

SOUTH CAROLINA

A T H L E T I C S

Tennessee at South Carolina

November 1, 2014

• South Carolina Head Coach Steve Spurrier •

Opening Statement

I don't have a whole bunch to say obviously. A lot of guys really had sensational games – Pharoh Cooper, Brandon Wilds and so forth. There are one or two calls I wish I could have done over. We couldn't hold the lead, as we all saw, just not good enough. Not good enough to hold the lead, not coached well enough as a team. We did a lousy job maximizing what we think we've got here. We score a few points, but we find a way to lose. This is a tough one. It will take a while to get this one out of your system, but we've had about three or four like this, this year. We should be getting used to it by now but I have tough time getting used to these kind of things.

• Defensive Coordinator Lorenzo Ward •

On what to tell players postgame

I don't know. I'm just speechless. This is the third time we've had at least a two touchdown lead in the fourth quarter and lost the ball game.

On strategy of the final drive

They needed a touchdown and had no timeouts. The coverage we were bringing was...we knew the quarterback would have time but, obviously you get the ball thrown in the middle of the field so they can't get to the sideline, but they got out a couple times and ran out of bounds and stopped the clock and that's our fault.

On whether or not defensive struggles are fixable

Of course we can fix it. We've got three games to play; we've got to fix it. You can't ever give up on your kids; you can't ever give up on your system. You keep working at it.

On what can specifically be altered to improve defense

Keep practicing tackling. Keep working at what you're doing. It can't get any worse so you've eventually got to get better.

• South Carolina Player Quotes •

Dylan Thompson • Quarterback • Senior

On what Tennessee did defensively to cause struggles

I couldn't tell you. I'm not watching them ... I'll watch film. My guess would be just coming fast off the edge and getting back there pretty quick, but our offensive line played a heck of a game and I'm proud of them.

On play calling, specifically late passing plays

You never know how the game is going to be called. I think coach called a great game. We had a lot of success. It just hurts man, coming out of these games with losses.

On how he continues leadership through challenges

You just got to try to push guys and keep them motivated as much as you can. I'm not going to sit here and say everybody is extremely positive right now, that's a lie. Personally, I just have to hold onto the fact that Jesus Christ is constant and not determined by performance or anything like that so I just hold onto that rock.

Pharoh Cooper • Wide Receiver • Sophomore

On how he feels losing despite a historic performance

Very frustrating. Even though I had a big game, set a record, we still lost the game so all that stuff goes out the window. It's just very frustrating; we have lost five games this year. It's really frustrating.

On whether he is worried about mentality of the team

I'm not worried about us falling down. We're going to continue to play the game, have fun, let the season ride out. Go out there to practice next week and we're going to try to learn from our mistakes and get better in what we did. Just get ready for the season and the rest of the few games.

On individual performance

I had a good individual performance but as I said earlier all that goes out the window. I'm not ever really thinking about what I did tonight being that we did lose. I wish we would have came up with the "W" but things happen so as far as my performance, I'm really not thinking about it right now.

Sharrod Golightly • Spur • Senior

On how the defense is working to improve

We take time to work on the fundamentals every day. We've just got to bring it to the field. That's all. We've got to be game-time performers.

Brandon Wilds • Running Back • Junior

On confidence heading into overtime

As far as the offense goes, I thought I was pretty confident going in from the 25-yard line. They got the best of us so there's nothing we can do about that now.