

USC breaks ACC road losing streak

USC's Gamecocks broke a four game ACC losing streak on the road Saturday night when Carolina survived a Clemson control slowdown attack for a 47-44 lead.

"It was another difficult ball game," USC coach Frank McGuire said, the strain of the close contest etched on his face. "It'll go down to the wire anytime you play like that."

"I don't know how many turnovers we had but you can't have that many when you're playing like that," McGuire was referring to turnovers late in the game that gave Clemson three chances to pull within a basket, but all three times the Tigers failed to score.

McGuire, who has seen his team fall to slowdown tactics four times, has resigned himself to seeing it more and more. "We'll be playing against it all year so we should get used to it."

"If I'd used the zone they would have just held the ball. We did it up at Duke just to see if Duke would hold it in their own place."

Clemson employed their offense for the easy shot. The Tigers at times took long pauses between shots but did not come up with the prime ingredient needed to win at slowdown basketball—a high percentage. Clemson hit 14-31 shots for a 45.2 mark.

USC relied on old reliable John Roche to stake the Gamecocks to an early first half lead but were outscored in the second 20 minutes of play.

Roche hit seven of 11 shots in the

The Gamecock SPORTS

first stanza for 16 points. The 6-3 star took only eight shots in the second half. He wound up with 23 points. Bob Carver was the only other Gamecock in double figures with 10.

David Angel led the Tiger attack until he fouled out on a questionable call with 8:51 remaining. It appeared that the foul was on Dickie Foster but the officials ushered Angel off the floor, much to the dismay of Clemson head coach Tates Locke. "Those guys were a bunch of clowns," Locke said afterward.

USC's Tom Owens agreed. "Some of the calls are getting to be jokes. It's so bad I don't even argue anymore."

"At least they were calling them

bad at both ends of the court," center Tom Riker said.

"That's the toughest kind of basketball to beat," McGuire said. "We could take the New York Knickerbockers to the wire without a 24 second clock."

"The boys become anxious on defense and take one wrong step and then they hit the open man. It's hard to play against this. But that's the way he (Locke) played at Army."

"I'm just glad that Thomas (Dave) didn't start shooting earlier," Thomas gunned in three long range jumpers to pull the Tigers from a 39-30 deficit to within three late in the game.

However, the Tigers couldn't play on the boards with USC after Angel picked up his fifth foul. Clemson only scored two field goals after that point and one of those was a gimme after the issue had been decided.

Different net frosh performances

By CHARLIE SENN Sports Writer

USC's freshman basketball team played well against a good team and mediocre against a poor team with the results of both games the same—two losses.

The Biddies entered their game with the Furman frosh with a 7-1 record and proceeded to give that team ("the best freshman team I've ever had"—Joe Williams) a neck and neck battle before falling in a one point loss.

Later in the week, in a fast moving preliminary game with the Clemson freshmen before the varsity's slow stroll, the Biddies shot 50 per cent, but still dropped a 91-96 decision. The Clemson frosh shot 55 per cent.



Looking inside

performances same results

"The key to the game was the boards," said USC's Coach Donny Walsh, of the Furman game in a statement that might well have been repeated of the Clemson bout. Furman held a 60-42 edge over the Biddies in rebounding while Clemson intimidated USC's frosh with a 43-21 margin.

"I don't think the morale will be hurt by the two losses," Walsh said of his team.

The Freshman mentor simplified the games in a single statement. "In the Furman game

we played well; in the Clemson game we didn't."

"As long as the kids play good basketball I'm not concerned. What I want to do is not to lose games. There's a difference in getting beat by the other team and losing," Walsh explained.

"Rick Mousa played great against Clemson," Walsh added. "We didn't expect this much from the frosh, and we're well satisfied with the play of both the scholarship and non-scholarship players."

Locke: refs were clowns

By JOE GENOVA Sports Writer

"I can't believe the officials in this league," said Coach Tates Locke, Clemson first year head man, "both of those guys out there tonight were clowns. They were terrible."

"Dickie (Foster) plainly committed the foul that sent David (Angel) to the bench with five personals. He even said so. It was just plain ridiculous."

"It was no doubt the turning point of the game for us; without Angel we just didn't have any inside game," said Locke.

The 6-11 Angel left with 10 points and nine rebounds, one better than USC's Tom Owens for game honors. All-America John Roche had game scoring honors with 23 points and teammate Bob Carver had 10. Tiger senior Foster tied Angel for his team's honors with 10 points.

"Roche is a true All-America," said Locke. "He's a great player. He makes the difference in winning and losing, and he made the difference here. He was the only one who played exceptional in this game, and anyone who belittles his performance doesn't know what he's talking about."

"We had a chance to win with about four minutes to go. We were down by four points and we came down the court three times and didn't score one. We threw the ball away twice and missed a bad shot the other time," continued Locke.

"I believe that hurt any real chance of winning this game we had. We couldn't come up with the points when we had to have them. I cannot say enough about the way our boys have been performing. They've been playing good and have been giving 100 per cent and better; but we haven't been coming through with the big play consistently."

"We'll make it," concluded Locke as he walked out of the press room to his charges. "Our day will come."

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