

# **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 NOTES**

- Attendance at Williams-Brice Stadium was a sellout, 78,311
- South Carolina's captains for the game were Nick Gargiulo, Alex Huntley, Spencer Rattler, DQ Smith.
- Carolina now leads the all-time series 10-7.
- South Carolina is now 631-608-44 all-time.
- Shane Beamer is now 17-13 as a head coach at South Carolina.
- South Carolina won the toss and deferred to the second half. Mississippi State received the opening kickoff.
- O'Mega Blake and T.J. Sanders made their first career starts
- Jatius Geer made his first appearance of the season.

## **>>> SOUTH CAROLINA OFFENSE NOTES**

- As a team, Carolina rushed for a season-high 144 yards on 41 carries.
- The 432 yards of total offense are the most against an FBS opponent this season.
- The 98-yard scoring drive to open the game for Carolina was the longest under coach Shane Beamer.
- The Gamecocks topped that with a 16-play, 99-yard scoring drive on their second possession.
- The 16 plays are the most on a drive under Beamer.
- The 76-yard touchdown pass from Spencer Rattler to Xavier Legette on the opening drive in the first quarter was the longest of either players career.
- It's tied for the 29th longest passing play in program history.
- It's the longest since an 82-yard TD from Luke Doty to Jaheim Bell against on Oct. 16, 2021.
- It's the first time this season the Gamecocks have scored on their first two drives since Nov. 19 2022, against Tennessee.
- Dakereon Joyner rushed for a touchdown in the 2nd quarter. He has now scored a rushing touchdown in each game this season.
- The Gamecocks scored on the first play of the second half with a 75-yard touchdown pass from Rattler to Legette.
- It's the first time the Gamecocks have scored on the opening play of a half since Legette returned a 100-yard kickoff to start the game against Texas A&M last season (Oct. 22, 2022).
- It's the first non-kickoff touchdown on the first play of a half since a 75-yard touchdown from Ryan Hilinski to Shi Smith to begin the game against Tennessee on Oct. 26, 2019.
- It's the first touchdown on the first play to start the second half for Carolina since Hilinski to Bryan Edwards against Missouri on Sept. 21, 2019.
- Rattler finished with 288 yards on 18-of-20 passing and three touchdowns.
- He completed his first 17 passes.
- In the second quarter, Rattler ran for a 25-yard gain, tying a career-long.
- Legette finished with 189 yards on five catches. It's his third 100-yard receiving game of the season.
- He set a new program record with 37.8 yards for catch (min. 4 receptions.), eclipsing a mark of 37.0 set by Alshon Jeffery against Nebraska (1/2/2012).
- Legette also caught two touchdown passes for the second time in his career.
- Trey Knox caught a season-high four passes for 53 yards.
- He also scored his first touchdown of the season in the 2nd quarter.
- Mario Anderson rushed for a season-high 88 yards on 26 carries, both of which were season highs.
- He scored his first touchdown as a Gamecock in the 4th quarter.

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## **>>> SOUTH CAROLINA DEFENSE NOTES**

- The team allowed a season-low 22 rushing yards.
- Carolina recorded a season-high nine tackles for loss and a season-high four sacks.
- The team combined for a season-high eight pass breakups.
- The Gamecocks forced the Bulldogs to punt on their first two possessions of the game. That's the first time the Gamecocks have done so this season.
- David Spaulding made his first interception of the season and fourth of his career in the 2nd quarter.
- Stone Blanton forced the first fumble of his career in the 3rd quarter.
- It was the first forced fumble by the Gamecocks this season.
- Jordan Strachan forced his first fumble in the fourth quarter.
- Judge Collier recovered the fumble, the first of his career.

## **>>> SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES**

- Mitch Jeter connected on a 35-yard field goal in the 4th quarter, his longest of the season.
- Eddie Lewis returned a punt for a season-best 22 yards.