

SOUTH CAROLINA

A T H L E T I C S

Missouri at No. 13/15 South Carolina

September 27, 2014

• Missouri Head Coach Gary Pinkel •

Opening Statement

First of all, South Carolina is a great football team who came down to the end and battled – it's a crazy day out there and I just am very proud of our team and how we battled, fought. When things got tough, we just stayed positive. The defense kept us in it, but stayed totally positive about the offense the whole time, which I thought was really crucial for us to have the mindset to get back. Big win for us. It was the opposite a year ago, when South Carolina had a great comeback win. They did great things to win in the fourth quarter, and we were fortunate to get that win ourselves today.

On what a win like this proves...

I mean the confidence level of the team surges. And the trust level amongst one another surges. You know, I am glad we've got a bye this week. It was an emotional game. We've got to get back. There's a lot of things we did to improve in, but these are games that change a football team just from a confidence standpoint and a closeness standpoint... When your team does something like this, you're a head football coach, you're really proud of your coaches and your players for battling.

On how he felt about throwing the ball...

I wasn't feeling very good (about the ability to throw the ball). Someone asked me afterwards, "What did you do?" and I said, "I don't know, I would have done a lot earlier if I knew how to fix it." You get in a rut a little bit. So what happens is you've got three-and-out, three-and-out, three-and-out, you get one first down, three-and-out and your confidence level just falls and their focus isn't as good. You're not locked in. Fortunately, down 13 points, Maty [Mawk] hit Bud [Sasser] down in the post area in the numbers– Bud makes a great catch and all of a sudden, it completely flips and your focus now – you're locked in. And so, you're going to execute better, you're going to hit harder and all those other things.

On being the only undefeated SEC East team left...

We just have got to focus on getting better and the confidence level that you gain for something like this is significant. We've got to be a lot better football team. We've got to use this to make us better, not use this to make us feel good.

• Missouri Players •

Michael Scherer • Linebacker • Sophomore

On hanging in on defense while the offense was struggling...

We know that our offense can score points and when we see them struggling like that, we know that we just have to keep making stops. It's going to give your offense a chance to keep scoring and give you a chance to win the game.

On getting final stop on South Carolina's final drive...

It was an emotional time. Going back to last year and knowing what happened last year and even last week, we know we just needed one last stop. We went out there and got that stop. We stuck together as a team and made the stop we needed to make.

Mitch Morse • Offensive Lineman • Senior

On staying focused when they were down in the fourth quarter...

It's not hopeless until the last second of the fourth quarter. The defense kept telling us that they had faith in us and that they would get the ball to us. The seniors were able to pick the offense, and I'm really proud of the way our offensive line stepped up and played.

On the play Missouri was able to score the game-winning touchdown...

We trusted our coaches and our game plan. We needed to execute it, no matter what. It came down to just a wedge inside, and we came out with the push. We had faith in what the coaches were calling.

On the atmosphere at South Carolina...

It's such a great place to play here at South Carolina. I describe it as a party with a football game kind of happening in the middle of it.

Maty Mauk • Quarterback • Sophomore

On the offense turning it around late in the game...

We sat down as a group and told ourselves that we had to finish. That's what we do at Mizzou. Everybody bought in to that drive (to get the go-ahead touchdown). The offensive line gave me great protection, and they really pushed through. They did everything that we needed to do.

On the quick touchdown drive after South Carolina took a 20-7 lead...

We flipped a switch and Bud (Sasser) made a great catch, and then Wesley (Leftwich) did a great job of recognizing the coverage and breaking one off there to get down to the one [yard line]. Then, the offensive line did a great job of getting a good push and getting Russell (Hansbrough) in there.