

Gamecocks swept at Virginia Tech

By KEVIN ADAMS
Sports editor

The USC baseball team's road woes continued this weekend in Blacksburg, Va., as June Raines' Gamecocks dropped three straight Metro Conference contests to the Virginia Tech Hokies. USC's road record is now 4-13.

Entering the weekend, USC was tied with the Hokies for first place in the Metro with a 6-3 conference mark, but the Gamecocks could not put their hitting and pitching together in any of the three contests to stop a Virginia Tech sweep. The losses drop USC to 23-15 and 6-6 in the conference, while the Hokies improve to 25-10 and 9-3.

In Friday's game, the Hokies took a 10-5 win despite two home runs from USC sophomore outfielder Brian Williams. USC starter and loser Brian Rountree, 4-6, was



Brian Williams

roughed up for eight runs and seven hits, including a grand slam home run, in six innings of work. Saturday's game was rained out and made

up as part of a doubleheader on Sunday afternoon.

In Sunday's first game, the Hokies took an early lead with two first-inning runs off Gamecock starter Matt Threehouse, but USC came back to tie it with two runs in the third behind an RBI single from second baseman Mark Taylor.

The Gamecocks took a 3-2 lead in the fourth when outfielder Skeets Thomas scored on a wild throw, but the lead would last only until the bottom half of the sixth, when the Hokies scored four runs on four hits off USC pitchers Threehouse, Brian Beatson and Charlie Young. Young, 3-3, took the loss for the Gamecocks, while Virginia Tech's ace Mike Williams improved his record to 8-2 with a three-hitter.

In the second game, the Gamecocks loaded the bases with one out in the top of the first, but short-

stop Tripp Cromer hit into a double play to end the inning without any USC runs. That would set the tone for the rest of the game, as the Hokies scored a run in their half of the first on a Craig Blum single, a wild pitch, a passed ball and an error by USC third baseman Burke Cromer.

After USC starter Brian Williams had struck out five Hokies in a row, Len Wentz and Casey Waller hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning for Virginia Tech and Scott Sorkin held the Gamecocks to four hits en route to a 4-0 victory. Williams, 2-2, took the loss for USC. The win was the 900th career victory for Virginia Tech head coach Chuck Hartman.

USC returns home to Sarge Frye Field at 7:30 tonight for a makeup game with Campbell and will face Coastal Carolina Tuesday.



TERRY HUNTER/The Gamecock

Slugging Shortstop

USC shortstop Marianne DiRupo waits for a pitch in a game earlier this season. The Lady Gamecocks won their first three games in this weekend's Adelphi College Tournament in Garden City, N.Y., and will play host to Furman in a doubleheader at Lady Gamecock Field on Tuesday afternoon beginning at 3 p.m.

Men's track squad takes first place

The USC men's track squad finished in first place in this weekend's Vulcan-Magic City Relays in Birmingham, Ala. The USC women finished 8th.

Leading the Gamecocks to victory were Dale Gerke, who won the pole vault with a leap of 17 feet; Phillip Williams, who finished first in the long jump with a leap of 25'2 1/2"; Robert Brooks, who won the 110 hurdles with a time of 14:30; and Nigel Stoddard who finished first in the 100-meter sprint with a time of 10.57. USC's distance medley team finished first with a time of 10:02, and the Gamecock sprint medley

team also won their competition with a time of 3:28.1.

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

Men: 1. USC 106, 2. Southeast Louisiana 87, 3. Southern Mississippi 67, 4. Mississippi 66, 5. Samford 61, 6. McNeese State 51, 7. Mississippi College 40, 8. Murray State 26, 9. South Alabama 16, 10. Tulane 3.

Women: 1. Murray State 127, 2. Samford 66, 3. McNeese State 61, 4. Mississippi 60, 5. Southern Mississippi 41, 6. Tulane 39, 7. Southeast Louisiana 32, 8. USC 30, 9. South Alabama 29.

Payne a finalist for Ohio position

USC assistant basketball coach

SPORTS BRIEFS

Eddie Payne is one of three finalists for the head coach's position at Ohio University, an Ohio U. spokesman said Saturday.

Along with Payne, Larry Gipson, head coach at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, and Larry Hunter, head coach at Wittenburg College, will be interviewed early this week by university officials and the selection committee at the Athens, Ohio, school.

Payne, 37, had a 103-51 record in five seasons as the head coach at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina before joining George Felton's staff at USC. Payne has

been with the Gamecock program since 1986.

Goalkeeper Arndt gets another honor

USC goalkeeper Charlie Arndt has been named to the adidas Scholar-Athlete Soccer All-American team.

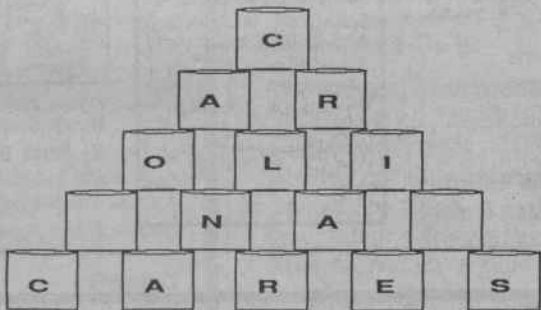
The team is selected on the basis of athletic achievement and soccer performance as chosen by the Inter-collegiate Soccer Association of America.

Earlier this year, Arndt was named National Goalkeeper of the Year in NCAA Division I soccer and also was selected to play in the Senior Bowl, an all-star game composed of the top seniors in collegiate soccer.

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