

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-7) vs. CLEMSON (8-4)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

NICK EMMANWORI • DB • SO.

On what the senior group meant...

"The senior group meant a lot to the younger guys, we got a heck of a lot of leaders like Debo (Williams), Boogie, Spence (Rattler), Xavier Legette and Dakreon Joyner. It's a great group of guys, man. And they always have positive mindsets and I'm going to miss that group for sure. Those guys are the best."

On the motivation going into the offseason...

"I think the margin of loss was so small in games and coach (Torrian) Grary tells us games are won in the back end. At the Florida game I gave up that one touchdown and it was kind of tough mentally and stuff but my defensive guys, they stuck with me. Through that my mindset just changed, like go out there and ball. Just put the ball down. Stand up and make plays and pour everything out on the field. Don't leave any regrets on the field. That's kind of been my mindset and I'll be the same mindset going on next season."

DEBO WILLIAMS • LB • RJR

On the seniors' messages to the younger players...

"It was basically just talking about how everything goes fast. Cherish the moments, when you come back next season, don't take anything for granted."

On the journey to get to where the defensive line has come...

"It's just been coming to work every single day regardless if we had just lost or just had a win. Come in every single day like we're trying to win a championship every single week. So we' just came to work, and then we switched up some things personell wise which is a great thing a D.C. should do. We just followed behind our leader which was coach Beamer and then coach (Clayton) White. So it starts with them and we've been able to follow after them."

SPENCER RATTLER • QB • SR.

On if there was anything unexpected from Clemson's defense...

"That's a really deep defense. They did a lot, got pressure and every single play pretty much and they did a good job. Credit to them; they had a great scheme, obviously great players really good up front, the linebackers, the DBs. They caused a lot of problems for us. I'm just sad we couldn't play at a higher level. I put most of that on myself. Obviously I've got to do a better job throughout the game trying to make stuff happen. As a group, it was just tough for us to get things going. We had some momentum towards the end but just were really bad on third down. To score one touchdown and for them not to score one and we still lose, it's like crazy. But, we just played a really bad game."

On the emotion of Senior Day and what South Carolina has meant to him...

"This place meant everything to me. Coming here, being here two years and just enjoying every moment – the adversity, the success. I wanted to be a part of change in this program, and I feel like I put 110% effort into it every day, coming to the facility, leading like I like I know how, becoming a better person with Coach [Shane] Beamer and Coach Dowell [Loggains]. All these people are just top tier people, and I love them. I love this team. Sad couldn't get a better record this year, but we could have easily not won five games just throwing the towel in. I just love these dudes."

On how much pressure he felt throughout the night...

"Like I said, really good defense, one of the best in the country. We knew it was going to be a four-quarter game. We knew it wasn't going to be easy. They did a lot of good things, good pressures. We were pressured on a lot of plays, and it's tough. They bring in a lot of different stunts and pressures and coverages and, it's tough to find a rhythm when they're doing that and playing at such a high level. We were shooting ourselves in the foot a lot of the time and just couldn't convert on third down. It was rough, but we didn't quit and that's been the story of the year – never throw the towel in until the last second."