

# SPORTS

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## SOUTH CAROLINA 31, MISSOURI 13



MARTA PAYNE/Missourian

South Carolina wide receiver Deebo Samuel rushes for a 25-yard touchdown against Missouri on Saturday on Faurot Field. The Gamecocks defeated the Tigers 31-13.

# COCK-A-DOODLE ... EW

## Missouri's lackluster effort allows Gamecocks to crow about 31-13 victory

BY PETER BAUGH  
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Within the first six minutes of the first quarter, Barry Odom's emotions ranged from urgency to anxiety to ecstasy.

He leaped up and down so the referees would hear him calling for a timeout. He nervously waited for South Carolina to kick a field goal. He celebrated when the Gamecocks missed.

It was the beginning of a windstorm of emotions for Missouri's second-year head coach. But, at the end of the night, one emotion was apparent: the palpable frustration of a coach searching for answers.

"If we don't win the turnover margin, if we play horrific in special teams, we're not going to win a game," Odom said after Missouri's 31-13 loss to South Carolina to open SEC play. With the loss, Missouri falls to 1-1. The Gamecocks improved to 2-0.

A week after a record-setting 72-point perfor-

mance against Missouri State, Missouri's offense looked lost Saturday. Special teams deficiencies proved costly throughout the game.

Defensively, the Tigers started strong. Against Missouri State, they allowed 21 points in the first quarter. Against the Gamecocks? Zero. The unit stood firm against a potent South Carolina offense, and a Tucker McCann field goal gave Missouri a 3-0 lead after 15 minutes of action.

"We did a lot better at trying to handle our own responsibilities and not (trying to) do too much," sophomore linebacker Cale Garrett said, "but also ended up — myself especially — shooting ourselves in the foot with mistakes on things that we know how to do."

Missouri's woes began when South Carolina's Deebo Samuel took over in the second quarter. Odom praised the wideout through the week, calling him one of the best receivers in the country. The coach's fears of what Samuel was capable of

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## Moore absent as offense sputters

J'Mon Moore was helpless.

The wide receiver was forced to watch from the sidelines as Missouri kicker Andrew Baggett doinked his game-tying field goal attempt off of the left upright from 24 yards out. The

Tigers, then the fifth-ranked team in the country, let Moore's first game against South Carolina slip away in double overtime.

Moore couldn't help in any part of the game that year, as he was under a redshirt in 2013. But, over the past five years, he has been part of a Missouri team that has played close game after close game against the Gamecocks.

"Personally, I like playing them," Moore said Tuesday. "They're a good team, it's always been a good game. I'm looking forward to it a lot."

However, in the years he has been eligible, Moore has not been able to crack the Gamecocks defense. Leading up to Saturday's match-up, Moore had only hauled in eight passes for 73 yards in the games he played.

He failed to buck the trend in his final appearance against South Carolina.

Missouri's big play threat was all but neutralized by the Gamecocks, only hauling in three passes on eight targets for 29 yards. This

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EMIL LIPPE/Missourian

Missouri wide receiver J'Mon Moore walks away in disappointment after a play at the goal line during the second half Saturday on Faurot Field. Moore caught only three passes for 29 yards.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Missouri vs. San Diego St.

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Walton Soccer Stadium

**Online:** SECN+

### INSIDE

#### MU BASKETBALL GETS COMMITMENT

Four-star St. Louis-area recruit Torrence Watson commits to the Tigers on Friday night

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#### ROCK BRIDGE NO LONGER UNBEATEN

The Bruins fall Friday on the road to Lee's Summit; other Columbia teams also go down in defeat

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