

WEEK TWELVE

CHATTANOOGA AT SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- Quarterback Jake Bentley chatted with one of his favorite targets in receiver Deebo Samuel, honored on Senior Night who reflected on how much he'd miss playing at South Carolina.

"I told him in winning this game, we'd have a little bit more time together," Bentley said.

Bentley threw for 339 yards and tied his career best with four touchdowns as the Gamecocks became bowl eligible with a 49-9 victory over Chattanooga on Saturday night.

A.J. Turner, a junior with eight career touchdowns coming in, accounted for three TDs for the Gamecocks (6-4) against the Mocs (6-5) of the Football Championship Subdivision.

"It's not about the touchdowns, it's about us being able to play together," Turner said.

The win was an important one for the Gamecocks (6-4), whose time was running out at trying to make the postseason.

South Carolina goes to powerhouse state rival No. 2 Clemson next week where it will be heavy underdogs. Without the Chattanooga win, the Gamecocks' postseason hopes would've rested on a makeup contest with Akron on Dec. 1.

"We've been through adversity this year," Bentley said. "It's great to know we've got some postseason ball ahead of us."

The Gamecocks, who fell to FCS opponent The Citadel here three years ago, didn't want to mess around with Chattanooga. Bentley and Turner made sure they started fast with touchdowns on their first three possessions.

Bentley was 5-of-6 passing on South Carolina's opening possession, including a 16-yard TD throw to Turner.

He was at it again the next time he got the ball with a 12-play drive that ended with a 6-yard TD throw to Turner.

Turner was front and center on the next drive, too, finishing the series with an 11-yard scoring run.

Turner had only one touchdown in eight games this season before breaking out big against Chattanooga in the opening half.

Bentley, who was 25 of 29 passing, didn't stop after the break in adding scoring throws of 53 yards to Shi Smith and 61 yards to Samuel.

Bentley tied his career high of four touchdowns first accomplished in a win over Coastal Carolina in September.

Samuel finished with five catches for 112 yards, his second straight game with over 100 yards receiving.

Chattanooga was overmatched from the start. The Mocs had a field goal and an extra point blocked. They were just one of eight on third-down tries in the opening half.

Chattanooga's lone TD came when receiver Bryce Nunnally threw a 2-yard scoring pass to a wide open quarterback Nick Tiano with less than five minutes left in the game.

They were in the thick of the Southern Conference race the first two months of the season, but fell to 0-3 in November with this loss.

Mocs coach Tom Arth was pleased with his team's effort.

"I thought we left some plays out there," he said. "That's the hard part."

THE TAKEAWAY

Chattanooga: The Mocs made the NCAA FCS playoffs for three straight seasons from 2014-16, but have gone 9-13 the past two seasons under Arth. The team doubled its win total from Arth's first season, but struggled down the stretch as it went 0-3 in November.

South Carolina: Beating an FCS team does not make all OK for the Gamecocks, but it does take some of the sting out of its fourth-quarter collapse at Florida a week ago. Most importantly, the victory gives South Carolina a December of bowl practices which it certainly needs to shore up its defense, which ranked 12th in the Southeastern Conference coming into the game.

FACING CLEMSON

The Gamecocks head to Clemson trying to snap a four-game losing streak in the series where they've been outscored 162-66 in that stretch. South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said his team understands they need to pick things up against their rival.

"There's always a chip on your shoulder in the rivalry," South Carolina linebacker T.J. Brunson said. "But you have to prepare the same way as always."

YOUNG GAMECOCKS

South Carolina played many of its youngest players who coach Will Muschamp believes will be a big part of the future. Quarterbacks Dakereon Joyner and Jay Urich saw time late and freshman tailback Deshaun Fenwick ran for 112 yards and a touchdown in his most significant action this season.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CHAT	0	3	0	6	9
SC	14	14	7	14	49

Scoring Summary -----

	CHAT	SC
FIRST QUARTER		
SC TD 9:53		
A.J. Turner 16 Yd pass from Jake Bentley (Parker White Kick)	7	
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:44		
SC TD 4:16		
A.J. Turner 6 Yd pass from Jake Bentley (Parker White Kick)	14	
11 plays, 61 yards, 4:00		
SECOND QUARTER		
CHAT FG 14:55		
Victor Ulmo 36 Yd Field Goal		14
11 plays, 56 yards, 4:21		
SC TD 13:44		
A.J. Turner 11 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)	21	
4 plays, 68 yards, 1:11		
SC TD 0:34		
Mon Denson 1 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)	28	
8 plays, 70 yards, 1:36		
THIRD QUARTER		
SC TD 13:32		
Shi Smith 53 Yd pass from Jake Bentley (Parker White Kick)	35	
5 plays, 70 yards, 1:28		
FOURTH QUARTER		
SC TD 14:48		
Deebo Samuel 61 Yd pass from Jake Bentley (Parker White Kick)	42	
3 plays, 74 yards, 0:36		
SC TD 10:51		
Deshaun Fenwick 2 Yd Run (Alexander Woznick Kick)	49	
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:22		
CHAT TD 4:52		
Nick Tiano 2 Yd pass from Bryce Nunnally (Thomas Burks PAT blocked)	49	
9 plays, 90 yards, 4:21		

	CHAT	SC
Team Stats		
First Downs	17	33
Total Yards	334	602
Total Plays	61	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.5	7.7
Net Yards Rushing	78	238
Rushes	24	42
Yards Per Rush	3.3	5.7
Net Yards Passing	256	364
Comp-Att	18-37	29-36
Yards Per Pass	6.9	10.1
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-18	-15
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	5	2
Punt Average	39.0	46.0
Penalties	6	6
Penalty Yards	49	48
Fumbles	2	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	28:37	31:23

Individual Stats

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
CHAT					
23 Tyrell Price	9	41	4.6	20	0
24 Alex Trotter	5	20	4.0	8	0
7 Nick Tiano	10	17	1.7	9	0

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
SC					
14 Deshaun Fenwick	17	112	6.6	37	1
25 A.J. Turner	8	65	8.1	14	1
34 Mon Denson	7	28	4.0	11	1
7 Dakereon Joyner	3	24	8.0	11	0
10 Jay Urich	1	14	14.0	14	0
6 Josh Vann	1	5	5.0	5	0
1 Deebo Samuel	1	2	2.0	2	0
19 Jake Bentley	4	-12	-3.0	2	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
CHAT							
7 Nick Tiano	17	36	254	7.1	0	1	100.9
19 Bryce Nunnally	1	1	2	2.0	1	0	446.8

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
SC							
19 Jake Bentley	25	29	339	11.7	4	0	229.9
12 Michael Scarnecchia	2	4	15	3.8	0	0	81.5
10 Jay Urich	1	1	9	9.0	0	0	175.6
7 Dakereon Joyner	1	2	1	0.5	0	0	54.2

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
CHAT					
19 Bryce Nunnally	5	141	28.2	57	0
11 Will Young	1	33	33.0	33	0
23 Tyrell Price	4	22	5.5	8	0
24 Alex Trotter	2	20	10.0	15	0
4 Joseph Parker	3	20	6.7	12	0
5 Bingo Morton	2	18	9.0	11	0
7 Nick Tiano	1	2	2.0	2	1
SC					
1 Deebo Samuel	5	112	22.4	61	1
89 Bryan Edwards	4	69	17.3	36	0
13 Shi Smith	4	68	17.0	53	1
25 A.J. Turner	3	34	11.3	16	2
83 Chavis Dawkins	3	24	8.0	12	0
87 Kiel Pollard	2	19	9.5	13	0
6 Josh Vann	4	15	3.8	9	0
88 Will Register	1	9	9.0	9	0
34 Mon Denson	1	8	8.0	8	0
3 K.C. Crosby	1	5	5.0	5	0
15 Evan Hinson	1	1	1.0	1	0