

SOUTH CAROLINA (6-6) vs. CLEMSON (9-3)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021 • WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER

Opening Statement

"Congratulations to Clemson they obviously played great, especially defensively. Played great defensively. I know they've had a bunch of injuries this season but one place where they really weren't affected was their defense. And they played lights out defensively there's a reason they held Georgia to three points in the very first game, and then a punt return for a touchdown. Obviously, Georgia didn't score a touchdown and that was the defense that we saw out there tonight. Certainly didn't play well ourselves. I want to apologize to our fans. That performance starts with me as the head coach. At Gamecock Walk before the game, I don't think I've ever been a part of anything like that in my entire coaching career. The electricity, the energy in that stadium was amazing, and I appreciate what our fans did - we challenged them and they were awesome tonight. Awesome. And sorry we didn't play better for you. That's a hurt Locker room in there right now, hurt for our seniors. But again, just told them in the locker room - everybody's disappointed and hurt. There's a lot of tears in that locker room right now. And we're not going to let one game define this group. We've done way too many good things and fought our butts off throughout the season to be sitting here at six wins and then this is a critical month coming up for us in December. Thank God we are bowl eligible. It's a great accomplishment for this football team. And I'm so happy that we get another month together as a football team. And we've got to get better and continue to improve. This is just the beginning of Carolina Football. We're not going anywhere. We're only continuing to get better and continuing to work so we don't have nights like these. We got off to a horrific start. Not good football, not good coaching, not good playing. There's way too many mistakes offensively and defensively in that first quarter. And you know just got ourselves in a hole. Like we have all year we continue to fight and battle but we're not into moral victories around here. Got to play better got to coach better and wasn't good enough tonight. So with that, I'll be glad to answer any questions."

Quote 1 - on what it would mean to finish with a winning season in his first year at South Carolina

"Yeah, it would be huge um, you know the bowl is gonna be great for us to get our team better Dick and, improve the roster that we have. It's great when we're able to go to a bowl game because it's basically like an extra spring practice and we've got a lot of young guys that were out there playing tonight that are going to be key players for us next year and some freshmen that we are red-shirting that got to continue to get better. So it's great for that. But it would be great, you know, but more importantly for our seniors, you know for what they've done for this program. And I told them in the locker room, they've completely changed Carolina Football in one year. You know, the way that they've led this football team and the way people think about us now and the fight and the competitive spirit that we show and the way we battle and the future's bright and I'm excited about the future. Nights like these stink really, really bad. But I'm really excited about the future and the opportunity to send these seniors out with a win and honor them for all they've done for this program. Because they wanted this one bad obviously against these guys and I told them in the locker room 'Sorry that I didn't do a better job of having us ready to execute at a higher level because I know how important this game was for them."

Quote 2 - on how the team's performance this year gave the South Carolina Fans hope coming into this game

"I think it speaks volumes about our kids and I know our fans wanted it bad tonight, they didn't want it any more than what the kids in that locker room did. They continue to compete. The defense kept going out there and battling and the offense wasn't pretty but we went out there and battled and that's what this group is about. And we've just got to be more consistent, Cory. You know, the disappointing thing is we have a great win over Florida and then we have a so-so performance against Missouri and then we have a great win over Auburn and it's not a good performance tonight versus Clemson, and that's where we got to mature and be better. And, you know, we tried to coach them harder this week and we talked about everything that we did against Auburn and being even more intense and more physical and more competitive and more just consistent throughout the game...Our guys were certainly ready to play. We just didn't execute well."

cont.

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Quote 3 - on if he thought about putting Parker White in on the last drive to kick a field goal

"No not really probably should have for Parker (White) and I don't even think about to be honest with you, David, I was just trying to score a touchdown and we were down there and I don't know. I know we don't want to get shut out but I'm not really big in the kicking field goals to lose 30-3."

Quote 4 - on being excited to recruit (was asked about staff changes and pivoted to recruiting)

"The thing I'm excited about doing is getting on the road recruiting tomorrow and meeting with the team and learning from this one like we always do. And getting on the road and going to continue to find and recruit great players here. We had a bunch of guys here tonight and they saw an amazing environment and I told them before the game when I met with the recruits that this is just the beginning that we're having a lot of nights like this here in Columbia, South Carolina."

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

Jason Brown • QB • RS-Sr.

On what he saw from Clemson's defense that made it hard on the offense

"I don't think they really did anything defensively to make it hard. We picked up pretty much everything. There was a few things we missed, but we just had to play better and that starts with me. I had a miscommunication with Jaheim (Bell) and on the second (interception), we tried to take a shot to Josh (Vann) and tried to give him a 50-50 ball. In hindsight, I probably should have just thrown it out of bounds, but we picked up pretty much everything they threw at us, so it just came down to us needing to play better."

On how frustrating the offensive performance was and what they need to do next

"We just can't let this affect us. It was a pretty tough performance all over the field on offense and that starts with me. I've got to be better that way it energizes the team and they're better around me. We've just got to be better and can't let it affect us. We still have another month together and can finish it out with a win."

On going to a bowl game

"It would be great to send the seniors out with a win in their last game as a Gamecock. Obviously we wanted this one because it was against Clemson and it was the last one in Williams-Brice Stadium. We wanted this bad and it hurts. Just being able to say we made a bowl game and to have one more chance with this team in particular (is special) because after that this team is never going to be together again on the field, so to have another opportunity on the field together with them and we'll try to send them out with a win."

On what he saw on the interception with Jaheim Bell as the intended target

"We had a play where he was going to be the hot guy if they blitzed. I tried to put it on him because there was some space, but they brought a different pressure than we thought and I tried to put it on him, but it was a miscommunication on my part. That's not on Jaheim (Bell), that's totally on me."

Jaylan Foster • DB • RS-Sr.

On his thoughts on what a bowl game does for the program and what it means to him to have another month in the program

"Like I said the other day, it's god for the program. We took a big step, especially not going to a bowl game the last two years. I think Coach Beamer has this program going in the right direction. I can't wait to see what these guys do."

On what Clemson did in the run game

"They weren't doing anything that we didn't see on film. A lot of it was us getting out of our gaps. A lot of the time they were finding that hole and hitting it. In these types of games, you've got to stay in the gaps and make those plays."

On this group of seniors

"It's a special group. A lot of us made the decision to come back for an extra year and we've been through a lot. I'm going to miss them. I just hope we left this place better than it was."

Zeb Noland • Quarterback • Graduate Student

On getting to play again and going to a bowl game.

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"It's just good to be back out there. I talked to the team last night and I wouldn't give up this team for anything in the world. I love this team and I love these seniors. It's going to be fun, just to get out and enjoy it. It's fun to go to a bowl game. I've been to some before and a lot of these seniors haven't."

Jabari Ellis • DL • Senior

On Coach Beamer's message to team after an emotional loss

"Don't let this, you know, determine the season like we did a lot of good things this season. So you know don't let just obviously it hurts but don't let this you know, overshadow, make up was a season was."

On this year's seniors and the potential to get a winning season

"Yeah, I mean, I'm grateful. I'm glad I got an opportunity of course to come back, because if last year, like my true last year, wouldn't be where I want to end my college career. So I'm grateful for the opportunity just to you know, be able to come back and play in a bowl game as well."

>>> CLEMSON HEAD COACH DABO SWINNEY

Opening Statement

"Just really proud of our guys, especially our seniors to be able to leave here not only undefeated at home but undefeated against South Carolina. That's a rare accomplishment. And, you know, seven in a row first time since the 30s. So, just really proud of our team; that was Clemson football tonight. All three phases, and we're playing our best football. These guys have been kind of building, and I'm just really proud of our staff, and I'm proud of these young men to start off 2-2 and just battle every single week every week, you know, figure it out. And here we are 9-3, undefeated in November, five in a row, seven out of eight. And to be able to come in here and shut [South Carolina] out. You know, it's the first time we've shut them out since 1989. Nobody has shut him out. Nobody. There's not a defense out there that shut these guys out this year. So I'm just man, just unbelievable. Complete team effort."

"This is a big game; it's an important game. We know that, and so to be state champs is something that we don't ever take for granted. But just a great appreciation for the readiness of our guys. Focus preparation and in just how we finished and so, you know, we're excited about a postseason opportunity. I have no idea where we're going to play but I know this team will come ready and you know to have an opportunity to go battle for a 10th win."

On South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer choosing to go for it on several plays and not just play to avoid the shutout...

"I'd have done the same thing. He went for it, you know, backed up a couple of times, and I just think he's sending a message to his team – 'Hey, we're gonna battle.' They could have punted the ball a couple of times; he certainly could kick the field goal right there at the end. You know, I think he's trying to build his team, and he's trying to build the mentality and attitude that it takes. So, I don't blame him one bit all those with the right call."

On defense being among the more elite defenses he's had...

"We've got 40-plus sacks. And you know, we lead the country since the playoff era in sacks, and we've got a bunch of great defenses but we haven't had one shut [South Carolina] out."

"So, you know, they, they've been pretty good all year. We've had some moments here or there, but you know, I don't know exactly where we are, but we've got to be a top-five scoring defense in the country. I would think and probably one of the best redzone defenses in the country."

"The name of the game is points, and these guys have done a great job. Nobody wants to hear it, but we're three plays, four plays from being undefeated. We've battled all year – we've had go on stands, we've had a little bit of everything, we've had to offenses had to come alive in the last five, six games and make some drives to go win the game in the fourth quarter. So we're just as a team, a team that has gotten better, better. We've overcome a lot. A lot of guys have grown up; a lot of guys have learned."

On Andrew Booth and the impact of his interceptions...

"He was awesome. I mean, he just you know, the first one was what a great catch. You know, staying on top of the big play they

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tried to hit. So really proud of him. It's great to see him have a game like that down here. I was really happy for Booth and great to see him have a couple plays like that."

*On extending the streak of wins over South Carolina to seven in a row after having endured a five-game losing streak...
"I just think it's good perspective, that sometimes when you're going through things, and it's not the way you want it and you know everybody's ready to jump off the ship. You know, I'm thankful that I had great people just continue to believe and stay the course and, you know, we had a bunch of really good teams, but they had some good teams. At the end of the day, you just kind of keep playing; we stay the course and here we are. So, it's just all part of our journey. The fun is in the winning as we say, that's for sure. And just, man, I'm just thankful. I'm thankful to all the players that we've had that just put in all a lot of work. I mean, as coaches we don't know we don't catch it, we don't block and we don't tackle. It takes a group of young men to believe. So, you're talking about seven teams in a row that have gotten it done in a rivalry game. That's really, really hard to do, obviously, since it hasn't happened since the 30s. So, I just credit all the players and the staff it's a really special thing to be a part of. And man, I'm just thankful – thankful to the good Lord for the opportunity and thankful for the tough times to you know, it's all good in the end."*