

SOUTH CAROLINA (4-6, 2-5) vs. VANDERBILT (2-9, 0-7)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> VANDERBILT HEAD COACH CLARK LEA

On what the next couple of weeks are going to be like...

"We got to look at the foundational elements of our team. These guys have gone through a tough season, and in so many ways I admire the way that they've stayed in that fight and the energy that they brought every day. I think there's a lot there that right now you can disconnect with because we're just in pain and I told the team 'Listen, I don't care if it's one point of 40 points, we play a certain way. I think the next couple of weeks give us a chance to confront that, it gives us a chance to be honest about it, to point it out on film where we see that it didn't show up for us today and then turn the page from this one and focus on how we finished the season the right way.'"

On biggest thing that needs to change to avoid another finish to the game like this one...

"I would just go back to when you have sequences of block punt, turnover, turnover. You're just setting yourself up for a tough finish and they're short fields there. We get them to third down, they throw the one on one and got behind us. We get them to third down and the quarterback runs the ball through a tackle. Those are execution points. For as much as I'd like to see us finish possessions in the endzone with an extra point kick or a punt, when you turn it over on the plus side of the field you put yourself in a tough position."

On whether the weather affected how the game was called...

"I think it affected some elements of being able to throw the ball or being able to get the snap exchanges. There's a through process to kick a field goal and that first possession in the second half, where we had the ball and playing to win the game, we needed to try to come away with seven points, but also haven't seen them have trouble with the extra point snap. The block punt was a bad snap. Those things factor in, but the circumstances of whether we have to play to a standard beyond that."

On struggles of both quarterback was there any thought of going back to AJ?...

"I don't know that that was going to be the thought today...He was available to play. I think we have to look at it moving forward and into our final game and say what gives us the best chance? The quarterback position gets the most scrutiny when you're turning the ball over at that position, you're keeping the team from the performance they need to win. I did not feel like Ken was forcing things. I thought he was making good decisions. At times we are not creating the space that we need on the perimeter with the way that the routes are run or how we're attacking coverages...The one thing Walt gives us is an element of quarterback run which can lighten the box."

>>> VANDERBILT PLAYER QUOTES

Ken Seals • QB • SR

On what the primary culprit behind the offensive struggles today?...

"We were battling some conditions early, so I think just trying to get out feet down, establish some rhythm, which we weren't able to do. I think we struggle whenever we don't get some rhythm initially. Just finding a way to get the chains moving and executing the redzone to keep a drive alive."

On why you think you didn't get into rhythm early and what needs to change to fix that...

"We just got to keep doing our job. It's got to be 11 out of 11. Just making sure that each play I'm making the right points, making the right reads, putting the ball where it needs to be especially in that first half. There's more I can do out there."

Tyson Russell • CB • JR

On the interception...

"I was just reading off the quarterback, just playing off him and played the ball and made a play."

On what are the biggest keys to avoid something like the second half for when you play Tennessee?...

"Just doing our jobs consistently. As a defense, just being further defense. I think we can just do better doing our jobs consistent."