

USC beats Hokies despite errors

By JOHN MILLS III

Staff writer

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Zero yards rushing, five interceptions and one offensive touchdown forced the Gamecocks to struggle to a 26-24 victory over the Virginia Tech Hokies Saturday.

The Gamecocks, now 6-0, outscored the Hokies in total yards 263-217, but the Hokies outrushed the Gamecocks 74-0. The Gamecocks ran the ball 27 times for zero yards.

USC quarterback Todd Ellis, who did not speak to reporters after suffering a mild concussion during the game, completed only 22 of 53 passes for 272 yards. He threw five interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns.

Backup quarterback Dickie DeMasi completed one of two for -9 yards.

"We dug ourselves a hole, and we finally fought back out of it," USC head coach Joe Morrison said.

In the first quarter, the Gamecocks drove to the Hokies' 6-yard-line after a 17-yard pass to Carl Platt and a 31-yard reception by George Rush. Colin Mackie then hit a 24-yard field goal to put the Gamecocks up 3-0.

Hokies quarterback Will Furrer passed easily, throwing for more than 13 yards each play as the Hokies drove to the USC 30, where the Gamecocks were called for a personal foul, a 15-yard penalty.

The next play, Furrer ran to the left, looked back over his shoulder and threw a screen pass to tight end Brian McCall, who took the ball 15 yards for the touchdown.

At the end of the first quarter, the Hokies led 7-3. The Gamecocks were deficient in rushing as they carried the ball four times for three yards. Ellis threw several wild passes in the second

quarter, placing the Gamecocks' drive in jeopardy. Then, with 7:08 to go in the half, Ellis connected with Mike Dingle for a 53-yard touchdown.

Robert Robinson intercepted a Furrer pass at the USC 38 with 5:21 left to play in the second quarter. But, due to overthrown Ellis passes, the Gamecocks could not advance the ball and had to punt.

With 2:17 left, the Hokies' Robert Brown intercepted an Ellis pass and ran 47 yards for a touchdown. This was the first time in eight years that a touchdown had been scored against the Gamecocks because of an interception.

Just 55 seconds later, it happened again. Leslie Baily intercepted an Ellis pass and carried it 19 yards for a touchdown, giving Virginia Tech a 21-10 lead.

Ellis came back with completions. The Gamecocks were first and goal at the Hokies' 8-yard-line with 12 seconds left in the half.

Ellis launched a pass out of the far side of the end zone, a pass sailed wide of Harold Green's grasp, and on third down with three seconds to go, Mackie's attempt at a 24-yard field goal flew wide to the left.

After the first half, the Hokies led 21-10. The Gamecocks led in total yards 184-151, even though USC ran the ball 11 times for -1 yards.

Robert Brooks caught the second-half kickoff and ran 98 yards for a touchdown cutting the Hokies lead to 21-17.

The Gamecocks were called for having too many men on the field, a 15-yard penalty, when the Hokies were punting. Then another 15-yard penalty was issued against the Gamecocks for facemasking. That put the Hokies at the USC 35.

Kinzer kicked a 43-yard field goal, and the

Hokies led 24-17.

With 5:56 left in the third quarter, Mitch Dove intercepted an Ellis pass, but the Hokies were unable to advance.

Gamecock free safety Ron Rabune recovered a Phil Bryant fumble at the Hokies' 39. The Gamecocks then advanced to the 11-yard-line but could not score because passes were out of receivers' reach. Mackie proceeded to hit a 28-yard field goal, and with 13:39 left in the game, the Gamecocks were down 24-20.

In the next Gamecock series, three receivers missed Ellis tosses, two of them getting hit in the face by the passes.

USC, however, was able to move the ball, and Mackie kicked a 50-yard field goal to bring the Gamecocks to within one, 24-23.

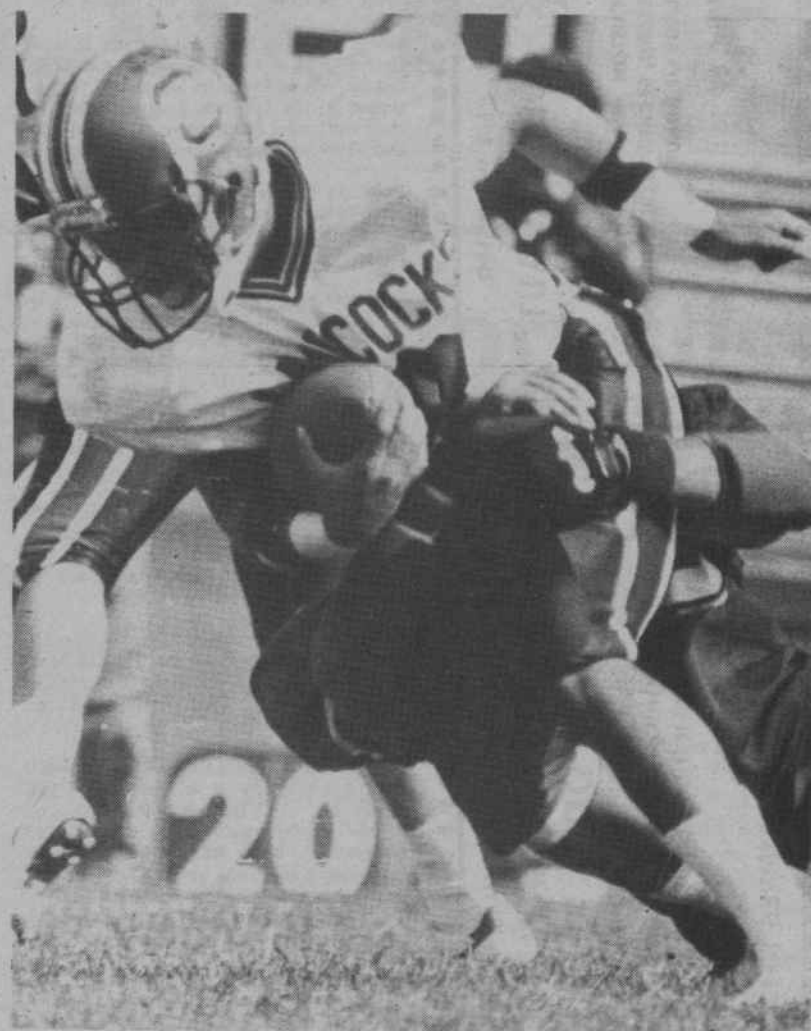
Baily then intercepted another Ellis pass and ran 14 yards to the Hokies' 46; however, they were forced to punt.

The snap sailed over the head of punter Kelly Fitzgerald. He picked up the ball and attempted the kick. It was blocked, and Tim High recovered the ball on the Hokies' 6-yard-line.

The Gamecocks then ran three plays which produced a total of three yards and with 6:43 left in the game, Mackie nailed a 23-yard field goal putting the Gamecocks in the lead 26-24.

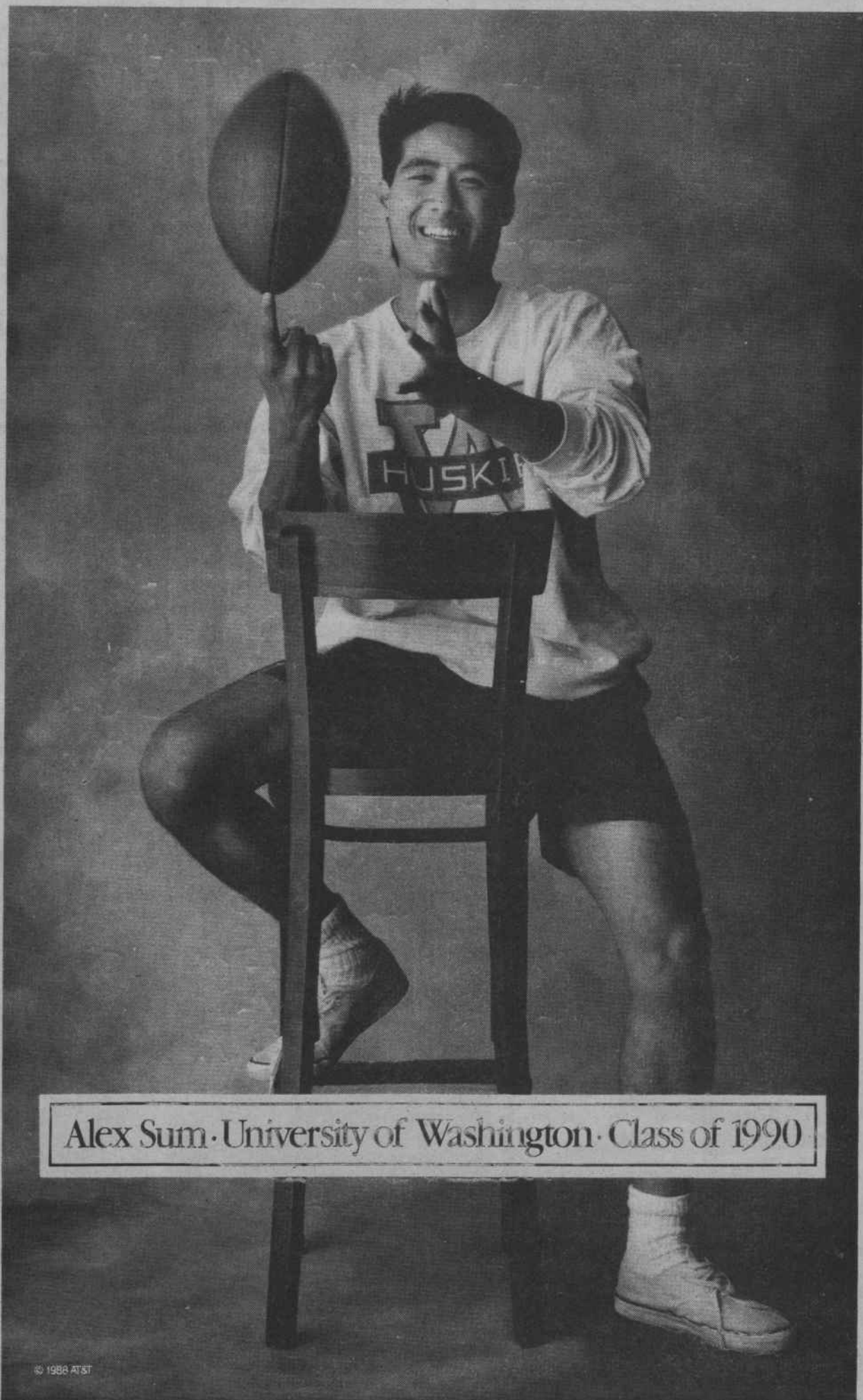
"We knew we could win coming in at halftime. We just had to prove it in the second half," defensive end Kevin Hendrix said. He said he was pleased with the defensive performance in the second half. "I thought we played well at some times, but we just came up with the big play a lot."

The Gamecocks' next game will be against Georgia Tech in Atlanta next week.



JULIE BOUCHILLON/The Gamecock
USC sophomore wide receiver Carl Platt gets wrapped up by a Virginia Tech defender. The Gamecocks squeaked by the Hokies Saturday, 26-24, in their first road game of the season.

“I wasn't rubbing it in—I just wanted Eddie to know the score of last night's game.”

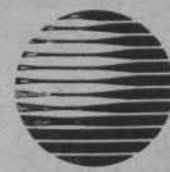


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USC soccer beats Tigers

By RICHARD W. ROWELL

Staff writer

As 2001 played, the Gamecock soccer team came out fired up and beat No. 13 Clemson 2-1 in an intense match at The Graveyard yesterday.

Head coach Mark Berson described the game as "a typical Clemson-Carolina match."

"The games always come down to the wire, and both teams are always well prepared both emotionally and physically," Berson said.

The overflow crowd of more than 5,100 were not let down as USC scored both goals within one minute of each other.

The first goal came at the 11:49 mark of the first half. Quinton Fraai of Clemson fouled a USC forward giving the Gamecocks a free kick. Craig Hartman tapped the ball to Grenville Pope who kicked the ball around the Tiger defenders and into the open net.

"The keeper lined up on the wrong side of the goal," said Pope. "So I curled it (the ball) around the wall and into the open net."

Fifty-seven seconds later, the Gamecocks struck again when Pope scored his second goal of the match, giving him five for the season. Pat Walsh set up the goal by sending a cross to Pope. Pope then beat the Tiger goalkeeper to the ball and pushed it past him, into the open net.

Clemson had a chance to score in the first half on a long cross from the right wing. A Tiger forward got a head on it, but Gamecock goalkeeper Charles Arndt made the save. The score at the end of the first half was USC 2, Clemson 0.

The second half turned out to be physical as Clemson was fighting to catch up. They closed the gap with a goal 11 minutes into the second half. Edo Boonstoppel crossed the ball to Pearce Tormey who put it past Arndt for Clemson's only goal.

Both teams had 13 shots on goal during the match. USC recorded five saves; Clemson recorded three. A total of 37 fouls were committed; 22 by Clemson, 15 by USC. Also, two yellow cards were given: one to each team.

"Getting the two (goals) so quickly created a situation where Clemson was able to come back and throw everything but the kitchen sink at us because they didn't have anything to lose," said Berson. "That is a difficult situation to defend... but credit our players for a total team effort and playing with a lot of intensity from start to finish."

"It was a glorifying win," said Arndt. "The crowd really helped. It was impossible for us to let down for one second because we knew those guys were behind us. If we could have a crowd like that every game it would be impossible for us to lose at home."

USC improved its record to 9-2-1 and extended its home winning streak to 7. With the loss Clemson falls to 7-3-2.

USC nexts plays at home Wednesday against The Citadel at 3 p.m.

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