

SOUTH CAROLINA (2-2, 1-1) vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (2-2, 0-2)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

SPENCER RATTLER • QB • Redshirt Senior

On game play calling standpoint and offensive streaks

“Today was very balanced. Very efficient in the past game, aggressive in the one game. You know, credit to the O line. They game me time. I caused a few sacks just trying to get in the hole and run. But they did a great job for most of the night. When we run the ball, it’s easier to throw the ball and just know the offense Dowell has, just run and gun...spread it out. Kinda let me be a point guard out there or something.”

On nick more comfortable being QB and building chemistry

“They’re doing a great job and the guys behind him as well. We trust all them boys. They’ve been doing good in practice and roll with the best five each week. So I trust them 100%.”

XAVIER LEGETTE • WR • Fifth Year

On the comparison of Shawn’s game vs Xavier’s

“Obviously it is motivation for me because he was a great player and I watched him growing up. Who would say I tried to play like him a little bit how he high pointed the ball.”

On 75 yard td catches

“Well on the first one, I just seen straight green grass. The second one, he put it in a great spot. I just had to outrun the DB. I got on top of it.”

MARIO ANDERSON • RB • Redshirt Senior

On the touchdown

“I just saw the O line blocking, really. Just being able to run my feet, finish the drive, and finish the play. I’m blessed to play with these guys. The O line fight really hard and I believe that’s when Judge got the turnover so it was like we had to go ahead and punch it in. I’m just blessed to be able to be in a position to do that.”

On confidence and carrying workload from the team

“Like I said, I’m blessed to be able to be in a position to have my teammates trust me and I trust myself to be able to go out there and trust my training. As Coach Mo always said. Go out there and trust your training and everything and just being able to perform when the opportunity comes. So, being able to see my teammates and talk to the guys and they trust me, means a lot.”

On proving he can do this at the SEC level and how to succeed

“It means a lot! I still have a lot of work to do. I still have a lot of things to clean up. We’re getting to halfway of the season. There’s a lot of things to clean up, a lot of things to work on and stuff. So, I’m happy to go out there and get my feet wet and just be able to show that, when I get the opportunity, I can seize every opportunity possible.”

Alex Huntley • DT • Redshirt Junior

On the difference in the second half performance after Coach challenged the defense.

“We took it on ourselves. We have been preaching how much we can affect the game all week and so we just had to take it into our hands and do as much as we could to help the team and see what would happen.”

On the defensive lines performance and how they got better as the game went on.

“I feel like the whole D-line feeds off each other. I think the whole D-line from end, to tackle, to tackle, to end, to the guys who filter, I think everybody had a great game and so we’re all just feeding off each other...and just keep building off what we’re doing.”

On the D-line deflecting passes

“We saw some of that in film and breaking down the fact we were going to have a lot of opportunities to bat the ball. That’s something we always preach. If we aren’t able to get to the quarterback, just affect the passer”

On needing to create more disruptive plays

“As a defensive player that is what you live for, having big plays and doing whatever you can for the team. It goes back to stopping the run...once you do that you are able to open up and fly around a little more.

Jordan Strachan • Edge • Grad Student

On the fumble recovery

“I remember getting a great get-off coming around the edge. I was beating the tackle and I still saw the QB had the ball in his hands and I thought “I’m going to go get that”. As he was about to throw it, I put my hand out and reached and the ball came out. I knew it was out because I hit it.”

On turnovers in big moments and sparking the offense.

“We preach that a lot. As a defense getting the ball back to the offense, especially with the quarterback and the guys we got on the offensive side of the ball, that’s all we want to do all game. We want to get them the ball so they can put up points. If we are able to go out there and cause turnovers and take the ball from them, that’s great.”

On growth after the first game in terms of affecting the quarterback and as a defensive line.

“to start getting to the quarterback, we have to stop the run first. When we are doing that, the offense is scoring, and the defense is stopping the run, we are going to put the team in the position to get after the quarterback. Stop the run first and go have some fun.”

On what made the unit so successful in stopping the run.

“We played with great effort last week, but we weren’t as detailed. Coming into this week we were very detailed in practice. Little stuff that everyone doesn’t see. Coming out with great details and being intentional with alignments.