

SOUTH CAROLINA

A T H L E T I C S

South Alabama at South Carolina

November 22, 2014

• South Carolina Head Coach Steve Spurrier •

Opening Statement

I told the guys there's another team who is bowl eligible, and it's the South Carolina Gamecocks. It was a big win for us; it really was. The South Alabama team is a pretty good team. With all the turnovers we had, it gave them a chance. And fortunately our defense really came to play the second half. We shut them out the second half and held them to field goals in the first half. Even though they were on the field most of the time, we made them kick field goals, and they only had nine points. It was a really good win for the Gamecocks. I knew it wouldn't be easy because this is a pretty good team. You're not just going to run it down their throat and get out with an easy win. All those turnovers – we've been so good all year protecting the ball and taking care of it, but it hit us this game. Fortunately the defense played so well that it wasn't a factor. And we had a big fourth quarter there to put it away – obviously Skai Moore with a couple of picks; Brison Williams with two picks and then Dylan hitting Pharoh [Cooper] on that post route. He checked to that; he saw the right defense and hit him down there; and then Pharoh threw it to Dylan for a touchdown. I tell you what, that Pharoh Cooper kid, I'm so happy for him because the Tennessee game he had an incredible game, but nobody knows about it because we found a way to lose it. But today he caught passes, he ran with it and had another touchdown pass. Dylan [Thompson] had a good solid game. It was a game that we felt like we needed to keep running and keep running, and we only threw 20 passes and ran 37 times. That's probably a good ratio that you need for winning. Brandon Wilds had some good runs in there. He messed up on the 1-yard line. That's just carelessness. Our quarterback and center weren't together. That's lousy coaching that's what that is. We should practice that more often, and we will going from here on out. Elliot Fry was 3-for-3 on field goals. He was outstanding and really contributed to getting that 14-point lead with that last 47-yard field goal. We had a lot of screw-ups offensively, but our defense bailed us out. It was a very good win for us to be bowl eligible and get win number six. We won't have a losing record in the regular season, we can be sure of that. Hopefully we can get ready for Clemson, have some confidence and play a lot smarter than we did today.

On David Williams' improved play at the end of the year

David [Williams] is a good back. He just had Mike [Davis] and Brandon [Wilds] ahead of him a little bit, but he's ready to go. We had a lot of confidence putting him in there.

On Brison Williams' pick-six in the first half

That was a big play. We had just fumbled, I think, Mike Davis just fumbled down there. They were moving the ball, and [Williams] spied that little screen they had set up and went after it and made the play, a little like the one he had at Vandy. He watched the quarterback and jumped in there and made the play. Yeah, that was a big one. It was big going into halftime with a little bit of a lead.

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• Defensive Coordinator Lorenzo Ward •

On Brison Williams

Brison has been a key player since he started here. He's a real smart and intelligent guy. He really understands the game, and it's very important to keep him on the field. We're very proud of him. Being a senior and one of the older guys on the team, a lot of players look up to him, and he has done a great job.

On how today's win helps against Clemson

It was a great game. They had 207 yards at halftime and 289 for the whole day. We played from start to finish, and if we can keep that going and keep the confidence up, we're going to have a great chance to get a win next weekend.

• South Carolina Player Quotes •

Dylan Thompson • Quarterback • Senior

On senior day

It's just been a blessing to play at this school. All the seniors are really grateful to [Athletics Director Ray] Tanner and Coach Spurrier and everybody on the staff who had a part in getting here. We feel like this is the best university in the nation. It's a blessing to be a part of this school, and guys have really done some special stuff here. I'm just thankful to have been a part of this.

On his touchdown catch

I've probably run that play in practice, no exaggeration, probably 150-200 times over the past few years. I just beg him to throw it every game that we have it possibly in the game plan. I saw the signal at the end and it was everything I could do not to start going crazy. I knew it was going to be a touchdown whenever he signaled it, but it was cool and Pharoah made a really good play.

On the team's confidence heading into Clemson next week

We're really confident, and we trust what we do. We've been doing a pretty good job. Obviously we tried to give it away about every way possible it seemed like as an offense. Our defense just kept playing really well. We know what we're capable of, and we trust our coaches, and we'll prepare this week and put the time in and hopefully it will turnout with a good result.

Brandon Wilds • Tail Back • Junior

On throwing passes and taking snaps under shotgun

We've been working at it in practice for a while, so I'm very familiar with it. I just haven't had a chance to run it in a game. I also ran it in high school, but as for passing I think I'm a pretty good quarterback.

On stepping up next season and in Clemson Game

I've taken 30 snaps in a game before. If Coach needs me, I'm ready to do whatever is best for the team.

On winning streak against Clemson

It's a rivalry game, and those can go either way. You just go in and prepare, and whoever comes out to fight will win the battle.

Brison Williams • Strong Safety • Senior

On winning on senior day

I think we went out in the right way. We put hard work in to finish the season stronger than when we started. We just needed to end on a strong note to honor the seniors.

On his two interceptions

It was a great way to finish my last home game here at Williams-Brice. I think it was good and was a key moment of change for the team ... I actually had my receiver man to man, but saw the quarterback's eyes, dropped my coverage and waited for the ball.

Nick Jones • Wide Receiver • Senior

On his deep touchdown catch

We noticed there wasn't a safety back deep, and Coach [Spurrier] always says if there's no safety deep, throw it deep. So he threw it on a deep post route, and I was fortunate enough to be there to catch it.

Skai Moore • Linebacker • Sophomore

On defense getting inside the 6-yard-line three times in the first half and holding them to field goals

It was big for the game and our confidence to be down and have our backs up against the wall like that and be able to make those stops again and again. It was big for us.

Pharoah Cooper • Wide Receiver • Sophomore

On winning and having good game

It's always great to get the victory. That's the goal when you come out here and play football. The rewards come after that, but we got the victory and that's the good part.

On being bowl eligible

We kept faith in this team, and faith in each other as teammates that we would make a bowl game, and kept working hard to accomplish that.