

SOUTH CAROLINA

ATHLETICS

UMass at South Carolina

October 22, 2016

• South Carolina Head Coach Will Muschamp •

Opening Statement

We're proud of our guys it was a good win, we needed that. It certainly made it interesting when we had the 20-point lead there in the third quarter since we hadn't been in that position before. We obviously didn't handle it very well, we just have to continue to clean some things up. The offense did a nice job finishing the drive and finishing the game with the ending drive, there were some real critical plays made on that drive that were good, we were much better on third down, which was a positive. Defensively in the game we had four turnovers and a fourth-down stop, you like to feel pretty good about it. We busted a coverage there on that long touchdown, 74-yards before half. You can't get in that situation when you have a 20-point lead and you bust the coverage, but we just didn't play that well defensively. A lot of stuff we have repped and gone over, so I was a little frustrated with our performance defensively. But overall, we'll go back to work again, but it's good to go back to work after a win.

On quarterback position for the rest of the season...

Brandon [McIlwain] will continue to challenge him at the position, just like every other position on our football team. We went into the open weekend and evaluated all of our positions and felt like we needed more production at the position. So the next question you ask yourself is the alternative better than what you have. We're not going to make a change for the sake of change that's not the point. There are some situations on our team right now quite frankly I'd like to change but we don't have that option, what we have is what we got and that's what we're going to do. It felt like Jake [Bentley] did some nice things today and obviously some things he can improve on and will. Brandon will continue to improve, I'm very proud of Brandon and the job that he has done. What they're doing is very difficult, they are playing as true freshman in the Southeastern Conference, much less at the quarterback position which makes it triple important. What they're doing is very difficult and we're working through it and we'll continue to improve. I think we did improve, regardless of our opponent today offensively with some things, and we'll continue to build on that and Brandon is certainly going to be involved in that.

On evaluation of Bentley starting...

On Sundays the guys that rep a lot, 30 plus snaps in the game. We take them through a fundamental period, we take them through some things that we think we need to see again. So we take them through all those type of scenarios and things. At the end, we take about 45 minutes to an hour for guys who have played less than 30 snaps and they're in shells and we scrimmage and we go practice. Football is a developmental game and the only way you can improve the bottom half of your roster is to play the game of football. You can simulate the drill work and go 2-on-1, inside drill and 7-on-7, and that's all great, but you have to put the ball down and play. Since the beginning of the season on Sundays we've done that with guys who didn't play a whole lot. And obviously Jake [Bentley] has been involved with that, and we thought he did a really nice job and we opened up practice on Tuesday, and a lot of the guys that had been taking a lot of snaps in our first six games, let them go about mid-way through practice and then we put the ball down and move the ball. There are a lot of guys that are playing football for us but they're not playing 60 snaps in a game. We put them out there and played with them. We saw a lot of positive things in those opportunities that we had. Then Tuesday and Thursday in the open week we let all three guys get equal reps with the team in the reps with the 7-on-7's and the 1-on-1's and we didn't read a lot that week we just put the ball down and played. There were some positive things involved in that and I've said this before but Perry [Orth] and Brandon are probably ahead of Jake if you look at reps, as they're guys who have a very good command of what they do, and as we go through the season he's just done a great job.

On bringing McIlwain into run plays...

Kurt Roper calls the offensive plays, I've never called an offensive play in my life. We've talked, Brandon is a really great runner and a great athlete, and he's a guy that can do a lot of things, he can throw the ball too. As we continue to evolve our packages, we continue to evaluate him in the throwing game, he throws the deep ball extremely well.

T.J. Holloman, LB, Senior

On defensive mistakes

“We didn’t do our assignments. We busted coverage; we weren’t communicating like we were supposed to. When you don’t communicate, big plays happen.”

“We just needed to lock in. We did a poor job communicating throughout the game so those little plays happened. But certain possessions, we buckled down. We just need to work better on communication.”

On defensive goal

“Our goal is to stop the run first of all. That’s what we come out here to do. We feel like we have a good enough front to put pressure on the quarterback and our secondary is very good at covering. Our main goal is to force to opponent to pass the ball.”

On Larenz Bryant

“He brings a lot of excitement to our team. He’s a very emotional guy. He goes out there and is hyped up every day. He was definitely down this year for most of the season but to get his first opportunity to go out there and show his stuff, he did a great job. He brought a lot of intensity, and that’s what we need as a defense.”

Bryson Allen-Williams, LB, Junior

On defensive mistakes

“Just not finishing things right. We had a lot of mental errors. That’s something we need to improve upon. Coming in next week and playing a good offensive team, we know we have a lot of things to work on. But a win is a win so we’re happy about that.”

On the offense

“We have confidence in our offense. They did put up a lot of points. We have been saying if they put up a lot of points we’ll stop guys and we’ll get the win. If they continue to do what they do, we’ll continue to do what we do. I’m very optimistic about this team and where we can go. We have a lot of talent on the team. We have to continue to go out there and play and mature as a whole team.”

Chris Lammons, DB, Junior

On defense

“I feel like the defense is built for tight or close games. Whenever it comes to, I feel like our defense can make the stops and make the plays. I feel like if it comes to it our defense can make the stop and win the game.”

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Massachusetts at South Carolina

October 22, 2016

• Massachusetts Head Coach Mark Whipple •

Opening Statement

“We just got off to a rough start. We kind of gave them confidence, especially with a freshman quarterback. We just couldn’t do that. One of our best players dropped the ball in the first half. Adam (Breneman) had one, Izzy (Andy Isabella) had two, and that would’ve been a first down. But I’m proud of the kids. They fought back, there was no pointing fingers, there wasn’t anything at halftime, they felt like they could win the game and we just didn’t make enough plays and made too many mistakes. We just couldn’t get a stop on that last drive.”

On 3rd-and-10 wildcat call

“I didn’t do a good job on the call. But then again you have to make the field goal. If you make the field goal it’s a 3-point game at the end. But we can’t catch it, we can’t kick it for them, we just have to keep working on it.”

On the season struggles for the kickers

“Logan (Laurent) was as good as I’ve ever seen him this week. At practice he was healthy, he was as good as I ever saw him. But then he gets out there, does what Mike Schreiner did, just kind of soft shoe it. He was 1-for-2 so he’ll be our guy next week. Ball went out-of-bounds, they got the ball at the 35. That doesn’t happen in practice. But playing in front of a big place, they think they are ready, but you just got to work.”

On Andrew Ford’s (QB) Performance

“He threw some good balls. Jalen (Williams) dropped a touchdown, we scored on that drive anyway, but Bernard (Davis) dropped a ball, Izzy (Andy Isabella) dropped a couple, which he doesn’t. He’s [Ford] getting better. I mean we aren’t playing against the Sisters of the Poor. They’ve got some guys, and there was no question, he made a great throw to Adam (Breneman) on that last touchdown.”

• Massachusetts Student-Athletes •

Andrew Ford, So. QB

On playing close against Power 5 conference teams

“I think with every game you watch the film and look back at it and build on the positives. We have a lockerroom full of guys who fully expected to win that football game so it’s tough right now.”

On second half momentum from defensive stops

“Our defense did a great job in that second half of putting us in a position to make a comeback and we were down 14 early on and some teams on the road would’ve folded, but we reset and bounced back and fought to the end.”

On the return of Marquis Young

“He didn’t really practice this much this week and he is our heart and soul of the backfield, so hearing that he was going to play was big.”

Adam Breneman, Jr. TE

On playing well against SEC teams

“You could look at it both ways is it impressive that we have played with three SEC teams right now and I think we look back at all three of those games and think we could’ve won all of those games if we made one more play. At the same point, being close isn’t good enough and that’s the feeling in the locker room right now. We go into every game believing we are going to win and we came here today expecting to win so it’s tough.”

On mistakes in the game

“We started out with my fumble which was inexcusable then we had a missed field goal, we all made mistakes when you play good football teams you cant make mistakes like that and expect to win.”

Khary Bailey-Smith Sr. S

On playing a close game against South Carolina

“It was really hard we were fighting really hard in the end the defense was making stops and offense was putting together nice drives and the defense was making stops.”

On watching this game on film

“We are very critical in the film room and everyone just needs to make one more play and we didn’t.”

On playing well against SEC teams

“Every opponent is a challenge until it’s not and you go out, you play, put the pieces together and hope for a win every week.