

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

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

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYER QUOTES

LaNorris Sellers • Quarterback • Redshirt Freshman

On ... Getting better every game

"I mean, going into the season I knew it was going to be hard. I know it was going to take like some, some like troubles and like bad things will happen. But I mean, since the first game like I'm seeing, it's slowing down for me, so just gotta keep doing that."

On ... He was able to avoid so many sacks

"I mean, to be honest, I really don't know. I mean, we knew they had a good defensive line coming into it, so it's kind of like, making a play and then just being aware, just when it's over. Because, like, they could shoot down and make you step up, and then it's a guy coming over. So he's got to watch out for that guy, obviously, but he's still in the pocket. Just find the lane and be decisive and go."

On ... Playing complimentary football

"I mean, it's just complimentary football. It's something we preach, just being good on three phases of the ball, special teams, offense and defense. Defense gets a stop, we got to go out there and score. We scored, defense gets a stop. I mean, just complimentary football."

Joshua Simon • Tight End • Sixth Year

On ... Being heavily involved in the game

"I would say it kind of worked out that way, you know, just being involved in the game plan, doing my job, getting open and executing on the plays that are called. You know, you never know when LaNorris is going to throw you that ball. I mean, y'all see all the crazy stuff he does out there. You just got to be in your spot and do what you got to do."

On ... Having a sense of relief after dominating at home

"I would say, no. We always, there ain't no sense of relief. We know what we got to do. Like, I've been saying it for a long time, we know what we got. We know the team we got. We just had to come together and put it together. And tonight was the first time we actually put it together, actually got the win. Like, this is something we do. This is South Carolina football. We play ball and compete, man."

Demetrius Knight Jr. • Linebacker • Sixth Year

On ... having a short term memory

"When I used to be a quarterback, a big thing that I used to go off of was having short term memory. You come back, throw an interception, you throw in the ball. You got to get that play out of your mind, because if you let it dwell, your game is going to plummet. You'll be fixated on such a pass, 'I shouldn't have thrown that,' when you have three more quarters left to play, you have a whole 'nother half to play. So it's just going again, I know I beat a dead horse, but it's going back to playing how we play football. He said it on the video, Coach Beamer, he says it to us every day. Be who we are. We know who we are. They didn't. And we put that on display tonight."

On ... halftime tweaks to the game plan

"I won't get into the details just so we keep that under wraps for the next game. But, just little tweaks here and there, just to help confuse the quarterback, give him different looks. He's having success. So just play with his mind a little bit. When you're, again, going back to my quarterback days, when I know I'm having success in a certain formation, I'm like, 'Okay, if I see this again, I know where to go with the ball.' So you kind of played off that a little bit. Let them see one thing, come back real quick, and then it's a totally different, you know, coverage, or totally different blitz."

RAHEIM SANDERS • RUNNING BACK • SENIOR

On ... The meaning behind his Instagram post captioned "this is for you" posted before the game

"It was [for] a coach that died, you know, a coach that took care of me and my family at times, and he had coached my brother. I had played with my brother when I was that young, little kid trying to play up and he always let me play on the team. Just really a guide to me. And he passed away. Great police officer as well, great dad as well. He just meant a lot to me. So, you know, he's always watching over me and I dedicated this game to him."

On ... A lot of yards after contact, what changed tonight from the first half of the season to allow more room

"Coming into this game I was trying to tell myself, you know, be patient but hit it whenever I see the whole room. I feel like I had great pad level. I feel like I could've done better in all circumstances of the game. But, you know, great pad level, just taking on what my coach was saying and being very coachable. I feel like it started with me just having the great intensity on Tuesday practice and as a team as well. I feel like Tuesday got me going and got me ready for today."

On ... LaNorris' performance and how it helped the offense

"Dang, big time, I ain't gonna lie, big time man. When I first got here they were talking about do he remind me of KJ and I feel like somewhat for real tonight he showed it, very poised in a pocket, and every game is just getting better. I feel like one thing I said to him this week and yesterday was just have self confidence and I definetley feel like he had self confidence tonight for sure. "

T.J. SANDERS • DEFENSIVE TACKLE • REDSHIRT JUNIOR

On ... How Debo Williams plays when it "matters the most", specifically during the fourth and one stops

"I mean, shoot, even in games where I've seen, I guess, he's out of reach. And it don't really matter, Debo is still out there giving balls to the wall, excuse my language. About the fourth and one stops, it's a mentality, you know, last year we weren't really that great in short yardage modes and this year we really made a point of emphasis to really get off the field in those types of moments."

On ... seeing the offense explode the way it did especially during the second half, the kind of motivation it gives the defense

"We talked about it every week, complimentary football, man, offense, defense, special teams, and we put it all together like we did tonight, great things are always going to happen."

On ... Back-to-back sacks that forced A&M to punt the ball instead of going for it on fourth down.

"Yeah man, just keep it going. All the time we talk about our defense is about hunting, you know. We gotta get there, gotta get there. A lot of teams watch film on us and are like how can we stop this defense, this South Carolina defense. And you know, quick game, a lot of RPO, a lot of that we see, but the moment it was in the game they were forced to drop back pass, make plays and our pass rusher got there."

