

SOUTH CAROLINA (3-2) vs. TROY (2-3)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021 | Williams-Brice Stadium | Columbia, S.C.

>>> **SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER**

Opening Statement:

“First of all, credit Troy, coming in this week and I think it was pretty evident out there they’re a really good football team defensively. They played better on offense today, did a lot of good things and coach (Chip) Lindsay does a great job there. I talked on Tuesday about how hard they played and you saw that today, so credit them and best of luck to them for the rest of the season. I don’t know about you guys, but I feel like I aged about 40 years during that game. I don’t know if it was the same in the press box, but man, proud of our guys and the way they battled and never flinched. And obviously a huge play by (David) Spaulding there at the end of the first half to give us the momentum going into halftime. We talked about it at halftime that we’re in a dogfight and this is a good football team that’s going to come back out in the second half and we said ‘let’s just get this thing to the fourth quarter’ and we’re built for this and we’ve continued to find ways to win games in the fourth quarter. If you look at East Carolina as well, that’s what those guys did today. Proud of ‘em man, in all three phases you know defensively, just making stops over and over again and scoring touchdowns, really what should have been two touchdowns on defense today but, you know, blocking a punt, you know, we probably lead the country right now in blocked punts if I’m guessing, that was huge. Parker White kicking field goals, Kai Kroeger punting the football. And then offensively you look at it we did a lot of really good things. We missed some open throws we just gotta finish drives. I think we punted twice today and they were both in plus territory if I’m not mistaken, at the 40-yard line going in so we gotta do a better job at finishing drives. But what a drive at the end of the game though, I mean to take over and just march right down the field and kick a field goal I mean that’s four-minute offense right there, textbook with the play we made. A lot to build upon obviously you know we talk a lot about playing smart football and we didn’t do a great job of that today but it’s all correctable. And that was a hell of a win, you know, it really was. To have that disappointment that we had last week against Kentucky to be so close, for some of the outside noise, if you want to call it that, and I’m sure our players were hearing this week, to battle through today when it wasn’t pretty. There’s a lot of teams that would have lost that football game and our guys never flinched. Love the guys in that room, we’re going to celebrate the heck out of this - that’s a joyous locker room in there right now and we’ve got to get a whole lot better going forward. Got a big challenge next week in Knoxville. Injury wise we came out of it pretty good. Cam Smith has a, I don’t think it’s a concussion, but it was a slight head injury and we held him out the second half. And great job by guys stepping up - you lose RJ Roderick at your starting safety, Carlins Platel, your backup, (Jaylen) Nichols already out he didn’t play, and then Cam Smith gets hurt so we’re down three in a thin secondary to begin with. We’re down three of our top defensive backs pretty much throughout the game and have some other guys step up like Jahmar Brown and David Spaulding had to play a lot more plays and things like that as well. I mean we were rotating Nichols with Platel and Spaulding. Platel didn’t play. Cam Smith was our second nickel this game so basically we lost Cam and we have no other nickel except for Spaulding so great job by him. And a lot of those guys, Josh Vann hurt his groin in practice the other day late, late in the week and he was able to play obviously and we had to be careful with how we used him today but other than Cam we came out of it pretty good injury wise. Appreciate the fans that were there today as well. They were loud and the Cockpit was rocking down there in the end zone we appreciate those guys, And going forward if you’re a season ticket holder or you’re somebody that has tickets to a game and you’re not going to come, please give them to somebody

else. There's a bunch of great Gamecocks out there that would love to be in the stadium and let me know we'll put it on social media and get some tickets given away because we got some great fans out there and we need every single one of them out there as well."

On ... addressing penalties with the players:

"We've started doing different things in practice and trying to just emphasize playing smart football and not beating ourselves and it was better last week. This week we really tried to emphasize different areas and we always emphasize playing smart football. But you know it's just one of those things we have to continue to coach it and teach and learn."

On ... what Beamer was thinking during the long fumble play:

"That was like the longest play in the history of college football with the way it happened. I mean, my gosh. I see the fumble happen and I knew it was a fumble then we pick it up and it's just like slow motion hoping you're gonna fall on the ball and don't give it back to them and all of a sudden it pops out of there and you realize we're gonna score. And I did not have an angle on him dropping the ball before he got in the end zone. I didn't even think of that when they initially went to review it...and then our coaches in the box actually told me it looks like he fumbled before the ball crossed the goal line so I didn't mention that to the officials I was hoping they didn't notice that. But obviously they were too good in the press box and didn't get past them. Tough play obviously that can't happen but geez. That could've been the ballgame right there and that was tough, but the defense comes right back out and we talk about all the time, our mantra is just put the ball down. Dealt with some adversity, put the ball down and go back out and get it on the stop."

On ... Luke Doty's performance tonight:

"He's doing a good job, he made some really nice throws today and did a good job. We missed some throws obviously. You know, quarterback, receiver, running back, tight end all of us, you know, got to execute and make plays when plays present themselves. I think he's continuing to get more and more comfortable. As I told you guys, I mean today was his second start of the year and his fourth start ever as a college quarterback so he's continuing to get better. The thing with him is continuing to get more and more confident in taking off and running. He's a great quarterback and, sure we want to sit in the pocket and make throws down field, but his legs are a weapon and I think he'll just continue to get more and more confident at doing that."

On ... avoiding playing offense on third down:

"Just continue to stay out of them. To be better on first down and second down so you don't get into third down situations. And then we've just got to be able to execute. A lot of them were plays I think going back on the video we're gonna see that we had people open, we just gotta throw and catch. We gotta protect better a little on third down. We got a couple of pressures and you know, it starts on first and second down but we certainly gotta be better and just continue to get more and more efficient."

On ... the transfers (i.e. David Spaulding) that performed well tonight:

"We're a young football team and a new football team and in a lot of ways and those guys are just continuing to get more and more comfortable out there."

On ... the comfort of Luke Doty being able to throw deep at this point in the season:

“Defenses are too good nowadays in college football and we’ve got to be able to create explosive plays, we’ve gotta be able to create shot plays and that’s in the run game and in the pass game and we’ve got good coaches, we’ve got weapons on offense and we’ve got to be able to protect and throw the ball down the field. We talked all week about players, just get the ball to our best players hands. And we had some things today for a lot of those guys and did a good job for the most part but certainly got to be better. As Luke gets more and more comfortable and confident out there, I think we’ll have the ability to connect on a lot more of those as well.”

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>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

PARKER WHITE • K • R-SR.

On ... his confidence in taking big kicks:

"I felt extremely confident and I hit the ball pretty well in the game and practices this week so I don't feel any differently than the other two field goals. I get that question a lot, I don't treat it any differently. I'm not thinking about really anything. My head is pretty clear to be honest with you.

On ... if it's easier to make kicks when he is on a hot streak:

"I would say they are all pretty independent. It definitely can help with your confidence when you're on a little bit of a roll. Every kick is different. I've put in a lot of work this offseason and I think I've just improved as a kicker. So I'm just going to be more likely to make a kick than if I, you know, didn't put in, hardly any work or whatever so it's kind of separate."

On ... why his family hasn't been able to watch him play:

"My parents and my sister, grandparents, like the immediate family, they've always been there but it's more like my cousins and a little bit more extended. They rented a house on Lake Murray, so I'm gonna go over there and spend the night with them and hang out. It's like little, little cousins and I got (redshirt freshman wide receiver) Payton Mangrum's gloves to get to them so they're going to be jacked up about that so I'm looking forward to hanging out with them a little bit."

On ... avoiding the pressure of approaching milestones:

"Yeah, I mean it's something that even I admittedly think about. It's a goal of mine, I like to read my goals on my mirror, so I'm kind of keeping track of the countdown and then also just to win every week. Those are just a couple of mine, I don't think it really throws me off. I think it's motivation for me honestly, more than anything, just because I know that it'll be such a cool thing to have. So, helps me to just kind of see in the morning, look in the mirror and say like, "Okay, gotta get better today". I want that record and stuff like that and to help the team win ultimately.

On ... if he is superstitious:

"I was hoping you're gonna ask about that. There was something I thought that was kind of funny. My beard is getting really long, and I was gonna shave after (the Eastern Illinois game), but I was worried about some bad karma so it's kind of like Samson, I can't shave my hair or anything like that, I need to keep my beard growing and I will not shave it until I miss one, hopefully it doesn't happen, hopefully I'll be like Santa Claus by December."

On ... what his goals on his mirror are:

"I started doing that this summer. And we had like a guest speaker talk about goals and we always have kind of those influences, but usually my first one will be "beat Troy", that was the first thing, I go home I'll erase it, put "beat Tennessee", and then I'll have the points and erase it and put the new amount, and then I'll say to finish my MBA, and then another one on there will be to be better today than I was the day before. They're pretty simple, but it I like to kind of visualize and I'm already thinking ahead to Neyland Stadium and vision of myself making kicks over there so, just helps me with that."

JAYLAN FOSTER • DB • R-SR.

On ... the play that included two fumbles and was initially was a Gamecock touchdown, but was ruled a Troy touchback after review:

"That's a new play and we put in. That's one of our go-to plays on third down that we run when we need a stop. Actually the first time that I was able to blitz because usually, you know, my man go out but I was able to blitz and when I seen it. Man, I got happy and he's trying to make the play. That's it."

On... if that was the most wild second half:

"That was a wild second half, you know, but we got together as a team and we finished it out. That's what you like to see, but you learn from things like that. (redshirt-sophomore defensive back) Jahmar (Brown) is a great player, he just had to learn that when you get a situation like that, run the ball to the ref and he doesn't, he doesn't have that problem."

On... correcting self-forced errors:

"We just had to be the voice in the locker room for Coach Beamer, just making sure all the guys sticking to it playing smart football, like you said, we've had a lot a lot of plays and we shot ourselves in the foot and, in order to be a good team, you have to eliminate those plays."

On ... what he saw on that crazy play:

"Oh, I'll be honest with you, I was just excited that I knocked the ball out and I thought DeMonte had fell on it, and when I got over and I look I see Jahmar running to the endzone, I just kind of followed him."

DAVID SPAULDING • DB • R-SO.

On ... his Pick Six near the end of the first half:

"First, I'd like to thank God. But as far as that goes a normal practice the coach, the defensive staff do a great job of giving us details and small details and all we think about is details. We knew what was coming and I told the safety. And we just play ball."

On ... making a difference as a transfer player:

"Really the coaching staff here, they do a great job of bringing us in as one really that's really all I have to say, to be honest like we are all a family so the transition was smooth because the coaches, they really care about us, and it's family first is brotherhood."

On ... how many snaps he played:

“To be honest, I really can't tell you. I just ball down and play for my team.”

On ... the play that included two fumbles and was initially was a Gamecock touchdown, but was ruled a Troy touchback after review:

“Oh yes, I was on the field, we were in man that play so I was just locked in on my man and next thing you know, I see the ball out, and I see Jahmar running downfield.”

JOSH VANN • WR • SR.

On ... the offensive performance:

“I felt like we were performing well, after not the greatest game offensively last Saturday for us to a bounce back, moving the ball down the field. You know, they definitely boosted our confidence. I feel like as offense, there were some, some things that we can regroup from but as a whole it was a good confidence booster for us.”

On ... Luke Doty's progression:

“Luke is a baller. For him, to come in after Zeb (Noland) got hurt. It's nothing new for Luke. I have no worries or problems with him because I know he's a baller so, the things that he's showing us and the public that this is nothing new.”

On ... his injury in practice earlier this week:

“I got hurt, Wednesday. It was nothing really major. I was on the run and go round and one on ones. And I don't know if I if I turned funny or whatever the case may be but it was like a little tweak in my groin area. So that's how that happened. I didn't hear a pop. So that was, that was a good thing. So that's how that happened, and today I feel good, you know, it happened Wednesday and then I practiced Thursday. On Thursday I felt good, Friday for walkthrough, and I felt even better Friday, and on Saturday morning, felt even better so I was able to go out there and make plays for the team.”

On ... addressing self-forced errors:

“Coach Beamer he says every day, every week we got to play smart, one of our key goals to win games is playing smart football. Going back to the Georgia game my taunting penalty and ECU, that's not playing smart football so it's one thing that you know when the head coach says it, and you're still not playing smart football. We still have dumb penalties, so as older guys one of the leaders on the team, we're all leaders on team, you just got to be more accountable, and that's one thing that was an emphasis this week is just playing smarter football. And we had a couple penalties today but as the week progressed, you see us playing, you know, faster and just playing loose.”

On ... being efficient on third downs:

“You just got to be more confident, day by day just being confident, the details and everything that goes with quarterbacks and running backs, receivers to offensive lineman, the way they step, the way they block, all the schemes being very detailed, and when things don't go the right way and I don't know how many third and 20s we had that's just not playing, just dumb, dumb penalties and just got to be more

confident, more detailed and everything we're doing, that's gonna lead to us finishing drives, but as long as we're able to put points on the board, you can't go wrong with that.”

On ... what he remembers from recruiting:

“I know it was a thing for me whenever I came up here, to practices or a game, I was personally looking at, you know seeing my position, you know, so just to see the guys that they had at the schools and see like, ‘Okay, I can go in and do, better than that receiver,’ things are starting to go the way I expected to go my senior year, that I expected in my freshman year but I’ve just waited patiently, just wait for my time.”

On ... the play that included two fumbles and was initially was a Gamecock touchdown, but was ruled a Troy touchback after review:

“I don't even know if I have ever seen a play like that. I was literally right there. Like, where DeMonte knocked the ball out, I was right behind there, because it was going that way. I saw him shift the fumble out, then I saw DeMonte get on it, and then the ball came out again. Next thing I know I see Jay Brown just running the ball, I was celebrating with the defense, then they called my name and we were going to go for two, and then they stopped to review it, I don't know how many times like they have to review this game, but it was crazy.”

LUKE DOTY • QB • SO.

On ... how he thinks the offense played:

“I felt like we played well, obviously we got some things to work on execution wise, but I thought we played well overall. You know, we were able to move the ball down the field we were, we were able to sustain drives. So I think that was the biggest thing for us was, just being able to sustain drives and start fast like we did in the first half, that first drive we were able to get down there and get points on the board. But, like I said we got some things to work on, and that's alright we're gonna get there with more practice and get focused on Tennessee.”

On ... how his foot is feeling:

“My foot feels fine. Obviously, I'm still a little banged up, but five games into the season everybody's banged up so we just find a way to get out there and make plays. But I mean I think as far as I'm concerned, I was able to sit back and deliver the ball down the field, on sprint outs we were able to take the edge take a perimeter, and get the ball in space to our playmaker so there were a few times where I could have stepped up and ran. But I've trusted myself I trusted the guys down the field to go make plays and they did so. Just going forward, that'll be an emphasis, it was an emphasis this week there was nothing there then take off and run, get yardage with my feet but I felt like we were able to do a good job of just getting the ball downfield and to our playmakers.”

On ... getting to the point of running the ball without hesitation:

“I think I'm pretty close. I've got a lot of confidence in it, just in the rehab that I've been doing each and every day. The extra treatment that I go in and get in the afternoons. So, I'm just continuing to build confidence, you know for myself running the ball, running on it in general, and like I said, I think I'm there, but it's a work in progress, as all injuries are. So, I'm just gonna keep getting better and keep getting stronger.”

On ... his chemistry with redshirt-senior wide receiver E.J. Jenkins:

"It's been awesome. Since he and Jason have got here, over the winter I think it was February, both of them and especially, E.J., he just keeps his head down and he works. He does what he's asked, does whatever we tell him to do. And he has a good heart about it, and he's a true team player, he wants everybody to succeed. And we want to see him succeed so we put him in some situations tonight where he could go make plays and just play fast, and he did, and that was awesome to see."

On ... his comfort level throwing the ball a lot:

"Yeah, I think probably since high school in Myrtle Beach is offense, but we talked about it all week and on Friday night, into this morning. Coach just talked about dialing things up and pushing the ball down the field and that's what we did he said he was going to dial it up and put the ball out in space. And that's what he did and we trust in him, you know, we have all the faith and belief in him. So, you know that's been awesome and he's been great so like I said, we, we have a lot of trust in everything that we do all of our coordinators on the offensive side, that they put together a great plan each and every week. And it's just on us to go out there and play fast and execute, and I felt like we did that tonight."

On ... having several weapons to throw the ball to:

"I think that just goes to show the type of playmakers and the type of guys that we have on the offensive side. Every single guy on our side is a playmaker, and that's what they do best, they go make plays, they get out in space and they just, they just do what they do. Like I said I think I just comes back to trusting your technique playing fast and just going out there and having fun, you know, the biggest thing for us. Like I said, talking in meetings and stuff all Friday, Saturday night or Saturday morning was just making it like recess. That was something that Coach Satterfield brought up was just going out there and playing like you know you were in the backyard or out in the school yard, whenever you were in elementary school or middle school and just making it like recess, going out there don't think just have fun. So I think our guys did that and we had a lot of fun doing it."

On ... getting the tight ends involved:

"Yeah, I think we did a good job of getting our tight ends and play a little bit more, getting, getting them some balls out in the flat, down the field. Just showing really what we can do on offense, making a statement, and I felt like we did that, this afternoon and into the night. So I mean, I would think that kind of puts it on display for him. Yeah, just the type of things that we're able to do with those guys, because they are so versatile. You know, they're, they're athletes too so you know we're pretty happy with their performance and just the way that they competed. So we're just going to keep finding ways to, to get them the ball and have them go make plays for us from here."

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>>> TROY HEAD COACH CHIP LINDSAY

Opening statement

"I thought our guys played extremely hard and played well at times. Defensively, I am really proud of our guys. We matched their physicality. Offensively, the turnovers are disappointing and when you look back at it, they came at critical times. At the end of the day, we should've put the ball on the ground. We had one guy go over 100 yards, which is something we lacked in the first 4 games. I will say they had a good pass rush and their defensive ends are as good as we will see."

On ... facing his first road environment of the season:

"It has been a while. We worked this week on crowd noise and how to handle that. Our guys responded and I am really proud of them for doing that."

On ... junior linebacker Carlton Martial:

"Every week he makes plays. He was all over the field from my standpoint. Carlton is a guy you have to account for."

On... how he is feeling after the loss:

"The league we are in, the Sun Belt, we have a lot of these kinds of games. I think both teams played extremely hard. I know Shane (Beamer) has his guys playing really hard in his first year."

On... the locker room:

"I think they are disappointed right now, a hurt locker room for sure."

>>> TROY PLAYER QUOTES

B.J. Smith • RB • R-SR.

On ... getting reps and his production:

"At the end of the day the amount of reps don't matter. You always have to be prepared."

On ... responding from last week:

"We responded the best way you could. We gave ourselves a chance by the way we practiced."

On... his early touchdown run:

“It was an enormous hole created by the offensive line up front. You can see it by the way we play, they got movement all day and when they are playing as good as they can, that's what I can do.”

KJ Robertson • LB • JR.

On ... making plays on defense:

“Credit to practice. We practiced at a very high intensity. Coach Hall made really good decisions and it is a credit to the guys with the amount of effort they play with. We play with relentless effort.”

On ... playing an SEC team:

“They are good for a reason, they are in the SEC. It shows growth from the whole entire team. We are just going to keep pushing, that is all we can do.”