

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's soccer bests Duke, prepares for season opener

USC's women's soccer team is ready to begin the regular season after downing No. 9 Duke 2-0 on the road Saturday. The victory left Carolina unbeaten in its two exhibition games in preparation for the season opener.

"From the start of the match we competed and did the things we needed to do to win the match," USC coach Shelley Smith said. "We were a team tonight. Duke is extremely talented, and it is a confidence boost for us and our young players. We hope to build off this in the regular season and be able to compete like this against each opponent."

Sophomore goalkeeper Lindsay Thorstenson recorded five saves in the shutout. Carolina went ahead 1-0 when freshman midfielder Mary Worthen scored at 31:51 on an assist from fellow newcomers Alex Mouton and Darcel Mollon. Sophomore Courtney Cobbs scored the final goal in the 64th minute with another assist from Mollon and freshman Kim Boulos.

The Gamecocks open the regular season at home Friday night against Mercer. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

Men's soccer loses early lead, falters against Paladins

After leading Furman 2-0 for 65 minutes of play, USC's men's soccer team surrendered three goals in the second half to drop the first exhibition game of the season.

The 105-minute exhibition at Eugene Stone III Stadium in Greenville looked as if it would be

dominated by the Gamecocks, who opened the scoring on a free kick at the 3:05 mark when junior Ralph Pace headed senior Eric Szeszycki's cross into the left-hand corner of the goal. Junior Ayo Akinsete notched Carolina's final goal at 29:28, when he slotted a shot past the goalkeeper on a counter attack.

The Paladins, despite controlling the ball for most of the match, did not put points on the board until a shot at 65:34 trimmed the lead, followed by another score in the 82nd minute on sophomore Shea Salinas' second assist of the night. Minutes later, a corner kick was turned into an extra opportunity and score as senior Mark Futrell hit the winning goal.

Furman held a 26-6 shot advantage in the come-from-behind victory. The Gamecocks have one more exhibition test Saturday against Coastal Carolina.

Women's golf receives honor for academic achievement

USC's women's golf team took home the inaugural National Golf Coaches Association All-Scholar Team GPA Award after posting a cumulative 3.752 GPA.

The team finished the 2004 fall semester with a 3.671 GPA, the highest GPA since the athletics department began charting the figures in 1996. The team proceeded to shatter the record during the spring semester, posting a 3.832 GPA.

"I am amazed at the level of academic excellence that these girls have achieved and strive for every day," coach Kristi Coggins said. "I am very proud of their accomplishments in the classroom."

USC placed the most women

golfers on the NGCA All-America Scholar Athlete team, as six players earned a spot.

Junior Erica Battle, senior Tiffany Catafygiotu, sophomore Jenna Pearson, and freshmen Carolina Rominger, Whitney Simons and Blythe Worley were named to the team for their achievements in the classroom.

Battle took home President's List honors in the spring after compiling a 4.0 GPA while earning a spot on the SEC Spring Sports Academic Honor Roll. It was her second time on the NGCA All-America Scholar Athlete Team.

After winning an SEC championship in 2002, Catafygiotu finished her career as a three-time member of the NGCA All-America Scholar Team, also earning a spot on the SEC Spring Sports Academic Honor Roll.

Pearson, also a two time NGCA All-America Scholar-Athlete, finished on the Dean's List for the fall and spring semesters while earning a spot on the SEC Sports Spring Academic Honor Roll, while Rominger earned her first spot on the team after garnering Dean's List honors for both semesters.

After finishing 12th at the SEC championships, Simons capped off her amazing freshman season by being the only Gamecock to earn a spot on the President's List both semesters.

Worley finishes out the list of Gamecocks named to the NGCA All-America Scholar-Athlete team. Worley earned President's list honors in the fall, while taking home Dean's List honors during the spring semester.

— Compiled by Miquel Jacobs, Alex Riley

JACOBS ● CONTINUED FROM II

a.m., the three alcohol-influenced students celebrated a 31-28 Homecoming loss to Ole Miss by taking down the copper ball.

That's where the similarities end.

Also in the name of objectivity, consider the differences. Pride was quick to mention the obvious — Thompson and Mainord were minorities, while Springer and his friends were not. What the attorney failed to mention was that the ball was returned without an authority figure personally suggesting its return; the theft and swift return of a university's historical figure is commonly viewed as a college prank; and the theft of a single individual's property, no matter the price value, is burglary. This also includes cases in which a person "accidentally" steals from the wrong person, as Pride suggests in his defense that the players were attempting to playfully remove

items from the rooms of other football players.

As much as he wants his defense to sound logical, there's just something puzzling about two football players mistaking two rooms occupied by females as being those of other football players. Considering they were also accused of removing linens, I would believe that a bathroom was visited, which in my experience also should be distinguishable between males and females. Assuming Pride is also aware of this discrepancy, where does Pride base his motion?


"When black students do things, they look at (them) in terms of conduct being criminal," Pride told The State. "When white students do pranks, it's looked upon as (gregariousness)."

As a black student, I take offense to Pride's comment. Playing the race card is not the way to advance as a people in a trial that couldn't be further from

a racial matter. An obvious college prank would be taking the Maxcy ball, stealing Uga from Georgia and feeding him laxatives minutes before the game, or somehow placing rubber cement on Clemson's 'Howard's Rock' before the players go to rub it. They do harm, but all parties involved recognize it as traditional tomfoolery and provide an according punishment.

"That (copper ball incident) was what the university determined to be more along the nature of a prank that happens periodically. There were (three) students who were disciplined through the university," USC spokesman Russ McKinney told The State in explaining the difference.

Theft is not in the same rank or file and should not be treated so. Neither is a false accusation of racial discrimination — nothing more than a blatant attempt to attack the university's reputation.



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HOOPS ● CONTINUED FROM II

senior forward Antoine Tisby, but as the fall semester arrived, Tisby remains in school.

"At the beginning of May 'mester I don't know if id give you a nickel's chance that he'd be here this time of the year," Odom told the media Friday. "He just had so far to go academically and a lot of

other ways, but he's here. And you've got to give him credit for it."

Odom said juniors Wallace and Renaldo Balkman have gotten stronger in the offseason and estimated that Wallace had increased his strength by 30 percent.

NOTES:

An NCAA rule change that allows programs to return fifth-year seniors who did not graduate

has allowed former USC forward Kerbrell Brown to re-enroll in school. Brown will take classes full-time this school year and will serve as an undergraduate assistant on the basketball team. Brown spent last year playing professional basketball in Iceland.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

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