Clemson’s offense shells Gamecocks

BY GEORGE MORRIS
Of The Gamecock staff

The loss ended a frustrating season for Carolina, as the Gamecocks finished a year billed “Total Excitement” with a 4-7 mark. This was also the final game for retiring coach Paul Dietzel, whose career record is 199-109-10.

In the Carolina dressing room Dietzel held his final post-game interview. He said:

“We had our chances. I thought our team gave it everything they had. I am very proud of this team. Unfortunately, we never get the job done. But I am very proud of the effort they put forth. I didn’t want them to win it for me, I just wanted them to give it all they had.

“It was a bitter way to end it, but that’s the kind of year it has been.”

Carolina entered the game hoping to make good on their last chance at salvaging something out of a season which was marked more by drop than by win. Against the five big schools, the Gamecocks could not stop the big plays which had been so successful this year.

It was apparent from the first that Clemson possessed in its offense, however, that the big play would haunt Gamecocks all day long.

Clemson took the opening kickoff and marched 89 yards on the first score of the game. It was characteristic of what the Gamecock offense would be like throughout the game—steady, but unscalable, a time-stopper. The drive took 16 plays and consumed 8:29 of the first quarter, with Kevin Long scoring from the two.

Winner at Clemson

Parker: A satisfied coach

BY BILLY BAKER
Of The Gamecock staff

Clemson’s win over Carolina put Tiger mentor Red Parker in a relaxed mood. A team picked before the season to finish near the bottom in ACC competition and win just a few games this year had added the finishing touches to a 7-4 season.

“I would have to say that we are one of the strongest 7-4 clubs in the country,” he said.

“After our first two losses of the season, we turned around and finished strong. We showed that we can compete with the best.”

Parker is proud of his team, but he is also realistic about their abilities.

The Gamecocks played a good fourth quarter against USC although they had three scoring drives stopped by fumbles. “We were a very good football team in the fourth quarter,” said Parker. “Those fumbles just nullified our efforts.”

The Gamecocks won the game with a strong performance on defense, particularly in the secondary.

“We wanted to do what we do best,” said Parker. Therefore, we didn’t violate any defensive principles. South Carolina is very difficult to defend against.

“We didn’t throw as much today,” said Parker. “But it was the right decision. We knew that we had to use our offensive strengths.”

Parker praised Carolina and its coaching staff.

“USC executed well,” said Parker. “We wanted to get the better of them and we did that. We have to be proud of what we accomplished.”

The Tigers may not have won the game, but they did something no team has done in recent years: they won a game against Carolina.

Mark Fellers

Clemson needed only four plays to score. Three plays netted the Tigers 22 yards before Callcott took a pitchout and ran around right end for 58 yards and a touchdown. The play cost Carolina more than 10 points; Gamecock defensive back Henry Law suffered a knee injury on that play which ended his participation in the game.

At this point the roof seemed to fall on USC. Just two plays after the Clemson score, USC coach Dennis Smith intercepted a Jeff Grant pass and returned it to the Carolina 19.

Three plays later, with the Tigers facing a third-and-eight, Callcott took another pitchout and ran 28 yards to the Carolina 16.

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