

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

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

### **>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES**

Nick Emmanwori • DB • So.

*On his overall performance as well as the defensive unit as a whole...*

"As a defense we've been focusing on just staying focused and locking in. Coach Gray has been preaching to us to clean up our room as a defensive back group and keep pushing forward and I feel like we were able to do that tonight."

*On his interception and getting the defense back on track...*

"The pick felt really good. These past couple of weeks I've been getting on the jugs machines at practice and before we travel on Thursdays or Fridays so it was just good to see that hard work pay off."

Tonka Hemingway • DT • Sr.

*On recovering the forced fumble...*

"I just saw Jordan come around the corner and saw the ball pop up. I was able to make a play on the ball and tried to return it but unfortunately got tackled before I could run it back."

*On the defensive being able to make plays late the couple of games...*

"We know we got off to a rocky start but as a team we've really locked in these past couple of weeks. I feel like we've been more focused and we've taken that playoff mentality into these past couple of games. It's either win or stay home so that's been our mindset moving forward."

Spencer Rattler • QB • R-Sr.

*On the message throughout the game in order to give themselves a chance at the end...*

"We knew it was going to be a four-quarter battle. Obviously, we didn't have the complete game showing we wanted offensively tonight. Credit to Kentucky, we came out quick on them but they have a really good front. Number zero is one of the best defensive tackles I've seen. They created a lot of havoc for us in the run and pass game. The second and third quarter we were definitely out of rhythm but our defense played amazing. We stayed positive throughout the whole game and we knew we'd get a chance to go down and win it at the end."

*On tonight's atmosphere and how important of a role it was...*

"The atmosphere was great. The fans gave us a big edge in this game and it was loud the whole time."

*On the overall play of the defense in tonight's victory...*

"Credit to our guys and credit to Coach White. We compete every single day in practice and we have complete trust in them. They showed up big time tonight and were able to close it out for us."

Xavier Leggette • WR • Fifth Year

*On getting a game ball...*

"It feels really good but I'm just happy for the team, happy that we were able to get the win."

*On the game-winning touchdown catch...*

"I knew Spencer was going to find me. I saw how the defensive back was playing off the line and I knew if I could shift him a certain way I was gonna have a chance to be open".

