

# **SOUTH CAROLINA (3-1) vs. AKRON (1-3)**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.**

## **>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES**

### **Robby Ashford • QB • RSR**

*On ... How good does it feel that people are talking about him and how well he got to play tonight*

“It feels great. Just been through a lot of ups and doesn’t in my career, it’s taught me a lot, and I wouldn’t change for anything, but that’s just hats off to my guys, my teammates. None of this would have been possible without them. I wouldn’t have been able to go out there and perform if everybody wasn’t one eleven, and those guys did. I’m just thankful for this group and just how they came behind me and supported me. They let me know from the jump ‘hey we got confidence in you’ even when I wouldn’t start. I’m just thankful for the guys, thankful for Coach beamer, Coach D-Lo (Dowell Loggains) and Coach Shula. They’ve done a lot for me. The road has been tricky but at the end of the day it will shape me into who I am today, and I wouldn’t change that for the world.”

*On ...what’s the difference on the preparation side when you’re a backup versus a starter*

“It’s really just the reps aspect. Coming as a backup, you know you don’t get all of the reps, and so when you are watching film you don’t get to see all of the plays you have run. Now this week I got to see all of it, and I feel good about it. I felt good coming into it, D-Lo (Dowell Loggains) and Coach Shula got me prepared. They put the time in with me, the extra work. It’s still a real grind, even as a backup. It was just even coming in more ... Was just something we were able to do this week, just because we had time. I was able to find time in my schedule to be able to get other there and that helped me so much, just to be able to watch that with him. Coach Shula, that’s a great man right there. Just to be able to learn from him and Coach D-Lo (Dowell Loggains), they’ve taught me so much in my eight months here that I haven’t learned in any of my years anywhere else.”

### **Mazeo Bennett Jr • WR • FR**

*On what’s working in the receiving game*

“Trusting in my technique, and what I’ve been taught. Going out there and just being myself, not trying to be something I’m not. If I got the ball, I’m doing what I’m supposed to do.”

*On having the trust of coaches & QBs as a true freshman*

“We got so much knowledge in our room. Starting with Coach Furrey, the knowledge I can get from him and the players. It’s never down talking, everybody wants to see everybody eating in that wide receiver room and that’s something I love.”

### **JuJu McDowell • RB • SR**

*On how Robby played*

“I feel like he played outstanding, that’s typical Robby. That’s why we brought him here. We have a group full of outstanding quarterbacks...and there’s nothing that any of our quarterbacks are not capable of and we trust anyone in each position.”

*On going into the bye week*

“We pride ourselves on not paying attention to the outside rumors. We’re aware that the vast majority of this nation counted us out before the season and that’s what we’re sticking to. We have ups and downs, but we’re coming for blood and that’s it.”

### **Kyle Kennard • EDGE • Fifth Year**

*On the confidence playing these days*

“I feel as confident as ever. I think in this game you gain more confidence throughout the weeks in practice with your teammates and coaches. All three of those factors are doing a good job at making me confident every Saturday.”

*On the night atmosphere in Williams-Brice*

"I was just talking about that during the third quarter. It was a crazy environment for it to be that dark, and then the lights and video board going. I was like, this is like a movie. It helps you as a player. You're like, wow, this is how it is even when it's getting towards the fourth quarter, and we're up by however many points. Our fans are still here, it's rocking, and we still have the videos going and the media team rocking."

**Demetrius Knight Jr. • LB • Sixth Year**

*On what they saw from Robby tonight*

"I saw a guy who put his head down and worked, knowing that someday he would probably take the reins until LaNorris is back. And of course, throughout the week, just continuing to build him up, constantly letting him know he can do this. As a former quarterback myself, I know that thought process can be a lot to handle. As a quarterback, everyone is depending on you to win, and if you lose, it's on you. Especially in college football, it's huge—you're the face of everything. So for him to step up this week, take the reins, and not flinch with LaNorris being out, that showed extreme leadership. He is extremely humble, going against the ones and twos every day, but you saw in his play tonight that he took it personally to show everyone that they can count on him."

*On the fourth quarter having a lot of other guys get some reps*

"I think it goes to show the pillars we have in this program, which are to compete each and every day. Even when it comes down to the starters and other guys being taken out and the backups and threes being put in, there is no drop-off. There's always a standard, always an expectation. So for those guys to go out there and still ball out, that's the standard here, and that's what we're going to continue to preach. Even as we go into the bye week, we're not going to relax. We can't put the towel down; we've got to keep raising the standard."