

## Baseball team set to begin season

By BRANT LONG  
Staff writer

So close. Those two words accurately describe last year's Gamecock baseball team. The squad received an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament and just fell short of advancing to the College World Series, finishing second to Miami in the Atlantic Region.

This year, with returning pitchers Joe Cardwell and Brian Rountree, second baseman Mark Taylor and sophomore Brian Williams, the team looks to not only advance to its 13th NCAA Tournament in 16 years, but to go even further.

The Gamecocks begin their effort at 1 p.m. tomorrow in Charleston with their annual opener against Baptist College.

USC head coach June Raines, beginning his 13th season at the helm of the Gamecocks, says he is pleased with his team's effort thus far in preseason workouts.

"I'm very pleased with their performance," Raines said. "They're looking very good in practice."

The Gamecocks will have an abundance of strength on the mound with Cardwell, Rountree and Williams. Cardwell, a left-handed senior, led last year's club with a 10-3 record and a 3.78 Earned Run Average. Rountree, also a senior and co-captain of the team, had a 7-5 record and a 3.78 ERA. Williams, who was selected to both the Metro and NCAA All-Tournament teams as a freshman, was 3-1 a year ago, with one of those victories a 5-0 two-hit shutout of Georgia Tech in the NCAA playoffs. Also returning at pitcher are Craig Goddard, relief ace Brian Beatson and Will Lewis. Beat-

son led USC out of the bullpen with a 3-0 record, 12 saves and a team-low 2.13 ERA.

Senior second baseman and co-captain Mark Taylor heads up the returning defense for the Gamecocks. He's joined by junior shortstop Tripp Cromer, outfielders Hardin Brown and Skeets Thomas, catcher Tray Witt, and Williams, who was named to the Metro All-Tournament team at both pitcher and third base.

At the bat, the Gamecocks have a number of strong hitters returning. Thomas batted .338 last year with eight homers and 52 runs batted in. Williams hit .332 and added eight homers and 29 RBI. Other hitters returning are outfielder Hardin Brown (.265), Cromer (.269) and Taylor, who hit .244 after a slow start.

"Thomas had a great year last year, and Williams has good power and speed," Raines said. "We also have Hardin Brown and some new recruits that we think are going to hit well for us."

Raines will look to his seniors for leadership during the upcoming season.

"Cardwell, Rountree and Taylor are looked to to give us some leadership," Raines said.

Rountree is not unfamiliar to the leadership role.

"I feel fortunate to be one of the co-captains of a group of guys such as this," Rountree said. "In junior college, I was a co-captain as well. I think I fit well into that position."

The Metro Conference will hold many tough tests for the Gamecocks with Florida State already ranked in the top five in the nation. Other con-

ference foes such as Memphis State, Southern Mississippi and Virginia Tech look to be tough competition as well.

"We will go far as a team," said Rountree. "We have a real good group of guys this year, and I think we could end up in Omaha (Neb.) for the College World Series."

USC last went to the College World Series in 1985, where they finished eighth. The Gamecocks also went to Omaha in 1975, 1977, 1981 and 1982 — finishing second in 1975 and 1977.

"Our goal every year is to go to Omaha. It's the goal of every team in the country. We need an excellent season to get there. It's a long year, but our first goal is to win our first game against Baptist College."

USC will then travel to Jacksonville Sunday and Georgia Tuesday to complete a three-game road swing to open the season.

The Gamecocks' first home game at Sarge Frye Field is at 3 p.m. Wednesday against Winthrop College.



Preseason All-American Brian Williams takes a swing during a USC game last season. The Gamecocks open their season tomorrow at 1 p.m. against Baptist College in Charleston.

## Williams receives preseason honors

By PHILIP O. CARDACI  
Staff writer

To know anything about Gamecock baseball is to know everything about Brian Williams.

Even before the baseball season officially starts for USC, Williams is in full swing. The 6-foot-2, 181-pound Fort Lawn native has already been named to three preseason All-America baseball teams as a sophomore.

The latest to honor Williams was *The Sporting News*, which selected him to a first-team outfield spot.

Earlier, *Collegiate Baseball* made Williams a first-team selection as a utility player on its preseason All-America team, and *Baseball America* chose him as a pitcher on its third team.

The All-American nominations have come to mean quite a great deal to Williams.

"It feels really great because this is one of the biggest honors I've ever received, and I'll cherish it for the rest of my life — no matter if I never make pro ball, or if my baseball career ends after college," Williams said. "It will always stay with me for the rest of my life."

Beginning his 13th year as USC head coach, June Raines doesn't feel the flood of publicity will have any adverse effects on Williams' play.

"Any time you get positive publicity, it's a good thing," Raines said. "Brian Williams can handle any positive or negative publicity. He's very mature for being so young."

But as impressive as Williams' preseason honors are, they fall second to Williams' greatest baseball accomplishment thus far — he was the highest-picked high school senior in the 1987 major league baseball draft to choose college over pro ball when he was picked in the third round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Perhaps the most-asked question in Brian Williams' career has been, "Why didn't you go to the professional ranks?"

"I figured at the time I got drafted," Williams said, "Pittsburgh was in a financially insecure state, so they didn't offer me the amount of money that I wanted to go play for them for the round that I got drafted in."

The chance to gain a little maturity also played an important role in Williams' decision to attend USC.

"I figured that if I go to college and mature a little more and work on all my basic skills, then maybe in three years I'll be worth more."

Another reason he chose college over the pro ranks is that he wanted a little more time to choose a position. "This is sort of like an experimenting stage to see what I really want to

do with the rest of my life — be a position player or a pitcher."

In his freshman campaign, Williams played all positions on the field and did so with limited preparation. Raines said he plans to continue taking advantage of this facet of Williams' play.

"He'll do everything, just like last year," Raines said. "He's going to pitch his turn this year. Last year we had some unfortunate injuries, and he had to play short, third, first and in the outfield, but we're going to pitch him every fourth or fifth day. He's going to play an outfield position when he's not pitching if he's able to do it."

Williams didn't express any hesitation in the rotation of his talents, seemingly taking the whole process in stride.

"Changing positions doesn't screw me up as far as pitching," he said, "but when I pitch a game, I can't play the outfield the next day because my arm's sore and recuperating. The outfield doesn't affect my pitching; the pitching affects my outfield."

When Brian Williams' accolades are coupled with his professional draft history, a natural question is whether he'll complete his four years of college eligibility or not. At this stage in his career he's as uncertain as those around him.

"I can get drafted again next year at the end of my junior year. Where I get drafted and how much money they offer me will determine if I stay my four years or leave at the end of my third year, so I can't really say until the end of (next) year."

If pro ball is in the cards for Williams, he feels his best chance of getting there is through his skills on the mound.

"If I continue pitching and do real well at it, and if my arm doesn't give me any trouble, I think my first choice in the pros will be pitching."

For now, however, Williams is committed to USC and the upcoming season. His goals are straightforward.

"Pitch games and try to help the team the best I can on the mound. Hit at least the batting average I did last year or higher, hit the RBI's that I did or higher, and equal or better my home runs."

All in all this boils down to one goal.

"Equal what I did my first year, if not better."

Raines said this set of goals shouldn't pose any type of formidable problem for Williams. In fact, when it comes to Williams' play and ability on the baseball field, Raines sums up pretty well what everyone is saying about Brian Williams. "He's unique."

## Price, Hudson lead win over Hokies

By JEFF NICHOLS  
Staff writer

USC returned to winning form Wednesday night in an 81-70 win over Virginia Tech, evening its Metro Conference record at 4-4 and improving its overall record to 14-8.

The Hokies came into the contest with a high-powered offense averaging more than 90 points a game and features the Metro's top two scorers - Olympian Bimbo Coles and backcourt mate Wally Lancaster.

Coles (28 points per game) and Lancaster (23 ppg) combine to average over 50 points a game for Virginia Tech, yet the Hokies continue to stay in the Metro cellar with only one conference win all year.

So when USC, who leads the Metro in team defense, held Coles to 19 points on a six of 17 shooting night, while Lancaster was limited to 16 points on a 4-17 performance from the field, the Hokies knew they were in dire straits.

As Virginia Tech head coach Frankie Allen said, "We should feel good we only lost by 11 points."

While Tech's backcourt was struggling, USC's guard tandem of Brent Price and Barry Manning seemed primed for a challenge.

"It was a challenge for Barry and me," Price said. "Coles played on the Olympic team. You can't get much better than that. You feel like you're going against two of the best guards in the nation, and you want to see how you compete."

Price also had some personal incentive to play well.

The 6'1" sophomore was coming off the worst outing of his young career. Four days earlier, Price had missed all eight of his shots from the field against Memphis State.

Price responded by leading all scorers with 22 points, grabbing a career-high seven rebounds and adding three steals as USC improved its home record to 12-1.

With the two teams deadlocked at 40, Price hit a three-pointer with 16:11 remaining in the contest to ignite a 12-0 run and put the Gamecocks in the lead to stay.

Three minutes later, after forward John Hudson hit two free throws, USC was up 52-40, and the Hokies were never able to get closer than seven.

Credit that to a combination of Manning checking Coles on the perimeter, and Hudson patrolling the inside. Hudson ignited the crowd of 8,049 with six blocked shots, a career high for the 6'8" senior. He also scored 18 points and led the Gamecocks with 12 rebounds.

Virginia Tech was plagued with foul trouble all night. Six Hokies finished the game with four fouls, not the least of which was Lancaster, who picked up his fourth foul just 4:30 into the second half.

When Coles turned his ankle just two minutes later and had to be helped off the court, the Hokies knew it would be an uphill battle the rest of the way. Allen still had five players on the floor, but half of his offense was temporarily gone.

"If you follow us, you know that we're not going to be too effective with those guys not on the floor," Allen said.

"The kids played their hearts out," USC head coach George Felton said. "We've been going through some tough times, but they responded well tonight. We executed; we did the things we had to do, and we hit some clutch free throws."

Senior Terry Dozier scored 12 points for the Gamecocks, while Manning added 11 before fouling out. Freshman Joe Rhett had 10 points and 10 rebounds. Coles and Lancaster were the only double-figure scorers for Virginia Tech.

Felton praised reserve Bill Vernau for giving the team "the hustle and spark" that he thought they needed.

1989 USC Baseball Schedule	
February	
18-Sat.	at Baptist, 1:30 p.m.
19-Sun.	at Jacksonville, 1:30 p.m.
21-Tue.	at Georgia, 4:00 p.m.
22-Wed.	WINTHROP, 3:00 p.m.
23-Thu.	LIMESTONE, 3:00 p.m.
24-Fri.	at Mercer, 3:00 p.m.
25-Sat.	CAMPBELL, 2:00 p.m.
26-Sun.	MERCER (2), 1:00 p.m.
27-Mon.	at Furman, 3:00 p.m.
March	
3-Fri.	at Southern Mississippi, 6:30 p.m. (CST)
4-Sat.	at Southern Mississippi, 2:00 p.m. (CST)
5-Sun.	at Southern Mississippi, 2:00 p.m. (CST)
6-Mon.	at Southern Alabama, 6:30 p.m. (CST)
7-Tue.	at Southern Alabama, 6:30 p.m. (CST)
9-Thu.	at Alabama, 1:30 p.m. (CST)
10-Fri.	EAST CAROLINA, 3:00 p.m.
11-Sat.	APPALACHIAN STATE, 2:00 p.m.
15-Wed.	at Winthrop, 2:00 p.m.
17-Fri.	FLORIDA STATE, 7:30 p.m.
18-Sat.	FLORIDA STATE, 7:30 p.m.
19-Sun.	FLORIDA STATE, 2:00 p.m.
20-Mon.	GEORGIA SOUTHERN, 7:30 p.m.
21-Tue.	GEORGIA SOUTHERN, 3:00 p.m.
22-Wed.	ST. BONAVENTURE, 7:30 p.m.
23-Thu.	BAPTIST, 7:30 p.m.
24-Fri.	XAVIER (OHIO), 3:00 p.m.
25-Sat.	LOUISVILLE (2), 1:00 p.m.
26-Sun.	LOUISVILLE, 2:00 p.m.
27-Mon.	GEORGIA TECH, 3:00 p.m.
28-Tue.	at Coastal Carolina, 7:00 p.m.
31-Fri.	at Clemson, 7:00 p.m.
April	
1-Sat.	at Clemson, 7:00 p.m.
2-Sun.	at Clemson, 2:00 p.m.
3-Mon.	THE CITADEL, 7:30 p.m.
4-Tue.	COLUMBIA METS (Exhibition), 7:30 p.m.
5-Wed.	FURMAN, 7:30 p.m.
7-Fri.	at Cincinnati, 2:00 p.m.
8-Sat.	at Cincinnati, 2:00 p.m.
9-Sun.	at Cincinnati, 2:00 p.m.
11-Tue.	MERCER, 7:30 p.m.
12-Wed.	GEORGIA, 7:30 p.m.
14-Fri.	at Virginia Tech, 3:00 p.m.
15-Sat.	at Virginia Tech, 2:00 p.m.
16-Sun.	at Virginia Tech, 2:00 p.m.
18-Tue.	COASTAL CAROLINA, 7:30 p.m.
20-Thu.	CLEMSON, 7:30 p.m.
21-Fri.	CLEMSON, 7:30 p.m.
22-Sat.	CLEMSON, 2:00 p.m.
24-Mon.	at The Citadel, 7:30 p.m.
25-May 3	EXAMS
May	
4-Thu.	JACKSONVILLE, 7:30 p.m.
6-Sat.	MEMPHIS STATE (2), 6:00 p.m.
7-Sun.	MEMPHIS STATE, 2:00 p.m.
8-Mon.	at Georgia Tech, 5:30 p.m.
9-Tue.	CENTRAL FLORIDA, 7:30 p.m.
10-Wed.	CENTRAL FLORIDA, 3:00 p.m.
12-Fri.	at Georgia Southern, 7:00 p.m.
13-Sat.	at Georgia Southern, 2:00 p.m.
17-21	METRO TOURNAMENT AT COLUMBIA, SC



USC's Brent Price maneuvers against Virginia Tech's All-American guard Bimbo Coles in the Gamecocks' 81-70 win over the Hokies Wednesday night. Price led USC in scoring with 22 points.

Vernau had six points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals in 11 minutes of play.

The Gamecocks hope this spark will continue as they begin their drive for a postseason appearance with the first of three remaining Metro road contests Saturday at Southern Mississippi.

**VIRGINIA TECH (70)**  
Nottingham 2-5 3-4 7, Rivers 0-4 0-0 0, Herbstler 2-6 0-0 4, Coles 6-17 5-5 19, Lancaster 4-17 6-6 16, Moses 4-6 0-0 8, Sanders 1-2 2-2 4, Caesar 2-6 0-0 4, Cannon 1-1 0-0 2, Davis 2-3 0-0 5, Holland 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-67 16-17 70.

**USC (81)**  
Dozier 5-7 2-2 12, Rhett 2-6 6-8 10, Hudson 5-12 8-11 18, Price 7-15 6-7 22, Manning 4-8 3-4 11, Glover 0-0 0-0 0, English 1-2 0-2 2, Roulston 0-1 0-0 0, Vernau 1-4 3-5 6. Totals 25-55 28-39 81.

Halftime — USC 38, Virginia Tech 36. 3-point goals — Virginia Tech 6-24 (Nottingham 0-1, Coles 2-7, Lancaster 2-10, Caesar 1-4, Davis 1-2). Rebounds — Virginia Tech 34 (Rivers 12), USC 48 (Hudson 12). Assists — Virginia Tech 15 (Coles 5), USC (Hudson 4). Total fouls — Virginia Tech 33, USC 14. Attendance — 8,049.

Staff writer Dave Kay also contributed to this story.

## Men's tennis opens with win over Davidson

By MATTHEW ROBERTS  
Staff writer

The USC men's tennis team started its 1989 spring season on a winning note Tuesday with a 9-0 victory over Davidson College at The Bubble.

The Gamecocks dominated their first dual match of the season, losing only one set in nine matches. The closest match of the day saw the USC team of Dave Herman and Jaime Frontera come from one set down to defeat the team of Joey Manibo and John Beyer in a third-set tiebreaker, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7-0).

This is the first time the Gamecocks have had their own indoor facility in which to practice for the indoor season, which lasts from November to March 1. Kent DeMars, head tennis coach, said this indoor facility has proved to be a valuable asset to the Gamecocks.

"This facility allows us to practice indoors and get prepared for our indoor matches," he said. "In the past we have had to practice outdoors for indoor matches which was a major disadvantage in preparing for our indoor season."

With the victory, the 9th-ranked Gamecocks are 1-0 on the season, while Davidson fell to 0-1.

Another reason for DeMars' optimism and enthusiasm about the team is the recent performance of USC's top two players, Steve Longley and

Stephane Simian, in the ITCA Singles and Doubles Championships. This national indoor tournament, held in Minneapolis, Minn., this past weekend, pitted the top 32 players in the country against one another. Both Longley and Simian made it to the quarterfinals in the singles competition and teamed to make the semifinals in doubles.

Longley defeated Luis Ruetto of TCU 7-6, 6-2 to advance to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Longley faced David Harkness of BYU and lost 6-3, 7-6 in a tight match.

Simian, a transfer from Palm Beach Junior College, easily defeated John Sullivan of Clemson 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals. Simian faced the top seed in the tournament and the No. 1 player in the country, Malivi Washington of Michigan, in the quarterfinals. Simian took Washington to three hard-fought sets before losing 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Later, Longley and Simian successfully teamed together to make the semifinals in the doubles competition.

Coach DeMars sees Longley and Simian's performance in this national tournament as an example of the talent on his squad and their potential for success.

"Getting to the quarterfinals at the National In-

doors is remarkable. It is like getting to the quarterfinals of the NCAA's, and we had two players to do it."

USC's next match is set for today against Wake Forest.

### USC-Davidson results

**Singles:**  
No. 1 Steve Longley (USC) d. Sebastian Koch (D), 6-1, 6-3.  
No. 2 Stephane Simian (USC) d. Curtiss Zabell (D), 6-0, 6-1.  
No. 3 Johan Karlen (USC) d. Tom Hagood (D), 6-2, 6-2.  
No. 4 Dave Herman (USC) d. Charles Jordan (D), 6-2, 6-2.  
No. 5 Erick Sydow (USC) d. John Beyer (D), 6-2, 6-1.  
No. 6 Jaime Frontera (USC) d. Joey Manibo (D), 6-1, 6-1.  
**Doubles:**  
No. 1 Longley/Richard Lynch (USC) d. Koch/Dale Voeks (D), 6-4, 6-1.  
No. 2 Sydow/Gloria (USC) d. Zabell/Elijah Gowin (D), 6-0, 6-2.  
No. 3 Herman/Frontera (USC) d. Manibo/Beyer (D), 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7-0).

## Lady Gamecocks victorious against ranked N.C. State

From staff reports

The 18th-ranked Lady Gamecock basketball team won their first game this year against a ranked opponent, upsetting No. 12 N.C. State 67-62 Wednesday night in Raleigh.

The win over the Lady Wolfpack pushed USC to 17-5. N.C. State dropped to 18-5 with the loss.

Balanced scoring was a key to the Lady Gamecock victory as five players scored in double figures. USC was led by Beth Hunt, with 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Lisa Diaz followed with 16 points and 12 assists. Schonna Banner and Karen Middleton added 11 points each and Martha Parker had 10 points and eight rebounds for USC.

The win was USC's third in four outings against Atlantic Coast Con-

ference teams. The Lady Gamecocks defeated North Carolina and split with Clemson earlier this season.

**USC (67)**  
Hunt 7-13 3-3 17, Parker 5-11 0-1 10, Banner 5-10 1-3 11, David 0-1 0-0 0, Diaz 6-14 4-4 16, Middleton 4-11 0-0 11, Hawkins 1-2 0-0 2.

**N.C. STATE (62)**  
Kilburn 1-4 3-4 5, Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Mapp 10-17 0-0 20, Rubock 0-0 0-0 0, Stinson 7-17 4-4 18, Manning 3-7 0-2 6, Hobbs 3-4 0-2 6, Hancock 0-0 0-0 0, Lehmann 3-7 0-0 7, Bertrand 0-0 0-0 0.

Halftime — USC 37, N.C. St. 27. 3-point goals — USC 3-8 (Middleton 3-8), N.C. St. 1-5 (Lehmann 1-5). Rebounds — USC 30 (Hunt 11), N.C. St. 35 (Mapp 14). Assists — USC 23 (Diaz 12), N.C. St. 19 (Kilburn 6). Total fouls — USC 12, N.C. St. 14. Attendance — 2,729.