

## How (truly) good is the 3rd ranked South Carolina football team?

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor  
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How (truly) good is the South Carolina football team?

Well, if you witnessed the Gamecocks largely defensive-led performance that propelled them to a dominant 35-7 win over Southeastern Conference (SEC) opponent Georgia Saturday night (Oct. 6), at Williams-Brice Stadium, you would obviously conclude that they indeed were the far better team on the field.

However, with a daunting immediate schedule awaiting them, highlighted by the showdown Sat. (Oct. 13) opposite LSU, in Baton Rouge; followed by an October 20 test versus Florida in Gainesville, you might want to consider that the jury is still very much out with the final verdict on Steve Spurrier's 3rd rank, 6-0 charges.

Seemingly still in a proving status mode, as it relates to their ability to successfully compete among the top nationally ranked teams, the Gamecocks, due to some deficiencies in offensive line play, kick-off coverage, punting and redzone offense, are still a work in progress.

As a result, such a leave no doubt showing by the Gamecocks opposite the Bulldogs was surprising to many of the 85,199 fans which made up the record crowd assembled at the Brice; and such an unexpected feeling was apparently the same for Marcus Lattimore, whose running was again detrimental to the Bulldogs cause.

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"Honestly, I wasn't expecting that," said the South Carolina junior ball carrier, of the lopsided outcome. "I expected it to be a dogfight the whole game. But we came out with a fire we need to come out with every week." During the key conference triumph, Lattimore rushed for 109 yards on 24 trips into the line of scrimmage.

As it relates to "a fire we need to come out with every week", no truer words could've been spoken by Lattimore, who obviously realizes that the evidence for being counted soundly efficient has to be put into play more often than not.

Therefore, while the Gamecocks and their supporters might still be in somewhat of a euphoric state, after the thorough dismantling of Georgia, it might behoove them to come down out of it and prepare to go forward with additional reasons for their longing hope of being truly counted among the elite in major Division I college football.

Consequently, on the heels of the huge win over the visiting Bulldogs, Steve Spurrier's warning, as it relates to the past and particularly the future, was more than appropriate.

"Hopefully as coaches and players, we can understand that we can play like we played that first half against Kentucky if we're not really, totally into it."

So, the query remains. How (truly) good are the current Gamecocks?

The answer/verdict is apparently blowing in key wins to come.