

SOUTH CAROLINA (3-6) vs. JACKSONVILLE STATE (7-3)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> JACKSONVILLE STATE HEAD COACH RICH RODRIGUEZ

On would you take the chance to win at the end of the year vs South Carolina?

"Absolutely. This is playing an SEC team on the road, a really talented one. They got good coaches and good players. It's the first year for us being Division I. We know why we are here. We want to win, and the guys played hard enough to do it, I just got to help them a little bit and clean up some stuff."

On the interception being a bad play call...

"I would have ran it, did something differently. There's a new look and they got pressure on us, but then we just didn't see the guy... We were running the ball good and then the plan was to try to win it right at the end. Calling a run play would have been smarter on my part."

On what allowed you to run the ball so well...

"We are a tempo team. There are other teams that are tempo, but that's how we live and how we go about our business. We are still learning on some parts of it, but if you haven't seen it a lot and haven't gone against it a lot, its different. That's who we are. We are going to do that today, tomorrow, next week, and 10 years from now."

On what does today's performance mean for building the program?...

"It may take me a few days to look big picture wise, other than the standpoint is our guys, thankfully, are believing... Our mantra of having a hard edge and just playing hard every snap, and that's the culture of our program. Sometimes you get a game or two where you don't have that, well that's not acceptable for us. In this game there were moments maybe we didn't play well, didn't coach well, but I don't know any moments when we didn't play hard."

>>> JACKSONVILLE STATE PLAYER QUOTES

Perry Carter • WR • R-Sr

On can you take any satisfaction from how well you all played and how close it was right there to the end?...

"Oh yeah. Of course you want to win. We definitely should have won a close game. It felt like we had it, but I'm proud of the team. Defense stepped up to do what they needed to do and offense we did our thing. We left a lot on the table, but even though we lost, it's on us. There's nothing that they did that beat us, we beat ourselves. We definitely had a good game and I feel like we earned our respect today."

On having over 100 receiving yards today...

"That's all on Zion for trusting me. He threw a great ball. I told him to put it in front of me, he did. All in the QB's and the O Line held up today. We came in, everybody thought they were going to do bad because they were undersized, but they did their thing up front."

Chris Hardie • DL • R-Jr

On the size of South Carolina and tackles for losses...

"This week we focused on running to the ball, pursuit, everything as far as D Line tangibles. We knew coming into this game, we could outwork them and make hustle plays. Not so many plays like big on big, but we outworked them."

On what it was like going against Spencer Rattler?...

"Everything I wanted it to be. I sacked him twice, so I was really happy about that. He's a baller."