

## Late surge propels USC to victory over Bulldogs

By DAVID CARAVIELLO  
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — Scientists claim that lightning cannot strike twice in the same place. Wednesday night at The Citadel, the USC men's basketball program proved that theory to be true.

Barely. The Gamecocks needed a late second-half rally to come from behind and beat a scrappy Bulldog team 69-65 in front of the fourth largest crowd ever at McAlister Field House. USC had been down by as many as 14 points in the second half.

The victory ended a four-game losing skid for the 11-10 Gamecocks and cleared up a bitter taste left after The Citadel's 88-87 upset win at Frank McGuire Arena last year.

"We've lost four straight, so to me this is as big of a win as we've had," USC head coach George Felton said after the game. "I'm just really proud of the kids for making a comeback like they did after being down 12 points on the road. We'd been down that many points at Cincinnati and we folded. Here tonight the kids came back and turned it up a notch. We really needed that."

The first half saw the Bulldogs explode out of the gate and jump all over a lethargic USC squad. The Citadel backcourt tandem of Ryan Nesbit and Aaron Nichols rained down six three-pointers on top of a sagging Gamecock defense concerned with stopping All-Southern Conference center Patrick Elmore.

USC was having its offensive problems as well in the first half. The Gamecocks hit a six-minute cold spell midway through the half during which they converted only two of nine field goal attempts. The Gamecocks went to the locker room down 36-24 after shooting a woe-ful 35 percent.

So Felton made some adjustments at half-time, coming out with a smaller, quicker lineup intent on stopping The Citadel's three-point shooting. The lineup held The Citadel offense at bay long enough for the Gamecocks to mount a comeback.

USC started the second half on a 10-4 run, culminating with a Michael Glover jump shot that cut the Bulldog deficit to 40-34. Three-pointers by Johnny Smith and Nesbit boosted the lead to 46-38, and it seemed that every time the Gamecocks had a chance to cut the lead to four or less, The Citadel would pull away.

But the defense would turn the tide. Elmore hit two free throws to again give The Citadel a 10-point lead at 55-45 with 7:50 left, but those were the only points the Bulldogs would find for nearly the next six minutes as the USC defense tightened up.

And while the Bulldogs were shooting blanks, USC took over the tempo of the game. Free throw after free throw chipped away at The Citadel lead, and a full-court press threw the Bulldog half-court game into a panic. USC took its first lead since the opening minutes at 57-55 on two Eric Sykes free throws with 3:05 remaining.

USC bolstered the lead in the closing minutes, and after Glover dunked a long Sykes inbounds pass, the Gamecocks led 65-59 with only :24 left. Yet The Citadel, one of the nation's premier three-point shooting teams, would not fold. Nesbit hit a trey to cut the lead to 67-65. After Bojan Popovic converted two free throws, Elmore nailed a three-pointer to cut the lead to 67-65. The crowd that had been in the process of filing out returned to their seats. Yet a dunk by Jo Jo English off a long Glover inbounds pass sealed the victory and closed the scoring at 69-65.

The win was poetic justice for a Gamecock team that had been up by 12 points against The Citadel last year and lost.

"We wanted to turn it up a notch defensively," Felton said of his halftime strategy. "I felt that if we could get out there and contest the three-pointers, they weren't going to drop like they did in the first half. We did that... to come from behind is big, and we haven't done that in about four games."

The victory also brings a welcome end to a disastrous six-game road swing on which the

"We've lost four straight, so to me this is as big of a win as we've had."

George Felton  
USC head coach

Gamecocks went 2-4. "It's all difficult," Felton said of the road trip. "The key to it is how you can hang in there mentally, and I thought our kids did a much better job in the second twenty minutes of the game. We really scrapped, and that's tough."

For Bulldog head coach Randy Nesbit, the game was another tough loss in a season of tough losses. "We've been playing well lately," the coach of the 10-12 Bulldogs said. "It certainly doesn't show on our record, but we've been playing well... I think our guys had the right approach going into the game. They were very relaxed offensively for almost all 20 minutes of the first half we were patient, relaxed and aggressive when we got our open shot. We didn't have the same type of continuity in the second half."

English led all scorers with 24, 16 of those coming in the second half. Elmore led The Citadel with 20. English and Rhett pulled down 9 rebounds apiece for USC, while Elmore had 8 for The Citadel. USC outrebounded the Bulldogs 44-35 and improved its shooting percentage to 43 percent after a 52 percent second half.

### USC (69)

English 10-17 2-3 24, Popovic 0-2 4-4 4, Glover 2-5 0-1 4, Eggers 0-1 0-0 0, Sykes 4-7 6-7 14, Rhett 5-10 2-2 12, Leso 1-2 0-0 2, Roulston 3-14 3-6 9. Totals 25-58 17-23 69.

### THE CITADEL (65)

Nesbit 5-11 0-0 15, Dalley 2-4 2-4 6, Holstein 0-1 2-2 2, Nichols 3-7 0-0 9, Elmore 6-19 6-8 20, Mosay 1-8 4-4 6, Smith 3-7 0-2 7. Totals 20-57 14-20 65.

3-point goals: USC 2-6 (English 2-4, Popovic 0-2), The Citadel 11-29 (Nesbit 5-11, Holstein 0-1, Nichols 3-7, Elmore 2-4, Mosay 0-3, Smith 1-3). Total fouls: USC 18, The Citadel 24. Attendance — 5,004.



Tracy Howie/The Gamecock

Sophomore Jo Jo English passes to teammate Michael Glover in a game earlier this season. English had a game-high 24 points in USC's 69-65 victory over The Citadel Wednesday night.

## High school recruits sign letters of intent

By The Associated Press

South Carolina signed one of the top players in the state and one of the leading kickers anywhere Wednesday, while Clemson nabbed two top-flight receivers and one of Florida's best linemen.

On the first day high school football players can legally sign letters of intent with colleges, in-state teams schools signed players from up and down the East Coast as well as from Iowa and Texas. The signing period continues through April 1.

South Carolina signed 21 players, including 12 from the state.

"From the very beginning, we have made a conscious effort to build our recruiting around in-state players," coach Sparky Woods said.

Leading the signee list are Conway linebacker Lawrence Mitchell (6-6, 230), Marty Simpson of Spring Valley, considered one of the best place-kickers in the nation, and Vincent Dinkins of Lower Richland (6-3, 265), among the best linemen in South Carolina. Mitchell may have been considered the top player in the state had he not missed the 1989 season because of a boycott by him and other black players. The players were upset by coach Chuck Jordan's decision to replace quarterback Carlos Hunt, who is black, with a white player who was the son of an assistant coach.

Despite that, there is little doubt Mitchell is a top prospect. Mitchell, who is also one of the state's top basketball players, runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds and

led Conway in tackles with 112 as a junior.

Simpson hit eight field goals this past year, including a 61-yarder, and made all but one of 87 extra points — the miss ending a streak of 55 straight PATs.

The Gamecocks also signed two quarterbacks from Georgia — Kurt Fredrick of Tucker High School and Eric McDowell of Warner Robins High School. McDowell, a native of Charleston, passed for more than 1,200 yards and 15 touchdowns last season. Frederick, who earned 12 letters during his high school career, threw for more than 950 yards and 10 TDs in 1989.

As of late Wednesday, Clemson had signed 17 players, including Ray Forsythe, a 6-foot-4-inch, 270-pound lineman from Garden City, Fla., a member of Florida's "Super 24." Forsythe had reconsidered signing with Clemson after Danny Ford resigned Jan. 18. But Coach Ken Hatfield, who was hired three days after Ford quit, was able to persuade him to come to Clemson.

Clemson also signed wide receivers Curt Brown (6-2, 176) of St. John's of John's Island and DeWayne Bryant (6-2, 180) of Tallahassee, Fla. Bryant, a member of Florida's "Super 24," had 46 catches for 805 yards and 10 touchdowns last year. Brown finished his career with 34 TD receptions. Brown and Bryant should fill the void left by the graduation in Clemson's top three receivers.

### Top Signees

■ **Marty Simpson**  
6'3", 180, Kicking specialist, Columbia (Spring Valley)  
Parade All-America placekicker

Career field goal stats are 23-26, including 17-21 inside the 40 yard line

Kicked a state record 61-yard field goal last year vs. Hillcrest-Dalzell

■ **Toby Cates**  
6'2", 188, Quarterback, Inman (Chapman High School)

Threw for more than 1,400 yards, passed for 15 touchdowns and rushed for eight TDs his senior year  
Runs a 4.45 40

■ **Cleon Jones**  
5'11", 195, Back/Receiver, Mobile, Ala. (Vigor High School)

Averaged one touchdown scored per every seven rushes

Father is Cleon Jones, Sr., starting left fielder for the World Champion 1969 New York Mets  
Runs a 4.4 40

■ **Lawrence Mitchell**  
6'6", 230, Defensive end, linebacker, Conway (Conway High School)

Preseason prep All-American (sat out senior season)

In 1988, he led team in tackles with 112, had five fumble recoveries

■ **Vincent Dinkins**  
6'3", 265, Linebacker, Columbia (Lower Richland)  
Consensus All-State

## Pitchers benefit from Lambeth

By DOUG AUBE  
Staff Writer

The success of most baseball teams relies on the success of its pitching staff.

The success of USC's baseball team will thus rely on new pitching coach Doug Lambeth.

Lambeth came to USC from Southern Mississippi where he served under coach Hill Denson from 1986-1989 as pitching coach and promotions director.

The fact that he had to hold down two jobs at Southern Mississippi persuaded Lambeth to come to USC where he could concentrate on being a pitching coach.

"I was trying to fill two positions there (Southern Miss.) and it came to the point where I was being average at two things. I like being around the game and had a chance to come and do one thing and try to be the best in the country at it," Lambeth said.

Since arriving at USC, Lambeth has had an impact on helping the staff develop their pitches.

USC relief pitcher Brian Beat-

son needed some help in getting his slider back up to par.

"He (Lambeth) helped me with various release points. I was letting it hang back, leaving it out front," Beatson said. "We worked a lot on that and now I've got where I can throw it real sharp at the end."

Lambeth has also worked hard with the staff on developing their changeup.

"I'm probably as big an advocate that there is on the changeup," he said. "I think that the young kid's success is going to depend on that changeup."

Even though Lambeth is officially the pitching coach, he wants to teach the team concept. He and his pitchers have spent some time with the catching staff trying to synchronize their efforts.

"I told them that no matter how good you are, you are only going to be as good as your catcher," Lambeth said. "It doesn't do any good to convey all that knowledge to the pitchers if the catchers don't



Doug Lambeth

know exactly what we're talking about.

"The most important thing for our young staff is going to be our ability as catchers to handle them through the rough times. We've got to have a catcher and a shortstop who can jump in there—and know when the pitcher needs a word of encouragement and know when he needs to be smacked up side the head to get him back in the ballgame," Lambeth said.

Got a news tip? Call The Gamecock at 777-7726

**DON'T CHICKEN OUT.**

EXCUSES DON'T SAVE LIVES. BLOOD DOES.

GAMECOCK'S PERSONALS  
COME BY  
RUSSELL HOUSE  
ROOM 323  
OR  
CALL 7-4249  
AND  
CHARGE IT

### NAVY MEDICINE: LET US BE THE KEY TO YOUR FUTURE

The Navy is currently accepting applications from qualified personnel in the following specialties:

- \*Optometrist
- \*Psychologist
- \*Nurse
- \*Entomologist
- \*Medical Technologist

Excellent pay and benefits, including 30 days paid vacation, insurance, full medical/dental coverage. If you are under age 34, we may be able to unlock the door to just the opportunity you have just been looking for. For more information call: 1-800-922-2135 in South Carolina or 1-800-845-5640 in Georgia, M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

### MONO?

#### PEOPLE WITH MONONUCLEOSIS

are urgently needed to aid in the manufacture of the Mono test kits. If you have Mono, or have had Mono within the past two weeks, you may qualify for

**\$100**

for only 3 hours of your time.

For Further Information Call or Come By:

SEROLOGICALS, INC  
2719 Middleberg Dr. Suite 105  
Columbia, SC  
254-6537

**BIG CLEARANCE!**

**NOW 50% Off**

All Skiwear 1/2 Price!  
All Ski Equipment 1/2 Price!

Prices Good Only At  
**ALPINE SKI CENTER**  
2400 Decker Blvd.  
Columbia  
736-0660