

Excitement increases as World Cup nears

It's about that time, ladies and gentlemen. Soccer fans around the world have had to wait four years, but now it's back again.

It is the undisputed most popular sport in the world and its world championships are right around the corner.

The World Cup is to soccer what the Super Bowl is to the NFL . . . just intensified . . . about 100 times.

Imagine, every country (or almost every country) in the world fields a team. Each team goes through a series of games that span roughly three years. Each country is in a certain region and plays countries around it. The two countries with the best records in the region advance to the Cup.

This year, the World Cup is being held in Italy, but in 1994 it comes to the U.S. For soccer fans, it will be well worth the wait. But, hey, why wait?

The U.S. team does not have to wait for 1994, when they (as the host country) receive an automatic bid to the Cup. The boys in red, white and blue finished second in their region to Costa Rica and are busily getting ready for Italy.

You think the NCAA Tournament is exciting? Wait for the World Cup . . . wait, don't wait.

When the U.S. was playing to try to qualify for the Cup, the excitement level was very high. In one match, played in St. Louis, a second half penalty shot save by goalie Tony Meola of Virginia secured the victory for the United States.

Then, the Americans traveled to Trinidad for the "money game." If they defeated the Trinidadians, they advanced to the World Cup. If they tied or lost, they had to wait until 1994.

In a very physical game, a second half shot propelled the U.S. to a 1-0 win and World Cup berth. If you didn't think it was exciting, ask any of the Trinidadian fans (who, by the way, were clad in red, almost every single one of them, at the game). They cheered every time they touched the ball.

Most countries are playing in warmup matches for the Cup, including the U.S., who is 1-2 so far in those games.

The Americans defeated Finland 2-1, lost to Hungary 2-0 and were beaten in the U.S. by the Soviet Union 3-1. The U.S. has a contest today as they travel to meet the East Germans.

When the Cup begins, the United States will be first playing Czechoslovakia. They will then play Austria and will finally meet (brace yourself) host-country Italy, considered by many to be the favorite. Those three teams comprise the region the United States will have to win to advance further in the Cup.

USC assistant soccer coach Trevor Adair, who is a native of Ireland, a power in soccer itself, favors the Italians to win it all.

"The Italians are playing in their home country," he said. "What has happened in the past is that a team from the continent where the Cup is being held would win."

The Cup, in 1982, was held in Europe and the Italians won. In 1986, it was in Mexico and Argentina, won. Close enough.

Adair also cited some players to watch for this year's tournament.

One is Marco Van Basten from Holland, who is considered by many as the best player in the



BRANT LONG

Pep Talk

world at the moment. Another is Ruud Gullit of Denmark, who is currently injured. Denmark, according to Adair should be strong if they stay healthy.

Italy, a (yes, I did say it earlier) U.S. opponent, has one of the world's best goalkeepers, Walter Zenga.

Of course, Diego Maradona returns for Argentina as they try to win the Cup two times in a row.

This year, the Cup will begin on June 10 and run into mid-July. Turner Network Television will be covering many of the matches including, of course, what will no doubt be one of the most watched TV sports events of all time (as it always is) — the final.

It is truly a shame that one of the major networks doesn't pick up the Cup. In 1986, NBC covered many games. I couldn't wait for Saturday and all the replays of the fantastic 35-yard shots and miraculous saves. Now, I have to buy cable.

Great. I better warm up the VCR at a friend's house.

No matter who shows it though, it will be an event . . . a big event. The excitement level will be high and the action will be furious. Besides the Olympics, and because of boycotts in the more recent of those, the World Cup is one of the only events that brings the world together. Of course, you may dislike a country a lot if they put you out of the Cup, but you'll just pick up another country you want to win.

And dream a little. Maybe, just maybe the U.S. could pull off at least one upset, if not more. The road will be difficult, but for the young men on the team, this is the chance of a lifetime.

Note to the U.S. team: Boys, take a hint from the NCAA Tournament.

Think of it, Bruce Murray, former Clemson star, puts in a goal with :01 seconds on the clock to break a 1-1 tie with the Italians. The crowd in Rome is stunned and the United States moves on while the host Italians are ousted. Maybe?

On June 10, we will be much closer to finding out.



Renee Meyer/The Gamecock

Lady Gamecock tennis senior Carolina Culik speaks at Monday night's Scholar Athlete Reception. Culik was one of three athletes named to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Athletes honored for academics

By TRACY MACK
Staff Writer

USC athletes who excel in the classroom were honored at the second annual Scholar-Athlete Reception at McKisick Museum Monday night.

"These athletes have found a balance between academics and athletics," USC Athletic Director King Dixon said.

The reception, co-sponsored by the USC Athletic Department and the R. L. Bryan Company, was held to honor those athletes who maintained a 3.0 or above G.P.A. for the fall and spring semesters of 1989.

More than 150 athletes were honored at the banquet.

According to reports, 125 of 346 athletes or 36 percent maintained a 3.0 or above in the spring of 1989. While 142 of 346 athletes or 41 percent did

the same in the fall of 1989.

Three scholar-athletes have been named Phi Beta Kappa and 10 have been named to the South Carolina Academic All-American team.

Carolina Culik, a Phi Beta Kappa Scholar, and member of the women's tennis team has maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. for seven semesters.

"Being an athlete helps me excel in academics because I have to manage my time wisely," Culik, a computer science junior said. "The university does a lot for us and I am grateful."

Sophomore Joe Reaves, a linebacker on the football team, and junior Phil Seidenburg, a midfielder on the soccer team, were also named Phi Beta Kappa.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Golfers place 2nd in weekend tourney

The USC men's golf team finished in second place with a team total of 881 at the Wofford Invitational, held this past weekend in Spartanburg.

The Gamecocks were led by senior Rick Williams who tied for second place after shooting 74-71-71, for a three-day total of 216. Junior Robert Dargan posted scores of 71-75-75, equaling 221 for a 9th place tie. Junior Brett Quigley also posted a score of 221. Quigley shot 76-70-75 for the weekend.

Freshman Carl Paulson fired an even par 72 on Sunday to help the team finish second. His three-day scores were 76-77-72, equaling 225.

Junior Gene Sellers posted scores of 76-80-73, for a total of 229 to tie him for 33rd place.

Clemson won the tournament with a team total of 875.

The Gamecocks will be out on the links again this weekend participating at the Furman Intercollegiate at Furman University Golf Course.

Williams, Stoddart, Eddie Miller, Chris Love, Jerry Inman and Mario Henry. In the 4 x 400-meter relay, the Gamecocks posted a time of 3:10.71 to claim third place. The 4 x 200-meter relay team captured fifth place with a time of 1:27.36.02.

The Lady Gamecocks were led by the first place finish of the 4 x 1,500-meter relay team consisting of Danielle Adams, Jill St. Peter, Sue McGhie and William DePiere. Their finishing time was 19:40.78. The Lady Gamecocks also placed fifth in the 4 x 800-meter relay with a mark of 9:16.02.

Lady Gamecocks to meet Coastal

The 14th-ranked USC softball team is scheduled to play a doubleheader today against the Lady Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina in Conway.

This past weekend the Lady Gamecocks (26-9) participated in the Louisiana Tech Tournament in Ruston, La.

Sophomore pitcher/outfielder Jana Zimmerman captured tournament MVP honors.

USC defeated the Lady Mavericks of the University of Texas-Arlington in the first game of the tournament, 3-1. The Lady Gamecocks then dropped games to Southwest Missouri (5-4) and Louisiana Tech (1-0 and 2-1).

Tracksters to run in Raleigh Relays

USC's outdoor track and field season continues this weekend as the Gamecocks and Lady Gamecocks travel to Raleigh for the Raleigh Relays.

Both squads are coming off strong performances turned in at the third annual Alabama Relays in Tuscaloosa this past weekend.

In addition to the accomplishments of junior Philippe Williams and sophomore Robert Brooks who both qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships, several other tracksters did well.

Senior Nigel Stoddart finished fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.54 while the Lady Gamecocks were paced by the fifth place finishes of Danielle Adams in the 3,000-meter run (10:29) and Shannon Wyont in the 1,500-meter run (4:39.45).

Both teams turned in strong showings during relay competition on Sunday.

The men's squad was paced by the sprinting corps led by Brooks,

Simian ranked 9th in latest Volvo poll

The 19th-ranked USC men's tennis team maintained their position atop Region Two with their 5-2 triumph over UNC Sunday.

The latest Volvo Tennis/Collegiate Men's Singles rankings list USC's Stephane Simian as the ninth-ranked player in the country. In addition to Simian, Louie Gloria is ranked 42nd and Dave Hopper 60th.

In doubles, two Gamecock duos are nationally ranked. Gloria and Eric Sydow hold down the 16th position, while Simian and Hopper are 30th.

Simian leads the Gamecocks with a 36-7 mark on the season with Gloria and Hopper standing at 31-11 and 27-11 respectively.

DRIVE STRAIGHT.

F C A

PRESENTS

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The Office of Student Media is now accepting color photo submissions for the cover of the 1990-91 USC Telephone Directory.

The winning entry will be featured, with credit given, on the cover of the 1990-91 telephone directory and will receive a \$25 prize.

Deadline: All submissions must be received in Russell House, Room 313 by 5pm, April 20, 1990.

Rules:

1. Entries may be submitted in glossies or slides, but must be in color and negatives will be required.
2. Any number of submissions may be entered by an individual.
3. Content should be confined to the University of South Carolina, Columbia Campus and may cover any aspect of student life.
4. This contest is open to all USC students. Faculty and staff are ineligible.
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Opinions expressed in The Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.

The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock. The Student Media Department is the parent organization of The Gamecock.

Change of address forms, subscriptions requests and other correspondence should be sent to The Gamecock, P.O. Box 85131, the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

Subscription rates are \$20 for one year, \$10 per fall or spring semester and \$5 for both summer sessions. Third class postage paid at Columbia, S.C.

The Gamecock is a registered student organization of the University of South Carolina and is partially funded by student activity fees.