Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
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After falling hard in a rout of a loss to Southeastern Conference (SEC) leader Florida last Wed. night (Jan. 30), in the ‘O Dome, in Gainesville, South Carolina returned home three days later and suffered another tough loss to conference foe Georgia Sat. afternoon (Feb. 2), in Colonial Life Arena. Florida rolled to a 39 point (75-36) win over South Carolina.

The 11-point (67-56) setback to the league rival Bulldogs, from the Peach State, left Frank Martin desperately looking for answers to stem the tide of a season that has seen his team mostly reeling in its last two tilts.

But he refused to lay the blame soley on his players. Instead he blamed himself.

"Obviously, I didn’t do a good enough job this week of getting my team prepared to play," the Gamecocks first year coach said. "The games get harder; they don’t get easier. But we’ll have to find a way to play better than we have in our last two games.

"I’ve got to do a heckuva lot better," the South Carolina mentor added. "My staff has been on me about that and I’m not going to expand on that. That’s between me and my staff and the players."

A part of a group that couldn’t match the intense play of Georgia at key times in the SEC duel,

guards Bruce Ellington and Brian Richardson were left zeroing on ways to improve the overall play of the team.

"Trust is the first thing that comes to my mind," said Ellington, who contributed 14 points in the Gamecocks losing effort. "Trusting the guys we have on the court."

Added Richardson, "Just trust and believe we can do it. Stop talking about it and do it."

En route to downing the Gamecocks (12-9,2-6 SEC), the Bulldogs (10-11,4-4) finished the road outing shooting at 51.8% from the field.

Frank Martin’s participants ended play, before a reported crowd of 11,327, with a shooting percentage at 35.8.