

SOUTH CAROLINA (0-0) vs. EASTERN ILLINOIS (0-1)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021 • WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER

Opening Statement

"What a night - first of all, it's awesome to have college football back - the packed crowd and College Gameday and SEC Nation and fans and the band and the cheerleaders...the energy in here tonight was unbelievable, kudos to our fans...the Cockpit down there tonight was amazing kudos to them and our entire stadium."

"The emotion of tonight was awesome, I'm so appreciative...what a special night. A lot to build upon, a lot of good, a lot to correct, obviously, but so happy for our players...the most rewarding part was seeing the smile on their faces...I love coaching these guys, I love being the head coach of South Carolina."

Quote 1 - on the offensive personnel changes in the second half

"We were just trying to rotate guys - a lot of it was playing players and we wanted to be able to rotate guys through there...it wasn't a personnel issue, we were just trying to get some fresh bodies in there."

Quote 2 - on if tonight felt like Beamer Ball 2.0

"We certainly want to have that [Beamer Ball] mentality ... anytime you can block a punt or anytime you can score on defense you're probably going to win...if you want to call it Beamer Ball 2.0, that is certainly a good start."

Quote 3 - on the new players going in / on Zeb starting

"I think there were 11 guys that are listed on the two-deep who had never been in a South Carolina uniform before...I didn't even worry once about the quarterback, he is very cool and calm and collected and very poised. He was very confident and I thought he handled himself great."

Quote 4 - on what game day was like overall

"I slept well, woke up at about 6am...we didn't have anything until 9, but I was up at 6:30 and wide awake and I went for a run, which I usually do on game day. But it was a long day of sitting around, thinking about how exciting game day is. And the hotel I stayed in was the same one I stayed in as an assistant coach...I got texts from my kids to make sure we were still meeting and working hard so they kept me on my toes...I'm really really thankful and fortunate and grateful to be here...I made sure I did what I needed to as a head coach and I made sure I enjoyed the heck out of it...It's been really cool having a lot of people here tonight - certainly a day I'll never forget."