

Tigers beat Gamecocks in battle at Death Valley

By KEVIN ADAMS and TRACY MIXSON
Staff writers

CLEMSON — USC's football team fumbled away any hopes of beating in-state rival Clemson Saturday in Death Valley, falling to the 15th-ranked Tigers, 29-10.

Clemson, 9-2 and champions of the Atlantic Coast Conference, embarrassed the mistake-riddled Gamecocks to avenge last season's bitter 20-7 loss in Columbia. Only a handful of the 84,500 people packed in Memorial Stadium were disappointed with the afternoon's outcome, which saw Clemson force four fumbles and interceptions defensively and dominate time of possession, 37:07 to 22:53. Clemson also outgained USC in total yards, 417-257.

The Gamecocks, 8-3, accepted a bid after the game to play in the Liberty Bowl against Indiana Dec. 28 in Memphis, Tenn. As ACC champ, Clemson will travel to Orlando, Fla., Jan. 2 to take on Oklahoma in the Florida Citrus Bowl.

Clemson wasted little time. Saturday, scoring on its initial possession with a 47-yard field goal by place-kicker Chris Gardocki at 10:46 into the first quarter.

Using the run-and-shoot offense for the first time this season, USC threatened in its opening drive, carrying the ball to the Tigers' nine-yard line. But the Gamecock momentum snapped when Clemson cornerback Dexter Davis recovered a fumble by USC running back Harold Green.

The Tigers capitalized on the error with a 78-yard drive capped by Gardocki's 31-yard field goal with 1:16 left in the first period, putting Clemson up 6-0. The score was set up by a 40-yard pass from quarterback Rodney Williams to wide receiver Gary Cooper.

For the game, Williams completed 13 of 26 passes for 192 yards and also rushed for a second-half touchdown. USC threatened again early in the second quarter, but gave it away when quarterback Todd Ellis was

sacked and fumbled the ball, which was recovered by linebacker Jeff McDaniel.

Not scoring any points after two early sustained drives was a big disappointment, said freshman wide receiver Robert Brooks.

"I think that hurt us real bad," Brooks said. "I think if we had gotten something out of that, it would have been a totally different ballgame."

The Gamecocks cut their own throats again on their next possession with yet another fumble. A bad exchange between Ellis and the center was picked up in midair by linebacker Levon Kirkland, and Clemson turned it into Gardocki's third three-pointer of the day. The freshman placekicker nailed a 38-yard kick to put the Tigers ahead, 9-0.

Clemson proved it could also put the ball in the end zone with 2:49 left in the half, as it put together an 11-play, 85-yard scoring drive. Running back Terry Allen's 8-yard sweep to the right carried him into the end zone untouched for the score and put the Tigers up, 16-0.

But good field position for USC on the following kickoff helped the Gamecocks produce a brief, error-free drive and their only touchdown of the afternoon. After a personal foul was called against the Tigers on the previous extra point, USC's George Rush returned a short squib kickoff 24 yards to the Clemson 33. From there, it only took three plays for the Gamecocks to get on the board as Ellis, who completed 11 of 30 passes for 141 yards and one interception on the afternoon, connected with Brooks for a 20-yard score at 1:31 to draw USC within 16-7 at the half.

The touchdown was USC's first in more than nine quarters and only its second in the last five games.

"We thought the touchdown we scored at the end of the half might give us some momentum," USC head coach Joe Morrison said after the game. "But, we didn't get good field position at all the second half."

USC started inside its own 15-yard line in each of its first three possessions of the second half.

The only thing the Gamecocks did get much of in the second half was more punishment from the Tigers. Clemson increased its lead in the third quarter on a one-yard touchdown run by fullback Tracy Johnson. Place-kicker Rusty Seyle's extra point was no good, making the score 22-7.

The Tigers continued to embarrass their arch-rivals in the final quarter, when free safety Rusty Charpia intercepted an Ellis pass and set up another score. Williams rushed seven yards on a keeper for the touchdown at 10:44.

The Gamecocks managed a 47-yard field goal by kicker Collin Mackie at the four-minute mark for the game's final points.



DANA PURSER/The Gamecock

USC sophomore defender Mike Gosselin fights for the ball with North Carolina's Donald Cogsville in Sunday's South Region Championship match at The Graveyard. The Gamecocks won, 3-1, to move into the national quarterfinals.

USC makes quarterfinals

By RICHARD W. ROWELL
Staff writer

The North Carolina soccer team's hopes of making the national quarterfinals blew away in the wind Sunday on a breezy afternoon at The Graveyard, as top-seeded USC took the South Region Championship with a 3-1 victory over the second-seeded Tar Heels.

With the win, USC, now 13-3-4, will advance to the quarterfinals in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament for the first time since 1985. The 3-1 win also avenged a loss from last year when UNC knocked the Gamecocks out of the tournament in the second round. The crowd of 1,516 was treated to a fine performance by both clubs, although the Tar Heels waited until the second half to challenge USC.

The Gamecocks dominated the first half, controlling the midfield and forcing the Tar Heels to make numerous mistakes.

USC recorded its first goal at the 27:17 mark in the first half. Gamecock Clark Brisson shot and the ball deflected off Tar Heel goalkeeper Darren Royer. Phil Sidenburg was there for the rebound and put it away for the goal.

The Gamecocks increased their lead to 2-0 with 38:37 gone in the half. USC goalkeeper Charlie Arndt punted

the ball to the UNC's 18-yard box where Pat Walsh headed it to Greenville Pope. Pope controlled the pass and put the ball into the back of the net.

UNC closed the gap in the second half. With 82:30 gone in the match, a penalty kick was awarded to the Tar Heels after USC was called for a handball inside the penalty box. Derek Missimo faked Arndt and easily scored the kick to the right.

USC scored its final goal off a direct kick from 20 yards out. Greenville Pope tapped the ball to Clark Brisson, who drove a shot past the UNC wall into the lower left corner of the goal.

USC head coach Mark Berson said this was the most complete game his team has played all year.

"I was a little concerned when we created so many good scoring chances in the first half and didn't put them away," said Berson. "Usually in a big game like this those missed chances come back to haunt you, but our kids did a great job. They fought hard from the opening whistle."

USC will face Southern Methodist University next week in the quarterfinals. SMU defeated St. Louis 2-1 in double overtime Sunday.

The site and time of the match will be determined by the NCAA today at noon.

USC headed for Memphis

USC officially accepted a bid to the Liberty Bowl after the Gamecocks' 29-10 loss at Clemson Saturday afternoon.

The 8-3 Gamecocks will play Big Ten Conference member Indiana, 7-3-1, in the Dec. 28 bowl, which will be played in Memphis, Tenn.

The Hoosiers defeated Purdue Saturday, 52-7, to snap a two-game losing streak.

"We're really excited about the matchup," said Liberty Bowl official Reggie Barnes. "South Carolina certainly has an exciting team and the fans are among the best in the country — I don't know who would match them."

Barnes said USC would be allotted 25,000 tickets to the game, while Indiana has been given 12,000.

The game will be televised by the Raycom Sports Network. Kickoff time is 8 p.m.



Clemson running back Terry Allen heads upfield as USC's Patrick Hinton closes in. Allen rushed for 73 yards and a touchdown in the Tigers' 29-10 win.

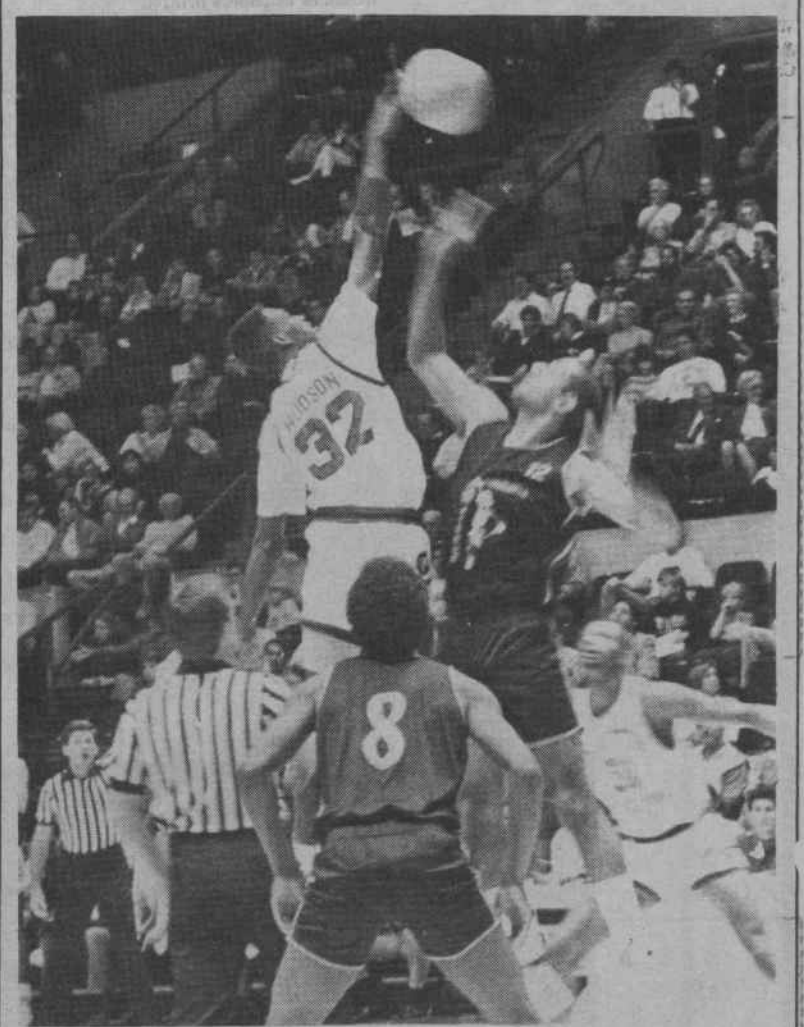
USC wins one, loses one in Metro Tourney

The Lady Gamecock volleyball team ended its season this weekend in the Metro Conference tournament in Cincinnati.

In the first round, third-seeded USC swept Virginia Tech in three consecutive games, 15-9, 15-2 and 15-1. However, in the semifinals, the Lady Gamecocks were defeated by No. 2 seed Florida State in three straight games, 8-15, 13-15 and 6-15. USC had defeated the Lady Seminoles in three games earlier this year in Columbia.

With the loss to FSU, the Lady Gamecocks finished the season with a 24-12 record.

Lady Gamecock sophomore setter Tammy Correll and junior middle blocker Stephanie Pflughaupt were named to the Metro Conference All-Tournament team.



SON HA/The Gamecock

USC senior John Hudson takes control of the tip-off in the Gamecocks' 81-56 victory over Bracknell Thursday night at the Carolina Coliseum. Hudson led USC in scoring with 18 points and also grabbed six rebounds in the exhibition game.

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