

Bulldogs halt three-game losing streak versus Gamecocks..."return to driver's seat"

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
Monday, 09 September 2013 09:02 -



ATHENS, Ga.-In what was its first real test of the early season, South Carolina couldn't pass it.

Due to an inability to make plays in the clutch; especially defensively and overall outplayed by a tougher Georgia team that was obviously smarting from a loss to Clemson a week earlier, Steve Spurrier's visiting Gamecocks were conquered 41-30 by the Bulldogs in a Southeastern Conference(SEC)duel Saturday evening(Sept.7),at Sanford Stadium.

In an up and down battle played in front of 92,748 fans and a national television audience,the two East Division foes went after each other in a big way until the homestanding Dawgs outscored the Gamecocks by 11(17-6) over the final 30 minutes of action to seal the deal, much to the pleasure of the home crowd.

En route to stopping a three-game losing streak to South Carolina, the Bulldogs primarily got over the hump via the running of tailback Todd Gurley II and the game-managing of quarterback Aaron Murray, who improved his record to 2-10 versus Top 15 teams.

During a very impacting performance, Gurley rushed for 132 yards on 30 carries but was not the leading ground gainer for the day as Gamecocks ball carrier Mike Davis took that honor by lugging the pigskin 16 times for 149 yards. Georgia's Murray's was 17-30-0 in passing, which included four touchdown throws.

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While besting the Gamecocks on a hot summer day, the Bulldogs compiled 536 yards(227 rushing, 309 passing) while Spurrier's charges totaled 454(226 rushing,228 passing) yards on offense.

Not mincing words in his usual way, the South Carolina coach was to the point after the setback to the Bulldogs, which dropped the losers worksheet to 1-1,0-1SEC.

"It was a good tail-kicking,"Spurrier said in the early part of his ninth season heading the Gamecocks football program. "Give Georgia credit. They ran it right down our throat. Vince Dooley(former Bulldogs coach)probably has a smile on his face the way they played today. No question about it."

Present day Georgia mentor Mike Richt obviously had an even bigger smile on his face, on the heels of what he described as a very "satisfying triumph" his 1-1,1-0 Bulldogs made possible.

"We've been chasing them the last three years. This year; we get a chance to sit in the driver's seat,"the Georgia helmsman said. "The team that loses this game is waiting for the other's bus to break down.

"I was pleased with the overall effort we gave. It was a chance for us to rebound and I thought we did just that with this important win."