Furman's history worries Clemson

By The Associated Press

CLEMSON — Furman has a history of beating NCAA Division I-A opponents who do not take the Paladins seriously.

Clemson coach Danny Ford is well aware of that, and he wanted to make sure reporters knew it, too, so he gave a short history of Furman football during his weekly news conference Tuesday.

"I'm sure everybody's going to have the answers to how we're going to beat Furman and all this kind of thing," Ford said. "But let me go back on just a little bit of history for you 'cause I know y'all people like history. I like history a lot when it's like this."

Ford then recited a list of recent upsets by the Paladins over some highly regarded I-A foes -28-23 over USC in 1982, 17-14 over Georgia Tech in 1983, 34-30 over North Carolina State in 1984 and 42-20 over the Wolfpack the next year. In 1986, the Paladins tied Georgia Tech 17-17 at Grant Field.

"All the experts that know that Clemson's going to win the football game better go back and look at history," Ford said, "because history could repeat itself."

The third-ranked Tigers, who play host to Furman on Saturday, are coming off a season-opening 40-7 victory over Virginia Tech in which the Tigers did not turn the ball over and did not have a penalty called on their offense.

"What pleased us as much as anything was our offensive preparation. No turnovers, no penalties."

Ford said he isn't taking the game lightly and that his players best not, either.

While the Tigers played well against the Hokies, Ford said there was still room for concern in some areas. He said he was worried some defensive players didn't play up to their potential. He is nervous about his team's protection of its punter, which he said is "not pitiful, but close to pitiful."



Clemson Sports Information

Cross country teams open seasons Saturday

By RICHARD W. ROWELL Staff writer

Inexperience is the key term in describing USC's men's cross country team this season. Despite this problem, talent is present and new coach Larry Greene feels the men should be one of the top three teams in the conference this fall.

Both USC's men's and women's squads open their seasons Saturday at the Wake Forest Invitational in North Carolina. The men will run an 8-kilometer race, while the women will run five kilometers.

The men's talent is built on a few returnees from last fall and a few top recruits. Andy Foster, the only senior this year, was one of two Gamecock runners to receive All-Conference recognition by placing eighth in the Metro Conference Championship Meet last fall. Foster also received the "Gamecock Award" as the Most Valuable Runner of 1987.

Sophomore Mike Hedgecock was the other Gamecock to receive All-Conference honors. As a freshman, he placed 11th in the Metro Conference Championship Meet.

Incoming recruits should also strenthen the team. Stuart Mee, from Australia, held the National Junior Record in the 2,000-meter steeplechase in Australia.

Other contributing members are Andrew

Bredfield, Brad Herbster, Jonathan Edwards, Mike Hoffman, Don Larciness and Brian Robinson. Freshman Paul Laymon has posted "outstanding times," according to Greene, and should also contribute to the overall quality of the program.

Greene said he expects the women's cross country team to be "leading to the top of the Metro Conference within two or three years. In their inaugural season last fall, the women finished fourth in the Metro Conference Championship Meet, which was quite an accomplishment for a team comprised mostly of freshmen.

Greene is quick to point out that the squad only missed second place by 12 points, an indication of the experience that is returning.

Sophomore Dana Purser was an All-Conference runner last year, finishing sixth in the Metro Conference Championships. She also received the "Gamecock Award" for the Most Valuable Runner of 1987.

Purser has a lot of company though, as highly recruited freshman Jill St. Peter and sophomore Gwen Sherwood, who partially held the No. 1 spot last fall, are ready to run. Other teammates include Nancy Cason, Wilma DePiore, Alexis Fife, Jackie Kocsis, Shelly McGaha and Shannon Wyont, and all are talented sophomores eager to advance in the ranks.

Greene said he is pleased by what he has seen so far in preseason.

"What is so pleasing about our group of women is they are so close in terms of ability," he said.

As for his role with the team, Greene said, "the challenge for me will be largely organizational. That is, we have quite a lot of diversity in terms of experience and levels of fitness. I have to be especially careful to allow the few of our older and more experienced athletes to train so that they can fulfill their goals of competing at the national level.

"At the same time, we're going to emphasize developmental methods for our freshmen and sophomores and bring them along a bit more slowly."

Senior leads team by example

By BRANT LONG Staff writer

Andy Foster approaches his last year on USC's cross country team with a great deal of confidence.

He has an 8th-place finish at the Metro Conference Championship Meet and selection to the All-Conference team under his belt, and this season he said he hopes to better his previous performances.

Foster and first-year coach Larry Greene agree the athlete will play a key leadership role on this year's team.

"There's not much you can say to someone as far as running," Foster said. "I try to lead by example." Foster is the only senior on the 12-man cross country squad, and Greene plans to feature his talents. "Andy is the most mature and developed runner athletically on the team," Greene said. "Whereas others have potential, Andy has come of age."

Greene, who has only been at USC about four weeks, has had a positive influence on Foster. "His workouts are well-suited to my running style," Foster said, "and he also builds my confidence."

For his last season, Foster has set many goals. One of these is to qualify and compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships, a goal which has just slipped his reach in the past.

Volleyball

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Correll.

Kenny said she believes USC's strong freshman class could be the key to the Lady Gamecocks' success this season. Leading the newcomers is Jennifer Wenzel, who will start this weekend at middle blocker opposite Pflughaupt.

Wenzel was All-Conference and All-District last season for LaMoille High School in LaMoille, Ill. "She's a fine athlete, and once she adapts to our level of play, she's going to be doing some great things for us," Kenny said.

Also new to the squad are outside hitters Caryn Case and Deana Hagaman and middle blocker Lisa Guetzkow, who, at 6-foot-2-inches, will add some heighth to the team. Walk-ons Blaine Dougherty and Penny Stone, both outside hitters, and setter Amy Skidmore round out the squad.

USC finished 3-3 in the Metro in 1987. Kenny said she expects the Lady Gamecocks' difficult schedule will help prepare her team for tough conference opposition later in the season.

"The bulk of our schedule is extremely hard, and I think that should challenge us and have us prepared for the Metro," she said.

Olympics

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Olympic champion, Louganis has a good chance to win gold in both events.

Once an Olympic diver himself, Ableman said he was excited that he was asked to come back to the Olympic community.

"I dove myself in the Olympic trials in 1984, so it's been a short while since I've been out of it," he said. "And it's just a high honor to be asked to judge that."

Ableman said USC's diving team will benefit from what he learned during his trip to Indianapolis.

"Mostly, what I got out of it was the inspiration. I am really looking foward to starting this season, and I have plans to drive my team to that type of hype."

The Gamecock diving team could someday produce Olympic stars, Ableman added. "I believe in four years that we'll have at least a couple of divers with a chance to make the Olympic team."

USC's swim team begins competition Nov. 5.

----- Correction -----

The soccer photo printed in Wednesday's paper was taken at the Francis Marion-USC game by Dana Purser.

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