

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

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

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

TONKA HEMINGWAY • DL • SR.

On making an impact on both sides of the ball...

"Well, you know, I just grew up doing I just want to have the team as much as I possibly can. So when it happened, I was just trying to score for the team. I'm on the defense so they just called me over there and I just do whatever [Beamer] tells me to do.

On helping the defense come up with key plays...

"It was great for me to help my team and for Xavier to score. When I got that turnover, it kind of sparked things and kept it going. We were playing a good team you know, we didn't diehard opponent you know they are 7-2 coming into this so you want to spend every point that they know they know how to win so you just wanted to spend them you know, we can always better start but I feel like our start was good."

Hemingway on how the win will impact the future...

"We feel really good. We are going to practice hard. These past couple practices we haven't practice like a 2-6 team. We still have a chip on our shoulder. We shouldn't be 2-6."

DEBO WILLIAMS • LB • JR.

On improvement and momentum of the defense....

"There's always room to improve. We have to be better on the run and on the ball. We have to win at the end of the day, but we do have to be better ... We always talked about momentum comes in bunches. We haven't had any in a couple of games, so getting that first one with Tonka, it started to come in bunches after that."

On his perspective how to do better and finishing plays...

"To be honest, we didn't play good defense. We have to be better. They had 500 yards, total offense, so we have to be a lot better. It's not good enough. We executed some plays and we did get turnovers, so that's good, but we have to keep improving. And in myself up and I can always be better. I think I missed a couple of tackles, so they'll tackle no matter if I'm still missing tackles. They could have popped out for a touchdown, so I have to be better in that aspect."

STONE BLANTON • LB • SO.

What was going through your head as you went to the end zone after that interception?

"Yeah, that was pretty special. You know we kind of studied up on that play a lot during the week, and we had seen it before. I was kind of looking over there, so I knew we had to get the wheel route through it. But I caught it and just kind of took off and it's kind of a surreal moment. I saw Debo at the end and just started kind of celebrating."

How important are the moments that create turnovers for the outcomes you had like today?

"Yeah, it's huge for our team to have that momentum swing, it's a big momentum swing in the game and they can, you know, change the outcome. So we needed something big and you know, we were able to get it on the field when we needed to"

What does it mean to get a win today to start this month off right?

"It was huge. I think it gives us a lot of confidence going into the next game and other people say November to remember, it's just one game at a time that we got to get better every single day. Come on, come in and work, and the outcome will be the outcome"

XAVIER LEGETTE • WR • SR.

What changed with all of your energy in the second half?

“I think we just made some big plays and a more consistently run game, and just really put it all together. I feel like we still didn't do everything great, but we found a way in that second half. We wanted to win the fourth quarter of this game and we focussed and we did.”

After dealing with injuries, what did it mean to you to have a game like this?

“Man, I had to make up for the last two games. I felt like I didn't play my best ball. Today, I felt like I was 100%.”

What does it mean to you when Spencer can come up to you and come back to you after a bad moment/play?

“You know, like you said he (Spencer) was a smart player. He knows what to do. Whenever guys needed to get picked up, as a leader you want to go there and pick them up but you know him you don't have to say much and he's gonna show back up and make a good play.”

SPENCER RATTLER • QB • SR.

How much are you guys able to celebrate this moment and celebrate the win?

“Yeah, you know, it's hard to win. No matter what team you're playing. You know, that's a good football team. We just played a lot of athletes on both sides of the ball, you know they call it, some having to do a lot of stuff on defense. But you know, we found a way to score 38 points, found a way you know, hadn't had really good numbers, you know, as a total offense, and you know, protecting the ball you know, one turnover but you know, we can clean that up. Overall I feel like found a way I'm happy with the win.”

What was it like seeing your defense perform with the pick 6 and everything today?

“No, it's awesome. It's complimentary ball. You know, I talked before about defense, I think they had four takeaways today. It makes our job on offense a lot easier. You know, now we need to be better when they get us a takeaway, and going down and scoring. You know, make the game not as close, but they did a great job today”

What does 10,000 career passing yards mean to you?

“It means a lot. You know, somebody led me, I think one of the announcers told me ‘Hey, you need like 260 to 10,000 passing yards’ before the game and you know, it's kind of like oh my God, don't tell me that man. But yeah, I'm proud of myself but you know, proud of the team for obviously helping me. It's not just me, you know, again, made so many big plays, went for 217, that helped a lot and the whole line blocked them butts off today. I don't need to throw the ball and you know, they made big plays and a lot of explosive ones so it makes it easy.”

How do you break out of a mindset to avoid dropping these kinds of games?

“You know, it seems like these games are your favorite and it's always a dogfight. You know, it's never an easy win, no matter who you play. I mean, we've seen that over the past few years. And just like I said, we found a way, made enough plays to win the game. Defense did a great job getting the ball back, and like you said, we made those plays at the time we needed them and, you know, happy with the way it turned out”