

Death Roll in the Swamp: No. 21 Florida Drowns No. 4 Ole Miss, 52-28.

By Ellie Applegate

The “death roll” is a favorite tactic used by gators taking down prey – a wicked whirlpool of clamped jaws and sharp teeth. The No. 4-turned-9 Rebels were helpless against it last Saturday in an upset that ended 52-28, held underwater while the Gators moved to 4-0 and 2-0 in SEC play for the first time since 2019. Standouts include junior running back Jadan Baugh (the third player in UF history to top 100 yards rushing in 5 consecutive games) and quarterback Aaron Philo.

Baugh reflected proudly on his record-setting performance. “That means everything to me, just having my name up there with those guys [Emmitt Smith and Fred Taylor].”

It was an early lead that never closed. 10-0 turned into 17-6 at half; there’s Baugh with his ferocious touchdowns, a domineering force against the Rebels’ measly field goals. The Gators’ clamp tightened, bleeding out a tired Rebels team in clear want of their injured running back, Kewan Lacy.

Quarterback Trinidad Chambliss tried to patch the holes up, running in two third-quarter touchdowns to pull within three (17-14, then 24-21). Florida was unrelenting. Running back Duke Clark lit up the field with a 45-yard touchdown run, then Philo followed suit – punching one in from a yard out.

By the fourth quarter, the Rebels were bled dry. Dallas Wilson, Amir Jackson, and a tenacious Baugh were a trifecta of power, leaving UF with 302 rushing yards, six rushing touchdowns, and a gleaming new spot in the AP poll: No. 8.

Rebel linebacker Keaton Thomas was blunt in his disappointment: “Inexcusable.” He added that a scathing halftime chat might not have been the corrective measure the team needed. Still, he stood resolute: “I’m going to make it evident too, to call guys out and let them know that, if you don’t want this, then you shouldn’t have come here.”

A death roll indeed. Let’s hope the Rebels shake out the residual dizziness before facing the Vanderbilt Commodores on October 10.