

Mountaineers pound USC

By BRANT LONG
Assistant Sports Editor

Major Harris proved on Saturday why he is considered to be one of the top quarterbacks in the country. Rushing for 57 yards and one touchdown and passing for 239 yards and two touchdowns, Harris led the 12th-ranked Mountaineers of West Virginia to a solid 45-21 defeat of USC.

"Major Harris is everything 'they' have said about him," Gamecock head coach Sparky Woods said. "He is a great football player in every aspect."

Harris was one of many weapons utilized by Mountaineer head coach Don Nehlen. Sophomore running back Garret Ford ran for 119 yards and wide receiver Reggie Rembert caught 7 passes for 77 yards and two touchdowns.

"Ford played well," Nehlen said. "He's learning in every game. Of course, we like to get Reggie Rembert involved all of the time."

The second largest crowd in Mountaineer Field history, 66,015, watched as the Mountaineers, 3-0, tried to start a drive on their opening possession. The Gamecock defense held and West Virginia was forced to punt.

The USC offense moved the ball well, early in the first half, with Todd Ellis converting on four passes down to the West Virginia 11-yard line. From there, placekicker Collin Mackie attempted a 28-yard field goal. But as a sign of things to come, the ball sailed wide left.

Ford led the Mountaineers on their next possession. In 10 plays, West Virginia drove 80 yards, 46 of those yards coming on rushes by Ford, and scored on a Harris to Rembert 10-yard toss.

The Mountaineer defense then tightened. Senior Chris Haering, a linebacker who had twelve total tackles on the day, led the defensive unit. They stopped the Gamecocks only to have Harris fumble on the Mountaineer 32-yard line two plays later.

It took seven plays before Ellis hit receiver Robert Brooks from seven yards. Mackie's point-after-attempt knotted the score at 7-7.

What happened next deflated the Gamecocks, 1-1-1. From their own 49-yard line, the Mountaineers took one play to score. Harris faked a handoff, then faked a

reverse to Rembert. He then threw deep down field to a wide open Greg Dykes who trotted in for a touchdown. The 51-yard play took only 16 seconds but it was all the Mountaineers needed to obtain the upper hand, and a 14-7 lead.

"We were in man coverage and a guy decided to leave his man," Woods said about the play. "He tried to tackle the man on the reverse. We ended up losing a big touchdown and that put us way behind in the ball game."

A penalty put USC deep in its own territory on the next possession, but on an intended pass for Carl Platt, Ellis was intercepted by defensive back Darren Fulton.

Once more, the USC defense held and forced a field goal attempt by placekicker Brad Carrol from 37 yards. The attempt went wide right, and the Gamecocks had another chance to even the score. But once again punter Darren Parker had to be called in.

Starting at their own 13-yard line, the Mountaineers marched 87 yards in 11 plays with Harris taking it in himself from three yards, to increase the lead to 21-7.

Parker had to punt again for USC. With only 1:13 left and the ball on the Mountaineer 20-yard line, Harris led an impressive drive with a Carrol field goal ending the half and making it a 24-7 West Virginia lead.

West Virginia, on their first possession of the half, moved to the USC 44-yard line, before a fumble, which linebacker Robert Gibson recovered for USC. Ellis moved the offense to the Mountaineer 25-yard line, and Mackie came in to attempt a 42-yard field goal, which hit the bottom crossbar and bounced back.

The Mountaineers took over, and called on Tim Williams to lead the drive. The junior running back gained 20 yards on the drive, which ended when Harris hit a wide open Reggie Rembert for a three-yard touchdown.

USC did not have much luck on the next set. After Ellis hit Platt on a 24-yard gain to the Mountaineer 44-yard line, a pass was tipped by a lineman, and picked off by Chris Haering, who returned it 33-yards to the USC 25-yard line. Ten plays later, it was running back Carl Hayes getting the call as he bulled his way in from the three-yard line. With the fourth quar-



CHAD HUCKABEE/The Gamecock

USC's Robert Gibson wraps up West Virginia quarterback Major Harris as Corey Miller looks to join in on the tackle. Harris led the Mountaineers to a 45-21 victory over the Gamecocks Saturday at Mountaineer Field.

ter barely under way, it was a 38-7 game.

After exchanging possessions, and a West Virginia fumble on their 25-yard line, Ellis and Brooks connected again for a touchdown on the next play. Mackie added the point for a 38-14 game.

Placekicker Lance Hering, and the kicking team pulled a trick out of the hat for USC, on the ensuing kickoff. Pretending he was giving instructions in the huddle, Hering turned and kicked the ball lightly. USC recovered and after two Ellis passes, he hit Eddie Miller on a 21-yard touchdown toss.

Hering attempted another outside kick but it was ruled an illegal touch, and West Virginia took over. With Greg Jones now in at quarterback, the Mountaineers moved 64 yards in five plays and Hayes scored

his second touchdown on a 26-yard scamper. The extra point made it 45-21.

Nehlen said of the victory, "I'm happy to win. We made some big plays. I thought we had to establish superiority up front and we did. Major was sharp. He does sensational plays like the 51-yard pass every week."

Harris, when asked whether he likes passing or running the ball more, he replied, "I just like putting it in the end zone."

He does a good job of that.

Georgia Tech comes to Williams-Brice Stadium Saturday, as the Gamecocks look to avenge last year's 34-0 drubbing. The Mountaineers go to Louisville to take on Howard Schnellenberger's Cardinals.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Purser and Layton lead USC runners

The USC Lady Gamecock cross country team finished second in the UNC-Wilmington Seahawk Invitational this past weekend, while

the men's team tied for fourth place.

The Lady Gamecocks placed runners in the eighth, ninth, tenth, twelfth and sixteenth places to ensure a second place finish. Dana Purser led the way for USC with a sixth place finish and a time of 19:10 in the 5000 meters. Purser was followed by teammates Shannon Wyont, with a time of 19:19.6

and Jill St. Peter who had a time of 19:25.2.

In the men's competition, Paul Layton led the Gamecocks with a seventh place finish, with a time of 26:39 in the 8000 meters.

N.C. State captured first place in the men's and the women's divisions, winning the top five spots in the women's races and taking four top ten finishes in the men's.

USC resumes action on Sept. 30 in the Florida State Invitational.

Men's golf team finishes eleventh

The USC men's golf team finished in eleventh place in the 35th William E. Tucker Invitational at the University of New Mexico's

South Course, in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Gamecocks completed play with a final round of 303, and a three day total of 896.

USC was led by Brett Quigley, who tied for ninth place with a three day total of 218 with rounds of 75, 72 and 71. Other Gamecocks competing were Rick Williams, who shot a 223, Robert Dar-

gan, who had a 229, Gene Sellers, who finished with a 229, and Carl Paulson, who shot a 234.

New Mexico was the overall winner in the tournament, which had a field of 18 teams, with a score of 875.

USC will next be in action in the LSU-English Turn Invitational at the English Turn Golf Links in New Orleans, La., Oct. 3-4.

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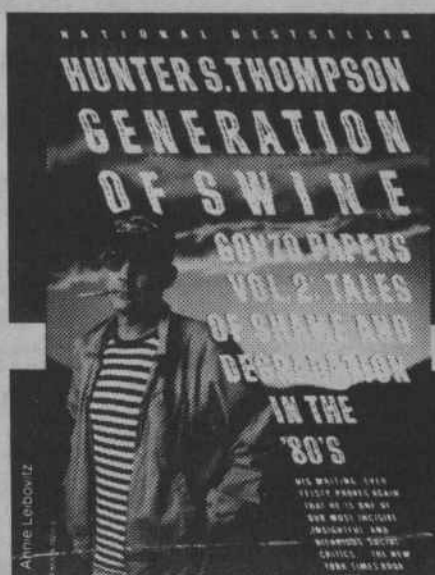
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