

SOUTH CAROLINA

A T H L E T I C S

East Carolina at South Carolina

September 17, 2016

• East Carolina Head Coach Scottie Montgomery •

Opening Statement

“Let’s start with the positives. I thought our defense played their hearts out; in every situation they played hard. They had some plays on us throughout the game, but this is an SEC opponent. I thought early in the game there was a lot of physicality in the first quarter. We adjusted to it, and we adjusted to it well. The difference in this game was penalties and turnovers. Anytime you turn the ball over inside the five, the three and the one the way we did, and be in it right there at the end to win it. We called on our defense tons of times, wasted the clock away and got down to fourth and one, but the clock stopped and we thought we could get it together, and thought we had put together a pretty good two-minute drill. But, hats off to the University of South Carolina and Coach [Will] Muschamp. I think they have a great football team, and they did a good job. We just have to play better in the red zone and be able to put it all together at certain times. Right there at the end, I thought our defense played hard and well, and then we had a couple passes get through on us. But, at the end of the day, they did a great job offensively. We just have to play better in the red zone.”

On team outlook after non-conference game

“We don’t look at this as a moral victory, and moral positives. We are going back to work. What I saw from this game was too many penalties, and too many turnovers. I saw a team that out-played the other team, and a defense that out-played the other defense, and we didn’t bring it through at the end. We have some work to do, and all the things we did today were easily correctable mistakes. So, we look forward to going back to work tomorrow night and getting some of those corrections fixed. There was some outstanding performances, I’m sure, on the offensive side, and the defensive side, it’s just when you get caught up in penalties and driving the ball down the field and so many situations, it’s just difficult to not get touchdowns. There was just a lot of critical errors in the game.”

• East Carolina Student-Athletes •

JT Boyd, Offensive Line, Sophomore

On not finishing drives

“It’s frustrating, but the game is over and done with. There’s nothing we can change about it. Defense played their hearts out, and offensively we’ve got to fix our mistakes.”

On mood on the sideline throughout the game

“I saw a lot of heart. Everyone was cheering each other on. Offense backed the defense, and defense backed the offense.”

Zay Jones, Wide Receiver, Senior

On having personal success in the game (22 catches)

“It’s just a flow of the game thing. I don’t think about it.”

On chances to still win the conference title

“We’re a good football team. We’ve show the type of team we usually are.”

Terrell Richardson, Inside Linebacker, Senior

On being down 17 points early

“I’m glad that we kept fighting, and I’m glad we have a good brotherhood. We stood together.”

On the mood in the locker room after the game

“We just talked to each other, and we gotta stay more disciplined. We made a lot of mistakes, old, like, day-one mistakes that we just can’t make.”

On the offensive mistakes

“We are team. We will always be a brotherhood. We made a lot of mistakes on defense. We just gotta out-play their defense.”

On South Carolina’s size

“We knew we were gonna have to bring our hard hats because they do have a tall, big offensive line. but we were ready to play; we just made mistakes.”

Philip Nelson, Quarterback, Senior

On his impressions of the game

“Obviously the big thing is finishing. I mean, we didn’t finish at all, and that starts with me. As a quarterback, I gotta be able to help that offense finish. Our defense played absolutely flawless; we couldn’t have asked them to do anything more than they did. We just need to finish and execute.”

On his interceptions

“[The first one was] just a bad ball, [I] didn’t put enough on it. And the second one, [I] just didn’t get it outside far enough.”

On the South Carolina defense

“Hats off to South Carolina; they did a great job. At the same time, I just felt like we didn’t do a great job executing down there. The plays were left out there for us to make.”