

SOUTH CAROLINA

A T H L E T I C S

Missouri at No. 13/15 South Carolina

September 27, 2014

• South Carolina Head Coach Steve Spurrier •

Opening Statement

Missouri hung in there. They were struggling on offense like we were most of the night but put a couple of drives together at the end. We weren't able to do much offensively. I messed up on the two-point conversion, should have gone for it. I wasn't even thinking about it until I looked up and saw it was 20-7. I had something in my mind that 16-7 might be real good the way our defense was playing. All of a sudden Pharoh [Cooper] caught that [the touchdown pass] and nobody even on the bench thought about it [going for two points]. I looked up and said you know what we should have gone for two, too late now. That was a mistake on my part. It was a tough night for us. Protection wasn't very good. Dylan [Thompson] has had better games; he got hit a lot tonight. They [Missouri] were only rushing four or five guys most of the time, nothing more than that. We just didn't pass block all that well. Give Missouri credit, they hung in there. They didn't play all that well either on offense but they did at the end of the game to beat us. Pharoh Cooper again had an unbelievable catch for the touchdown and he had another excellent game. I wish we could have gotten more balls at him some way or another. Missouri has a good defensive pass rush and they play their zone coverage pretty dog gone good. A few times we got a ball down there, well Pharoh had two big catches, but we just didn't hit anything. It didn't work out for us. Sometimes you get beat.

On what Missouri did to take away the middle of the field so well

We'll have to watch the tape but they play sort of a two deep, or three deep zone. They get up there on the run, they stop the run pretty well although Brandon Wilds did have some pretty good runs. Mike Davis did have the one long run. We tried to run the ball, we tried to throw the ball but we didn't do all that well. We had that little play action down on the goal line and Busta [Rory Anderson] couldn't hold on to it. Things change there and then we get sacked a couple of times. We had a lot of sacks. But, Elliot [Fry] made all of his field goals so we thought we were going to get out of it.

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ATHLETICS

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• Defensive Coordinator Lorenzo Ward •

On if he was pleased with the pressure from the defense throughout the game

I was pleased with how the guys played throughout the entire game until the last couple of drives. I thought we played hard, and I thought we affected [Maty Mauk]. They only had 150 yards of offense at the end of the third quarter, and then they get 150 yards in the fourth quarter. That's too many yards.

On what this can do to a defense's confidence

I think we'll be high and confident. We're going to get better every week. We've gotten better every week. We just have to learn to finish. We have to play four quarters. We didn't play well in the fourth quarter. We still have to finish.

• South Carolina Player Quotes •

Dylan Thompson • Quarterback • Senior

On how he's feeling physically after taking several shots throughout the game

It just hurts to lose really. I'll get over the soreness; I'm sore after every game. It just hurts to lose knowing you left a lot of points out there. That's why they play a game every week, so we can come back next week and get ready for Kentucky.

On what the Missouri defense was doing to take away the deep routes

They probably played as sound of a defense as anybody we've faced. If they're playing cover-two, they're going to be really deep and hit the underneath routes. And that's why it was big for us to stay ahead of the chains tonight, but we didn't do a good job of that. And that's got to be on me. I've got to take what's given to me more often. And that way we can be in a manageable down and distance. I just think they are very sound defensively so they deserve a lot of credit for that.

J.T Surratt • Defensive Tackle • Senior

On the defense's confidence after the last two Missouri drives

We played hard. We just have to keep getting better. The main thing is to just go back to work on Monday.

On what he has to do as a leader to get the defense back on track on Monday

I've just got to get them ready and tell them how their mindset needs to be on Monday. The season isn't over; it's still a long season. This is a loss, but we have to finish the rest of the season. We have to go back to the drawing board and get ready for Kentucky, do what our coaches tell us to do everyday this week.

On if the defense is stunned after Missouri's last two drives

We feel bad after the loss, but, like I said, we can't let it defeat us. We have to keep getting better and go back to the drawing board on Monday. The season still has to continue. Because of this loss we still have to continue to get better.

Mike Davis • Running Back • Junior

On what Missouri did to cause offensive struggles

They did a lot of things up front. They did a lot of slanting and looping around. I think it confused our offensive line a little bit.

On team's current mindset

I mean we lost so a lot of guys' heads are down. I'm just trying to make sure those guys' heads are up and they're focused. I know we lost but we've got to keep our heads up, we can't get down on ourselves. I don't even like seeing my teammates heads down and I've seen three of teammates crying in there so I don't like seeing stuff like that.

Gerald Dixon • Defensive End • Sophomore

On difference between final drives and the rest of the game

We should have focused for the game. I feel like we took it as if we won the game already. We shouldn't have. We've got to focus on the end of the game and finish.

On importance of finishing games

I put the game on us as a defense because we should have never let them score in the first place.

On defense's improvement throughout season

We have improved but we still have more work to do.