

SOUTH CAROLINA (2-2, 1-1) vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (2-2, 0-2)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> MISSISSIPPI STATE HEAD COACH ZACH ARNETT

On ... What made them so tough to defend defensively?

“They got good players. We got a little bit banged up on defense. We got some guys playing in positions that maybe we didn’t anticipate, but there are no excuses. They got good players. They got a really good quarterback. He was really accurate tonight, and we didn’t do enough to get off the field or disrupt them enough. They made the plays they needed to... We knew we were going to give up some yards and maybe play a little more conservative to protect against some of the deep ones from their really good receiver core, and obviously, we gave up a few deep ones, so I had to play a little bit more bend but don’t break and unfortunately, it didn’t quite work out.”

On ... Coming off LSU game and falling behind. What do you think of the way, in this environment, your team responded to that, and do you feel like you’ve learned something from that, watching them respond that way?

“I’m really proud of the competitive spirit and fight we showed. They very easily could have put their heads down and quit and it wouldn’t have been much of a football game. Someone goes out and makes a play and creates some momentum. I think we hit Tulu over the top for a long touchdown pass and then it gets momentum. Defense goes out and gets a stop, gets the ball back to the offense, they go down and score again. Someone’s got to make a play to flip momentum.”

On ... Long conversation with the ref on the interception in the red zone and what the ref’s explanation was

“They said it was reviewed up in the booth and it was confirmed, and I called my timeout. When it got whistled dead, I said I should get my timeout back, that’s the way it works, and they said no because I didn’t openly challenge it. I told them, because I just asked them that, ‘hey you’re sure you confirmed and saw it that way?’ So, they said I don’t get my timeout back for that.”

On ... Lideatrick Griffin and how Kevin has used him this season

“I would assume a guy who’s the first team All-American kick returner, who takes all of them back in a bunch of different ways as a kick returner, probably can hit the same seams right on offense. We played a lot of strengths; we find the way to get the ball in our most explosive guy’s hands. He’s one of the most explosive guys so we try to get him a bunch of different ways.”

>>> MISSISSIPPI STATE PLAYER QUOTES

Lideatrick Griffin • WR • SR

On ... South Carolina’s secondary and what you noticed that allowed you to break from those coverages and get open for big plays?

“The one that was over me, he was always playing outside leverage, so I had to make it seem like I wanted to go behind him, but I really wasn’t, so that’s when I was just beating him over the top.”

On ... loss to LSU and how Will Rogers processed it and flushes it to move on?

“He probably been dealing with this since he’s been here. So, he just blocks out the noise and just play the next play.”

Will Rogers • QB • SR

On ... Connection between him and Tulu and what you saw from that South Carolina defense to give you confidence to throw the ball to him.

“Just a couple of play action shots we had in the game plan this week we feel like we could hit. Both of those plays were kind of in our offense, we just felt really confident with some of the play-action stuff.”

On ... What's changed mentally between last week and this week? Not afraid to go deep and really attack them in a lot of different ways.

“It just started this week in practice. You find out a lot about a person when things don't go right. I kind of made it a point this week to practice as hard as I've ever practiced. Need to keep working, need to keep getting better.”