

South Carolina Football Coach Will Muschamp

Opening statement

I thought we had a good day. I think offensively we're a little further along, which is good. We should be with the returners that we have - the skill guys, Jake and the running backs. We have an opportunity to have a good offensive football team. And like I just said, opportunity. We have 120 days until we report, and it's critical for us to get healthy, especially Randrecous Davis and AJ Turner.

We still got some questions up front that we need answered. Defensively, we've got some unknowns as we go into fall camp which is concerning as a coach. We've got some guys who aren't on campus that we're going to need to help us and play for us, and that's not always good leaving spring ball. It is what it is, and that's where we are right now. We need to continue to improve up front, affecting the quarterback with four guys rushing.

The coverage at times was suspect, so we'll need to continue working through some of those things. I'm pleased with our progress through the spring ball. I thought we made some improvements in some areas we needed to. Again, there are 120 days and an opportunity to get better or worse every day. I challenged our guys to understand that and get in great shape come fall camp. We're looking forward to that.

On how Ty'Son Williams played Saturday, and how he's been this spring

I thought he had a great spring camp. I think that you see very similar running styles with him and Rico - one-cut, violent runner who is north and south with his pads. I thought he made two really nice runs, one on the goal line and one power play on the bounce out. He hasn't played tackle football in a long time so we're very pleased with his progress. He's got a great work ethic and attitude and he's a talented player.

On the biggest improvement for Carolina offensively

I think right now we're in a situation, because of our experience, where we're able to get out of a bad protection and get out of a bad run. A lot of times last year we were calling home, and we didn't have the ability to be able to do that. So now we're able to get to the line of scrimmage and go fast. If we don't like the look, Jake's able to understand. We're further along - I thought we've done a nice job on the line of scrimmage getting a hat on a hat with the run game. There were no free runners today as far as pressure was concerned. We stayed in four down defensively, but we did bring some overloads, and I thought we did a nice job for the most part of getting a hat on a hat in protection. I would credit just another year in the system with a very young team last year that I think now has understood how important the meeting room is. We've got some mature guys that have got what it takes to be successful.

On how Skai Moore has looked this spring coming back from injury

Never a tentative moment. His first day was our third day in pads. We did the cock

drill, which is one-on-one, and the first thing making contact is your head. He got in that drill, we didn't say a word to him, and he went right after it. That's the type of competitor he is. He's a good football player, and he's extremely instinctive - it was good to have him back. I wanted to get him about a quarter today just to get back on the field and feel what it's like to be on the field before fall camp. We'll only have one scrimmage in fall camp to get ready for the season based on where we are depth wise. I'm extremely proud of how he's handled a very difficult situation and a difficult year for him.

On OrTre Smith's spring and his catch at the end of Saturday's game

I think it's huge. Anytime you get in front of people in our stadium and understand it's a little bit of a different environment. It's going to be a lot different on September 2nd too. But I'm really proud of him - a midyear guy coming is always difficult. He's adjusting to the transition very well academically and socially and certainly from a football standpoint. He had surgery on his ankle in December, and he has recovered from it extremely well. He was non-contact for the first nine or 10 practices, and he's been contact the last week. I'm really pleased with his progress. He's going to help our football team next year.

Skai Moore, R-Senior Linebacker

On coming off injury

Once I got the okay and the clear from the doctor I pretty much put all the concerns about any type of a re-injury behind me and just went out there and just tried to be where I came off from.

On being able to play in the Spring

I definitely appreciated the spring a lot more, it makes you appreciate the game a lot more and the opportunities that you have - just being able to go out there and practice. But as far as it being fun, spring is spring, so not too fun probably.

On Carolina's biggest room for defensive improvement

For the defense as a whole, we just need to be able to stop them. That was one of the problems we had last year along with getting to the quarterback on third downs - those were two of our biggest problems and two things we have to get a handle on. Being able to stop the run in the SEC is really important - it's a running league, and a lot of people have good running backs so we need to be able to stop the run and get to the quarterback.

On responding to Coach Muchamp's call for players to make plays

I know I can make plays - I just go out there and do what I do. I'm pretty confident in being able to come in where I left off and being able to make plays."

Bryson Allen-Williams, Senior Linebacker

On taking what Coach Muschamp says into summer

We have to do that regardless - we try to talk to each other as a team and tell each other that we need to improve on things. It comes down from the coaches, but they

have to say that. If we want to be successful it has to start with the team. We have to go out and work every day to get ready.

On what he missed most about Skai playing

Probably game experience - we were out there practicing at times, and I'll just go off of his instincts and play right off of him. And having someone play next to you that you know is a sure thing allows you to go out and play freely because you know there's someone right next to you that can make the play too.

Ty'Son Williams, R-Sophomore Running Back

On how it felt to play in a game again

It felt good to get back in the swing of things after I had to sit out last year, but overall I'm just trying to get comfortable with the offense.

On leaving a lasting impression before the offseason workouts

I think that's always important - to go out there and do the best you can. But more importantly I just wanted to show the fans what I could do and show myself what I could do - go out there and play my game.

On having to sit out last year

It was very hard. But I think the thing that made it easier was my teammates always lifting me up - I think that made the journey a lot easier.

Bryan Edwards, Sophomore Wide Receiver

On the offensive improvement from last year

I think we've taken tremendous strides - we've got a good quarterback in there with Jake [Bentley]. We've got people who know what they're doing. Everybody has a year under their belt in the system. We are just developing things and getting better.

On the coaches' confidence in Jake Bentley

Jake [Bentley] has always had the coaches' trust since the first day he stepped on the field. He has always been one of those guys who has a moxie about him. He's going to go out there and be aggressive. Coach Roper and Coach Muschamp put all their trust in him to go out there and make those throws. He does it everyday - even when he came in last year they trusted him to go out there and throw the deep ball.

On what OrTre Smith has brought to the receiving group

We have some great coaches, they're going to bring him along and he's going to be ready. OrTre Smith is a big guy - all you have to do is look at him and see he's going to be a football player. He's going to do tremendous things here. But it just takes time - guys have to adjust and come along.

Jake Bentley, Sophomore Quarterback

On the offensive playmakers and offensive growth

I think it has grown tremendously. I've always said we have explosive players, and our two most explosive players probably weren't even playing. That just shows the

depth that we have and the vast amount of playmakers we can put on the field. That's great for us, it's great to have those guys. Everyone is just more comfortable in the system being a year in, and you're really able to see that.

On what Ty'Son Williams brings to the offense

He's a very explosive runner - he runs very angry. He's a good complement to Rico [Dowdle] - both of those guys are special players. It was fourth down when he scored so that's why I was a little excited. They are both great players, and Ty'son is doing a great job.

On his emotions and energy in practice versus a game

You definitely get more juiced up [in front of a crowd] - but the thing is if you only show passion on game day or when people see you, my teammates are going to see right through that. I pride myself on bringing the energy everyday, whether it's a workout, a meeting or at practice. I think it's infectious to the whole team when they see me or any of the guys being real passionate. Running over somebody for a few extra yards, or just getting excited. I think it's really infectious so I try and do that everyday, but being in the stadium definitely cranks it up a notch.