

# **SOUTH CAROLINA (5-6, 3-5) vs. KENTUCKY (6-5, 3-5)**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.**

## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

### **>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER**

#### *On the message to defense this month...*

"Just stay the course. I mean, we did not play good defense in the month of October and September, too, in a lot of ways – gave up too many explosive plays and a lot of missed tackles and just didn't do a great job. The message was the defense and really the whole team was just continue to get better and continue to do your job better and take ownership better. We've got good players; let's figure out how to get our best players on the field and let them make plays."

#### *On both your quarterbacks running more tonight...*

"We knew we needed to be creative offensively with only having two scholarship running back tonight. And, Mario (Anderson) is beat up and was going into this week. He's tough as heck, but knew we couldn't rely on him every time. We've got confidence in Djay (Braswell), but Djay is a true freshman that hasn't played a ton. It's tough to put him in that position tonight. So, we knew we needed to be creative. I mean, I knew at the end of last week's game that we were going to probably need that LaNorris (Sellers) package down the stretch after Juju (McDowell) got hurt."

"But, we needed to get creative tonight, so we used Xavier Legette some at running back; we had Josh Simon in the backfield some we use LaNorris at quarterback. Really it's just trying to get our best players on the field and give Kentucky something to prepare for."

#### *On where game ranks for him in terms of crowd energy...*

"They were awesome from the from the pregame. Gamecock Walk was amazing. The electricity in pregame warm ups was awesome. It was right at the top. I mean there was a time there in the first quarter where I remember thinking to myself, 'This is the loudest I've heard this stadium since I've been the head football coach here.' And, it was hard to hear on the headphones tonight. Like, normally you're the home team and you can hear well and all that. It was harder to hear on our headphones tonight as coaches because of the crowd noise. I'm not telling them to be quiet; keep being loud, we'll be fine. But louder than any venue I've been on the road since I've been the head coach. We never haven't had that issue here on the headphones, but we did tonight. So we're gonna need our crowd to do that next week as well."

#### *On the final scoring drive, key plays...*

"Two things stand out there on that final drive. We had a dumb penalty that we didn't need that backed us up when we were down there getting ready to score where we didn't have to make that block. And then before that was just a little dig route that we had to Legette. We just we kept saying we just need one big play to like kickstart a drive and get us going, and that play was huge. I think that's the third down you're referring to, if I'm not mistaken the crossing route, to [Xavier], and that was huge just to get us going a little bit. There were a couple runs in there in the fourth quarter that I thought Mario (Anderson) almost popped. But, at the end of the day we hit a big play – Spencer (Rattler) to [Xavier] – and then we got down the field and hit another big play. We almost called timeout right there because the play clock was running down and we were worried about being able to get it off and be aligned the right way. Thank God I didn't; so, the football gods were smiling on us tonight."

#### *On Nick Emmanwori's play...*

"He's been awesome like he is flying around. He's playing like the Freshman All-American that he was last season and really proud of him. That whole secondary, everybody wanted to beat those guys up and we gave up some big plays don't get me wrong and deserved it. But, these guys are playing their butts off right now."