

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## A T H L E T I C S

### **Furman at South Carolina**

**October 18, 2014**

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

##### *Opening Statement*

It feels good to win a ball game. I told our guys to enjoy it, and we'll start getting ready for Auburn on Monday. Furman, they made a few yards on us, they had about 300. I thought our defense played pretty well, in the second half especially, and [Furman] only ended up with 10 points. We had some good fortune – they missed a short field goal and a guy fumbled [in the end zone] after we turned it over twice. We had two fumbles from our quarterback and our receiver that put them [Furman] in position, but I guess it only cost us three points there. Again, we had some good plays here and there and a lot of sorry plays. Our pass protection was as good as I thought it was going to be. You have to give Furman credit; they have some nice pass rushers that came through unexpectedly. It was a good win for us. We tried to get cute there at the end, and we should have just run the ball. We thought we might get a touchdown pass off one of our young quarterbacks, but we couldn't get it off. Overall I'm proud of the team. It wasn't a real pretty game, but we got us a win. The running backs played pretty well. It was a win for us, and we're happy to get it.

##### *On the play of Connor Mitch and Perry Orth*

It wasn't all their fault. They did have a chance on some of the plays we had called. We had a screen pass called, and they had a big old blitz coming; we left it on and got sacked. We were trying to throw off the goal line, and we had the second [offensive] line in there. I told Coach [Shawn] Elliot, 'I don't know if we can block because they're going to rush five or six guys,' so we got sacked at the three-yard line.

##### *On the offense*

We ran a lot more than we threw. Dylan [Thompson] only threw 22 passes and [Connor Mitch] threw four. We ran a lot more, and that's what we have to do. Heck, everybody knows that. We have to run more than we throw. We still got some big yards on passes. Jerrell Adams had some nice catches. I guess we still got more passing than we did rushing. We still have to pass. Dylan made some good ones, and Jerrell Adams had a couple of big catches in there to get some big yards. Pharoh [Cooper] was sort of quiet today. We have to find some more ways to get him the ball. We keep talking about it, and we're doing a poor job of getting him the ball. We had two pretty good returns called back by stupid penalties on our special team guys. Sometimes they act like they don't care if they get a holding or pushing in the back penalty. I was really disappointed that we can't coach them to play by the rules. Other than that we won the game so let's all be happy for a little while.

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

*On how pleased he was with how the defense played*

I think we had some positives. I think they were 1-for-9 on third down, which is something we've had to get better at. I think the biggest thing is that we work all week to make sure we get three turnovers each day in practice and we got three turnovers in this ballgame. That's something we can build on. Of course we don't want to give up 200 yards of rushing. We knew they were going to run the football. The big play, I'll take the blame for that. I called the pressure. They had sent the linebacker and the safety on the inside. So I'll take that as a call.

*On coaching from the box rather than the sideline*

I will definitely do it against Auburn. I don't like it; I like being on the sideline. But I think this is what's best for the team and I think I can see things better to try and help this group.

*On defensive line depth*

I think JT [Surratt] had a little hamstring injury. We're dropping like flies, but we play a lot of players. The thing I was telling the guys, we don't have a lot of guys who don't play on defense. It's not like the guys we're putting out there haven't played so we should be able to finish the ballgame.

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

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

*On what this game does for the team's confidence going into Auburn*

Just getting a win is big for us. It doesn't feel too good when you lose, especially when you've lost the last few. Just coming out and getting a win and getting a lot of guys in that practice their butts off during the week and get some time in the game is big for us. It's just exciting that we got to do that today.

*On the balance between rushing and passing on offense*

It was good. I think we're at our best offensively when we're pretty close to balanced as far as [rushing and passing] attempts. We probably ran it more today, which is how I think the game went but I thought we had pretty good balance. We still made some mistakes that we can improve on. But overall I thought it was a pretty good day.

*After meeting with the guys this week, how was the intensity on game day*

I mean, we just got together and talked. I think a lot of times people can overreact to those kinds of things, but we just talked about having fun. We came here to play a game that we love to play and that's what we want to show on the field and just have a good time doing it. I thought we did a good job of that today.

*On talking to Perry Orth and Connor Mitch on the sidelines during the game*

Absolutely. Those guys practice hard throughout the week and they haven't had the opportunity to play yet. It's awesome for them to get in. And whenever they're off the field or sometimes even during a timeout, I just try to tell them what I see and hopefully help them out because they are great players and they just need to get an opportunity to get on the field a little bit, like everybody.

## **Perry Orth • Quarterback • Sophomore**

*On how he felt during his first game action*

I felt good. We've had plenty of practice, for sure. It's exciting. You wait six games, but you've got to know your role. Just whatever it takes to help the team out. But it was a blast getting out there finally. I tried to show it off a little bit, but it was exciting.

*On how happy he was when they overruled his interception*

I was pretty relieved. I didn't want my first pass this season to be an interception. Fortunately he didn't come down with it. The look was there, but I was just a little late on the throw. But hopefully that will come with a little more experience.

*On sharing the competition with Connor Mitch*

That's how we've been about it this entire time this season, whenever our number is called we have no idea who will go first or who will get more playing time. Honestly, I don't know why I was the first one out. I think Spurrier just turned around and pointed at me and said go for it and I said yes sir. We have such a good friendship. I mean on the field we compete, but off the field we're as close of friends as you can get on a team. But overall, we're still going to compete. But whenever our number is called we're both going to try and get out there and do whatever is best for the team as best as we can.

## **Shon Carson • Running Back • Junior**

*On how he feels about the team going into Auburn*

We just have to take the positives away from today and take it to Auburn and we should be good. Just being patient, running the ball, mixing it up, like we were doing today.

*On concentrating on the run for the rest of the season*

I think we'll be able to hang on and take some pressure off the defense and keep the ball in our hands and keep running the ball.

## **Mike Davis • Running Back • Junior**

*On the effective running game*

Our offensive line had a great push up front. Those guys have been doing a great job all year. I always give credit to them. AJ Cann, Corey Robinson, Brandon Shell, Alan Knott – those guys do a great job blocking.

*On the opportunity the team has in Auburn*

It is a big opportunity to go to an environment like Auburn. Just do our best and do our part. Do a lot of things right. I think we have a big chance against anybody. Anybody you put against us, we don't doubt ourselves.

## **David Williams • Running back • Redshirt Freshman**

*On the effective running game*

I thought Dylan [Thompson] came out and did what he was supposed to do; running the ball and getting the ball around.

## **Michael Washington • Defensive End • Junior**

*On starting his first game*

It was kind of surprising. Nerve wracking because I didn't want to get out there and mess up.

*On getting the fumble recovery*

On the play I had the quarterback. So when the running back went I just swiped for the ball, and then it was on the ground so I just jumped on it.

*On his military experience*

It helped me be more of a team player. Coming out I was kind of a 'me' player. Coming out of high school, I was all about me. Going to the military, you do a lot of teamwork. It helped me out a lot.

## **Connor Mitch • Quarterback • Redshirt Freshman**

*On getting to see the field*

It felt good. I think it has been about a year and a half since I've been on the field so it was good to get out there.

*On Mitch and Orth's roles going forward*

If your name is called, you have to go out there and do your job. Dylan [Thompson] is the guy; he is the leader of the team, captain. Whoever gets called if something was to happen to Dylan, I feel like we are both ready. Coach [G.A.] Magnus did a great job to get us prepared."