

SPORTS BRIEFS

Stoddart, Wyont pace track teams

The USC men's and women's track and field teams competed in the Raleigh Relays this weekend in Raleigh, N.C.

On Saturday, the Gamecocks were paced by first-place finishers Nigel Stoddart and David Arnold. Stoddart captured first place in the 100-meter dash with a manual time of 10.2, while also placing third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.39. Arnold won the 400-intermediate hurdles in a time of 51.43.

For the Lady Gamecocks, Shannon Wyont was fifth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:13.94.

The Friday afternoon and evening competition saw Darren Davis place second in the pole vault with a height of 15-feet-6-inches. Wilma DePiere placed sixth in the 10,000-meter run in a time of 37:21.43, and the Lady Gamecock 4 x 1,500-meter team placed seventh with a time of 19:08.

The Gamecocks and Lady Gamecocks will resume action this April 13-14 in the Duke Invitational in Durham, N.C.

Lady netters down Colorado, UNC

The 16th-ranked USC women's tennis team defeated unranked Colorado 6-0 Sunday at the Maxcy Gregg Tennis Stadium.

USC swept all six singles matches while dropping only one set. The win moves USC to 14-5 on the season while Colorado falls to 15-5.

Saturday, USC defeated unranked UNC 7-1 at Maxcy Gregg.

USC was led by sophomore Nathalie Rodriguez, the nation's

42-ranked player, who downed UNC number one Cinda Gurney, the nation's 33-ranked player 6-3, 6-4.

The Lady Gamecocks will next be in action Sunday when they play host to Metro Conference foe Florida State.

Gamecocks drop two to Clemson

The Clemson baseball team defeated USC 6-5 Sunday in 11 innings at Clemson. The win was the second in two days for Clemson over the Gamecocks.

Clemson upped their record to 22-7 while USC fell to 14-13.

Clemson defeated USC 6-0 Saturday night in front of a crowd of 4,132 at Greenville Municipal Stadium.

Tiger right-hander Tim Parker limited USC to four hits as he pitched his first career shutout. It marked the first time that Clemson has shutout USC since 1984.

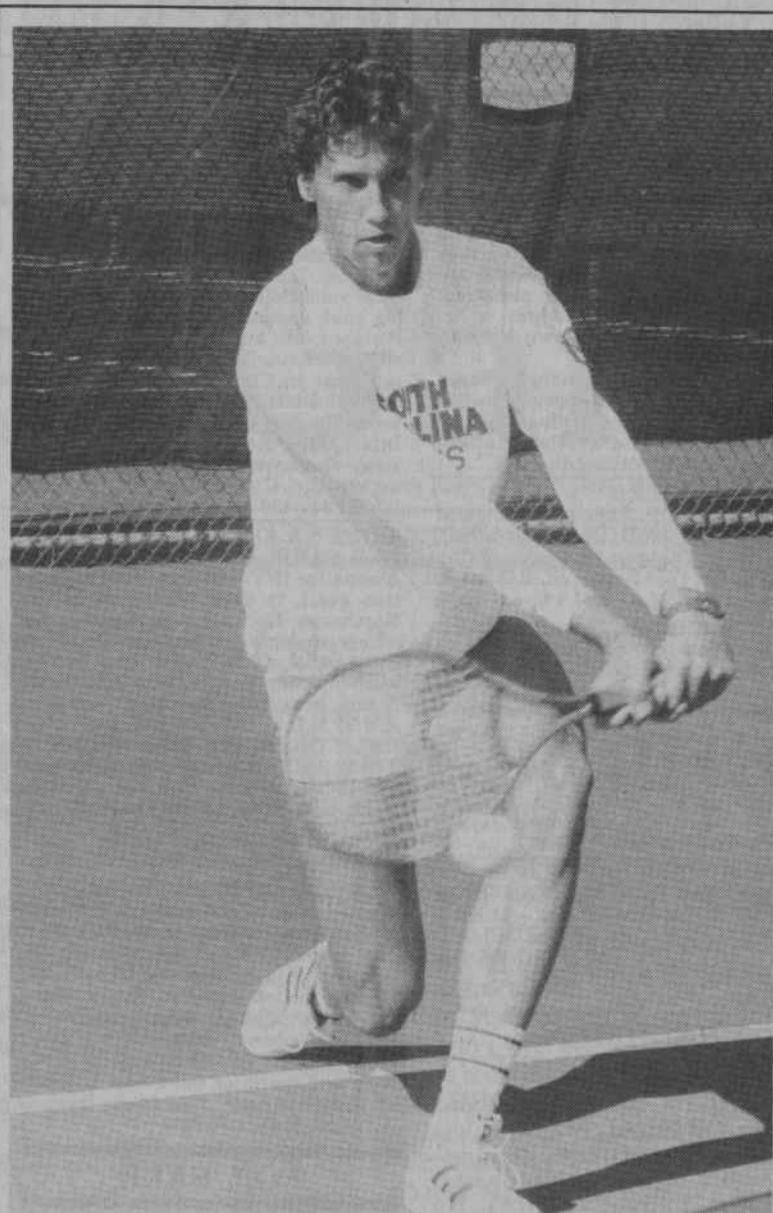
Brian Williams took the loss for the Gamecocks.

Prep runningback signs with USC

Tony Watkins, a 6-foot, 185-pound runningback from Rock Hill High School, has signed scholarship papers with USC.

Watkins rushed for 1,091 yards and 11 touchdowns this past season on 224 carries. In 1988, he rushed for 1,087 yards and 15 touchdowns on 224 attempts.

Watkins was an all-state selection and appeared in the Shrine Bowl. He also played in the defensive secondary for Coach Jim Ringer's Bearcats.



File Photo

Gamecock senior Stephane Simian practices his backhand. USC fell just short of capturing the title at the Blue-Gray Championships in Montgomery, AL, over the weekend. USC defeated Trinity, upset second-ranked California and 13th-ranked Alabama before losing in the finals to sixth-ranked Tennessee 5 to 1. USC faces third-ranked Georgia Thursday at the Sam Daniel Tennis Center.

Steding, Azzi lead Stanford to title

By The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Stanford completed a five-year climb to the top of women's basketball Sunday by defeating Auburn 88-81 in the NCAA championship game behind the record 3-point shooting of Katy Steding and Jennifer Azzi.

Steding made six 3-pointers and Azzi four as Stanford won its first national title and handed Auburn its third straight loss in a championship game.

The Cardinal did it by going over the top of Auburn's zone defense instead of trying to go through it, and Steding, Azzi and Sonja Henning made that approach work.

Steding and Azzi both shattered the previous championship game record of two 3-pointers by Auburn's Ruthie Bolton against Louisiana Tech in 1988. Steding finished the five-game tournament with a record 12 3-pointers, topping the old mark of 10 by Stephen F. Austin's Mozel Brooks in 1988.

The game also produced an attendance record. There were 20,023 tickets sold and 16,595 people in the arena. The previous high for a women's championship game was 15,615 at Austin, Texas, in 1987.

The Stanford victory capped a building project that Coach Tara VanDerveer began when she took the job five years ago. Stanford was 13-15 in her first season, 1985-86, but improved each year thereafter and finished 32-1 this season.

Henning finished with 21 points to lead a balanced Stanford offense. Steding scored 18 and Azzi, who is from nearby Oak Ridge, Tenn., added 17. Azzi was named the outstanding player of the Final Four.

Trisha Stevens contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Cardinal.

Auburn, which lost to Louisiana Tech in the 1988 title game and to Tennessee last year, closed at 28-7. Carolyn Jones led Auburn with 24 points, 16 in the first half.

Stanford overcame an eight-minute shooting drought and nine-point deficit in the first half to get control of the game early in the second half.

The Cardinal ended the first half with a 9-0 run to tie the score at 41. Then, with Auburn leading 46-43, Steding nailed a 3-pointer from the left of the key to start a 9-0 run that put Stanford ahead to stay.

Stanford went on to outscore Auburn 22-7 over an eight-minute stretch to open a 65-53 lead in Henning's jump shot with 10:13 left. Azzi's 3-pointer made it 70-57 with 7:54 left.

Auburn managed to cut the lead to 70-64 on Linda Godby's basket with six minutes left but got no closer. Henning and Steding countered with back-to-back 3-pointers to return the lead to 12 and Stanford was out of danger.

Stanford made 10 of 15 free throws in the final 1:35, seven by Henning, to stay on top.

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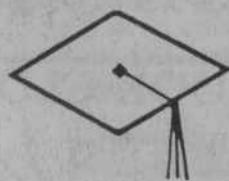
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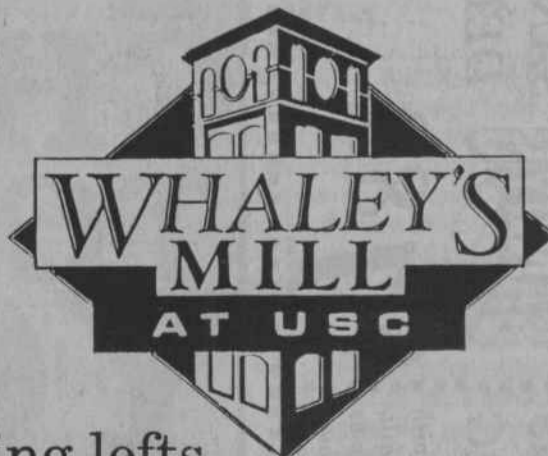
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