

# Cromers Continued from page 8

sire to get an education. "I went (to the pros) right out of high school, and it was real tough to be on the road all the time and spend a lot of time at greasy-spoon type places," Roy said. "I wanted them to get an education first and also to develop that mental toughness before they went to pro ball."

Tripp attended Lake City High School and lettered in baseball, basketball, football and tennis.

He was a three-year starter at shortstop for USC and batted .357 his last season. In 55 games, he had eight home runs and 44 runs batted in.

"I just always liked USC, and I really wanted to play there," Tripp said. "They had a good program and a good school and USC was close to home. They (Burke and D.T.) came to see the games a lot and liked it also, so they decided to come too."

Tripp is currently playing in the St. Petersburg, Fla. area for the Cardinals A farm club.

Burke entered the USC scene in 1989 after being drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in June of 1988.

He played five different positions at USC his freshman season and then took over at shortstop when Tripp left.

Burke is currently batting .289 with three homers and 29 RBI's and has collected 44 hits after 40 games.

"Since we were little we worked together and used the same work habits. We tried to outdo each other," Burke said.

D.T. came to USC after being named to the All-Region team in four sports at Lexington High School.

D.T. is batting .325 with five home runs and 24 RBI's and has 51 hits after 39 games.

He was named the Metro Conference Player of the Week earlier this season after collecting 16 hits in 24 at-bats to raise his average to the second highest on USC's team.

"I was blessed with some talent I guess. My dad helped all of us a lot," D.T. said. "He really loves the game and enjoys coming out to see us play."

When Tripp was a senior in high school, his younger brothers were teammates, but the Cromer clan was not able to join forces at USC as Tripp left before D.T. arrived.

"I was hoping that I'd get to play with Tripp and Burke here but I figured he (Tripp) would leave after his junior year," D.T. said. "But maybe one day we can play together again."

With the great baseball tradition that has developed in the Cromer family, there are similarities that have developed between the brothers.

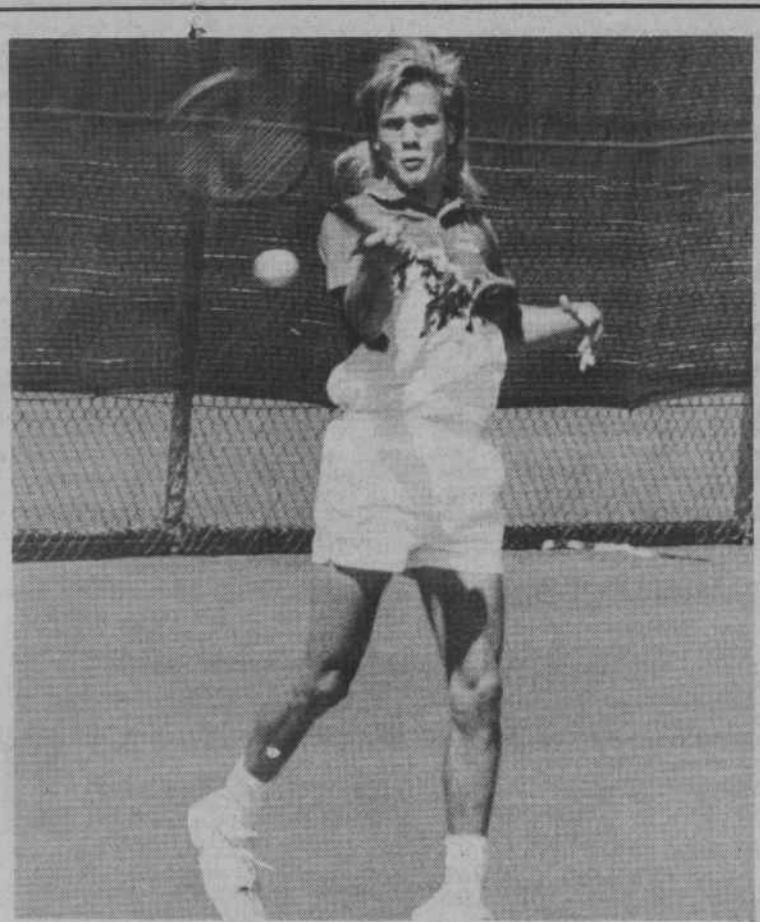
"They're all laid back, they don't show too many emotions whether they win, lose or draw, make an error or not make an error, get a base hit or not get a base hit," Raines said. "That is a good sign of a good ball player."

The Cromer Clan has one more member — 15 year-old Brandon, a sophomore shortstop at Lexington High School.

"We have been in contact with him although we're not able to do anything right now, but he comes to a lot of our ballgames," Raines said.

"I'm sure that he will make it to this level, it's just a matter of whether he will come to college or what he will do because he is going to probably be the best out of all of us," D.T. said.

Watchout Bo, the Cromer clan knows baseball too. All five of them.



Teddy Lepp/The Gamecock

**Just do it!**  
Junior Dave Hopper returns a shot in a match earlier this season. Both USC tennis teams will take part in the Metro Conference Championships this weekend in Lexington, Ky.

# Reds Continued from page 8

in the clubhouse when he reported this spring after the 32-day owners' lockout.

"Normally there are cliques here. It was not like that this year," he said. "I think Lou has a lot to do with that. He told us from day one that we're going to win as a team, we're going to lose as a team."

Piniella is modest about his role in the turnaround, but he agrees his team seems to be enjoying itself.

"We're playing well and relaxed and loose and having fun, and

that's what it takes," he said. The Reds became known as a talented team of underachievers under Rose. Although the players give Piniella credit for their season-opening streak — five wins shy of the National League record set by Atlanta in 1982 — they think they could have done well under Rose if they'd stayed healthy.

"I don't see much difference in this club from last year. The nucleus is still here. But we're healthy."

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**DEADLINE:**  
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- 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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