

USC running back Mike Dingle (6) fumbles after receiving the handoff from quarterback Todd Ellis in Saturday night's game against Florida State. FSU's Gerald Ostaszewski (75) notices the ball pop loose and quickly pounces on it to give the Seminoles possession. The turnover was just one of many for the Gamecocks, who lost 59-0.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women win; men finish 2nd

The USC women's cross country team won the Metro Conference Championships Saturday in Hattiesburg, Miss., and the USC men's team finished second behind Virginia Tech.

The USC women finished with 41 points in the 5-kilometer run, followed by Florida State with 46. Virginia Tech, Memphis State, Cincinnati, Louisville, and host Southern Mississippi finished third through seventh, respectively.

Virginia Tech had not been beaten in the conference championships since 1985.

The top runner for the Lady Gamecocks was Wilma DiPiere, who finished fourth with a time of 18:24. Other USC runners and their times were: Gwen Sherwood (7th), 18:51; Dana Purser (8th), 19:00; Shannon Wyont (9th), 19:08; Jill St. Peter (13th), 19:58; Nancy Cason (17th), 20:12; Alexis Fife (18th), 20:13.

"We were thrilled to see the women come up winners," said head coach Larry Greene, who added he wasn't surprised by the results. "Everybody ran their best race," Greene said.

The USC men were led by individual champion Gerdy Roose who had a winning time of 25:25. Andy Foster finished fifth with a time of 25:57.

USC had 83 points in the five-mile race, 50 points behind team champion Virginia Tech. The Gamecocks were followed in order by Florida State, Cincinnati, Southern Mississippi, Louisville, and Memphis State.

Other Gamecock finishers were Paul Laymon (14th), 26:27; Mike Hedgecock (31st), 27:40; and Jonathan Edwards (32nd), 27:47.

Soccer team gets top seed

The USC soccer team, ranked seventh nationally, will be the No. 1 seed in the South Region, the NCAA announced Monday.

USC, coming off a win over No. 24 Air Force and a tie with No. 8 Indiana in the Metropolitan Life Classic this weekend, will have a first-round bye and will host the winner of this weekend's North Carolina-Wake Forest match on Nov. 20 at the Graveyard.

Seminoles massacre Gamecocks, 59-0

By BRANT LONG
Staff writer

The third-largest crowd in Gamecock history and a national television audience watched Saturday night as USC was soundly defeated by No. 5 Florida State, 59-0.

But only a handful of the 75,000 fans at Williams-Brice Stadium, mostly Seminole supporters, remained to see the slaughter in its entirety.

The Seminoles were led by backup quarterback Peter Tom Willis, playing for the injured starter Chip Ferguson. Willis was 17 of 20 for 271 yards and four touchdown passes, while the Gamecock defense, previously ranked 7th in the nation in total defense, gave up 638 yards.

"We played a great team out there," USC quarterback Todd Ellis said. "We could just never get it together against them."

Ellis completed nine of 22 passes for 79 yards and threw two costly interceptions.

The Seminoles wasted no time scoring their first points of the game. After Carolina's opening drive ended in a fumble by Harold Green, Peter Tom Willis hit Terry Anthony on a 44-yard touchdown pass with 12:26 left in the first quarter. The FSU drive went 50 yards in just two plays.

The Gamecocks responded by driving to the FSU 35-yard line, only to be thwarted when

Stan Shiver, the FSU strong safety, picked off a pass by Ellis. The Seminoles then turned the ball back over on a fumble.

When USC punter Rodney Price went back to punt after the Gamecocks couldn't capitalize on the turnover, FSU's Phil Carollo blocked it and Anthony Moss ran the ball in for a score, giving FSU a 14-0 lead.

"They got a lot of momentum with the punt block," USC head coach Joe Morrison said. "It's tough to stop a team like Florida State when they get on a roll. The turnovers were a difference early."

Ellis was intercepted again near the end of the first quarter by the Seminoles' Leroy Butler, who ran it back to the Carolina 21-yard line.

Butler's interception set up a one-yard scoring pass from Willis to tight end Dave Roberts for the Seminoles' third score of the first half.

The teams exchanged possessions, and after place-kicker Richie Andrews of FSU missed a 37-yard field goal attempt, USC got the ball back. But once again, the Gamecocks could not move against the tough Seminole defense.

In the second quarter, USC committed yet another turnover when Mike Dingle's halfback pass was intercepted by Dedrick Dodge, who ran it back to the 25-yard line. Willis and fullback Marion Mutts, with a 44-yard scamper, engineered a 75-yard drive, capped by a one-

yard touchdown plunge by Mutts.

FSU defense held strong for yet another USC possession, and place-kicker Bill Mason connected from 31 yards out with one second left in the half to give the Seminoles a 31-0 halftime lead.

"We kept shooting ourselves in the foot," Morrison said. "We didn't give ourselves a chance to get back in the game."

The second half was controlled by the Seminoles as well. In the first two minutes of the third quarter, the Seminoles drove 67 yards in seven plays and, on a Willis-to-Lawrence 12-yard touchdown pass, made it 38-0 early in the second half.

Willis and Dawsey would hook up again after a USC punt for a 37-yard touchdown pass to make it a 45-point lead for the visiting Seminoles with 8:18 still left in the third period.

Price, who punted eight times for an average of 34.3 yards during the game, was called on once again when USC couldn't gain a first down. Freshman quarterback Corey Weldon stepped in for FSU, and on his first snap from center hit Bruce LaSane on a 53-yard pass play.

The Seminoles failed to score, though, when they fumbled at the Carolina three and Carolina's Patrick Hinton recovered. USC could only get as far as its own 20-yard line.

FSU head coach Bobby Bowden, known for his trick play calling, used a reverse on second-and-ten from the FSU 44, and Lawrence Dawsey ran the ball for 25 yards to the USC 31. Weldon took it in himself from two yards out to make it 52-0.

A series of turnovers followed as FSU's third quarterback of the night, freshman Brad Johnson, was picked off by USC's Dale Campbell. Ellis then fumbled at the USC nine-yard line. The fumble led to FSU's final score, a four-yard run by fullback Paul More.

Final score: 59-0, the worst defeat ever at home in USC history.

"We're totally shocked," said freshman wide receiver Robert Brooks. "We thought we were ready to play. The turnovers in the first quarter really got us down."

The three FSU quarterbacks amassed 381 total passing yards, while LaSane, Anthony, and Dawsey all had 50-yard plus performances in the receiving category.

"We made a lot of mental mistakes," said Brooks. "Everybody is hurting, but we're gonna bounce back."

USC will try to do just that Saturday as it takes on Navy at Williams-Brice Stadium. Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m. The Gamecocks' final game is Nov. 21 at Clemson.

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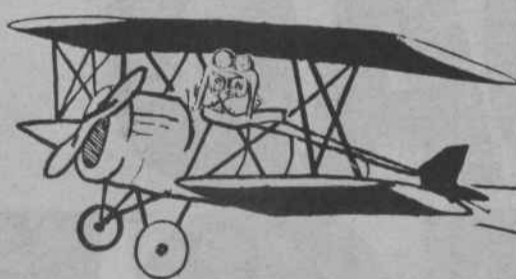
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