

Gamecocks fail in chance to authenticate what being good really is

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
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On its recent trip to the Bayou State to challenge LSU, South Carolina had a real opportunity to authenticate what being good really is.

But in spite of a two point (23-21) loss to the host Tigers at Tiger Stadium Saturday night (Oct. 13), the visiting Gamecocks (6-1, 4-1 SEC) truly missed out on their chance to define themselves as a group worthy of such distinction.

Running into a ninth ranked LSU team that was primed for a peak performance before its louder than loud crowd at the aforementioned venue, Steve Spurrier's unready participants were basically trampled over in a Southeastern Conference (SEC) game that validated why LSU was chosen as the No.1 team in preseason polling.

More often than not playing football like it's suppose to be played, Les Miles' ferocious cats beat back their so-called equal foes soundly on both sides of the line of scrimmage.

And the revealing play from LSU's defensive side of the line was the tell-tale part of the story which helped the hometeam to give its visitors a reality check. On the night, the LSU "D" players limited the Gamecocks to just 211 yards in total offense, with a paltry 34 gained via the overland route.

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Meanwhile star South Carolina running back Marcus Lattimore was able to muster only 34 yards on 13 carries.

Consequently, when it was all said and done in the SEC matchup, Lattimore had nothing but high praises for the Tiger upfront stop troopers.

"Just a good D-line; one of the best defenses we've seen... probably ever," Lattimore said.

While the Tigers' "D" play was very instrumental in helping them to secure a win that improved their worksheet to 6-1, the timely output of the "O" players, which featured a line that had two freshman starters, was equally helpful in positively impacting the proceedings of the pivotable SEC encounter.

En route to beating the Gamecocks into submission, the Tigers, spearheaded by a ground attack that totalled 258 yards, amassed 406 yards of total offense versus a defense that was in third place in SEC standings.

Like his standout ball carrier, Steve Spurrier, too, gave credit to where it was due.

"Tonight, I realized why LSU was preseason No.1," Spurrier said. "They're a big, strong team. They deserved to beat us; there is no question about that."

On the heels of his Tigers unquestionable win, Les Miles talked about why the result was as it was.

"Let me tell you; that was Death Valley," the LSU mentor stressed. "That was the place where opponents' dreams come to die. It was spectacular: Our football team, coming off of the Florida game; just could not bear to do anything but win."

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"Our preparation all week long was good; and it showed in how we played in a very important football game," he continued. "I'm very proud of our players, who played well (on both sides of the ball.)"