

SOUTH CAROLINA (6-5, 3-5) vs. AUBURN (6-5, 3-4)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER

Opening Statement

“Yeah, I told you guys two weeks ago what a night for South Carolina and what a night overall and I didn’t know that two weeks later was going to be even better. What a performance from our team. What a performance from our fans. We challenged them about coming out and bringing the energy and making noise and they did so thank you to our fans that was amazing. And give, you know, credit to Auburn, they got a heck of a team. We knew this was going to be a physical SEC football game and that’s what it was. But just so happy for our fans and so happy for our players. That’s a special group in there, and I’ll be honest with you, we don’t talk about bowls and all that stuff during the week. It was just about whatever we got to do to play our best this week, but just there was a time in practice this week back on Tuesday, and I mean, these guys just work. And as ugly as it was last week or as great as it was against Florida or as ugly as it was against Texas A&M, they come back every single week and they’re a fun group to be around, they never complain, they just work. And like the way we practice the last two weeks, I mean, it is physical. I don’t know any team in the country that’s lining up on Tuesdays and doing live tackling to the ground. And we do that some. And they don’t complain like they want to do it more and there was a time in practice on Tuesday this week, where I’m just watching them fly around and having fun and it’s in between periods. And we were going from one period to another and I just took a moment and I’ll be honest with you I got sad, thinking that this team might only have another week and a half together and thank god that’s not the case. I love these kids and just so happy for them go to a bowl. So happy for our fans. And just proud of our effort tonight. It wasn’t pretty early. We were down 14 nothing. These guys never flinched, like always they just come right back out there and play their rear ends off in the second half. I mean, we lined up and basically ran the same two running plays on offense the entire game. And it was awesome to see. So we’re going to really, really, really, really, really, really enjoy this one and then we can’t wait to come back in here in seven days and do it again. So with that I’ll be glad to answer any questions.”

Quote 1 - on being bowl eligible

“Just so proud... to be going to a bowl game just really happy for them [the super seniors] and very, very proud. And this is just the start too, Ben. Our goals aren’t to win six games every year and go to a bowl game. We have higher expectations and this is just the start...”

Quote 2 - on what the final moments of the game felt like

“Yeah, it was pretty special. I wish I could have enjoyed the last minute a little bit better. I mean...we didn’t want to have to snap the ball and leave them any time on the clock and we’re trying to get Jason to, you know, milk or bleed as much time as he could before he took a knee just to eat up as much time as we could in that situation, so, was kind of a stressful minute just trying to get it. And then I got dumped with the Gatorade and, you know, JJ got me I think, or Sterling, and he was the first one I saw and you know we use the word love a lot. We told each other we love each other and how happy I was for him and it was pretty awesome. You know, kind of what you what you imagined it being, and that’s what it was.”

Quote 3 - on what ZaQuandre White means to the team

“So much. He brings great energy to our team on and off the field. He’s the same every way. I mean, the way that he ran the ball and caught the ball tonight, that’s the way he does it in practice every day like there’s only one speed with ZaQuandre. He doesn’t turn it on and off and it was awesome to see... But he’s a weapon. He continues to get better and better each week.”

Quote 4 - On what the two running plays were that they ran

"It was duo and it was the counter and we ran it over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over again. And it was pretty fun to watch."

Quote 5 - On Hunter's input on the running game tonight

Hunter's more into the uniforms. He don't get too much into scheme. He gets into uniform selection and all that. But the pressure I had for coming into this game was the messages I was getting from my children all day about 'you better win' and 'we want to go to a bowl' and 'you better get your sixth win tonight' and all that. So pressure from the outside is nothing compared to what I get in my own house.

Quote 6 - On O-Line's Performance tonight

That's what excites me - that's a big boy SEC defense we just played and our offensive line went toe-to-toe with them and they've got a really good front seven they've got a great group of linebackers, you know, 29's a heck of a player on the edge and you know they got a high draft pick sitting out there at corner and Smoke Monday is a great safety. So just proud of those guys. And I think it shows that you know when we execute, we can go up against anybody and we've got another big challenge next week. I mean, I know what kind of defense the crowd we're about to face coming in here next Saturday what kind of defense they have as well. So you know we got to do a great job of getting ready to do it again and not take two steps forward and then take you know a step back next week. We got to continue to get better.

Quote 7 - On how the preparation will be different for Clemson

It won't be any different. You know, we played them when I was at Virginia Tech in 2011 twice, and then we played them in 2012. And I don't think we played them again after that, but you know, preparation will be the same. I mean obviously, I guess there's a little bit of familiarity but it was nine years ago the last time I played Clemson. Got great respect for their program, got great respect for Coach Swinney and excited about the opportunity to go compete next week.

>>> AUBURN HEAD COACH BRYAN HARSIN

Opening Statement:

"We're disappointed with the result of the game and certainly with the finish of it. We had opportunities throughout the game not to be in that position. We still hopefully had a chance and we didn't get that opportunity. It comes down to little things in the game so we're not in that position. We played hard. In any game, it comes down to execution and putting our guys in the best position to be successful and we didn't do that enough tonight to win the game. We have to go back and look at things we can do better and address the things that have come up in our training and throughout the season and put an emphasis on those again. We have to find a way to put that into games and play four quarters. That was our mindset: four quarters on the road against a good team. We just didn't have enough opportunities at the end to finish out the four quarters of football."

On ... sophomore quarterback T.J. Finley's play:

"I thought he was solid. I'm going to watch the tape and look at the opportunities he had and what he did. At first glance, he did a good job leading from the sideline. We had opportunities. He ran the ball a couple of times and had positive yards for us. At the same time, there's always going to be mistakes. Before I make any decision on his play, I'm going to look at the film and his circumstances. Did we put him in a position to make plays? How did he go and operate? This was his opportunity to go out and start. I know he worked hard leading into it and we didn't get the result we wanted."

On ... the explanation about the muffed punt that was changed at the end of the game:

"The explanation was that he touched it. That's really what it comes down to. I didn't see it on the field. We've all had scenarios where players on your team or the other team touch it and the direction of the ball changes. They didn't call it on the field, so that was an overturn. They determined he touched it somewhere. That's the decision they made and it didn't go in our favor."

On ... the decision to try to convert on fourth down near the end of the first half:

"Well we took a shot on that play. We were aggressive and were trying to extend that drive. We could run it or we had the shot, so we took it. That was part of being in that situation. Maybe not on that yard line but that play and trying to take a shot on fourth down. We were on the road and we felt like we needed an explosive play and we felt like that play was a good one in practice and that it was a good opportunity to be aggressive and take the shot opportunity."

>>> AUBURN PLAYER QUOTES

Chandler Wooten • LB • Senior

On ... his message to his teammates:

"Right now, the message is just to finish games. We've been preaching that all year. No matter what, finish. We're obviously disappointed and with the way the game ended. All we can do is come back next week and get to work. We've got a big game next week, and we always want to win that game. We have a one-game season at this point, so we're going to lay it all on the line."

On ... Shane Beamer's comment that Carolina was running the same two plays:

"They did run the same plays. We had a couple of issues fit wise. I felt like we shored up in the second half and made stops when we needed to. Our goal was to come out in the second half and allow them to score as little as possible and win the game. Obviously, we came short of that, but only giving up 21 points on the road is cool, but we didn't win the game, so we didn't get the job done."

Shedrick Jackson • WR • Senior

On ... what was working between him and T.J. Finley:

"We were just focused on trying to be consistent. T.J. is a good playmaker. I knew that from working with him and getting extra work with him in practice. I believe in him. The whole offense believes in him and our team believes in him."

On ... what South Carolina was doing defensively:

"I think that goes back to being consistent. I don't think they changed anything or did anything special. It comes down to the whole offense continuing to make plays and keep that momentum going."

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

Jason Brown • QB • Sr.

On the touchdown pass to gain lead

"It was just improv, I felt pressure on back backside. Either I was going run and throw it away or he was going to catch it and give the lead."

On ... How does this win feel?

"It was crazy. We had Beamer in there dancing so... We were down 14 and were able to come back...shoutout to our defense as well."

On ...What does this mean for the team

"Don't count us out. Every single play we're going to come out and play with everything we got."

On ... the effective run game

I on 1 matchups and wanting to not have negative plays. If we inch the ball forward were going to be in a good spot. Winning 1-on-1 battles was huge."

On ZaQuandre White

" We have Full confidence in him. He's always going to make that first person miss."

Trai Jones • OL/FB • R-Fr.

On ... was that the play (designed for you)?

"That was not the play but they called it so I had to do what I had to do."

On ...What were you thinking when you got your first TD catch

"I thought he had me but I just beat him to the spot."

On ...""How far back do you have to go to when you were touching the ball (catching)?

"First time catching the ball since 10 or 11...yeah it's been awhile."

On ...""Did you surprise yourself on the athletic play/ have you seen it

"I wasn't surprised. I practiced it over and over this week but yeah I've seen in like 10 times my phone is going crazy."

On ...Did you give thought to your celebration?

"Nah, I thought about doing something crazy but I just kept it simple."

JJ Enagbare • EDGE • Srl

On ...How much fun was a game like that/what does it say about the progress of the team

"Games like this is the main reason I wanted to come back. We live for games like this where you never know what's going to happen.

It's a testament to how well we prepare for this.

On ...Making a bowl game/Doubters preseason

"That was just outside noise. We decide in this building what kind of season were going to have. As a football player you can't listen to projections and we continue to prove the boys wrong."

On ...Containing Auburn QB

"We knew we were going to get after him. We just kept pounding and pounding. "

On ...Tank Bigsby and the Auburn Run game

"He's obviously a good back. Tonight, we didn't do the best job at wrapping up and tackling and I don't know if that's us or him but that's something we have to work on for next week (in game tackling)."