

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## ATHLETICS

### **No. 6/6 Georgia at No. 24/23 South Carolina** **September 13, 2014**

#### **• South Carolina Head Coach Steve Spurrier •**

##### *Opening Statement*

Some wins are better than others. I think this one was better than most others. I just told our guys, 'if we can stop some people on third down, we're not that bad at defense, we're really not.' We weren't all that great on third down, we made a bunch early and then after that we didn't make very many. Dylan [Thompson] had an excellent game and threw the ball well; especially the first half and then we ran the ball the second half. I'll tell you one thing, when we had to stop them, some way or another we stopped them. We got that intentional grounding penalty and that was a good play for us. Their kicker, I guess he hadn't missed a field goal in two years or something, 20 in a row and then he missed two tonight. Sometimes all you can say is it was our turn to win and we were meant to win this game and Georgia was not. I'm proud of our players. Our guys played very hard, made a few stupid plays that could have come back to haunt us but we ran the ball pretty decent. Brandon Wilds had some good runs and Mike [Davis] had a few good ones. Georgia's defense was pretty good at times and other times they weren't quite as good. We were able to score touchdowns on almost all of our drives; we only kicked that one field goal at the end of the half, which is always crucial in close games. We feel very fortunate and blessed and hopefully we can use this as some momentum and start playing a lot better.

##### *On resuming conference play*

We were just happy to win the ball game. Hopefully we can start becoming a good looking team but we're not a good looking team yet. The way we give up those third downs really hurts us defensively, and offensively we didn't make as many [third downs] as we usually do. We only punted twice, they [Georgia] only punted twice and we need to force a bunch of punts if we want to be a pretty good team here before it's all said and done.

##### *On the running game*

Brandon Wilds is an excellent inside runner, that's what he does best. Mike [Davis] had some good runs in there also. Sometimes Mike wants to stop, juke around and go wide, so we have to get him going forward more because that's when he's best when he gets those shorter passes. The guys did run well. We had that one fumble and I was a little disappointed, 'I said Brandon go get on it.' We do the fumble recovery drill about five out of seven days of practice. He didn't get two hands on it; we'll work on our fumble recovery again next week. Overall I'm proud of the guys, it could have gone either way.

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#### **• Defensive Coordinator Lorenzo Ward •**

##### *On defensive improvement*

I think we definitely got better but we still left a lot of plays out there. In the first half I don't think they had a third down other than the penalty that they converted and then we gave up five in the second half. We still have a lot of things we need to improve on. I'm very proud of the way the guys played and the way they fought.

##### *On the fans*

We always feed off their emotions. I think all those delays all played into it. We have great fans like Dylan [Thompson] said. We just have got to give them a great product on the field.

#### **• South Carolina Player Quotes •**

##### **Dylan Thompson • Quarterback • Senior**

###### *On preparation*

Our coaches tell us some things to help us during the week. They were telling us all week those guys up in Athens are talking about "it's going to be a war, it's going to be a war." When you go to war you need soldiers. That's what I thought we brought. Every time we got on the field we had soldiers.

###### *On personal performance*

I'm just so happy we won. All you hear about all week is, how great Georgia is and I just got tired of it. We wanted to come out today and just show what we had. Bring our best game to the ballpark. I really don't want to take credit for this. It is much bigger than myself.

###### *On improvement*

I know everyone was probably writing us off after week one and that's fine. That's completely fine. But we believe in each other and tonight was a great example of that. We bent but never broke. I'm proud as heck of our team, the coaches and the staff.

###### *On the fans*

We have the best fans in America; I think everybody knows that. When they missed that field goal, I think that is the loudest it has been in a long time. We love our fans, we know how great they are and we are blessed to have them.

##### **Rory Anderson • Tight End • Senior**

###### *On this being Dylan Thompson's best game*

You could say that, I believe so. He just came in and had his mind right. Everything was just clicking on the offense. We got going pretty early. You didn't see too many overthrows or too many dropped balls. I think we just came out and executed the game plan.

*On not being able to hold on to ball last week and coming up big this week*

It felt good. Me, personally, I felt like I struggled a little last year but I work hard on myself. I'm a Georgia boy, and I felt like this was a personal game for me. First because I'm from Georgia and last year didn't go as planned. Stuff happens, but we were able to bounce back.

### **Nick Jones • Wide Receiver • Senior**

*On playing over the middle*

First of all, I would like to thank our fans, staying through that whole weather delay. They are amazing, and I think we have the best fans in the country. The coaching staff, we had a great game plan. We've been working on that all week. We knew the middle of the field was going to be wide open. As for the catch on the sideline, everybody knows I dropped a big one at the [Texas] A&M game and I was mad at myself for that. So I just wanted to come back with a big one.

*On what was going through his mind during the spot of the ball in the fourth quarter*

I'm praying. I'm asking the Lord God to help us. He is amazing.

### **J.T. Surratt • Defensive Tackle • Senior**

*On preparing for Todd Gurley*

Last year they put a big chip on our shoulder, so this year we came in, and we knew they were going to try to give him the ball a lot. Our main focus was to get 11 hits to the ball, to get him on the ground. We practiced all week trying to get 11 hits to the ball. It worked out for us. I give all praise to the defense as a team because we did what we came to do.

*On this game after the loss to Texas A&M*

It feels great. Every win feels great. This was just the next one. And the next one on the list, we'll try to get that one too. Wins are always what we try to get. That's what we strive for. Fans like winning, so that's what we try to do.

*On keeping the guys motivated after Georgia's first drive*

I was telling them that this game is not going to continue like this. We have to do what we came to do. We have a job to do, and our coaches have been preaching to us that our job is to do our job. In that particular [drive] we didn't. We can't go back out there and let them do what they did again. Regardless of what happens, it's over with. Let's get back out there and get some stops.

### **Brandon Wilds • Tail Back • Junior**

*On running the ball in second half*

We were trying to run out the clock, and that was a key part in the last couple of drives. Getting a first down and being able to take a knee at the end of the game was a key part for us.

*On his attitude after the fumble*

It was kind of personal. I know I had to do better for myself and come back and not let the fumble get to me too much.