

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-4, 2-4) vs. FLORIDA (4-5, 2-5)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021 • WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER

Opening Statement

"Wow. What a great night to be a Gamecock. And I want to thank our fans, first of all for the atmosphere and the environment in there. I appreciate the ones that were in there. For those of you that didn't come and missed it, you missed one hell of a game and you missed a unbelievable performance by our football team who worked their butts off during the week and deserved that tonight because of the way they worked and the way they fight because it may have been ugly up until this point, but one thing you can't question is how hard our kids play and the passion they play with week-in week-out. So I'm so happy for them and the success they had tonight and really appreciate the fans that were there as well. You created a great environment, unbelievable group of recruits that were here. Just peeked at my phone, so many text messages from recruits that weren't here. They wish they had been here. So excited about the future of Carolina football, as well. That's a good football team that we just beat. So I hope we don't start with the narrative about Florida and anything -- tonight was about South Carolina. And that is a team with a bunch of really good players. I know they had some guys out tonight but they had a bunch of really good guys in there that we were competing against. And that's the whole thing. We've talked ever since that [Texas] A&M game about competing. And we've had the two best weeks of practice we've had all season coming off that [Texas] A&M loss. Practices have been spirited, energized, physical, competitive. And we expected to win this football game like we did. Nobody was shocked at how it went. We fully expected this tonight because of the way that we've prepared in practice. The last two weeks as well. Just so many competitive plays that guys made, I mean, wow. Offense, defense, special teams. I mean, that's been the name of the game for the last two weeks is just compete, compete, compete and you saw that. I mean, I can go on and on to some of the catches our receivers made; some of the runs our running backs made; the solo tackle Damani Staley made on that fourth down, on and on and on. I mean it was it was awesome. And fun to see. We know what Florida's about as far as being able to run the football. I told you guys earlier in the week, they put 100+ more yards on Georgia last season than what Georgia had been given up on average. So this was a team that could run the football. We knew coming into it we had to stop the run if we got beat with Emery Jones throwing deep balls over our heads for big plays, so be it, but we weren't gonna let them beat us running the football. And what a job our defense to hold these guys to 82 yards rushing, it's phenomenal. And then for us to run the ball for 284. What a night. We controlled the line of scrimmage and that's where it started. And you know the thing is we could have been a lot better too. We kicked way too many field goals - credit Parker White for kicking four field goals, but you know, that's 28 points in the red zone that we didn't get because we didn't score a touchdown, so we got to do a better job of scoring in the red zone. We had some sloppy drives in the fourth quarter offensively, a couple three-and-outs when we had a chance to finish the game but what a drive right there at the end. I mean, to take the ball down the field and we didn't get points out of it. But I mean we lined up with Trey Jones at fullback and ran the same play I think three or four times in a row so you went old school north south football physical football there you go. Doesn't get any more old school and more physical than that then putting your offensive lineman at fullback and playing ball so we're gonna enjoy this one. You know by no means have we arrived, we're still a work in progress but we took a great step in the right direction tonight and we will continue to build on this. We got a big challenge next week going out to Missouri and then coming back home for two home games to finish out the season. But what a night. What a night for the South Carolina Gamecock Nation and Clayton White said it on the headphones late in the game. This is why we came to South Carolina this is why this is my dream job in the world and there's nowhere else I want to be that I want to be and this is why these coaches came here is for nights like this and we're gonna have a bunch of more nights like this going forward and certainly proud of our kids in the way they played tonight and so proud to be their coach and just love coaching them. You know when we play like we did at Texas A&M, when we come into the building on Sunday the day after, after getting back at four o'clock in the morning, they're eager to learn from their mistakes and then they go out on the practice field and they get right back to work to get better and tomorrow will be the same. Great night, we got to continue to progress and get better but we're gonna enjoy the heck out of this for sure."

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-4, 2-4) vs. FLORIDA (4-5, 2-5)

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Quote 1 - on did he expect the offensive line to dominate the way they did in the game tonight

"Yes, I mean, I know you guys think I'm crazy when I tell you that. I see how we practice and then sometimes it's frustrating the way we've played and we haven't played good enough but you know every single person made an individual commitment to win your one-on-one battles, be physical and then just compete... And credit Coach Satterfield and Coach Adkins and the rest of our offensive staff [for] putting together a great plan and then and putting together a scheme that gives our guys a chance to be successful. They played physical, and it was fun to watch them from that standpoint."

Quote 2 - on what it feels like standing on the sideline when the guys are making big plays

"Proud, happy you know. I've told you guys before and it may sound cheesy, but I love coaching these kids and I'm just so hungry for them to have success because they work so hard. And they work so hard to do everything right on and off the field and then to not be rewarded or to not play well out in Texas A&M or Tennessee or wherever, it stinks and you look inward for what you can do better as a coach to give these kids a better chance to be successful because they are giving you everything that we asked and they committed to that and it makes me very proud. And it was fun. You know, this stadium is rockin' on nights like this and I remember days and nights like this when I was here as an assistant coach previously with Coach Spurrier and what this place can be and it's a very proud moment, for sure. Just watching our guys compete and play with great energy and have fun."

Quote 3 - on how pleased he was with the defensive performance

"They controlled the line of scrimmage and we put pressure on the quarterback - I'm not sure how many sacks we have - but I mean we put pressure on him. To hold that quarterback to 26 yards net rushing it looks like and not allow them to get that running game going was key because that's a big physical offense line they have. They got talented tight ends and they got receivers with size, so those guys played great. And when we talk about competitive plays, it's the same thing. It's Zacch Pickens and Jabari Ellis winning their one-on-ones when they're against Florida's offensive line. It's Cam Smith and Darius Rush and Marcellas Dial and our DB's and our corners winning those one-on-ones against receivers and Jaylan Foster and RJ making one-on-one tackles. I thought we tackled well and created a huge turnover before the half so those guys flew around and played really really hard and had a lot of fun out there doing it."

Quote 4 - on Jason Brown's performance and if he will continue to be the starter

"Jason played his butt off. I mean, I'm gonna enjoy this. I'm going to go home tonight and relax and watch the game on my iPad and we'll evaluate after every game. But Jason was fantastic. First of all, Zeb was fantastic all week and on the headphones tonight helping Jason throughout the game and talking to Satt and communicating from the sidelines. So credit Zeb for the type of player and leader and young man he is, and Jason was awesome. You know, he protected the football, he showed his ability to run, got himself out of trouble a couple times and got out of the pocket... so it's a great testament to what he's about. And it's a great example for all the kids in our program, that he had every right to complain and be upset about not playing early in the season, but all he did was just come to work and prepared every week to be the starting quarterback and prepared every week for his opportunity."

Quote 5 - Coach Spurrier in attendance and getting to see him this week

"He was very complimentary of our football team on Thursday night. And talked about, you know, how hard our guys are playing and was very complimentary, so it was great to see him. I saw him on the field before the game, briefly talked to Jerry for a few minutes but didn't get to spend a lot of time with him tonight, but I did get to see him on Thursday. And I'm thankful for him and the opportunity he gave me at Carolina back in 2007 and all he taught me and for the great times that we had here together and I appreciate that for sure."

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>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

Parker White • PK • R-Sr.

On not being on the Lou Groza Award Watch List...

"Definitely a chip on my shoulder when that came out. But, like I'm going to show them that, I mean, you know, that I belong as one of the top guys in the country. And I'm going to prove that every week."

On how it felt tonight:

"It was a blast being out there. You know it was one of my favorite games ever I would say over the past five years."

On how the four kicks felt:

"I really just wanted to shout out to the whole offense, getting us down close to the red zone. I mean kickers never really gonna complain about four redzone field goals."

Josh Vann • WR • Sr.

On how they played today compared to A&M and Tennessee:

"We just had to find a rhythm. A win is a win no matter what. Tonight it was definitely fun. That's what a Gamecock does, a Gamecock fights. We fought and we'll keep fighting."

On their biggest goal as a team to get bowl eligible and critics who said it wasn't possible:

Coach Beamer preached 'we write our own story'. I don't pay attention to what anybody has to say. Because that's their job. So we write our own stories. Hopefully we can win the next three and celebrate this one tonight."

Jabari Ellis • DL • R-Sr.

On ... Walking into the end zone what did that feel like?

"Please don't get tackled, and when I got in the end zone my whole team rushed me."

Talk about the defense and what you guys were able to do?

"When we play complimentary football, we can beat anybody."

How much fun was tonight from a defensive standpoint?

"No one ever complained and everyone was playing team football."

You've seen a lot in your time here, what does a win like this mean to you?

"This feels really good, we needed to finish this game, and keep are foot on the ga and we did that."

Can you speak to the physicality that the defense played with?

"We had a tremendous off week which translated to this week and we were able to take away their gameplan early on."

One win away from a bowl, how does it motivate this team?

"Coach Beamer fights so hard for us and he's a players coach, this team clicked last week and we told him we were gonna give him everything we had."

Did you see this coming tonight?

"We always know we can do it, it's just a matter of playing complimentary football and it all comes down to belief."

What is it that you guys see day-to-day that makes nights like this possible?

“I live by a saying “keep chopping wood” and that rolled over to the defense tonight, and that’s why we had success.”

Jason Brown • QB • Sr.

What are you feeling right now and how do you feel going into these last three games of the year?

“It’s an amazing feeling I really can’t put it into words, but we have a lot of confidence heading into these last three games.”

What helped you going from being the 3rd string quarterback to being able to do what you did tonight?

“All the guys support no matter who is under center, and just knowing that they trust me boosted my confidence.”

Coach Beamer read your stats from St. Francis last night to the team, what was that like?

“It caught me off guard but the guys had a lot of confidence in me which helped me go out there and perform.”

Being your first start out there, what was the atmosphere like?

“It was definitely different but it’s the same game I’ve been playing since I was five years old and we were able to go out there and put together a solid performance tonight.”

What does a win like this mean for this program?

“We’ve talked about nights like this since the beginning of the year. We try not to pay attention to the outside noise and just try to focus on what we have to do and trust everybody in our building.”

What was different about tonight?

“We just executed better. We ran the same plays we have been for the last few weeks, just with better execution and technique.”

When did you find out you were gonna be the starter?

“Later in the week. With Luke and Zeb going down I knew it was my time to step up and help lead this team.”

When did you settle in and get comfortable in this game?

“When I hit Josh on the rollout pass, I said to myself “Alright, lets go do this” and from then on we just tried to execute are one on one battles and we were successful in doing that tonight.”

How do you move forward in your development with three games to go in the season?

“In our practices and meetings we just need to continue to focus on getting better, but I’m so proud of how these guys played tonight and this is something we can build off of moving forward.”

>>> FLORIDA HEAD COACH DAN MULLEN

On his team’s performance: “I know everybody's disappointed. I thought our guys had a great attitude all week and worked really hard. We have to improve as coaches and that helps the team get better”

On South Carolina’s performance: “I didn’t see it coming, and I’m obviously really disappointed. Carolina played really well and they made the plays that needed to be made”

On Florida’s run defense: “Somebody’s got to look at it, maybe schematically we have some things going on, but there’s missed tackles, we’ve got to be stouter up front. We’ve got to be better and more physical at the line of scrimmage and at the point of attack”

On stopping the losing streak: “We have to make sure we put the right guys in the right positions to make plays. It’s not one little thing, there are a lot of little things that have gone wrong. We’re not doing things that winning football teams do. We did them early in the season, but you can’t lose control of the line of scrimmage and turn the ball over and expect to win games.”