quit," Fisher said of the mistakes committed by his offense. We have to take a look in the mirror and figure out how important it is to us to do things right all the time. It's not effort. They're not doing it on purpose. Three giveaways set up Florida's three scoring drives, which were gift-wrapped so neatly they happened with the swiftness of the days of coach Spurrier's Gators.



LSU's Jack Stewart catches the ball over Florida's Jarvis Herring on a 43-yard pass on Saturday.

Mike the Tiger

In 1934, a decision had been made that would forever change life on the LSU campus. Athletic Director trainer Chellis Mike Chambers, Athletic Director T.P. Heard, swimming pool manager and intramural swimming coach William G. Hickey Higginbotham, and LSU law student Ed Laborde decided to bring a real tiger to LSU. They raised \$750, collecting twenty-five cents from each student, and purchased a two-hundred-pound, one-year old tiger from the Little Rock Zoo.

Born on October 10, 1935, and like his father, originally named Sheik, his name was changed to Mike in honor of Chambers, the man most responsible for bringing him to



Mike IV and Mike VI

LSU. Interestingly, Mike I must have remembered his original name because even years later Hickey Higginbotham could get him to roar just by calling Sheik. It was early on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 1936 when the first mascot was welcomed on campus.