

## Bulldogs give valiant effort while losing big to FBS-affiliated Tigers

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor  
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CLEMSON-Challenging an opponent on an upper level continues to be a learning experience for South Carolina State (SCSU).

Having first played opposite a Football Bowl Series(FBS) opponent in 2007, when they faced off against Air Force, the Bulldogs of SCSU got their most recent chance to match toughness and will-power versus the big boys when they took part in a fight against 4th ranked Clemson Saturday(Sept.7),on Frank Howard Field, in the South Carolina Foothills.

And although taking the fight to the home based Tigers early on, Buddy Pough's 'Dogs, stymied primarily by offensive woes and defensive mistakes in the early season outing, exited the home field of the Tigers on the very short end of a 52-13 count.

En route to falling to 0-2 on the campaign, the Bulldogs were routed by a Clemson squad that began its roll to its second victory in as many starts when it opened up a game-changing 17 point lead (17-0)after the first quarter was history.

Uplifted by the effort of his charges, Buddy Pough, in the aftermath of the face-off versus the deeper in depth Tigers, gave his Bulldogs their just due.

"For a good portion of this game, I thought we gave a good effort against a very good Clemson

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team,"Pough said, of the Bulldogs game try opposite the Atlantic Coast Conference(ACC)-affiliated Tigers.

"The one thing I can say is every living soul we put out on that field gave us their all,"added the SCSU grid mentor. To be honest with you, that's all I can expect of our players(in any game)."

In assessing the win over Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference(MEAC)-connected S.C. State, which he admitted wasn't easy as some might think, Dabo Swinney zeroed in on committing early.

"We needed to commit early,"the Clemson mentor said. "I didn't want to go and play guys when we got control of the game. I wanted guys to play in crunch time, to get them ready for crunch time down the road.

"Give South Carolina State credit,"Swinney continued. "We played against a tough and well-coached team which never quit against us.

"This game gave us a chance to see a lot of our reserve players step up. It help our team in a lot of ways."