USC junior's goal defeats Paladins

By BRANT LONG Assistant Sports Editor

Junior Jonas Gudjonsson scored the only goal of the game Sunday as USC defeated Furman 1-0 at

The Graveyard. Gudjonsson, who has seen limited action this season because of an injury, notched his first goal of the season with just under 30 minutes left in the second half. On an indirect free kick from the left side of the goal, Andrew Coggins headed the ball towards the goal and Gudjonsson stuck it in.

"We do spend a lot of time on free kick situations, both on attack and defense," USC head coach Mark Berson said of the goal. "It was good to see that pay off today.'

The Gamecocks, 10-3-2, had the shots on goal early, but could not convert.

With 25 minutes left in the first half, Adam Binding crossed the ball to Coggins whose sliding shot just missed the right side of the goal.

"We should have had some more chances again," Berson said. "It is the same story. We had some good opportunities that we couldn't stick in."

At the 29:10 mark, USC had another chance to score. Junior Brian Scott took a pass and dribbled, unguarded towards the right side of the goal. His shot was saved by Furman goalkeeper Ed Stein.

The Paladins had several opportunities cf their own at the start of the second half. Berson praised the Furman team for their play and said he was surprised that only one goal was scored.

"Furman is a very good team," Berson said. "We have a lot of respect for them. Every year, they are a very good team.

"I was frankly surprised to see one goal stand up. I didn't think one goal would stand up either way because they have so much attack and we also do.

"I thought more of a 2-1 or 3-1 game would be in store," Berson said.

Berson also credited the play of USC goalkeeper David Turner, who tallied five saves in the contest.

"David Turner played extremely well again. He's playing with a lot

more confidence and he is doing an excellent job in the goal," he said.

Berson said Mike Gosselin also played a good game by holding Paladin offensive threat Andrew Burr scoreless.

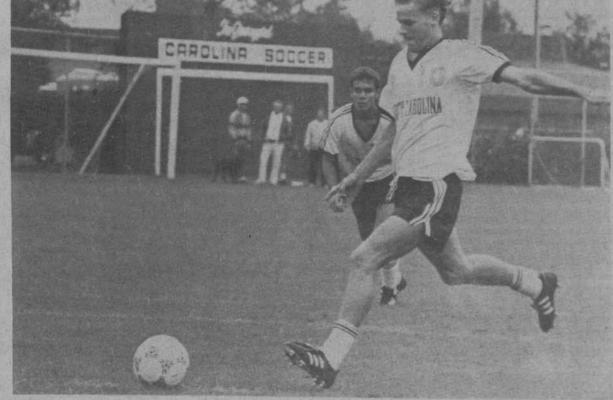
"For us to shut him down is a great accomplishment. Particularly a great job by Mike Gosselin again," Berson said. "He played very, very well against Clemson. He did a super job one-on-one with Jimmy Glenn that week ... He responded again today (Sunday) with a big assignment against Andrew Burr and stuffed him. I was very proud of that."

USC outshot Furman 12-11 in the victory. The Paladins fall to 6-6-2 on the season.

USC has a week off before they play host in the Met Life Classic at The Graveyard. This is the fourth year the tournament will be played at USC.

USC will be joined in the tournament by Indiana, Nevada-Las Vegas and Penn State.

The Gamecocks take on the Runnin' Rebels Saturday and the Hoosiers on Sunday. Both matches start at 2 p.m.



USC junior Jonas Gudjonsson readies to shoot in a match last season. Gudjonsson scored his first goal of the season Sunday as the Gamecocks upended Furman 1-0.



File photo