



# SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

SEC - East Division

## Beamer Continues to Overachieve

Will Muschamp's time in Columbia ended unceremoniously with a 6-16 record. Shane Beamer then stepped in and immediately injected life into the floundering program and won seven games in 2021 and eight in 2022. A normal rebuild timeline would tell you that the Gamecocks should only now be emerging as contenders in year three, but we're already well past that point and South Carolina is way ahead of schedule. While the Gamecocks went 0-2 in their only two games against Top 25 opponents in 2021, Beamer's squad earned their first statement win over #13 in Kentucky in 2022 and following a win over Texas A&M, South Carolina was ranked in the Top 25 for the first time since 2018. However, the Gamecocks weren't finished. After a humiliating defeat against Florida in what was arguably the worst loss of the season, Beamer and company reworked the play calling and, out of nowhere, blitzed Tennessee 63-38 and shocked the college football world. The following week they ended a long seven-game losing streak to their bitter rivals Clemson in a thrilling 31-30 victory.

Somehow, within a matter of just two weeks, South Carolina's turned a "ho hum" kind of year into their best season in the last five years and turned Columbia into an absolute frenzy. Both of those two wins were against Top 10 opponents and the Gamecocks eliminated Tennessee and Clemson from College Football Playoff contention. While South Carolina did fall to Notre Dame in an offensive shootout in the Gator Bowl, the momentum and energy within the program is palpable and the recruiting classes are quickly become clear reflections of that fact. There's still work to be done to reach the very summit of the SEC, but Beamer's first two teams have soared above expectations.

The Gamecocks brought in a handful of transfers last season and several made significant impacts but the spotlight shone brightest on quarterback **Spencer Rattler**. The #1 quarterback recruit from the class of 2019 had a breakout season with Oklahoma in 2020 and helped win a Big 12 title for the Sooners and smashed Florida in the Cotton Bowl 55-20 for good measure to end the season. He was a Heisman favorite heading into 2021 but, despite Oklahoma's 9-0 start to the season was benched after inconsistent play in favor of Caleb Williams. When the Gamecocks opened the season 1-2 and Rattler threw five interceptions to just two touchdowns, there were concerns that the struggles had carried over from Norman and that he had lost his confidence. But, to his credit, he regained his composure and completed over 70% of his passes in each of the next three weeks (all wins). After a subpar performance against Florida he exploded for 438 yards against Tennessee and nearly had more touchdowns (6) than incompletions (7). He was instrumental in the win over Clemson and finished with 3,026 yards on the season. If Rattler picks up where he left off last season, South Carolina's offense will be one of the best in the conference.


Although most of the wide receiver production is gone, Rattler's favorite target **Antwane Wells** (926 yards) is back and **Nyckoles Harbor** could be one of the most impactful freshman in the SEC. The Gamecocks struggled to run the ball consistently last season and the top two backs are now gone. **Juju McDowell** ran for 219 yards but only only 3.5 yards per carry. The transfer portal should aid this position some but the ground game remains a major question mark and the offensive line returns only two starters.

The Gamecock defense was better in year one under Beamer than it was year two and with only four returning starters in year three it's possible that this unit could be trending in the wrong direction again. However, while the experience is missing from the defense the talent is not. **Nick Emmanwori** had 85 tackles as a true freshman safety and **Marcellas Dial** and **DQ Smith** made several key plays in the secondary. South Carolina needs to do a much better job in stopping the run but that could be a challenge with **Tonka Hemingway** as the only returning starter on the front seven.

**The Bottom Line:** There's no question that this program is headed in the right direction and Beamer has done a terrific job. He's overachieved in his first two seasons but it will be a challenge do it again in 2023. The Gamecocks' season is bookended by two quality ACC programs (North Carolina and Clemson) and road trips include Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas A&M (Beamer is 4-6 on the road). The roster is both remarkably talented and remarkably unproven outside of Rattler and a handful of others.

### Projection: 8-4 (4th in SEC East)

#### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
<b>32.2</b>	<b>118.8</b>	<b>260.0</b>	<b>-4</b>
39th in FBS	105th in FBS	41st in FBS	T-95th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
<b>28.8</b>	<b>198.0</b>	<b>206.7</b>	
13th in FBS	117th in FBS	34th in FBS	

### SOUTH CAROLINA BIO

National Championships - 0



SEC Championships: 0

Location: **Columbia, SC**

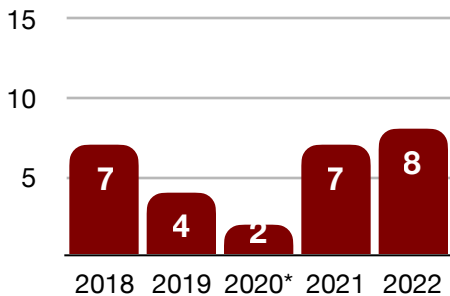
All-Time Record: **597-572-41**

2022 Results: **8-5**

**Lost in Gator Bowl**













Head Coach: **Shane Beamer**  
3rd Year (15-11)

### 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)

## 2023 South Carolina Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 vs. N. Carolina*
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. Furman
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ <b>Georgia</b>
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. <b>Mississippi St</b>
5	Sat, Sept 30	 @ <b>Tennessee</b>
6	Bye Week	
7	Sat, Oct 14	 vs. <b>Florida</b>
8	Sat, Oct 21	 @ <b>Missouri</b>
9	Sat, Oct 28	 @ <b>Texas A&amp;M</b>
10	Sat, Nov 4	 vs. Jacksonville St
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. <b>Vanderbilt</b>
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. <b>Kentucky</b>
13	Sat, Nov 25	 vs. Clemson

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 2: vs. North Carolina\*** - With road trips looming against Georgia and Tennessee in the month of September, the opening game against North Carolina (in Charlotte) almost feels like a must win. The Gamecocks took home a 2021 Mayo Bowl trophy over the Tar Heels. Maye and the offense will provide an early test to the young South Carolina defense.

**Sat, Sept 16: @ Georgia** - The Bulldogs have had little trouble disposing of the Gamecocks having won the last two meetings by a combined 68 points.

**Sat, Nov 25: vs. Clemson** - The Tigers could very well have College Football Playoff hopes when they roll into Williams-Brice. Could the Gamecocks win two straight over the Tigers for the first time since 2013?

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Spencer Rattler - QB

A strong final month of the season from Rattler provided a huge boost to the Gamecocks and helped restore his confidence. When he's at his best, Rattler is one of the best quarterbacks in college football (just ask Tennessee) and if new offensive coordinator Dowell Logains can maximize his potential, opposing defenses are in for some long games. If he can avoid injuries that often plagued him last season, he has a real opportunity to be the SEC's best quarterback.



#### Antwane Wells - WR

With much of the wide receiver depth gone from last year's team, Wells could see even more targets in 2023. He transferred to South Carolina after an 83-catch, 1,250-yard season with James Madison and he didn't disappoint. He caught 68 passes for 928 yards and found the end zone seven times. Rattler connected with Wells through the air 20 times for over 300 yards in the wins over Tennessee and Clemson.



### 2022 RESULTS (8-5)

Georgia State (W 35-14)

@ Arkansas (L 30-44)

Georgia (L 7-48)

**Charlotte (W 56-20)**

**South Carolina St. (W 50-10)**

@ **Kentucky (W 24-14)**

**Texas A&M (W 30-24)**

Missouri (L 10-23)

@ **Vanderbilt (W 38-27)**

@ Florida (L 6-38)

**Tennessee (W 63-38)**

**Clemson (W 31-10)**

Notre Dame (L 38-45)

*Carolina*

### RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

**16th**

(Via 24/7 Sports)