

SOUTH CAROLINA (2-2) vs. CHARLOTTE (1-4)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 • WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

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

Opening Statement

"First of all, definitely just want to thank our fans for another sell out, three straight to start the season two of which are non-conference games. That's awesome! That was an awesome environment and our guys were juiced up and excited to play and really appreciated it. Our fans are the best in the nation and they showed that again tonight as well. So we appreciate it and we need to do it again next week against South Carolina State for the last non-conference home game of the year. So we need to do it again. Proud of our football team. There's no question this hasn't been an easy week around here and coming off the disappointment of last Saturday and some of the other stuff from this week and just to play like we did, for the most part really, really proud of them. I told Marcus earlier this week I want to run the ball 40 times Saturday night, and it looks like we ran 40 exactly. Really proud of that offensive line. We just gave the offensive line the game ball and gave Marshawn Lloyd a game ball. The key to the game was going to be to dominate the line of scrimmage and the way they play their safeties, the running backs were going to have to make some one-on-one plays, make people miss and that was literally the key to the game that we told the offense on Tuesday - offensively run and dominate the line of scrimmage. Didn't like the way we started the football game on defense. We were very lethargic, didn't have a lot of energy. Disappointed a little bit in the competitive spirit but then they responded, we challenged them and the biggest thing I saw from that early on in the first half and they won like they were racking up a ton of yards. We just couldn't get off the field on third down and you know, disappointing to not be able to get off the field. We pride ourselves on getting off the field on third down and weren't able to do it. But they came back, Coach White always says those turnovers come in bunches once you get one and then we were able to do that tonight, so that was awesome to see. Really proud of the way our guys played in the third quarter. Second quarter, we get a stop finally on defense. They punted and then we went 95 yards and finished with a field goal, and then to come out in the in the third quarter and score three touchdowns was fantastic. Proud of our guys because we talked about when adversity hits we get stronger and that we were going to face some tonight. Didn't like the way we finished, put some of our backups in there in the fourth quarter and had a penalty, defensively gave up a touchdown pass over our heads on defense, two turnovers on offense. I just told the team in the locker room that there's a standard we play to here and it doesn't matter what the scoreboard says or who's in the game, you're expected to play a certain way. But good to see some young guys get in there and make some plays. It's time for us now to put another great week of practice together which is what we had this week, and then go try and get better as a football team this week. That's what we challenged our guys on this week. We just block out all the other stuff and just get better. And they did and we're going to need to do it again this week for South Carolina State."

On who talked to the defense heading into halftime...

"Halftime the offense breaks up, the coaches, the defense breaks up. I usually bounce around but was with the defense tonight, but I didn't need to say anything. I mean, the thing that I was going to say to them was exactly what Clayton [White] said to the staff. We're not changing any calls. We've just got to compete better because we didn't feel like our guys were competing like we wanted them to. So I didn't have to say anything really. Clayton was already handling it with his staff. I don't want to say forcefully but made it very clear what he expected in the second half from the defensive coaching staff and the players that they coach. We always tell our guys as coaches when you're coming off the edge on a pressure, to go to that upfield shoulder so he can spin out of it and we missed about two or three sacks it looked like in the first half not doing that. But that was really it, you know. I had a bunch of things I was going to talk about with the defense when I went in there but Clayton handled it and they responded."

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On the performance of the offense...

“Very proud. But you know, that’s for all of our guys and the way they work in practice. I hate to use the word kids but they’re 18, 19, 20 year old kids a lot of them and they work really, really hard during the week. It’s really important to them. As disappointed as people were last weekend, nobody was more upset and disappointed than our players. They came right back to work and committed to getting better this week. We really tried to make a point and be intentional about getting closer as a football team this week as well relationship wise and just getting back to having fun. I don’t know if our guys were pressing a lot and wanting it too bad the last couple of weeks but that’s all we talked about all week. It’s all we talked about at the hotel, is what we talked about before the game; was just relax and just go play like you work your butt off during the week. Saturday should be the fun part. And let’s play with great energy out there tonight. So I was proud to see our offense do that but just really proud of all of our guys to be able to enjoy winning. It’s not easy and we’re going to savor every win around here and learn from it, good and bad, and get ready to go again next week.”

On shifting the offense throughout the game...

“That was the plan just to play some of those guys and shuffle. Rotate some guys in there just to play our guys as well. Trying to continue to develop depth as well. So we decided early you know, I guess Jakai [Moore] started at left tackle and then Jaylen [Nichols]. We had plans made. He was going to come in probably the second series, if not sooner. Same thing with Trai Jones. He did some good things against Georgia and we wanted to get him some more work.”