

SPORTSCOPE

By DONALD CAUGHMAN
Sports Editor



There are a lot of things that could be said about the 1966 Gamecock season. Bleak, dismal, discouraging and any other like word could be used to describe it. Excuses could be made. It could be pointed out that Carolina played one of the toughest schedules in the nation. We could note that the Gamecocks were plagued from the very start of the season with crippling injuries. But when you have had a bad season there is just not very much consolation in looking back and saying what might have happened IF.

Perhaps Carolina fans expected too much. Perhaps they expected Paul Dietzel to wave his magic wand and in a few short months come up with a winner where losing has too long been a byword. If so, they were in for a very rude awakening. They were faced with the obvious conclusion that Paul Dietzel is only human and not the miracle worker they had made themselves believe he was.

He is the first to admit that success does not come over night. "The main thing we are interested in right now is trying to build a solid program—a program that the people of South Carolina can be proud of and one that will attract fine young men."

The immediate football future at Carolina does not look extremely bright. Two freshman teams which managed to win only one game between them are not a very good basis for winning varsity teams.

"Things are going to get worse before they get better," Dietzel observes. "Right now we are interested in getting everyone going in the same direction and working toward the same goal. If we have a sound football program, the winning will take care of itself."

"The situation is much like the one at LSU when we went there. They had had losing freshman teams two years in a row. We were able to recruit a good freshman team our first year there and when they became juniors and seniors, there was just no way I could coach them bad enough to lose."

"Our first year there, we really got clobbered a few times, and things got pretty discouraging at times. But we got everyone going in the same direction and were able to set up a really sound program."

The going has been rough his first year at Carolina, and he says it will get even worse before it will get better. But he has confidence in himself and the people around him. "I know we are going to have a winner. It won't happen suddenly; it will come gradually, and when it arrives it will be on a strong foundation."

English Professor Was Once Collegiate Gridiron Performer

By HEYWARD ADDY
Staff Writer

Dr. W. Yeaton Wagener has had an interesting career in athletics which ranges from All-South Atlantic in football to heavy-weight boxing champion at Washington and Lee.

Dr. Wagener joined the USC faculty in 1929 after graduating from Washington and Lee and teaching at Texas A&M. He also coached football at Lancaster High School.

He enrolled at The Citadel in 1926, after graduating from Summerville High School. While reminiscing some of his football experiences, Dr. Wagener recalled how he got his start in football.

"At the time when I graduated from Summerville, we did not have a football team and I had never even seen a game.

At the beginning of my sophomore year, the captain of The Citadel team asked me to go out for the team," stated Dr. Wagener. "At the time I went out, the team was preparing for their opening game with USC, and I didn't practice very much—in fact, I did not play at all that season."

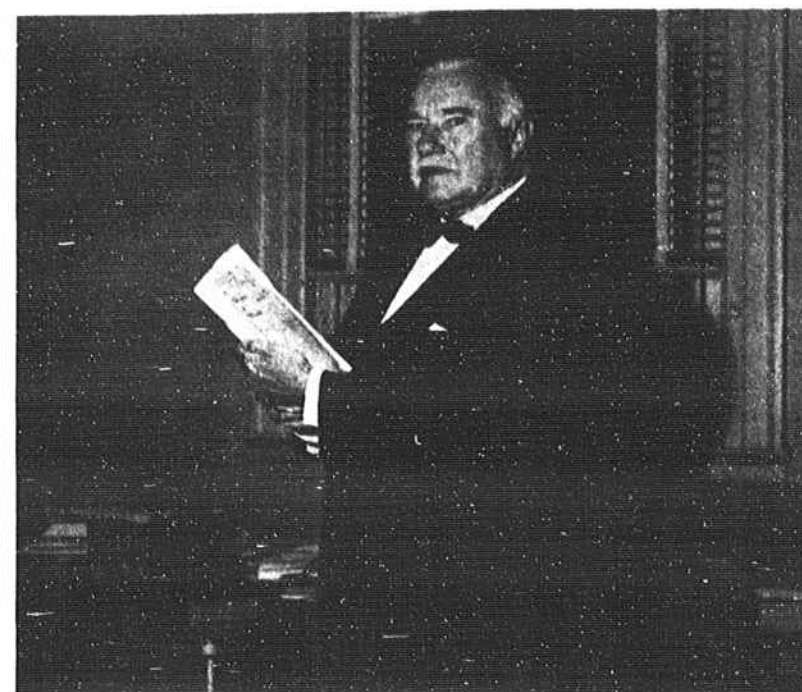
Dr. Wagener described his first game experience in this way: "Our first game that year was against a powerful Georgia team, which had just beaten Yale the week before. I was the last man picked to make the trip, and was taken along just to see the game."

"A prep game preceded the varsity struggle, and I secured a good seat on the bench from which I was prepared to watch the varsity game. On the first play from scrimmage, our right tackle was sidelined with a sprained ankle inflicted upon him by a powerful Georgia line that included two All-

Americans. During the next few plays, three or four more of our linemen were sidelined.

"By this time our reserves were getting thin, and the coach called on me. I was so scared when I entered the game that I was shaking. Since I had participated in only one scrimmage prior to the game, I had to be shown how to line up."

"On the first play after I entered the game, due to fright and the appearance of those two All-Americans in front of me, I nearly beat the ball into the backfield and dropped the tailback for a ten-yard loss. This was the only tackle that I made the whole game, and I played the rest of the game."



DR. WAGENER

Gamecock photo by Rockholz



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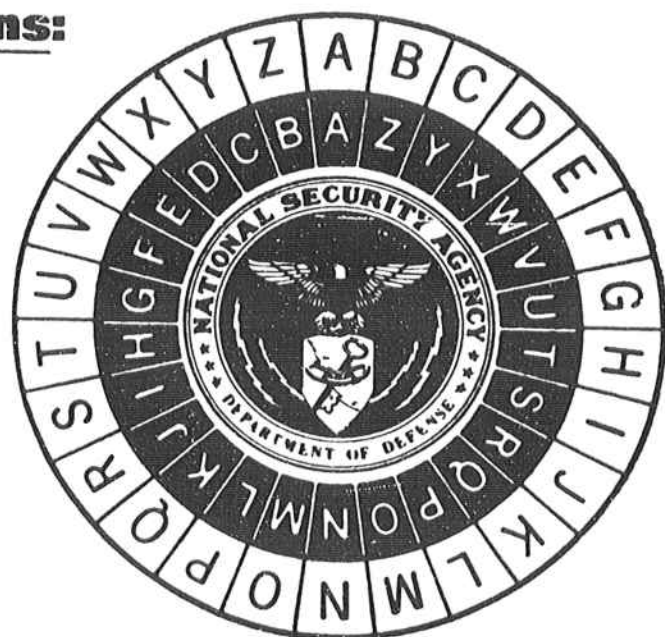
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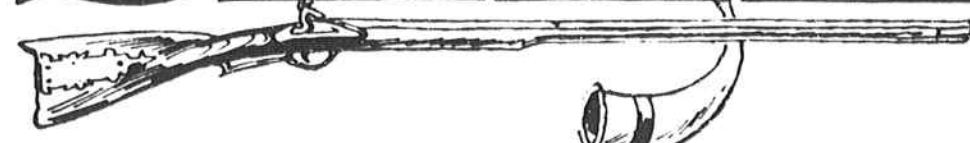
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