

**Freshman Hilinski's debut leads South Carolina to 72-10 win**

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- South Carolina fans gave quarterback Ryan Hilinski even more love than a second string QB typically gets in his first start and the freshman with the inspiring backstory responded with a storybook debut.

Hilinski completed 24 of 30 passes for 282 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score leading the Gamecocks (1-1) to a 72-10 win over Charleston Southern on Saturday. The highly touted Hilinski earned the backup job in spring practice after enrolling early from high school and was elevated to starter after senior Jake Bentley broke his foot in the last play of the opening loss to North Carolina. Bentley is out for at least several weeks.

While South Carolina was recruiting Hilinski, his older brother Tyler Hilinski killed himself while playing quarterback for Washington State. The school promised to do whatever it could to help his family and their Hilinski's Hope foundation in Tyler's honor to help make the mental health of college athletes as important as their physical health.

The crowd chanted "Let's go Ryan!" during his first two drives.

Hilinski's parents were in the stands and his mother, Kym, said during an in-game interview with the SEC Network that she caught herself cheering for Tyler as her younger son took the field for South Carolina.

"I stepped back and I said, 'Oh my god, I can't believe I just yelled that.' But I think they were both out there on the field today, right?" Kym Hilinski said in the TV interview. "It was Ryan and Tyler, and Tyler was his angel on the field. I hope he's with him for the rest of this season and the next few seasons."

The Gamecocks mostly kept it simple for Hilinski against the FCS Buccaneers (0-2) with plenty of screens, short passes and hand-offs. Hilinski did hit Bryan Edwards in stride for a 60-yard touchdown pass and looked like a freshman in the third quarter when he was rushed and sailed a pass for his one interception.

But overall, it was a fine debut for the freshman. Things get exponentially harder next week with No. 2 Alabama coming to town for the Southeastern Conference opener.

Ryan Hilinski didn't speak after the game. South Carolina coach Will Muschamp has a policy that freshmen can't talk to reporters.

Muschamp said dealing with the pain and struggle of what happened to his brother helps Ryan Hilinski deal with social media and the crucible of now being a starting quarterback in the SEC.

"It makes you grow up very quickly," Muschamp said. "It helps you handle criticism."

Saturday's fairly vanilla game plan wasn't because it was Hilinski's first start, Muschamp said.

"The guy can handle what we're doing. He's extremely bright," Muschamp said.

**OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION**

South Carolina set school records for most yards (775) and rushing yards (493) on Saturday.

Edwards caught five passes for 112 yards. Mon Denson ran nine times for 118 yards and a touchdown, Rico Dowdle had 10 carries for 87 yards and two touchdowns and Kevin Harris ran six times for 147 yards and three TDs, all in second half mop up time.

"I'm pleased with the production we had," Muschamp said.

**DEFENSIVE LOCKDOWN**

South Carolina's defense held Charleston Southern to 267 yards -- just 85 of them coming in the first half. The Buccaneers lost yards on the opening play of four of its seven first half drives.

"We got our butts kicked," said Charleston Southern coach Autry Denson, trying to shift the program to his vision in his first year as a head coach. "But it is all part of the process of what we are trying to be."

The Gamecocks put in reserves after leading 44-3 at the break. At one point in the third quarter, they played four freshmen in the defensive backfield, including Shilo Sanders, son of NFL great Deion Sanders.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Charleston Southern: The Buccaneers took away \$400,000 for their athletic programs. They also got to use athletic facilities at South Carolina and the Carolina Panthers this week after Hurricane Dorian passed close by and chased them from campus. Denson saw the week's events as an opportunity, not a distraction or problem. "We got to experience a bunch of things these guys would have otherwise not got to experience," Denson said.

South Carolina: The lower division Buccaneers helped soothe some frazzled Gamecocks nerves after the opening loss to North Carolina. But whether it shows a team getting it together remains to be seen. The 72 points were the most in Muschamp's four seasons coaching South Carolina and the most for the Gamecocks since beating Kent State 77-14 in 1995.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CHSO	3	0	0	7	10
SC	21	23	7	21	72

**Scoring Summary -----**

	CHSO	SC
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 11:29 Rico Dowdle 3 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)		7
9 plays, 70 yards, 3:31	0	
SC TD 5:58 Ryan Hilinski 4 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)		14
6 plays, 80 yards, 1:49	0	
CHSO FG 2:47 Miller Braddock 41 Yd Field Goal		3
8 plays, 64 yards, 3:11	3	14
SC TD 0:06 Dakereon Joyner 6 Yd Run (Parker White Kick)		21
6 plays, 68 yards, 2:41	3	
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 12:13 Bryan Edwards 10 Yd pass from Ryan Hilinski (Parker White Kick)		28
8 plays, 61 yards, 2:28	3	
SC TD 10:00 Bryan Edwards 60 Yd pass from Ryan Hilinski (Parker White Kick)		35
2 plays, 62 yards, 0:41	3	
SC FG 6:47 Parker White 47 Yd Field Goal		38
6 plays, 15 yards, 1:36	3	
SC TD 0:34 Rico Dowdle 5 Yd Run (Will Tommie PAT failed)		44
11 plays, 86 yards, 3:51	3	
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 11:00 Kevin Harris 1 Yd Run (Will Tommie Kick)		51
9 plays, 55 yards, 2:55	3	
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
SC TD 14:34 Mon Denson 57 Yd Run (Will Tommie Kick)		58
5 plays, 92 yards, 2:31	3	
SC TD 9:49 Kevin Harris 45 Yd Run (Will Tommie Kick)		65
4 plays, 70 yards, 2:24	3	
CHSO TD 3:10 Jaquan Williams 3 Yd pass from Ross Malmgren (Miller Braddock Kick)		65
12 plays, 75 yards, 6:39	10	
SC TD 2:35 Kevin Harris 75 Yd Run (Will Tommie Kick)		72
1 play, 75 yards, 0:35	10	

Team Stats	CHSO	SC
First Downs	14	29
Passes for First	9	14
Rushes for First	4	15
Penalties for First	1	0
Third Down Efficiency	6-17	4-7
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	2-2
Total Yards	267	775
Total Plays	70	69
Avg Gain Per Play	3.8	11.2
Net Yards Rushing	72	493
Rushes	24	38
Yards Per Rush	3.0	13.0
Net Yards Passing	195	282
Comp-Att	26-46	25-31
Yards Per Pass	4.2	9.1
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-6
Interceptions	3	1
Punts	6	0
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	2	3
Penalty Yards	14	35
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	33:56	26:04

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

CHARLESTON SOUTH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ronnie Harris	8	53	6.6	0	44
Jonathan Earl	5	15	3.0	0	7
Jack Chambers	4	5	1.3	0	13
Jon Pohahau	1	1	1.0	0	1
Ross Malmgren	1	1	1.0	0	1
Terrence Wilson	4	-1	-0.3	0	3
SOUTH CAROLINA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Kevin Harris	6	147	24.5	3	75
Mon Denson	9	118	13.1	1	57
Rico Dowdle	10	87	8.7	2	35
Tavien Feaster	6	64	10.7	0	35
Dakereon Joyner	4	53	13.3	1	41
Bryan Edwards	1	15	15.0	0	15
Shi Smith	1	5	5.0	0	5
Ryan Hilinski	1	4	4.0	1	4

**PASSING**

CHARLESTON SOUTH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Chambers	14	30	116	3.9	0	2	--
Ross Malmgren	11	13	77	5.9	1	0	--
Christian Reid	1	3	2	0.7	0	1	--
SOUTH CAROLINA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ryan Hilinski	24	30	282	9.4	2	1	93.3
Dakereon Joyner	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	100.0

**RECEIVING**

CHARLESTON SOUTH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jaquan Williams	3	45	15.0	1	32
Terrence Wilson	4	31	7.8	0	20
Kameron Brown	1	20	20.0	0	20
Geoffrey Wall	3	19	6.3	0	11
Ronnie Harris	2	17	8.5	0	18
Demetrius Jones	2	14	7.0	0	10
Christian Reid	2	13	6.5	0	7
Isaiah Stephens	3	13	4.3	0	6
Kaleb Chatmon	2	9	4.5	0	6
Isaac Ross	2	7	3.5	0	5
Quinn Caballero	1	5	5.0	0	5
Jamari Dunbar	1	2	2.0	0	2
SOUTH CAROLINA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Bryan Edwards	5	112	22.4	2	60
Kyle Markway	4	37	9.3	0	11
OrTre Smith	2	28	14.0	0	17
Josh Vann	3	23	7.7	0	19
Nick Muse	2	22	11.0	0	12
Tavien Feaster	3	19	6.3	0	14
Rico Dowdle	2	16	8.0	0	11
Shi Smith	2	13	6.5	0	10
Dakereon Joyner	1	12	12.0	0	12
Keshawn Toney	1	0	0.0	0	0