

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER

Opening Statement

"I don't even know where to where to begin, but I've been saying it every week, don't think I'm crazy, we got a good football team and we showed it tonight. I get it, we played like crap last week, but one thing we talked about in our team meeting on Tuesday morning, when we started this week, is that good football teams have bad nights and bad stretches. I get it, Missouri wasn't pretty and the second half of the Vanderbilt game wasn't pretty, last week wasn't pretty.

Last year, the LA Rams ended up winning the Super Bowl, in mid-November they went on, like, a three-game losing streak and got the heck beat out of him by division rival and they came back and won the Super Bowl. In 2020, the (Tampa Bay) Bucs go in mid-November and get beat by the Saints, like, 38-3. All the talk on the outside is Brady can't win without Belichick and this, that and the other but they didn't listen to it, they just came back and they got better. We played some bad football the last couple weeks but this group is frickin' awesome. They just they come to work every single week and just get better. Certainly, it was clicking and I'm just so happy for the seniors. We had a team meeting last night and some of the seniors spoke. Eric Douglas talked about he had a dream this week. He said that we won the game, fans stormed the field and that's how he went out. Brad Johnson talked about he just has visions of the goalposts coming down after the game and things like that.

We talked on Tuesday morning too, no disrespect, that you guys (the media) don't get to write the story of this football team. Every single person in here, I think, thought they knew how this game was going to go, every person in here thought 'we've seen this story before, you know how Carolina is going to finish. This is a new Carolina, guys. You don't get to write the story. We write the story and that's what we talk to our team about on Tuesday morning. They write the story of how this thing's going to finish. Everybody thinks they've seen this, read this book, seen this movie. They know how the chapter ends. No, you don't, because I know what that team is about in that locker room and I'm so proud of them and so happy for them.

On what he saw from quarterback Spencer Rattler

"(I saw) The guy that he is, 30 for 37 for 438 yards and six touchdowns, oh my God. He was on, you know, talking about players in being in the zone. I mean, that guy was in the zone tonight, Satt (offensive coordinator Marcus Satterfield) was in the zone with the way he was calling stuff. I mean, our whole mindset going into this game was 'attack'. You weren't going to win this football game punting on fourth down and not being aggressive. The way that we coach the game offensively, the way we coach the game special teams, the calls that (defensive coordinator) Clayton (White) made, was not sitting back and being passive. We wanted to dictate today on how this game was going to go and Spencer did."

On preparing the team for an aggressive game plan

"I told the team last night, and no disrespect to any other program that Tennessee has played, but in Tennessee's game last week, their opponent punted five times on fourth and five or less. Again, I'm not questioning anybody, but I just told our team last night, I'm not punting five times tomorrow night on fourth and five or less, I'm just letting you guys know. We talked all week about just having each other's back. If we go for it or we fake a punt or whatever, we don't get it, defense you've got to have our back. Offense, you got to keep your butt on the field, we can't allow our defense to be out there all night. You got to have their back... we wanted to be aggressive, without a doubt, and the word we've used all week is just attack. Every single day this is what we talked to our players about. Attack, attack, attack. They're a phenomenal football team that's hard to stop and with our depth issues on defense, we didn't need to be out there, more than 80 plays and looks like they played 78. Our thought process was, we got to be aggressive but stay on the field also."

On the postgame celebration with the fans storming the field

"Yeah, it's amazing. We're just so happy for our fans that were there tonight. My youngest daughter, Olivia, she told me today that all she wanted was to storm on the field and don't think I forgot that, Olivia. She told me that would suffice as her Christmas present as well, so sweetie, we got you one. You know, we were just talking in the locker room, that was a lot of years of our fan base waiting to get to do that. I told Kirk Herbstreit and Chris Fowler yesterday in our production meeting, last time I was in this stadium and they were in the stadium and we were all here at the same time, it's 2010 when we beat Alabama and they were number one in the country. It was pretty cool to be a part of it that day and it was really, really, really, special to be a part of it tonight. As we continue to build this program and continue to add great players and people to this program, we're going to have a lot of nights like that in Columbia."