

Pep Talk

By Kevin Adams



Will Dixon bring stability to troubled USC department?

The USC Athletic Department has been back on the front page again, instead of on the sports page where it belongs.

This past Monday, Dick Bestwick stepped down from his post as USC athletic director. King Dixon was named to replace him. Dixon's official title is interim athletic director, but in all probability he will be named full-time athletic director as soon as the proper paperwork is completed.

Bestwick was on the job for six months, but health problems caused by stress forced his leave of absence. It has been said that Bestwick had been working as many as 20 hours per day in the Athletic Department.

According to a joint statement by Bestwick and USC president James Holderman, "Although Dick Bestwick has performed his duties as athletic director to the complete satisfaction of the university, the condition of his health has made it impossible for him to continue in that position."

According to Holderman, "Dick Bestwick has performed his job in an exemplary fashion. He has instituted a responsible drug testing program for our student athletes, greatly strengthened the department's fiscal operations, and made great progress in planning for the future of the university's athletic program, in particular by developing solid, competitive scheduling."

Bestwick had been rumored to have differences with USC head football coach Joe Morrison, and it's been said that Bestwick did not have a strong personal relationship with Morrison or head basketball coach George Felton, unlike previous Athletic Director Bob Marcum, who hired both coaches.

But from all indications, it appears that health reasons were the primary, if not sole, reason for Bestwick's departure and that there was no cover-up or forced resignation.

That would be a change.

The USC Athletic Department has had more than its share of problems in the last 10 years or so. Sure, those things are bound to happen in the big business world of college athletics, where, at most schools, winning is everything and the student-athlete suffers. That's not necessarily the case at USC, but the school has had many recent athletic events that make you wonder.

Basketball has been the most affected. Legendary head coach Frank McGuire, who led USC to its finest seasons ever, was forced out after the 1979 season. Bill Foster was brought in from Duke to replace McGuire, but was forced out after the 1985-86 season, because he did not bring the success expected of him.

After Foster, now the head coach at Northwestern, was let go, it was discovered that basketball players had sold tickets in violation of NCAA rules. There were additional minor violations and the USC men's basketball program was placed on probation for two years. Those sanctions will finally be lifted this March.

Perhaps the biggest and most unbelievable controversy of them all involved head women's basketball coach Pam Parsons in the early 1980s. Parsons was accused of having lesbian affairs with several of her players and was forced out in the

midst of the 1981-82 season after an article about the accusations appeared in *Sports Illustrated*.

The basketball problems of the past seemingly have been done away with by the hiring of Felton and women's coach Nancy Wilson, who have both fashioned impeccable winning programs with total regard to the student-athlete.

Football has not been left out, either. Former head coach/Athletic Director Jim Carlen was fired after the 1981 season. Richard Bell, a Carlen assistant, was hired to the head post. A year later, Bell was gone after a 4-7 record, supposedly because he refused to fire his assistants, as new Athletic Director Marcum requested. It was widely speculated that Marcum didn't like Bell and that he wanted his own man in charge of the football team. Enter Joe Morrison, admittedly a good choice.

Morrison had his own scandal, just last summer. A woman claimed Morrison, a married man, had been having an affair with her for the past several years, going back to the early 1980s when Morrison was at New Mexico.

She filed suit against Morrison, claiming he fathered her child and was not adequately supporting the woman and her daughter. Sources say the Morrison affair was common knowledge in the Athletic Department.

Then early this year, former Gamecock wide receiver Ryan Bethea was arrested by Columbia police for possession of cocaine and a USC football recruit died after swallowing crack on a Washington, D.C. street to avoid arrest by approaching police officers. An investigation into the drug-testing program at USC revealed negligence in the testing of athletes. Marcum was fired in the wake and Bestwick took his place.

Meanwhile, USC's vaults have been depleted with settlements to McGuire, Parsons, Bell, Foster, etc. Marcum also has plans to file suit against the university.

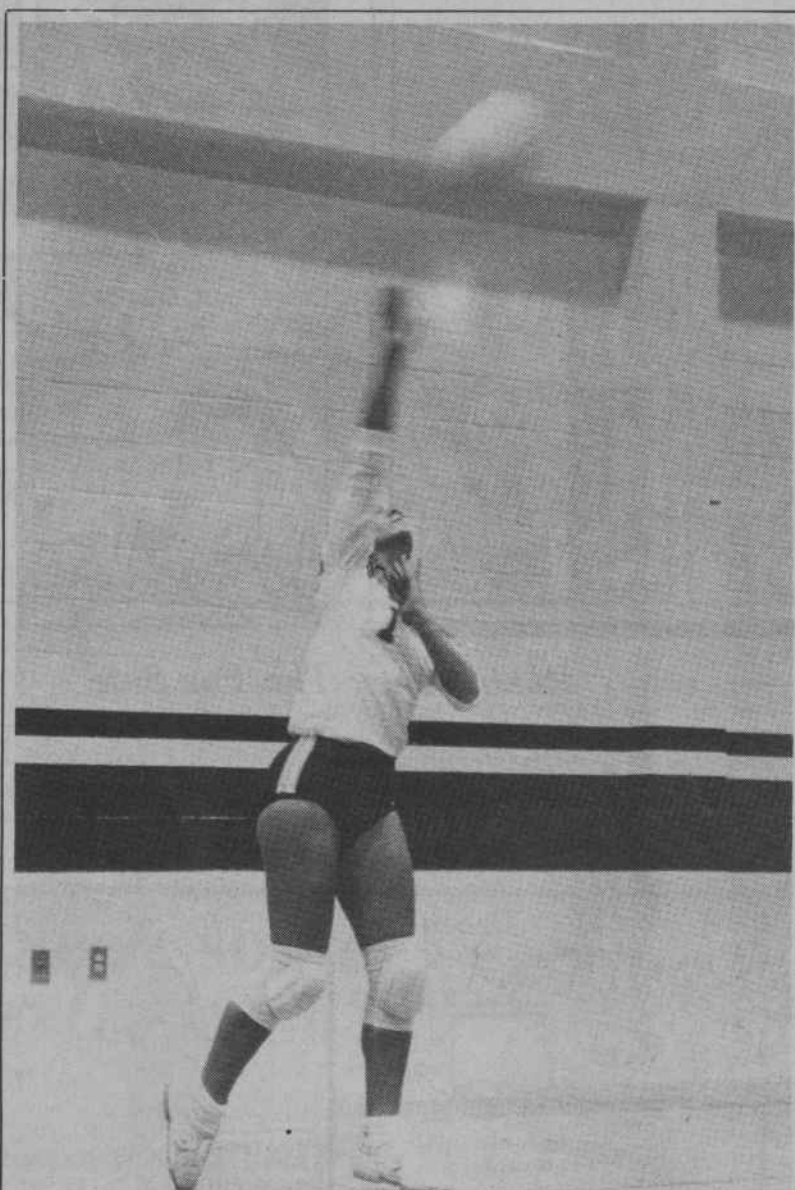
Is Dixon the man to finally bring some much-needed integrity and stability to the Roundhouse?

Time will tell. Personally, I'm impressed. He has a strong handshake and he looks you in the eye. He doesn't evade questions and he's got some good ideas of what he wants to do with the USC program. Like Bestwick, he believes in the student-athlete, but he also gets along well with others, which seemed to be somewhat of a problem for Bestwick. You have to have a strong relationship with your staff to get things done.

More than that, though, Dixon has a love for this university that outsiders like Bestwick or Marcum didn't possess. And it wasn't their fault. It's just that Bestwick and Marcum never wore a Gamecock uniform. Dixon did. He also attended classes at USC and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1959.

Dixon's intense feelings for USC are apparent when he talks about his plans and expectations for the future of the Athletic Department. You don't have to have that kind of love for a university to be a successful athletic director.

But it sure does help.



DANA PURSER/The Gamecock

Winning serve

Lady Gamecock freshman outside hitter Blaine Dougherty serves to UNC-Charlotte in a volleyball match earlier this season. USC was in Hattiesburg, Miss., this weekend and swept the University of New Orleans and Southern Mississippi. The Lady Gamecocks have won four consecutive matches and are now 11-7. USC's next match is at 7 p.m. tonight at the College of Charleston.

Team's poise shows

By CHRIS SILVESTRI
Assistant sports editor

Although USC's football team didn't play up to its potential in last Saturday's 26-24 win over Virginia Tech, it passed one test with flying colors: the test of character.

The Gamecocks were down 21-10 at the half and had just had two interceptions returned for a touchdown coupled with a missed field goal.

"We could have had a group of individuals who hung their heads a little bit or had their tail between their legs, and not come out in the second half and played the way we did," head coach Joe Morrison said Monday at his weekly press conference.

"I told the team after the game that I thought they showed a tremendous amount of character in themselves, and a lot of faith and confidence in themselves and each other."

There are many aspects of the game that were not, to say the least, in top form for USC. The team's running game netted no yards on 27 carries, and quarterback Todd Ellis threw five interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns.

Apparently, there will be no major changes in the Gamecock offense in order to boost their running game.

"I guess it's that old story, we'll just go back to work," Morrison said. "It seems (after looking at the films) that we're only a step away. It's an area of concern but not something we're going to get carried away with."

Of course, some of the problem with the running game is because of the health of running back Harold Green. Green, the Gamecocks' leading rusher, has been hampered all season by a foot injury.

Injuries also hit USC last week as Ellis and wide receiver/punt returner Carl Platt were both hurt. Ellis suf-

fered a mild concussion late in the game and spent the night in the hospital, but will play Saturday against Georgia Tech. Platt underwent surgery on his hand Sunday and is expected to be out for about two weeks.

Morrison said he is concerned with the Georgia Tech defense, but it is a big game like every other game.

Kickoff at Georgia Tech will be at 1 p.m.

AP Top Twenty

1. Miami, Fla.
2. UCLA
3. Southern Cal
4. Notre Dame
5. Florida State
6. West Virginia
7. Nebraska
8. South Carolina
9. Oklahoma
10. Oklahoma State
11. Clemson
12. Auburn
13. Georgia
14. Wyoming
15. Michigan
16. Washington
17. Arkansas
18. Indiana
19. LSU
20. Florida

Champ

SCREEN PRINTING

JACKETS—CAPS
"Anything Textile"

791-5638

Come By Our New Location
136 State Street, West Columbia

... Just across Gervais St. Bridge, 5 min from USC

"SPECIAL DISCOUNTS"
For Fraternities & Sororities
Wholesale

Southern Womens Services Inc.

Serving The Area Since 1973

- Abortion Services & Counseling
- Problem Pregnancy Counseling
- Pregnancy Testing
- Gyn Exams
- Family Planning & Birth Control Services
- Trained Counselors
- Speakers for Schools & Civic Groups

"Personal Contact With Someone Who Cares"

24-Hr. Answering Service
254-4368 or

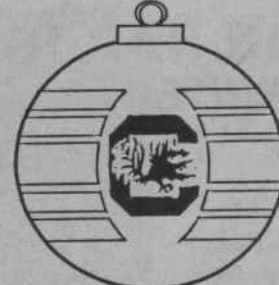
Toll Free 1-800-922-9750

1614 Two Notch Rd. Columbia



A Great Christmas Gift

For Mom
Dad



Boy Friend
Girl Friend

FOR INFORMATION: CIKE

Rt. 1 Box 352
Williston, S.C. 29853
1-800-868-4438

NEED A BABYSITTER

THE FALL BABYSITTING LIST IS IN! CALL 7-4174 OR COME BY!



OFF CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES
1215 BLOSSOM ST.

PHILLIE'S PIZZA FREE DELIVERY (\$5.00 or more orders only)

<p>2 FOR 1 2 large cheese pizzas with your choice of 2 free toppings Just \$10.95 (Expires 10/26/88)</p>	<p>2 FOR 1 2 medium cheese pizzas with your choice of 2 free toppings Just \$8.88 (Expires 10/26/88)</p>
<p>50¢ OFF Footlong Phillie's Cheese Steak Sandwich</p>	<p>Superbly prepared with fresh mushrooms sauteed onions and topped with Provolone Cheese!</p>

930 Harden St. Five Points 256-2534

Pro tennis hits USC

The fifth annual Columbia Pro Tennis Championships will be held Thursday through Sunday at the Sam Daniel Tennis Stadium on the USC campus.

There will be a press conference today at noon at the Marriott to discuss the tournament, which has a purse of \$30,000, with all proceeds going to The Killingsworth Children's Home in Columbia.

Lawson Duncan, ranked 50th in the world, will replace Johan Kriek, who withdrew. Duncan will be the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

The finals are set for 2 p.m. Sunday with an exhibition match set for Sunday at noon.

Tickets are \$5 and \$7, and may be purchased at the gate. Admission will be free to USC students and faculty with valid ID's.

USC's Steve Longley plays Mel Purcell at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, while USC's Stephane Surnian plays fifth-seeded Jimmy Brown at 2:30 p.m. Thursday.

First round pairings

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | Lawson Duncan
Bye | Derek Tarr
Jay Lapidus |
| | | Mel Purcell
Steve Longley (USC) |
| No. 4 | Jimmy Arias
Bye | |
| No. 3 | Jim Courier
Bye | |
| No. 5 | Jimmy Brown
Stephane Surnian (USC) | Brett Garnett
Howard Herr |
| No. 2 | Tim Wilkinson
Bye | |

Ray-Ban
SUNGLASSES BY BAUSCH & LOMB
The world's finest sunglasses™

Reg. Price - \$56.40 for glasses
\$12.00 for Ray-Ban t-shirt
\$68.40

SALE PRICE!!
\$34.20
(while quantities last)

ABSOLUTELY NEVER UNDERSOLD!
SUNGLASSES & THINGS, INC.
5 Pts. Next to Groucho's & Outlet Pointe Mall.

256-3507 772-9798

Owned and operated by S.C.'s Largest Ray Ban Distributor
—All Major Brands—Discounted 50%—

PASS IT ON!

SAMMI'S DELI

GOURMET SANDWICHES WITH FAST FOOD PRICES

2 FOR 1 Expires 10/24/88
Buy One Foot Long Sub & Med. Drink
And Get One Foot Long Sub FREE
(offer good with Coupon only)

99¢ GYRO Expires 10/24/88
Buy one Gyro and get second one for 99¢.
(offer good with coupon only)

1124 Taylor St. Between Assembly and Main St. OPEN MON. - SAT. 10am - 7pm 771-7958