

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-3, 3-3) vs. TEXAS A&M (7-2, 5-1)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

POSTGAME QUOTES

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHANE BEAMER

On the team's success against Texas A&M's run defense...

"Did we see something we thought we could exploit? No, they're really good. We knew it was going to be a challenge. Obviously, having the bye week helped, we really could zero in on... where we were struggling, where we could be better. I thought Dowell (Loggains) and the offensive staff did a great job of putting together a plan and then we told our players, a game like this, we need our best players to step up and play well. You talk about Josh Simon, the individual efforts he made. LaNorris (Sellers), as well, Rocket (Sanders), just some awesome individual efforts out there tonight."

On the team's expectations coming off a bye week...

"Did I think that we would line up and run for 286 yards, have 530 yards of offense and score 44 points against them and not give up a sack? Probably not, just to be honest, but also, I said it to you guys in the press conference out in Norman, Oklahoma, after the game. I think, Phil, you asked me what this means and I said it means we're one of the best teams in the SEC, and if you're one of the best teams in the SEC, you're one of the best teams in the country. When we're playing in all three phases like that, we are. When you look at the bye week, it was, you know, where can we be better? Personnel-wise we didn't really do anything different personnel-wise. Schematically, there were a couple more things tonight, quarterback run game a little bit, would be maybe a new addition but other than that it was just getting right back to work and building on what we did in in Oklahoma, defensively, special teams and offensively."

On the offensive line's physicality and mentality in-game and preparation earlier in the week...

"We did a good job tonight of lining up and not necessarily looking to the sideline and Dowell calls to play, but LaNorris was doing a great job of getting to the line of scrimmage. We've got a couple options that we can do based on what they (the defense) line up in, just getting ourselves in the most advantageous play because nobody had run the ball against these guys and we knew there were going to be some ugly runs and ugly plays."

I don't think it was anything necessarily schematically. I think I told you guys, when we went to Oklahoma, there was a mindset of enough is enough, of not finishing games and losing, and we went out to Oklahoma with that mentality. They came out on Tuesday, just the way we started practice with some physical stuff at the beginning of practice, one on one, just physical old-school football that my dad would be proud of, where it's one offense versus one defense. Just early on Tuesday morning, within the first 10 minutes of practice, it was kind of like, oh, if we can maintain that intensity, we're going to wear these guys out."

What word describes your feeling on closing out the win after some previous missed opportunities...

"Gratitude. That's a core value of our program, just grateful for these players, grateful to Coach Tanner for hiring me and giving me an opportunity here, grateful for these players and just how invested they are. I know I say it every year to you guys, but I love coaching this group and this team is so much fun to be around. Just the things we do off the field, the togetherness, the closeness of the team, the celebration we just had in the locker room in there, they're just so much fun. In today's college athletics with transfer portal and NIL, it's refreshing that this is a group that just believes in one another and I'm just so grateful to be the head coach here, so grateful to get over the hump and have a win like this, and so grateful just to get to coach these guy and grateful to see the smiles on their faces in the locker room."

On LaNorris Sellers' performance and improvement as the season goes on...

"I just saw his dad out there in the hallway and told his dad he's got one hell of a son, and he does. I mean, that kid is just special. He just continues to get better. I told the TV crew on Wednesday, we met with them, when we had those tough losses against Alabama, and Ole Miss, he was extremely inexperienced. When we went to Alabama, that was what, only the second game all season that he played the entire game. Because Old Dominion, he did, Kentucky he got knocked out for a little bit, LSU, he didn't play the whole second half, Akron he didn't play at all. So when Ole Miss came to town, that was a game that he finished, and then Alabama. So he just continues to get better and I go back to the Tuesday practice and the physicality and the way that opened my eyes. We always do two minutes in practice on Sunday nights and Thursdays. We do two-minute offense, ones offense versus the ones defense and he led a two-minute drive in practice on Thursday where it was - no offense to our defense - but it was like, bang, bang, bang. He went like, 70 yards in three plays for a touchdown in two minutes. I'm like, dang and I told Dowell after practice when we were watching the tape, that's really impressive some of the throws that he made, He's really been good the last few weeks and he has but, just to

talk about individual efforts, some of the individual effort plays that he made tonight? I didn't realize it ran for 106, geeze, and he threw for 244, good God. I didn't know that, but that's who he is. There was a lot of talk about A&M's quarterbacks and rightfully so, both those kids are really good players and were highly recruited and are fantastic young men, but I told our team that in a game like this, two evenly match physical SEC teams, it comes down to the quarterback play and we got the better quarterback and that wasn't coach-speak that was how I truly felt. I told the team that in practice this week and he played like it tonight."