

# Gamecocks' Wilds goes crazy in second half

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(Photo: MYKAL  
McELDOWNEY/Staff)

COLUMBIA – Brandon Wilds said he wasn't trying to score touchdowns. Nor was he trying to outshine Georgia star Todd Gurley.

Wilds said he was just trying to make first downs.

Splitting time at running back with Mike Davis, Wilds supplied several key runs in the fourth quarter of the Gamecocks' 38-35 victory over No. 6 Georgia Saturday afternoon at Williams-Brice Stadium.

"I knew I had to get first downs and run out the clock," said Wilds, who rushed for 93 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries.

After Georgia pulled to within three points early in the fourth quarter, Wilds raced 15 yards for a first down at the Georgia 24-yard line. On the next play, he broke a tackle and ran 24 yards around left end for a TD to restore the Gamecocks' 10-point lead.

On the Gamecocks' game-clinching drive, Wilds carried four times for 20 yards, including a six-yard run up the middle that set up Dylan Thompson for his successful fourth-down sneak that snuffed out Georgia's hopes.

The 223-pound junior has become USC's best inside running weapon - good enough to prompt USC coach Steve Spurrier to move Davis to a receiver spot in some situations.

Wilds bounced back from an early fumble that he had a chance to recover.

"I wasn't going to let that get to me," he said.

Wilds had only one yard on three carries in the first half, but got more chances with the Gamecocks trying to protect a lead.

"Brandon Wilds is an excellent inside runner," said Spurrier. "That's what he does best. Brandon Wilds had some good runs."

Led by Wilds and Davis, the Gamecock running game amassed 176 yards on 42 carries, helping USC protect a lead they took for good in the second quarter. Davis finished with 66 yards on 17 carries.

Thompson said the Gamecock running game was in high gear.

"(The Bulldogs) knew it was coming, and we just ran it," said Thompson. "That's when you know it's working."

Gurley rushed for 131 yards and a TD on 20 carries, but managed only four yards on four receptions and did not have a kick return.

The Georgia star rushed for 198 yards and added a 100-yard kickoff return in a season-opening victory over Clemson.

Wilds' 93-yard performance was only one short of his combined yardage in the Gamecocks' games against Texas A&M and East Carolina.

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