

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

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

## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

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

#### ***On the need for turnovers and the excitement on the turnovers...***

"We needed them today, that was huge. The one before halftime at midfield led to points and momentum going into halftime...A lot of what they do...we knew there were going to be opportunities...If you win the turnover battle, you're probably going to win."

#### ***On making the game fun despite having faced adversity..***

"We are going to enjoy and celebrate it because these guys work too hard. When we are successful, because of how hard they work during the week, we are going to celebrate it. With the fun that our guys have on the practice field, you would not think this is a 2-6 team. For them to get the opportunity to be successful on a Saturday, as a coach, that is what I am most happy about."

#### ***On Xavier Legette returning to full strength...***

"What a performance. It goes back to the playmakers and our best players have to step up. He will be the first to tell you, he was not at his best when he played. He came back this week and looked like the player we all know."

#### ***On Stone's interception...***

"I thought he made a really instinctive play. He is always in the building, even when he does not have to be in there. We made him a captain today for that reason and the way he has been playing...Thankfully he was in the right place, and he made a really instinctive play."

#### ***On finishing the plays on the defensive side of the ball...***

"We were in position to make plays on a couple of those deep balls. They made them, we did not. I thought we did a decent job knocking the ball out like we did and finishing in that way. We played a lot of man coverage today and they hit some passes in man coverage. Certainly, our guys made some plays, but we need to continue to make more of them."

#### ***On practicing like it is the Super Bowl and how that reflected on the result...***

"We always emphasize takeaways in practice. We got the takeaways. The energy we have in practice is created by the competition that we produce in practice in the situations we put them in. A lot of guys made great individual plays which goes back to competition."

#### ***On what was said during halftime after a lack of energy during the first half?...***

"We had to be the hardest playing team out there. We needed to make sure we did not allow an edge for them. Outside of Mario's 40-yard run, we had nine yards rushing. Challenging the offensive line, we had to move the ball better. Quit waiting for someone to make a play. You are the one who does make the play. DQ Smith had the most energy in the first half and he was suspended."

#### ***On what the win, given the adversity, will help the team move forward.***

"I will be the first to admit, when you are 2-6, it is draining. Mentally and physically. You put a lot into it Saturday-Saturday. You have to pick yourself up and put yourself back in the fight...When you are able to get back on the winning track...it gets that momentum going. You need to get the first win before you get more after that. We are going to enjoy this one and relax. There were some great smiles and dance moves in the locker room. They deserve it, they are great young men. They are resilient and they are exactly the guys you want in a locker room."