

SOUTH CAROLINA (2-1, 1-1) vs. LSU (2-1, 1-0)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> LSU HEAD COACH BRIAN KELLY

On the Growth seen out of the defensive group

“We had some complimentary football. I thought some of the big takeaways were the defensive stops that we had, that when we turned the ball over, generally, you would see that turned into a touchdown. We kept them to field goals, so we showed that resolve defensively. We started to play some complimentary football where we get a stop on defense and then we score on offense, and we hadn’t done that the first couple of weeks.”

On does the coaching staff believe the defense is sustainable

“We want to be better defensively. All of this that you saw today, on both sides of the ball, all of it is correctable, all of it can be coached, and all of it can be executed. If we couldn’t coach it and it couldn’t be executed, then we have to take it out. If it’s a scheme, we can’t call that anymore. If it’s a play that we can’t run, then we have to take it out. Everything that we did today, we have to do better coaching it and we have to do a better job executing it.”

On LaNorris Sellers not being able to finish the game

“Ashford looked pretty good in there too. It’s hard to say one way or the other. I think what happened is we got to third down situations that we wanted to, we wanted to get them in third down, either Sellers or Ashford, and when we got them into third down, we were the victors. We were able to get third down situations and make them predictable. It’s kind of what I thought we needed to do. They were able to stay on schedule earlier with Sellers in the game, but when Ashford came in, we were able to get them off schedule, and that was really the difference.”

On Josh Williams scoring in 4th quarter and what went through that play call during a crucial moment

“I can tell you what the play calls were that we struggled with. We got into the full house T and we have some new players in there: Gabe Reliford and Kaleb, we want that to be our kind of blue zone, our short yardage, and we just didn’t execute. We were a little late on some of our blocks. If we are just a little bit more aggressive with our blocks, he’s got Josh in the corner of the end zone. It’s timing, it’s just being a little bit better at those plays and we would have been really good in that blue zone.”

>>> LSU PLAYER QUOTES

Garrett Nussmeier • QB • RJR

On Red zone issues

“I think we just have to continue to work at it. Obviously, it’s one of our weaknesses, we’ve addressed it and continue to try and work at it and I think we will only get better. The was a tough game and we knew that from the jump, we knew it wasn’t going to be easy. We knew mistakes were going to be made, but it was just about taking advantage of opportunities when we got them and staying together and working hard.”

On How the defense did today

“They did unbelievable. Coach Kelly really challenged all of us just to go play and have fun out there. I’ve said this before many times, it was the same sport we’ve all been playing since we were six years old. Obviously in a bigger stage in bigger moments, but at the end of the day it’s still football. He challenged us this week just to go out there and have fun. Things are going to happen but it’s just about pushing through. The defense came out, they showed some toughness, parked an unbelievable job off the edge a couple of times. Everyone was making plays. I’m super proud of the defense, I thought they did really good today.”

Josh Williams • RB • GR

On emotions after scoring touchdown in 4th quarter

“My emotions were pretty high. I was excited to get into the endzone, I knew it was a big deal for our offense and for our team. I knew our defense was going to have to come back on the field, so it wasn’t really over for me yet.”

On ...attitude with 3:45 left when LSU got the ball back

“Nobody was quivering or looking away or not wanting to get in the game, everybody wanted to get in the game. Everybody wanted to win. It was a good energy. It was a good message from Coach Kelly on the sideline telling us that this is it, this is what we fight for. We knew we had to go out there and win.