

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## ATHLETICS

### Garnet and Black Spring Game – April 11, 2015

#### Head Coach Steve Spurrier

##### *Opening Statement*

It seems like we got a lot of plays in for six offensive linemen the whole day. We had us a little bit of a game. It was neat to see Michael Scarnechia connect with Deebo Samuel and get down to the one or two yard line and then hit Terry Googer on the slant there with the clock running out. It added a little bit of suspense to an otherwise not a super duper offensive game. I thought all of the quarterbacks did some pretty good things out there today. I wish we would get the ball of out their hands. They like to take off running every now and then. It looked like there was a lot of sacks out there that would have happened if the quarterbacks would have been live. But Connor Mitch threw for 180 yards, 10 out of 16. Scarnechia was 12 and 19, 191 yards. Perry Orth was 11-of-20. They all seem to have their stats very similar every time we scrimmage. That shows the kind of team we are right there. I don't think anyone got hurt seriously and there was some good hustle out there. I think the defense looked good playing just two coverages. There were no mistakes. When you only play two coverages it's hard to make a mistake. That is certainly something we can improve upon what we did last year as far as everyone knowing what to do. That gives you a chance. Spring practice is over. We're ready to get in for the summer, ready to finish out the semester academically as strong as we can. That's the main thing these next two weeks is to finish academically and get ready for the summer.

##### *On the quarterbacks...*

Connor Mitch is doing fine and all three of them [the quarterbacks Perry Orth, Michael Scarnechia and Connor Mitch] are. Statistically they're pretty similar. Michael Scarnechia, we need to get the ball out of his hands. Sometimes he won't throw it if he doesn't think it has a chance and so forth. They all do some good things. Lorenzo Nunez was here watching the scrimmage. He'll be ready to step into the competition as soon as he gets on campus in the summer. We're still trying to see if one guy is better than the rest. People think I like to change quarterbacks but we only changed two games in the 2013 season. We're always trying to find out who the best player is and if they're pretty close in ability we will more than one, it's as simple as that. We still have a lot of time to decide who is our quarterback.

##### *On the young wide receivers..*

They did okay. Carlton Heard caught some passes. KC Crosby three for 70 yards, that's not bad. Deebo Samuel caught three for over 100 yards. Little Shaq Davidson made some nice catches in there. Terry Googer caught that last slant for a touchdown. They did okay but our guys have to get faster. We have some big guys out there. Christian Owens did okay he caught a few passes. Our guys really need to work on speed this summer and you really can improve your speed. We have to have some speed out there. We kept trying to throw some deep balls out there but they were well covered and we just didn't even throw them. But all of those guys are pretty good. I don't know that one of them has stepped away from the others. I think Deebo at times shows big play potential. We know he's going to play and Pharoh Cooper is going to play. We were hoping Shamier Jeffrey would have a big spring game but he sprained his ankle walking down the steps the other day so he didn't even play today. All of the other guys are in a wad right now. You can really improve over the summer. They've had spring ball now. They know the patterns and know what they need to work on. It's always amazing how much better a player can become from April to August. We'll see how they all report in August ready to go.

##### *On the defense...*

We'll have enough (coverages), we'll have more than two but we won't have 22. The really good teams, the Seattle Seahawks, they tackle well, they are fundamentally sound, they have four or five coverages. They don't just lineup and say 'here we are.' They're fundamentally sound and tackle well. That is what we want to be, a good tackling team and know what we're doing. We need to disguise our coverages a bit and make sure your players know what they're doing.

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#### Co-Defensive Coordinator Jon Hoke

*On Jasper Sasser's performance...*

He's had a good spring. I think that we keep track of takeaways everyday and he might lead the spring in takeaways. He has been around the football quite a bit, showing improvement everyday. I'm excited about what he has done and hopefully it will continue in the fall.

*On feelings about spring accomplishments...*

It was good. It was good for me personally to get to know the players. It was great for me to watch the staff interact with the players and teach. We've got a lot of good teachers on the coaching staff and that was exciting to see because I didn't have any idea that they do a tremendous job of teaching. And then just to watch the players get better everyday, that was a big plus. I thought we improved and kept improving from an effort standpoint, from an assignment standpoint and from ... [inaudible].

#### Player Quotes

##### Michael Scarnecchia - Freshman Quarterback

*On spring game performance...*

I think it was good. I have a lot to improve on. I can go back and watch the film and see the errors I need to get. But from where I started and where I wanted to be, from the beginning of spring to now I think I did well. There is always a lot to improve and a lot to go back and learn about so it will be a good incentive to see what I need to work on in the summer.

*On competing for a spot at quarterback...*

I consider us all of equal ground. Throughout the spring we all got a lot of equal reps. Whether we go first, second, third we are up for whoever is next. I think the competition like Spurrier said is not going to be set in stone unless someone separates themselves or until a week before the game. So, we will have an opportunity to go out there and just keep showcasing what we have and working hard to try to earn that spot.

##### Perry Orth - Junior Quarterback

*On playing with Deebo Samuel...*

We knew Deebo (Samuel) coming in this spring had some pretty good talent. He's really taken ownership of that position that they put him at. He hasn't looked back ever since day one. I think everybody's noticed that he's a pretty talented receiver. He's going to help us this fall for sure.

##### Marquavius Lewis - Junior Defensive End

*On biggest challenge this spring...*

Physicality. It is different here. Coming from a junior college into a Division I SEC. It is a major difference. I feel like I've progressed in it.

*On how well he adapted to the transition to South Carolina...*

I would say [I adapted] a pretty good bit. [Learning] the plays that went in to it, knowing the personnel, and who is playing behind you. Knowing when to go in this gap and who has your back. It was a lot, but it was good. Something I was able to transition to pretty fast.

*On Coach Hoke's emphasis on pass rushing...*

Last season, we didn't get enough pass rushes so we emphasize it a lot.

##### Deebo Samuel – Freshman Wide Receiver

*On focus to keep number one position...*

I mean ever since the winter I have been working hard trying to get into better shape. I've been working in the weight room, on the field, off the field, catching extra balls after workouts, meeting with coach every chance I get- every time I have down time.

*On experience gained...*

I have learned a lot. The redshirt gave me a chance to get better, a chance to learn. I got to see and watch other people and learn from them. It was a great chance for me to learn by redshirting.

## **Skai Moore - Junior Linebacker**

*On Coach Hoke...*

We feel a lot more comfortable in his scheme. A lot of guys know where they are supposed to be, we know where our help is coming from. It is a big difference from day one and now. We just have to build on that until fall.

*On preparations for fall...*

We are working on ourselves individually. When we were off at home, making sure we are still staying in shape, we will come back into the fall with an emphasis on tackling and making sure we have the first guy getting the guy down instead of missing tackles because that was a huge problem last year. The emphasis going into this season is to work on tackling.

## **Connor Mitch - Sophomore Quarterback**

*On number one spot...*

That's not up to me that's up to coach and coach Mangus. I think I did fairly well. Had some good reads, I had some bad reads. Overall, we moved the ball pretty well so that's what we have to look forward to from the spring game.

*On quarterback competition...*

I am never satisfied. There is always room to improve especially in this conference. I think I did well; I definitely made a lot of strides from last fall and last spring so I just have to keep the momentum going in the summer.