

WEEK EIGHT  
FLORIDA at SOUTH CAROLINA

**No. 9 Florida bounces back with 38-27 win over Gamecocks**

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- For three quarters, Kyle Trask saw the overthrows and ineffective runs, the penalties and missed assignments. He knew something had to change.

It finally did. Trask threw three of his career-high four touchdowns in the final period Saturday to rally the No. 9 Gators to a 38-27 win at South Carolina.

Trask, sensing the game slipping away, told his teammates: "This isn't us." He then helped the Gators (7-1, 4-1 Southeastern Conference) avoid a second straight loss after falling at No. 2 LSU 42-28 last week.

"We found our identity and started making plays," he said.

This season, the identity of Florida's offense is very much in Trask's hands. The redshirt junior, starting because of an injury to Feleipe Franks, has led the Gators to their best start since 2015.

After a week off, Trask will bring Florida to a final, defining stretch with games against No. 10 Georgia, Vanderbilt and SEC East-leading Missouri in the chase for a spot in the SEC title game.

Things didn't look promising through the third quarter. South Carolina (3-4, 2-3) held Florida in check and took a 20-17 lead in trying for its second consecutive win over a top 10 opponent after beating then-No. 3 Georgia in double overtime last week.

"We have a very resilient team," Trask said. "We're never going to panic, no matter the situation."

That was evident in the second half.

After Trask's interception deep in Florida territory led to Tavien Feaster's 21-yard TD run to put the Gamecocks up 17-10, Dameon Pierce answered with a 75-yard scoring run on Florida's next snap to tie it.

In the final period, down 20-17, Trask faced fourth-and-3 on South Carolina's 34 before scrambling from pressure to pick up the first down with a 9-yard pass to Kyle Pitts. Trask followed with the go-ahead 25-yard touchdown throw to Lamical Perine.

Florida's defense also came through down the stretch after the Gators took the lead. Defensive end Zachary Carter sacked Ryan Hilinski, who fumbled as nose tackle Kyree Campbell recovered.

Florida linebacker David Reese said the players were intent on not letting the LSU loss affect them.

"We can't let one loss turn into another," he said.

Trask, who completed 21 of 33 passes for 200 yards, finished the series with a 5-yard TD pass to Pitts before a final scoring pass of 5 yards to Trevon Grimes.

South Carolina looked poised once more shuffle the SEC East race with an upset. But like a year ago, when Florida rallied from 31-14 down to defeat the Gamecocks 35-31, South Carolina could not hold.

"Get the lead in fourth quarter, got to make some plays. We didn't do that," South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said.

Hilinski, who sprained his knee in the Georgia win, was not sharp for most of this game. The freshman completed 17 of 35 throws for 170 yards.

"We've got to find a way to throw the ball better," he said.

Feaster, the Clemson graduate transfer, ran for 175 yards for South Carolina, which was outscored 21-7 in the final period.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Florida: The Gators now have time to recover from injuries and recoup from a two-month stretch of football. Florida gets next week off before starting a run of three straight SEC East games.

South Carolina: The defense gave the team a chance at another stunner. But inconsistency on offense sent South Carolina to its fourth loss to Florida in five years.

**INJURED GATORS**

Florida was missing two key defenders, both out with ankle injuries -- end Jabari Zuniga and linebacker Jonathan Greenard. Greenard entered the game leading the Gators with four sacks. Zuniga has three. Gators coach Dan Mullen was optimistic the two would be able to practice entering the Georgia game in two weeks.

**ANGRY MUSCHAMP**

South Carolina's Will Muschamp had grown so frustrated with officiating, he drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. He was angrier still the flag was thrown far from where he stood, saying it was a "gutless" move.

"The guy ran 40 yards away and dropped a flag. I have no idea. I'd rather him drop it on my feet," the coach said.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FLA	3	7	7	21	38
SC	7	3	10	7	27

**Scoring Summary -----**

	FLA	SC
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 9:59 Mon Denson 1 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)		7
8 plays, 75 yards, 5:01	0	
FLA FG 4:06 Evan McPherson 48 Yd Field Goal		7
6 plays, 44 yards, 2:16	3	
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
SC FG 14:06 Parker White 49 Yd Field Goal		10
6 plays, 45 yards, 2:03	3	
FLA TD 10:08 Jacob Copeland 37 Yd pass from Kyle Trask (Evan McPherson Kick)		10
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:58	10	
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 13:57 Tavien Feaster 21 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)		17
3 plays, 20 yards, 0:45	10	
FLA TD 13:43 Dameon Pierce 75 Yd Run (Evan McPherson Kick)		17
1 play, 75 yards, 0:14	17	
SC FG 3:16 Parker White 31 Yd Field Goal		20
12 plays, 72 yards, 6:22	17	
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
FLA TD 9:54 Freddie Swain 25 Yd pass from Kyle Trask (Evan McPherson Kick)		20
7 plays, 52 yards, 3:35	24	
FLA TD 7:53 Kyle Pitts 5 Yd pass from Kyle Trask (Evan McPherson Kick)		20
3 plays, 29 yards, 0:51	31	
FLA TD 4:02 Trevon Grimes 5 Yd pass from Kyle Trask (Evan McPherson Kick)		20
6 plays, 37 yards, 3:10	38	
SC TD 1:53 OrTre Smith 4 Yd pass from Ryan Hilinski (Parker White Kick)		27
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:09	38	

Team Stats	FLA	SC
First Downs	18	16
Passes for First	8	7
Rushes for First	7	9
Penalties for First	3	0
Third Down Efficiency	5-14	7-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-2
Total Yards	354	387
Total Plays	63	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.6	5.0
Net Yards Rushing	154	217
Rushes	30	43
Yards Per Rush	5.1	5.0
Net Yards Passing	200	170
Comp-Att	21-33	17-35
Yards Per Pass	6.1	4.9
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-14	-21
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	7	7
Punt Average	44.7	45.9
Penalties	4	5
Penalty Yards	25	60
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	27:57	32:03

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

FLORIDA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Dameon Pierce	7	87	12.4	1	75
Lamical Perine	14	68	4.9	0	15
Emory Jones	1	2	2.0	0	2
Freddie Swain	1	1	1.0	0	1
Malik Davis	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Kyle Trask	5	-3	-0.6	0	5
SOUTH CAROLINA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tavien Feaster	25	175	7.0	1	37
Mon Denson	12	58	4.8	1	25
Rico Dowdle	1	8	8.0	0	8
Ryan Hilinski	5	-24	-4.8	0	3

**PASSING**

FLORIDA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kyle Trask	21/33	200	6.1	4	1	59.7	
SOUTH CAROLINA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ryan Hilinski	17/35	170	4.9	1	0	7.8	

**RECEIVING**

FLORIDA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jacob Copeland	3	89	29.7	1	37
Kyle Pitts	5	29	5.8	1	9
Freddie Swain	5	20	4.0	1	25
Josh Hammond	2	18	9.0	0	13
Tyrie Cleveland	1	14	14.0	0	14
Trevon Grimes	2	13	6.5	1	8
Lamical Perine	2	12	6.0	0	7
Malik Davis	1	5	5.0	0	5
SOUTH CAROLINA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Bryan Edwards	7	78	11.1	0	41
Josh Vann	3	33	11.0	0	16
Nick Muse	1	21	21.0	0	21
Shi Smith	2	18	9.0	0	14
Kyle Markway	1	8	8.0	0	8
OrTre Smith	2	7	3.5	1	4
Chavis Dawkins	1	5	5.0	0	5