

Hunting needs to change before it can be considered a sporting event

Participants shouldn't be allowed clothes, scent mask, weapons in stalking animals

I'll watch almost anything on television. I'll watch James Ervin Toyota's used car infomercials. I'll watch Oprah. I'll even watch the occasional spelling bee, if only for the unintentional comedy. But never have I felt so helpless, so betrayed by my television, as I did Friday when my TV turned on to wake me up. It was stuck on the Outdoor Life Network, and my remote control was out of my reach. A part of me died a little.

I have never understood the appeal of watching hunting on television. I've never understood the appeal of a "sport" where half of the participating entities don't even realize the game is being played.

Ralph Wright once said "Shooting a moose is like shooting a parked car," and he had a point.

If they are going to show it on television, they might as well make it interesting.

Instead of following a group of men decked out in full camouflage hiding in some sort of camouflaged tent watching baited animals roam in front of them begging to get shot, I think networks should change things up a little bit.

First, no camouflage allowed. In every real sport, the difference between the teams is obvious. In hunting, the animal can't tell the difference between the person trying to kill them and the trees surrounding that person. If the animals are naked, the people should be too. If the animals have to deal with poison ivy rubbing up against dangerous places, the people should too.

Second, no scent hiding allowed. Hunters use all kinds of things to

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Gamecocks drop three to Wildcats in SEC play

Rallies not enough as team falls to 30-11 on the year

AJ Bemby
STAFF WRITER

The Carolina baseball team could not get out of its own way this weekend.

The Gamecocks were swept on the road by the University of Kentucky Wildcats, dropping USC's record to 30-11 overall and 10-7 in SEC play, while Kentucky improved to 31-10 and 10-7 in the SEC.

Carolina was being pummeled 9-2 until the top of the eighth inning when the Gamecocks' bats finally woke up Friday.

Carolina tied the game heading into the bottom of the eighth and it would stay that way until the bottom of the 11th.

In the 11th, Kentucky junior John Shelby belted his 10th homer of the year, a solo shot off Carolina

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Looking back

The Gamecock remembers the best moments of 2005-2006

1 Gamecocks win back-to-back NIT championships

USC struggled through an up-and-down season, sweeping Florida during the regular season, but being swept by the likes of Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia. The Gamecocks turned it around in the SEC Championship, nearly earning an NCAA bid by exacting revenge on the Wildcats and Volunteers before falling to eventual national champion Florida in the championship game.

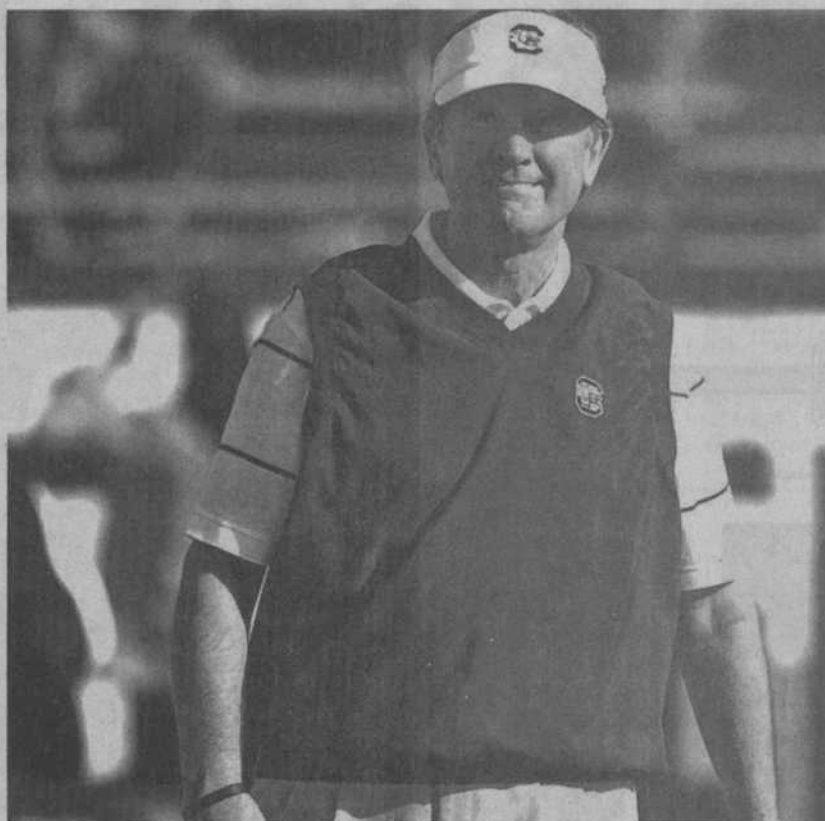
Once in the NIT, the Gamecocks knocked off Western Kentucky at home before going on the road to take down NCAA bubble teams Florida State and Cincinnati to reach the tournament semifinals at Madison Square Garden.

USC had an easy time from there, beating Louisville and Michigan by a combined 28 points to claim its second consecutive NIT title.

Senior Tarence Kinsey and junior Renaldo Balkman were named to the all-tournament team, while Balkman was named the NIT's Most Outstanding Player.



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK



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2 Steve Spurrier leads USC to bowl game in first season as head coach

So it wasn't the most amazing turnaround in program history, but USC coach Steve Spurrier went 7-5 in his inaugural season as a Gamecock and took the team to a bowl game for the first time since 2001. A second-half collapse against Missouri kept the Gamecocks from obtaining eight wins but several milestones were reached during the season.

Among them:

— The Gamecocks were one win away from claiming the SEC East title for the first time in school history. A missed extra point against Georgia led to a two-point loss that may have been the difference.

— USC beat Tennessee in Knoxville for the first time since joining the SEC in 1992. Josh Brown kicked a 48-yard field goal with 2:45 remaining to give the Gamecocks the win by a point.

— Spurrier beat his old team, the Florida Gators, 30-22. It was the Gamecocks fifth-straight SEC win and the first time they had beaten the Gators since 1939.

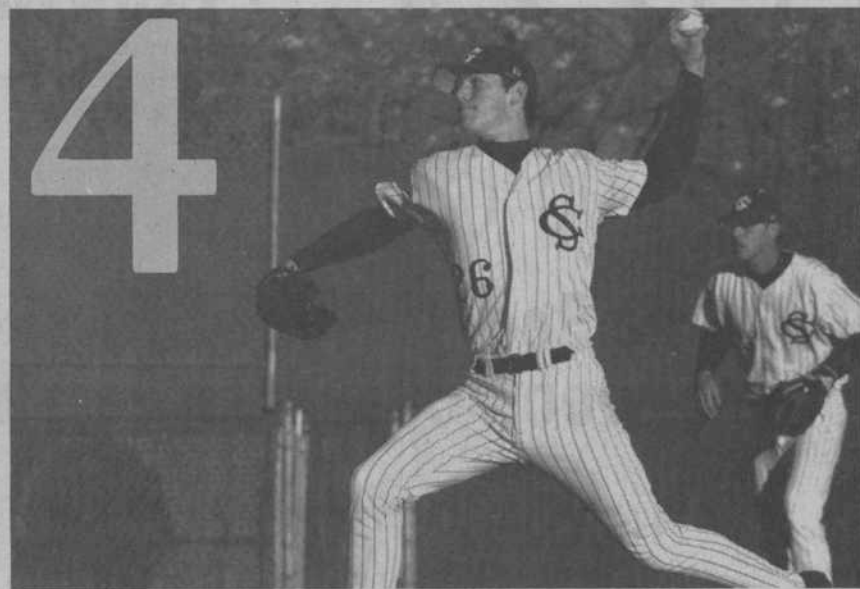
— Redshirt freshman Sidney Rice established himself as one of the SEC's elite receivers. Rice set various school records and was the team's star in the Independence Bowl, setting bowl records for touchdown catches and yards.

3 Equestrian team wins second consecutive Hunt Seat national championship

USC's equestrian team won its second consecutive Hunt Seat national title, beating overall champion Auburn by 53 points. Auburn won the overall title with second place finished in Hunt Seat and Western.

In equitation on the flat, USC got wins from Sara Lowe, Tara Brothers and Kelley Campbell. Lowe defeated Natalie Burton 148-136 and recorded the high score in the category. Brothers defeated

Erin Gaddy 141-126, and Campbell beat Jennie Reinhart 134-131. Kristen Terebesi fell to Maggie White 148-118 but made a turn around in over fences as she beat Cassie McEnroe 160-75. Lindsay Pace was the high scorer for the competition as she posted a 170-156 over Lauren Huelen. Brothers lost a close matchup to Kelly Gottfried, 156-153.



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4 Gamecock baseball reaches No. 1 in the national polls

USC's baseball team was briefly ranked No. 1, as it won its first three SEC series. Pitcher Mike Cisco got off to a hot start and Gamecock freshmen Justin Smoak, Reese Havens, and James Darnell having led with their bats.

USC split the first series of the season with Clemson, before

dropping the last two games of the rivals' season matchup.

Perhaps the most impressive series of the year thus far for the Gamecocks was a sweep of top-10 Florida. USC outscored the Gators 31-10 in the series.