

Binfield finds home with USC swim team

By CHARLES JONES
Staff writer

Many athletes spend years training to get one chance to compete in the Olympics.

This dream came true for USC student Gary Binfield.

Binfield, a member of the USC swim team, competed in the 1988 Summer Olympics for his home team, England.

"Although I did not place," says Binfield, "being in Seoul was everything I thought it would be. I got a chance to swim with the world's best."

However, this was not Binfield's first time competing internationally. He also swam in the 1987 European Championships and the Commonwealth Games and said traveling was one of the main reasons he enjoyed competing.

"I've been able to go all over Europe, visit the United States and the Orient," Binfield said.

Binfield has also gotten a chance to compete against some of the top swimming countries in the world, such as East Germany and the Soviet Union.

"There are many American misconceptions about the Soviets," Binfield said. "Yes, they are very competitive, but they are human, not machines. I have made many Soviet friends that I keep in touch with."

Binfield said he began swimming seriously at 15 at his home in Milton Keynes. But, he said, this only came as a result of something he could not do.

"I always wanted to go fishing," he said, "but I wasn't allowed. So while the others around me were fishing, I was swimming."

The major reason he came to school in the United States was because American schools allowed him more time to practice, Binfield said. He has an early morning practice four days a week from 6 to 7 a.m. Afterward, he goes to class, and

then at 2:30 p.m., he practices with the USC swim team for the weekend tournaments.

Binfield says he had two big adjustments to make when he came to USC.

"The weather here is very humid, and I had to adjust to the change in language," he said, adding that the Southern dialect is "very interesting."

Now in his final year at USC, Binfield plans to concentrate on his schoolwork and his role with the USC swim team.

"I hope to serve as a person some of the younger members can look up to because of my experience," he said.

Binfield's best events are the individual medley and the backstroke. He earned Honorable Mention All-American honors for the last three seasons. He also set British records in the 1986 World Championships in the 200-meter backstroke and the 200 individual medley and holds the USC school record in the 100m and 200m backstrokes.

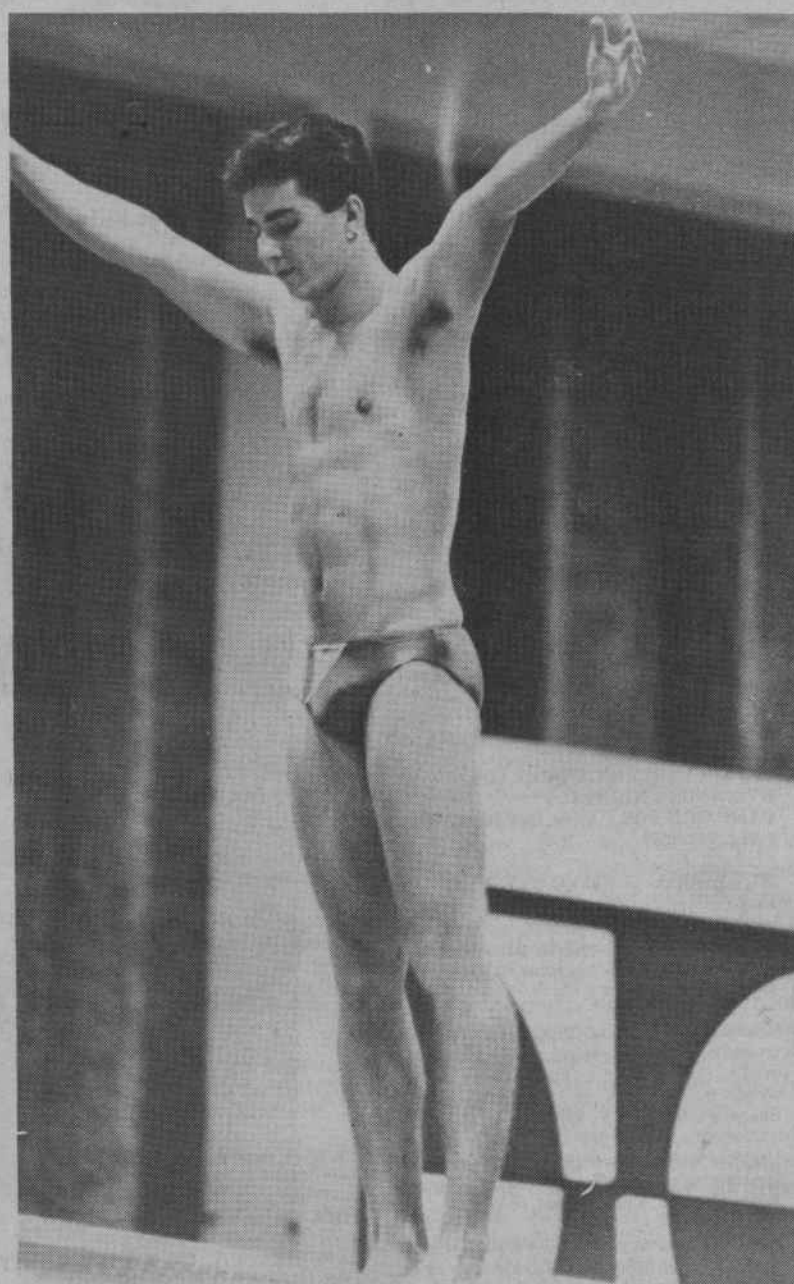
Therefore, it is not surprising that he has been the Metro Conference 200-meter backstroke champion for the past three years. Binfield will once again lead the Gamecocks in their quest for their sixth consecutive Metro crown beginning Thursday at the Carolina Natatorium.

Swim team head coach Kris Kirchner described Binfield as "the most versatile swimmer the Gamecocks have ever seen."

"Kris and I came in together," Binfield says. "We have a lot of mutual respect for each other, and he is a great coach."

Binfield said he has no plans to compete in the 1992 Olympics.

"Although I enjoy swimming, there is no money in amateur sports," he said. "I feel now is the time for me to get serious and start making a future for myself."



TERRY HUNTER/The Gamecock

USC freshman diver Chris Dudka prepares for the Metro/NIC Championships to be held this week at the Carolina Natatorium.

Swim teams play host to Metro/NIC finals

From staff reports

The USC men's and women's swim teams will be host to the 1989 Metro Conference/NIC Swimming and Diving Championships for men and women Feb. 22-26 in the Carolina Natatorium in the P.E. Center.

USC's men's squad will be attempting to capture their sixth consecutive Metro title, while the women will be trying for their fifth Metro championship in the past six years.

The Gamecocks will feature senior Wade King, who won a gold medal at the 1987 Pan-American games in the 400-meter medley relay. King was runner-up in the 100-yard butterfly last year and will be shooting for the NCAA national title in 1989.

The Lady Gamecocks' squad includes Isabelle Arnould, an Olympic finalist for Belgium this past fall in Seoul.

In addition to USC, Cincinnati, Florida State, Louisville, Memphis State and Virginia Tech will compete in both the men's and women's Metro championships.

Teams competing in the NIC Championships are Arkansas-Little Rock (men only), East Carolina, Northeast Louisiana, Florida Atlantic (women only), New Orleans, Miami, Tulane and Old Dominion.

Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, Feb. 22 — Women's 1-meter diving preliminaries begin at 1 p.m. Finals of the women's 1-meter diving event begin at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23 — Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the preliminaries of the 200-yard medley relay, 200-yard free relay, 500-yard free, 200-yard individual medley, 50-yard free, men's 1-meter diving, 800-yard free relay and 400-yard medley relay. Finals for these events will begin at 6:30 p.m.

LSU and Eastern Michigan, respectively, where they both turned in outstanding performances.

On Friday night, Wiechern competed at the Tiger Open held at the LSU Field House. With a jump of 6'11 3/4", Wiechern finished in a tie for third place.

Competing in the 18th annual Eastern Michigan Indoor Track Classic on Saturday, Gerke came through with a second place finish in the pole vault by leaping 16'8".

USC baseball team loses season opener

The USC baseball team dropped their season opener Sunday to Jacksonville, 8-5. The Gamecocks allowed a 3-0 lead to vanish when the Dolphins, 5-0, picked up eight runs in the seventh inning on only two hits.

USC, now 0-1, was scheduled to play at Georgia at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Men's tennis squad remains undefeated

By MATTHEW ROBERTS
Staff writer

The 9th-ranked USC men's tennis team remained undefeated this season with a 6-3 victory over No. 19 Mississippi Sunday at The Bubble.

The Gamecocks were forced to come from behind early in the match, as Mississippi led 2-1 after the first three singles matches were completed.

Senior Steve Longley fought off a set point in a second-set tiebreaker and held on to beat last year's NAAIA champion Keith Evans, 6-2, 7-6 in No. 1 singles, but the Rebels won two close three-set matches over USC's second and third players, Stephane Simian and Ken Diller.

The turning point of the match came when Gamecock Louie Gloria made a comeback in his match against Jim Williams. Down 7-6, 5-1 with Williams serving for the match, Gloria fought off five match points, several with clean winners, and went on to win 12 of the next 14 games and the match, 6-7, 7-6, 6-1. The comeback was even more impressive considering the fact that Gloria was hampered by a painful foot injury that worsened as the match progressed. This injury ultimately resulted in Gloria leaving the match on crutches after competing in doubles action.

Gloria, who has retained freshman eligibility because of an injury hardship last year, never gave up in his match.

"I usually like to come from behind, but not from that far behind," Gloria said. "When I was down 5-1, I started taking one point at a time, which allowed me to string together a few points that got me back into the match."

"I saw that the team was struggling, and I realized the team really needed my match," he said. "I just tried to hang in there and do it for the team."

Head coach Kent DeMars said this spirit and determination is what makes his team special.

"The character Louie Gloria showed is what gets a team inspired and pumped up," DeMars said. "He showed a great deal of determination by simply refusing to lose the match. This outstanding effort gave us an inspiration to win and really motivated the rest of the players to play some outstanding tennis."



Louie Gloria

The Gamecocks were indeed fired up after Gloria's match because the rest was all USC, as the Gamecocks rolled to their third straight victory.

"Mississippi was a Top 20 team with a lot of talent," DeMars said. "This match was a good barometer to see where we stand and if we could live up to our ranking, which I think we did. It was also an important step and boost in confidence as we head to the National Indoor Team Championships this week in Louisville."

Pitting Top 20 teams from across the country, the ITCA National Indoor Team Championships begin today in Louisville, Ky., and will be a true test of the Gamecocks' ability. USC has a first-round bye and will face 8th-ranked LSU Thursday at noon.

USC-Mississippi results

Singles:

- No.1 Steve Longley (USC) d. Keith Evans (M), 6-2, 7-6.
- No.2 Dave Randall (M) d. Stephane Simian (USC), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.
- No.3 Derek Brooks (M) d. Ken Diller (USC), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.
- No.4 Louie Gloria (USC) d. Jim Williams (M), 6-7, 7-6, 6-1.
- No.5 Johan Karlen (USC) d. Mike Knowles (M), 7-5, 6-2.
- No.6 Dave Herman (USC) d. Tommy Alfano (M), 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles:

- No.1 Simian/Diller (USC) d. Randall/Brooks (M), 6-2, 6-2.
- No.2 Longley/Richard Lynch (USC) d. Evans/Brooks (M), 6-4, 6-3.
- No.3 Dan Brooks/Williams (M) d. Gloria/Erick Sydow (USC), 6-2, 0-6, 6-3.



CHARLES JONES/The Gamecock

USC swimmer Gary Binfield swam for the British Olympic team in Seoul this past summer.

Hunt leads USC in win over FSU

The Lady Gamecock basketball team overcame a seven-point second-half deficit Monday evening to defeat Metro Conference foe Florida State 76-68 at the Tully Gymnasium in Tallahassee.

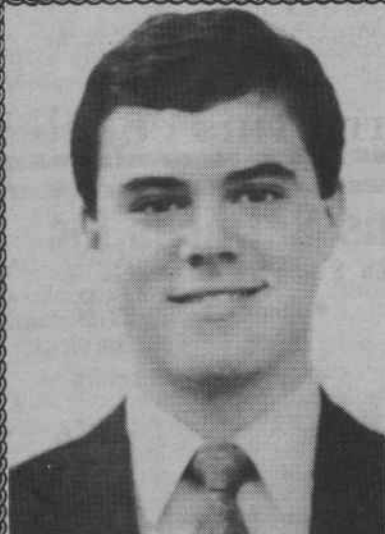
USC's win broke the Lady Seminoles' 11-game winning streak at home this season, while the Lady Gamecocks improved their record to

SPORTS BRIEFS

19-5 overall and 10-1 in the Metro.


Gamecock jumpers continue competing

Though the USC indoor track team did not participate in an invitational this past weekend, seniors Paul Wiechern and Dale Gerke traveled to



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