

SOUTH CAROLINA (1-0) vs. OLD DOMINION (0-1)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

LaNorris Sellers • QB • R-FR

On the run-heavy game plan

“Our game design was to go out and run the ball. Tonight, it was a three-man front and three safeties. It was a light box, and we took what we were given. We decided to run the ball. It will be dependent on the game plan week to week.”

On what he learned from his first start and where can he improve

“It is not as easy as you might think. I need to prepare and make sure it's the right way. I need to be more patient, be myself, and be more confident.”

On today not being perfect and possible frustration

“I try not to show it. I still need to lead the team. I needed to go to the next drive no matter what happened. I know I fumbled, but I still have to go to the next drive and keep pushing through. You can't let it get to you.”

On his passing performance

“I missed a couple of guys I will say. Need to keep practicing, keep getting better. Build more chemistry with those guys and come back next week better.”

On chemistry with receivers

“I think it is good. I know we are missing stuff. It is the first game and there is still time to learn. We will just keep getting better and keep working.

Raheim “Rocket” Sanders • RB • SR

On returning from injury and the early touchdown.

“I was not thinking that the first play was going to be a touchdown, which was crazy. Definitely blessed and I was not expecting that at all.”

On the run game and the blocking

“The blocking was good. I hold myself to a high standard. It was my first game back and I feel I left a lot out. I was fighting for yards. I feel like I missed a couple of holes. I still feel like I was a little rusty out here.”

On the defensive performance

“Shout out to them. They were on. They bring energy. Not only on game day but in practice and I feel that comes a long way.”

On the atmosphere

“It is different here. It is my first time being here. The atmosphere was crazy. I have only seen it in videos. I was like “it is my first game back and I’m ready to show them what I got.””

Dylan Stewart • EDGE • FR

On Second Strip Sack

“This quarterback is going to run...once the pocket collapsed, he’s going to step up. So soon as he stepped up, I’ve been trying to push the ball, and I saw that opportunity.”

On the First sack

Quote “That does a lot, getting the coaches trust. When I got back there it didn’t even feel real, like I had to snap back and grab him.”

Debo Williams • LB • RSR

On creating pressure right away

“Just put the ball down... don’t let them get in the yard. Stopping them is what we’re here to do.”

On Overall perspective

“I want to say better... I don’t want them to score any points at all...I don’t want any field goals, touchdowns, anything under that. So, we’ll continue to get better and we’re going to keep improving.”

On Last two possessions

Quote “When we were down 19-16, we came in huddles as a defense and just like we’ve been here before, it’s time to execute. This game is on us, let’s not depend on nobody else but as a defense, don’t let them in, we gotta stop it...score if we can.”

On Four turnovers

Quote “14 points, let’s get it to 28. Every single time we get a turnover let’s score off of it, that’s what we want. So that’s incredible, let’s continue to do that.”

Kyle Kennard • Edge • Fifth-year

On Change to defense when trailing third quarter and amping up aggression

“We decided we just had to play as a team, execute every play, whatever play coach gave us, we just had to execute.”

On Big plays from edges tonight

“I’m just super proud of tonight ... they held their gaps and put me into the position to do what I had to do, so that’s a testament to the whole defense.”

On Productive defense

“That’s just something that we home in on every day in practice ... honing in on getting the back out, and that’s how you create momentum shifts and big players run the game.”

“I feel like tonight was a big step for us statistically, where we want to be at the end of the season, and I feel like we’re going to keep going on that.”

On Post win confidence and improvements

“It’s hard to win, it doesn’t matter who we’re playing, it’s hard to win, so I feel like we should take great pride in winning the football game.”

“I feel like it’s more than obvious that we got things to clean up and come in here first thing tomorrow to do those things, but a win is a win, and we should not be hanging our heads low.”

Jalon Kilgore • Defensive Back • Sophomore

On the Strip sack in fourth quarter

“I was telling Dylan the whole game ... ‘keep punching the ball, it’ll come out, I promise you.’ He just kept doing that, so he executed, and once I seen him strip it, I seen Jules pick it up, blood just started rushing my body, and I was so excited for him to make that play.”

On Adjustments in second half after ODU big plays in first

“I decided to just keep playing. It was just a little miscommunication on those plays that had to do with nothing else, we just got outplayed ... we just got to clean those things up.”

On Big interceptions in second and continuing this performance level

“I just feel like the DB room has built so much chemistry from last year with everybody ... just us building that chemistry and having that love for each other, just playing for each other ... just communicate with each other, just makes us better as a defense because there's times we get on the field, we see things that coach doesn't see, so we make our own calls ... I feel like we just got the best form of communication and chemistry in the game.”