

2019 SOUTH CAROLINA SPRING GAME

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 | WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM | COLUMBIA, S.C.

>>> SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH WILL MUSCHAMP QUOTES

Opening Statement

“It was a good day today. I appreciate our fans coming out and supporting us. We had over 200 lettermen register for the alumni flag football game. It’s great to see those guys enjoying each other. It’s great to have them back on campus. Tonight at six o’clock at the volleyball center, D.J. Swearingin is having his celebrity basketball game to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands, which is a great cause and we appreciate his support. To see all of those guys back as well, the younger guys that are still playing in the National Football League.

“Good day today. I thought we culminated a really good spring from the standpoint of accomplishments of what we feel like we needed. We’ve got a deeper team than we’ve had, more competitive depth – especially on both lines of scrimmage. At the end of the day when you’ve got to come to practice every day and compete and strain against a good player all the time, that creates consistency in your performance. That’s what good programs have and that’s where we’re headed. I thought we accomplished some good things today.

“Originally, I was going to have the quarterbacks be live. We did that the last two Saturday’s. Today was our second offensive line – sometimes on the edges we were overmatched in our last Thursday practice so I didn’t feel like putting those guys under that much duress. I did extend some plays to let them make some decisions down the field and put those guys in situations. It’s all about decision making and that was a huge evaluation for us today, especially with those young quarterbacks.

“You see Jay Urich’s playing multiple spots for us. Jay’s a really good athlete. The guy’s one of the faster guys on our football team. He competes, he plays hard, so he’s going to play – he’s still in the quarterback room – but he’s going to play some receiver and special teams, as you saw him do that again today, but a guy that’s a really good athlete, really going to help our team.

“A.J. Turner’s primary position next year will be running back, but he will play corner. He’s a guy that’s bright enough to be able to go and handle that and do that. He’s proved that to us this spring. We’ve had him in multiple practices playing on both sides of the ball and I think he’s done a really good job.

“I told our football team, it’s about leave no doubt right now. Leave no doubt about your commitment to our team, to having a good team, and really in terms of doing the things you’ve got to do individually to improve yourself, which collectively helps the football team. That’s what we’re looking forward to. I thought today was great. I felt we had a really great spring and accomplished some really good things and as we move forward we need to have a great summer.”

On takeaways from the spring game:

“It’s hard to make judgements off of one day. You’ve got to look over a period of time. I think we’ve accomplished a lot in 15 practices, especially young players. Today was a huge day. It was the first time in the stadium and we did that purposely to understand it’s special when you come over here and play. Now having our new Long Family Operations Facility, we’re able to function daily over there. To see some of the young guys – Derek Boykins on the goal line, for a freshman, that was a heck of a play to go up right there and light it up in the A gap. That was impressive to see, I saw some other things, but that jumps out to me. For young players that haven’t been in front of 80,000 people before, you’ll see some significant improvement from them in fall camp.”

On playing young running backs and improving the run game:

“He (Kevin Harris) runs behind his pads, there’s nothing soft to hit. He runs through contact well – wish he would’ve gotten that in on the goal line, but (Derek) Boykins made a nice play on him. We’ll continue to find the best guy that’s going to give us an opportunity. We’ve got to create some runs as far as making a guy miss and running through contact. That’s something we haven’t done consistently well in three years so we’ve got to continue to search for that.”

On Parker White:

“It was an easy decision. He’s won two games for us going out there to kick the final kick of the game. He’s a guy that went through a very up and down first year and fought through that and really needed to clean up some things mechanically, which he did in the offseason. He had a fantastic year for us last year and just did a really nice job for us. I was a walk-on. I’ll never forget the awarded a scholarship walking

off of the practice field there at Sanford Stadium when Coach (Ray) Goff told me I was on scholarship. Anytime you're able to reward a walk-on that's come in and earned his opportunities and earned his scholarship, and this young man earned his scholarship. We didn't even name him the starting kicker two years ago. He continued to fight, he continued to battle, he continued to work on his craft. He's been a really good, dependable guy for us."