

SOUTH CAROLINA

ATHLETICS

Garnet and Black Spring Game – April 12, 2014

Defensive Coordinator Lorenzo Ward

On the defense this spring...

“I think we’ll get better this spring. I feel like we concentrated on the 4-2-5 and the 3-4 schemes. I really liked what we did in the 3-4 scheme, so I think that’ll be a major part of our scheme next season.”

On the expectations for the defense in the fall...

“I think we’ll have a chance to be as good, if not better than we were last year. I think we’ve got guys that understand that they’re not going to count on (Jadeveon) Clowney or Kelcy Quarles to make a play. I think we’ll have 11 guys that we can put on the field and play together as a unit. When you get 11 guys that can play as a unit, I think you’ll be ok.”

Player Quotes

Senior Quarterback Dylan Thompson

On his overall impressions of the team this spring...

“I thought we had a solid spring. I thought we were smart on offense and really efficient. I thought the offensive line was really solid. The running backs were really sharp as well. The coaches did a good job of pushing us and keeping us focused. That’s what wanted to do this spring, be focused and have a fast and efficient offense, and I think we did that.”

On dealing with expectation after three-straight 11 win seasons...

“I think being here has been great. I’ve been around all those 11-win seasons and I’ve seen the hard work guys put in, the way the coaches coach, and the players we have now have been here as well. Our offensive line has also been here for all of that. It’s a cool spot to be in because we have these guys around me. Our coaches do a great job of getting us prepared, and we’re just going to go out there and have fun. I think we’ve done a good job of that this spring. I think sometimes you can get too amped up, and you’re not able to play. All of our guys, we just have fun, and when we’re doing that, we’re playing the best we can.”

Junior Running Back Mike Davis

On his spring...

“I would say that it was relaxing. It was more working on the mental aspects. Not a lot of contact, but mostly helping out the younger guys and being able to help with the things I was able to see last year.”

On the offensive line...

“The most dangerous unit we have on our offense is our offensive line. Everybody is over 300 pounds. A.J. Cann, Brandon Shell, Corey Robinson, Cody Waldrop and Mike Matulis, all of those guys have done a great job up front. They’ve given us the ability to do the things that we can. If you want to talk about monsters putting in hard work, it’s our offensive line.”

Sophomore Linebacker Skai Moore

On more emphasis being placed on offense in spring games

“We’re not allowed to blitz and can’t touch the quarterback, so it’s hard. But when you get the opportunity to make plays, you have to go out and execute, and that’s what we did today.”

On the defensive players stepping up this spring

“This spring, we saw a lot of guys step up, like Mason Harris and the Dixons. They’re doing a lot of good things out there. They’re running around making plays, so I don’t think we’re going to miss a beat next season. We should be fine.”

On the philosophy that the defense is more about all 11 guys

“We have a lot of athletes on defense. Losing those guys last year, those big playmaker guys in front of you, it’s going to be different. But I feel like it’s a lot better that we have a lot of athletes out there running around making plays. I feel fine with our defense out there.”

Redshirt-Freshman Tailback David Williams

On the prospect of playing in the fall

"I feel good. I feel like if I keep coming out and doing what I've been doing all spring, hopefully I can touch the field."

On the advice he's received from Mike Davis

"He just told me to be more patient. He said just be confident because I used to second-guess myself when I was out there. But, thanks to the redshirt year, I've been able to get into the playbook, understand, and just be confident out there when I'm running plays."

On his expectations prior to the game

"I didn't know what to expect when I came out here. I was thinking about my hamstring the whole time before it started, but it felt good to get a couple touchdowns even though my hamstring had been bothering me."

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