

## Gamecocks rebound, take two from Tigers

By KEVIN ADAMS  
Sports editor

There was a big difference between the first four and the past two USC-Clemson baseball games this season.

The first three games three weeks ago in Clemson saw the Tigers score 28 runs to the Gamecocks' 13 in a Clemson sweep. And when the Tigers overcame an early-3-0 deficit to take a 5-3 win in Thursday night's game at Sarge Frye Field, it looked like more of the same was about to happen.

But with strong pitching from both the starters and the bullpen, a tight defense and some powerful bats, the Gamecocks turned things around Friday and Saturday to win the last two games from the ninth-ranked Tigers, who fell to 35-8 with their fifth loss in the past seven games. Eight Clemson errors, six of them on Friday, didn't hurt either.

"Our guys haven't hung their heads all year," USC head coach June Raines said. "We've played bad baseball, we've played good baseball; but, we seem to bounce back when we have to. We knew we were playing a ranked ballclub and we had to come out and play excellent baseball, and that's what we did."

The Gamecocks won Friday night's game 8-3, behind two home runs from Derrick Mack, a three-run shot by Mark Taylor, and the strong pitching of starter Matt Threehouse and relievers Joe Cardwell and Brian Beatson.

Saturday, the Gamecocks made it two in a row over the Tigers with a

7-1 win as USC scored in each of the first four innings.

USC, now 27-16, jumped to an early lead for the third straight game when a two-out double in the bottom of the first by Skeets Thomas scored Mack from first base, giving the Gamecocks a 1-0 lead.

Two more runs crossed the plate in the bottom of the second when USC third baseman Sandy Rickett walked, raced to third on a single by Chad Sims off Clemson starter John Powlowski's leg and scored when Tiger first baseman Mike Milchin's throw sailed over third base. Sims later scored on a groundout to first by Mike McGee.

Mack hit his third home run in two days to lead off the bottom of the third. Skeets Thomas followed with an infield single, advanced to second on a bouncer to the pitcher, stole third and scored on another Tiger error, this one a high throw from Tiger catcher Mike Lockhart on the steal attempt.

The Gamecocks took a 6-0 lead in the fourth on infield singles by Jovi McAndrew, Tripp Cromer and Mack before scoring their final run in the seventh when Thomas singled, stole second and scored on a single by Brian Lawler.

Meanwhile, USC starting pitcher Brian Williams pitched shutout ball through the first seven innings, allowing only four Tiger hits and escaping several Clemson scoring opportunities.

In the top of the fifth, the Tigers



TERRY HUNTER/The Gamecock

USC's Skeets Thomas dives back to first as Clemson first baseman Mike Milchin awaits the throw in Saturday's game at Sarge Frye Field. Thomas had three hits, scored two runs, and had an RBI in the Gamecocks' 7-1 win.

loaded the bases with one out before Williams struck out Henry Threadgill and Mike Couture to end the threat.

Williams also induced double-play balls in the fourth and seventh innings, each time with two Clemson runners on base.

Williams walked six and struck out seven before being replaced after walking the first two batters in the eighth, when the Tigers scored their only run on a groundout by pinch-hitter Kevin Northrup. Lefthander Will Lewis and converted starter Brian Rountree finished up for USC. "These two games meant an

awfully lot to us," Raines said. "We played excellent defense, and that's what you have to do against a good ballclub like Clemson — try to keep them off the bases. We still had too many bases on balls, but we turned two big double plays and we got key strikeouts when we needed them, and that's how we won two out of three."

USC played host to Limestone Sunday afternoon before traveling to Charleston at 7:30 p.m. tonight to face The Citadel.

Staff writer Jeff Nichols contributed to this story.

## Williams not upset by Raines' decision

By KEVIN ADAMS  
Sports editor

When USC head baseball coach June Raines made the long walk from the dugout to the mound in the top of the eighth inning of USC's 7-1 victory over Clemson to talk to Brian Williams, he knew what the fans wanted.

The majority of the crowd of 3,800 at Sarge Frye Field told Raines by their howls that they wanted Williams to stay in the game.

And why not? After all, Williams had pitched four-hit ball for seven innings, and the Gamecocks held a 7-0 lead at the time. And hadn't he gotten out of two or three tough jams earlier in the game?

But after the sophomore righthander had walked the first two Tigers in the top of the eighth, his fifth and sixth walks of the game, Raines had seen enough.

"Brian Williams is the type of pitcher that can get himself out of a lot of trouble because he's got good stuff," Raines said after the game. "We went with him as long as we could — he was getting a little tired on a hot day."

Williams at first seemed upset at the decision to take him out, slamming his fist in his glove when Raines made the call to the bullpen, but said later he took it in stride.

"I was getting a little winded, because I played hard last night and ran a lot and I was a little fatigued, so all in all, I think Coach made a good decision by taking me out at that



Brian Williams

time," Williams said. "I wasn't upset, but I was a little disappointed. I wanted to finish the game because I had a shutout going. But the guys came in and did a good job."

"The guys" were lefthanded reliever Will Lewis and converted starter Brian Rountree, who came on to finish the game for USC, allowing two walks and a hit. The Tigers' only run, charged to Williams, came on consecutive groundouts against Lewis after Williams' departure to a standing ovation in the eighth.

Williams had dodged several earlier Clemson scoring chances, the most serious in the fifth.

After the Tigers loaded the bases on a double, a walk and an error, Williams went to 3-1 counts on

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## Tennis teams finish first and second

The USC men's and women's tennis teams had successful outings in the Metro Conference Tennis Tournament in Cincinnati this past weekend. The men's team ran away with a first-place finish with 52 points, and the Lady Gamecocks came in a close second, only two points behind Florida State.

The Gamecocks doubled the scores of their second-place competitors, Virginia Tech and Florida State, and they lost only one match the entire tournament.

Taking firsts for the men's team in the singles competition were Steve

Longley, Stephane Simian, Erick Sydow, Dave Herman, Louie Gloria and Jaime Frontera. Gamecock doubles winners were Longley and Simian, and Johan Karlen and Richard Lynch.

Winning first places for the Lady Gamecocks in singles competition were Michelle Duda and Robin Deitch. In doubles play, Deitch and Carolina Culik, and Duda and Cathy Kiser took firsts.

## Lady Gamecocks take five out of six

The 15th-ranked Lady Gamecock softball team won five of six games in the Chattanooga Tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn., this weekend,

## SPORTS BRIEFS

but was ousted by Nichols State in the semifinals Sunday afternoon.

USC, now 43-9, defeated Nichols State and Austin Peay, 4-3 and 8-0, respectively on Friday. On Saturday, the Lady Gamecocks won all three of their games. In its first game on Saturday, USC defeated South Florida, 4-3. In the second game, Lady Gamecock pitcher Angie Lear fired a shutout as USC beat Virginia, 2-0. In USC's final game of the day, it squeaked by the Lady Tar Heels of North Carolina, 5-4.

In their semifinal match on Sunday, the Lady Gamecocks fell to Nichols State in eight innings, 4-3.

## USC individuals win six track events

USC captured six first places in the Men's Track and Field Gamecock Twilight-Decathlon at Weems-Baskin Track Saturday.

Winning the decathlon for USC was Phillip Williams, as he recorded 7,016 points in the events. Gamecock Nigel Stoddart took the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.42. USC's Dale Gerke vaulted 17'0" to place first in the pole vault. Gamecock Pat Keegan won the javelin with a toss of 187'8 1/2", and USC's Anthony Wood leaped 48'8" to take first place in the triple jump.

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<b>Triplex Volleyball</b> Men Co-Rec	Internationals Gold Diggers				

**Upcoming Fitness Events**

The last Aerobics session of the semester will be held on Monday April 24, 1989. The time is 5:15 in Gym 307. Campus Recreation in conjunction with the Alcohol & Drug Program will be toasting the success of the program with MOCKTAILS.

Campus Recreation will be offering study break Aerobics Session April 27 in 327 Russell House at 10:00 p.m. Come join us and work out those frustrations.

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