

## Defensive field general to lead against Seminoles

By DOUG AUBE  
Sports Editor

Every now and then, a Gamecock football player rises from a bench position and relative obscurity to a starting and starring role.

This season is no exception as USC linebacker Joe Reaves rose from the bench last season to a team leader on defense this year.

"Last year was really my first year playing a lot," Reaves said. "I've just got more experience (this season). I'm more used to everything, and I'm a little older. Every time you step on a football field, Coach (Roy) Gregory (USC inside linebacker coach) says you can get better or worse, and I think every time I step out on the field, I'm just getting a little better every Saturday."

The statistics back him up.

Reaves made a total of 76 hits last season as a redshirt sophomore and had 37 solo tackles.

This season, Reaves is third on the team in tackles with 56 total tackles and 29 unassisted tackles despite missing last weekend's game against N.C. State.

The junior from Whiteville, N.C. is also counted on as a field general for the Gamecock defense during the game.

"We missed Reaves out on the field (last week against N.C. State)," Coach Sparky Woods said. "He helps keep things level on the field."

Reaves said responsibility goes with the territory.

"On the defensive side of the ball, the linebacker has got to be kind of like a quarterback," Reaves said. "He's the guy that calls the plays. (He's) got to get everybody lined up ... and keep them calm and say 'hey guys, they got a good play here but let's suck it up and stop them on these next three downs.'"

Despite the defense's inability to stop The Citadel's offense in the Bulldogs win over USC two weeks ago, Reaves played one of the best games in his brief USC career with 18 tackles, 11 solo.

Reaves said he believes The Citadel loss took a lot out of the team.

"We were looking to have a great season and go to a bowl and win a bowl for the first time ever. Losing to The Citadel, a division two school, (is a game) you are supposed to win. To get really dominated on offense by them was really embarrassing and we lost some confidence.

"We went up to Raleigh and didn't play very well there, so right now our confidence level isn't too high."

For the defense to turn things around, Reaves said the team's morale and desire must rise a notch or two.

"I just think maybe we've gone out there in a lackadaisical attitude, not really wanting it the way we wanted it at the beginning of the year. That killer instinct we had the first couple of games just isn't there," Reaves said.

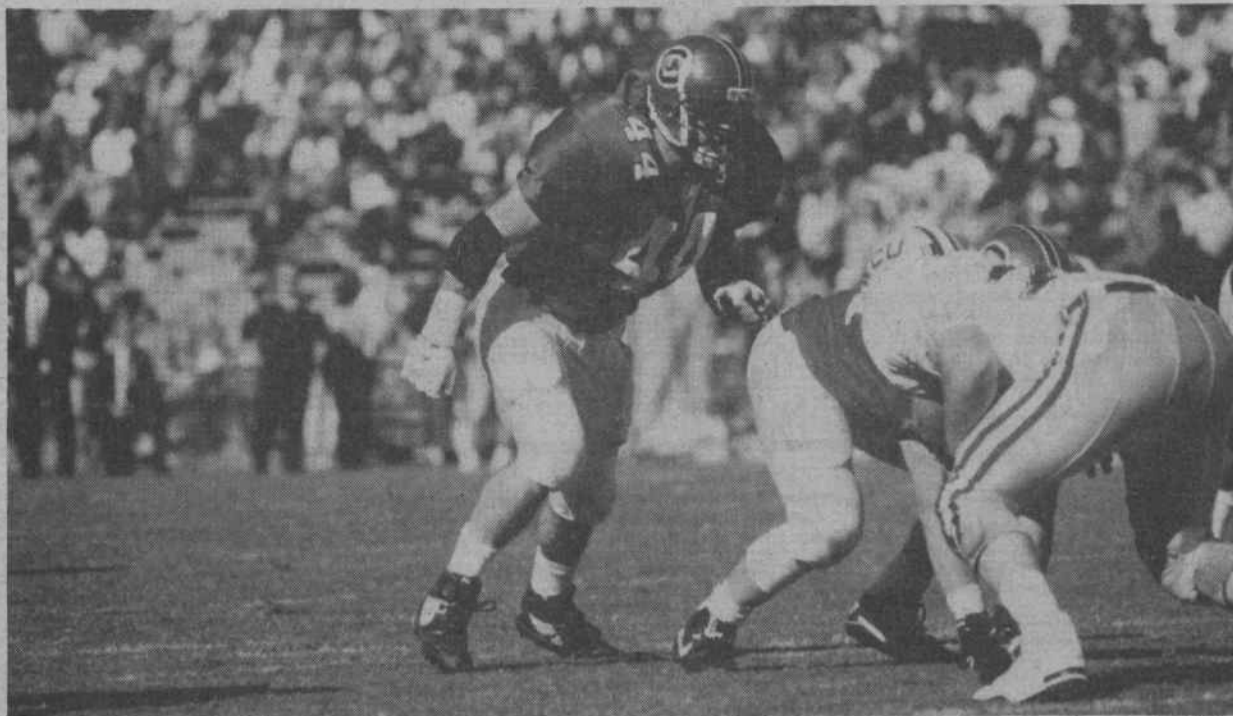
"These last few games that instinct and drive is just not there, and I hope we can get it back this Saturday," he said.

Saturday, the Florida State Seminoles roll into town posing a serious challenge to the Gamecock defense.

Reaves said despite the team's disappointing losses the last couple of weeks, an upset win over the Seminoles would help the team forget all about The Citadel and N.C. State.

"A win is definitely what this team needs," he said. "A win over Florida State would take away the pain and frustration we have had the last couple of weeks and put a real good feeling in us we haven't had in a pretty good while. I haven't had that good feeling on a Saturday night in a while," Reaves said.

"I'm looking forward to this Saturday. I'm going to give my best, and I know the team is going to give their best. We haven't given up. We are going to play Saturday like it's for the national championship," he said.



File photo

USC linebacker Joe Reaves will return to the lineup Saturday as the Gamecocks take on Florida State. Kickoff is at 12:10 p.m. at Williams-Brice Stadium.

## USC-FSU game full of activity

Despite the fact the Gamecocks have lost their last two games against lesser opponents than the one they will face Saturday, I plead to the students of THE USC to hold off on that trip home until Thanksgiving break (after the West Virginia game of course).

I realize the events of the past two weekends have stretched the loyalty of most Gamecock fans beyond anything else I can remember in the four years I've been a student and fan of USC, but what is about to follow in this article are five good reasons to stay on campus for Saturday's USC-Florida State matchup.

1. PAGEENTRY. Due to a rain-filled Homecoming week three weeks ago, festivities that had to be postponed will resume this weekend. Students and fans who still have Carolina on their minds will find a bounty of school spirit by taking a short walk over to the McBryde Quad where they can view a plethora of colorful floats and displays.

The real fun begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Williams-Brice Stadium at "Cockfest." The 20th annual "Homecoming" Pep Rally will feature comedians, organizational skits, the cheerleaders, some fabul-

ous fireworks, an appearance by Coach Sparky Woods and a few of USC's "wannabe" tacklers.

2. MOM and DAD. It's Parent's Weekend at USC. Regardless of the outcome of the game, we can laugh at the parents visiting from New Jersey and other points beyond (parents from in-state can bug their children any weekend they want) who invade Columbia by plane and station wagon, asking questions like "Where's the stadium?" while tailgating at the fairgrounds and never getting an answer to "Why can't I see your room?"

3. SEE A LIVING LEGEND. FSU Coach Bobby Bowden is one of the most respected and admired coaches in college football. After notching win 200 last week against LSU, Bowden is hoping to improve FSU's record against USC to 14 wins in 17 attempts.

4. THE QUARTERBACK BATTLE. Both teams boast first year starters at quarterback rated in the nation's top 15. USC's Bobby Fuller wins out in the statistical battle so far this season, having thrown 116 passes for 1,611 yards and 11 touchdowns, rated eighth among quarterbacks and ranked 24th in the nation in total offense.

STEVE JOHNSON

Pep Talk

FSU's Brad Johnson is the 14th rated quarterback and has thrown 102 passes for 1,072 yards and eight touchdowns.

5. FUTURE PROS. Some Seminoles with a shot at playing in the NFL somewhere down the line include wide receiver Lawrence Dawsey, linebacker Kirk Caruthers, tight end Reggie Johnson and cornerback Terrell Buckley. Best bets in the garnet and black include defensive end Corey Miller and wide receiver and return man Robert Brooks.

Kickoff for Saturday's game between USC and FSU is 12:10 p.m. at Williams-Brice Stadium. You might have noticed that I haven't made a score prediction, and I won't. My heart's desire is with USC, but my intuition keeps me from being too confident. Win or lose, I hope you won't be sorry you stayed here this weekend.

## Gamecocks fall to Davidson in region play

From Staff Reports

The USC soccer team, fresh off an upset win over seventh-ranked Indiana on Sunday, were upset themselves on Wednesday as the Davidson Wildcats knocked off the Gamecocks 2-1 in Davidson, N.C.

The Gamecocks, 12-4-2, could only muster a penalty kick goal late in the match to cut the Davidson advantage to one.

The Wildcats struck early on the nationally ranked Gamecocks. At the 29:45 mark, Rob Ukrop scored one of two goals he would have in the game. Matt Spear had the assist. Davidson lead at the half 1-0.

With less than 25 minutes remaining, Ukrop struck again. Off of Spear's second assist of the day, Ukrop made it 2-0 in favor of the Wildcats.

USC sophomore Ruben Tufino connected on the penalty kick at the 74:26 mark to narrow the margin, but USC could not score the equalizer.

The Wildcats, who were ranked eighth in the South Region before the victory, improve to 14-6-2 on the season.

The Gamecocks play their final game of the season against Jacksonville at Brest Field in Jacksonville, Fla. at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

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## Gamecock Athlete of the Week

Clark Brisson is *The Gamecock Athlete of the Week*.

Brisson, a senior on the USC soccer team, scored three goals over the weekend as the Gamecocks won the Met Life Classic. He was named Offensive Most Valuable Player of the tournament for his efforts.

Brisson, who is an All-America and Hermann Award (collegiate soccer's Heisman equivalent) candidate leads the team in scoring

with eight goals and 22 points. Three of his eight goals were game-winners. He also has six assists.

Brisson scored two goals on Saturday as USC defeated UNLV 3-1 and added one more on Sunday in a 2-1 upset of Indiana.

The Raleigh, N.C. native passed Dan Ratcliff for second place on the USC career points list this season.

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