

SEC East Division #2

SO. CAROLINA

(11-2-0) LETTERMEN Lost 24
 COACH: Steve Spurrier Returning 36
 STARTERS RETURNING Offense 6
 Defense 5

GamePlan 2013 National Ranking: #9

Steve Spurrier has remade himself as a defensive-oriented coach at South Carolina and the results have been extremely impressive. The Gamecocks have finally developed into the national power their rabid fan base has always deserved and South Carolina has emerged as a first division team in the best conference in America, the dreaded SEC. The Gamecocks have posted back-to-back 11-2 seasons, including impressive bowl victories over Big Ten powers Michigan and Nebraska. And Spurrier has made all of this happen while eschewing the wide-open offensive game that made him famous when he was winning National Championships at SEC rival Florida. It might be difficult to win 11 games again this year as the Gamecocks are severely lacking in offensive weapons, but this club is still one of the Top 25 clubs in the nation in 2013.

Starting quarterback Connor Shaw battled injuries all last season and really proved his toughness in the process. Shaw never puts up great numbers, but he's 17-3 as a starting QB at South Carolina and when healthy, his ability to run with the football adds a key dimension to the Gamecock attack. Overall last year, Shaw completed 154 of 228 passes (68%) for 1,956 yards and 17 TDs against seven interceptions, plus he also ran for 435 yards. Second stringer Dylan Thompson was forced into action a lot in 2012 as he completed 66 of 127 passes (52%) for 1,027 yards and an impressive 10 TDs against just two interceptions. Thompson is less accurate and far less mobile than Shaw, but you can still win with this guy if you lose Shaw.

The receiving corps suffered some heavy losses during the off-season that got even worse when

Ace Sanders opted to leave school a year early to enter the NFL Draft. The top returnees are Bruce Ellington, Nick Jones and Damiere Byrd, three talented players who are a little short to be true #1 wide receivers. Ellington is the leading returnee after a 2012 campaign that included 40 catches for 600 yards and seven TDs. Hoping to bring some badly-needed height to the equation are sophs Shaq Roland, Shamier Jeffery and K.J. Brent. Junior Rory Anderson is a potential star at tight end after coming off the bench a year ago to catch 14 passes with five touchdowns. Sophs Jerell Adams and Drew Owens add superb TE depth.

The rushing attack fell apart last year once superstar Marcus Lattimore suffered yet another catastrophic knee injury. Lattimore is off to the NFL and sophs Mike Davis and Brandon Wilds are the early favorites to replace him. Davis ran for 275 yards off the pines as a 2012 true frosh, while Wilds lettered in 2011 before redshirting a season ago. Also, Coach Spurrier may take a very long look at heralded true frosh David Williams.

The blocking corps struggled badly at times in 2012 and Spurrier did a lot of re-shuffling over the course of the season. But now four starters are back as the one new face will be promising red-shirt freshman center Cody Waldrop who was one of the standouts in spring practice. Right tackle Brandon Shell was an SEC All-Freshman pick a year ago and he'll again pair at tackle with big Corey Robinson, while the guard tandem will again be comprised of solid but unspectacular A.J. Cann and Ronald Patrick. Former starters Mike Matulis and Cody Gibson head up an otherwise shaky reserve O-line crew.

The defense has been stellar in recent years, but Spurrier has a bit of work to do here after losing six starters from last year's strong group. One guy he will NOT worry about is All-American end Jadeveon Clowney, who is almost certainly the best defensive player in the country this year. In 2012, the laughably athletic Clowney racked up 54 tackles, 24 hits for minus yardage, 13 QB sacks and four forced fumbles! The new face on the other flank is underrated senior vet Chaz Sutton who picked up five sacks off the bench last

season and appears poised for a big final season at South Carolina. At defensive tackle, junior Kelcy Quarles is a strong run defender and quality pass rusher from an interior post, while the other DT slot is filled by solid junior J.T. Surratt. The depth at tackle is stronger than it is at the DE slots.

South Carolina uses just two linebackers in their base defense and that's a good thing this year as the Gamecocks lose their top four LBs from the 2012 rotation. The battle this spring came down to untested sophs Kaiwan Lewis, Cedrick Cooper and Marquis Roberts, but several redshirt freshmen and true frosh recruits could also find themselves very much in the equation this fall.

The secondary is a mixed bag as this team brings back two proven cornerbacks in the starting combo of Victor Hampton and Jimmy Legree, plus the add outstanding JUCO corner Ronnie Martin into the picture. There are some minor concerns at safety, however, where junior Brison Williams is the lone returning regular and they need to find two more starters in the 4-2-5 setup. Juniors Sharrod Golightly and Kadetrix Marcus are the early favorites, but Coach Spurrier may end up having to look at several new faces here.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: This team may not win 11 games again, but they are still a Top 25 club at the very least. Their key game is on the road at Georgia and if they win that one, they just might get back to 11 wins again!

2013 South Carolina Schedule

8/31	NORTH CAROLINA
9/7	at Georgia
9/14	VANDERBILT
9/28	at UCF
10/5	KENTUCKY
10/12	at Arkansas
10/19	at Tennessee
10/26	at Missouri
11/2	MISSISSIPPI STATE
11/16	FLORIDA
11/23	COASTAL CAROLINA
11/30	CLEMSON

2013 SOUTH CAROLINA DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB Connor Shaw (6-1, 210, Sr.)	Dylan Thompson (6-3, 215, Jr.)
RB Mike Davis (5-9, 215, So.)	Brandon Wilds (6-2, 220, So.)
WR Bruce Ellington (5-9, 200, Jr.)	Shamier Jeffery (6-1, 205, So.)
WR Damiere Byrd (5-9, 170, Jr.)	K.J. Brent (6-4, 190, So.)
WR Shaq Roland (6-1, 185, So.)	Kwinton Smith (6-4, 210, Fr.)
WR Nick Jones (5-7, 175, Jr.)	Jody Fuller (5-11, 215, Fr.)
TE Rory Anderson (6-5, 235, Jr.)	Jerell Adams (6-6, 235, So.)
C Cody Waldrop (6-2, 320, Fr.)	Clayton Stadnik (6-3, 285, Fr.)
LG A.J. Cann (6-4, 315, Jr.)	Brock Stadnik (6-5, 295, Fr.)
RG Ronald Patrick (6-2, 315, Sr.)	Will Sport (6-5, 295, So.)
LT Corey Robinson (6-8, 340, Jr.)	Mike Matulis (6-5, 275, Jr.)
RT Brandon Shell (6-6, 325, So.)	Cody Gibson (6-7, 290, Jr.)
PK Landon Ard (5-9, 190, So.)	Nick St. Germain (5-9, 180, Fr.)

Defense

DE Jadeveon Clowney (6-6, 275, Jr.)	Mason Harris (6-3, 225, So.)
DE Chaz Sutton (6-5, 260, Sr.)	Darius English (6-6, 230, Fr.)
DT Kelcy Quarles (6-4, 295, Jr.)	Phillip Dukes (6-3, 315, So.)
DT J.T. Surratt (6-2, 310, Jr.)	Gerald Dixon Jr. (6-3, 320, So.)
LB Kaiwan Lewis (6-0, 225, So.)	T.J. Holloman (6-2, 220, Fr.)
LB Cedric Cooper (6-2, 220, So.)	Marquis Roberts (6-1, 220, So.)
NS Kadetrix Marcus (6-1, 190, Jr.)	T.J. Gurley (5-10, 185, So.)
NS Brison Williams (5-11, 205, Jr.)	Chris Moody (6-1, 210, Fr.)
NS Sharrod Golightly (5-10, 185, Jr.)	Jordan Diggs (6-0, 200, Fr.)
CB Victor Hampton (5-10, 200, Jr.)	Ahmad Christian (5-10, 190, So.)
CB Jimmy Legree (6-0, 190, Sr.)	Rico McWilliams (5-11, 180, Fr.)
NB Ronnie Martin (5-11, 175, Jr.)	Sidney Rhodes (5-10, 170, Jr.)
P Tyler Hull (6-2, 215, Jr.)	Patrick Fish (6-0, 195, Jr.)

Returning Starters are Listed in Bold Type

2012 SOUTH CAROLINA RESULTS

(SUR: 11-2 PSR: 8-5 O-U: 8-4)

A.30 Vanderbilt	L	-6'	17-13	u45'
S.08 E. CAROLINA	W	-21	48-10	o51
S.15 UAB	W	-33'	49-6	o54
S.22 MISSOURI	W	-10'	31-10	u48
S.29 Kentucky	W	-20'	38-17	o50
O.06 GEORGIA	W	-1'	35-7	u55
O.13 Lsu	W	+3	21-23	o39'
O.20 Florida	L	+3'	11-44	o41'
O.27 TENNESSEE	L	-14	38-35	o55
N.10 ARKANSAS	W	-14	38-20	o52
N.17 WOFFORD	L	-31'	24-7	NL
N.24 Clemson	W	+4	27-17	u61'
J.01 Michigan	L	-5'	33-28	o47'

2012 South Carolina Final Stats

	So. Carolina	Opp
Points per game	32	18
1st Downs	258	231
Rush Att	491	504
Rush Yards	1800	1569
Avg Rush	3.7	3.1
Pass Comp	225	213
Pass Att	365	379
Pass Yds	3095	2533
Had Int	9	15
Off Yds per game	377	316