

Gamecock runningback Mike Dingle dives over the top of the Georgia Tech defense for a touchdown in Saturday's 21-10 win over the Yellow Jackets.

JULIE BOUCHILLON/The Gamecock

Balanced offense leads USC to win

RICHARD W. ROWELL
Staff Writer

Behind the solid passing of Todd Ellis and the strong running of Harold Green and Mike Dingle, USC defeated Georgia Tech 21-10 Saturday night at Williams-Brice Stadium.

"It was great to win, a great team effort, everybody contributed and I'm pleased," USC head coach Sparky Woods said.

The 70,018 fans at the game were brought to their feet early when Robert Brooks took the opening kickoff 56 yards to the Georgia Tech 40-yard line.

Six plays later, Dingle completed a 1-yard dive for the score. Collin Mackie added the extra point to put USC up 7-0, with 12:37 remaining in the first quarter. The score was Dingle's second touchdown of the year.

After swapping possessions, it was the Yellow Jackets turn to score. On the first play of the drive, runningback Jerry Mays took a pitch, broke a few tackles and then ran 61 yards for the touchdown, his third of the season. Sisson added the extra point to tie the game at 7-7.

With the run, Mays surpassed the 100-yard mark for the game in only six attempts.

Georgia Tech had a chance to take the lead with 2:26 left in the first quarter when flanker Bobby Rodriguez beat his defender deep. Quarterback Shaw Jones delivered a perfect pass that hit Rodriguez in

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Sparky Woods

the hands, but was dropped.

Georgia Tech head coach Bobby Ross used this play to explain why his team is now 0-3. "It still boils down to when we get the opportunities we must make the plays," Ross said. "We got a pass receiver wide open and Shawn (Jones) makes a great throw and puts the ball right on the money, and we're going to go in for the score and we drop the ball."

On USC's next possession, Mackie capped off a penalty-ridden 14-play, 16-yard drive with a 47-yard field goal. The Gamecocks then led 10-7. Mackie added another field goal at 4:18, increasing their lead to 13-7.

USC scored its final touchdown of the game with 26 seconds left in the first half. The score was set up by a Dale Campbell interception at the Yellow Jacket 49-yard line.

Ellis then went to work passing six times, the final one going to George Rush, who battled his way into the end zone for his first career touchdown.

Ellis then threw a perfectly timed pass to Brooks for the two-

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Green paces Gamecock running attack in win

By David Caraviello
Staff Writer

Last year in Atlanta, USC runningback Harold Green struggled for only 55 yards on 16 carries in a 34-0 stomping at the hands of Georgia Tech.

The loss sent the previously eighth-ranked and undefeated Gamecocks into a tailspin that lasted the rest of the season.

What a difference a year can make.

Saturday night at Williams-Brice Stadium, Green stimulated the USC offense by running, or hurdling, over many of the Yellow Jacket defenders. The Ladson native ran for 139 yards on 29 carries, sometimes carrying a few Yellow Jacket defenders on his back with him.



Harold Green

Gamecock quarterback Todd Ellis gave his teammate a large amount of credit for the win. "I

thought (Georgia Tech) had one of the best defenses we've played this year, and I really thought it would get us in trouble if Harold didn't have a great game. Of course, Harold and our running game had a great game."

At times Green looked unstoppable. On the Gamecock's first possession, following a 56-yard kickoff return by Robert Brooks, Green set up USC's first touchdown with scampers of 7, 21, 6 and 5 yards. Green had 91 yards piled up by halftime and was actually penalized for jumping over a Georgia Tech defender.

Green carried the ball 13 more times than he previously had against Georgia Tech, which he credited with keeping the Yellow Jacket defense in check.

"I think that was the key to keeping our opponent's defense honest, and it kept our backs really confident and our offensive line really confident," Green said. "Now we know we can run the ball without having to jeopardize and throw a lot."

Green believes the USC backfield is steadily improving.

"We're getting better," Green said. "We're starting to convert more on third down, which is something I think we need every week from myself, Mike (Dingle) and Keith Bing. Our backfield has to keep their defense honest and make them respect our running game."

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