

Lady Seminoles scalp USC, 69-60

By MELISSA WINGATE
Staff Writer

Senior guard Karen Middleton led the Lady Gamecocks with 16 points, including four three-pointers, as USC dropped a tough game, 69-60, to the Lady Seminoles of Florida State Monday at Frank McGuire Arena.

USC was down at the half 34-26 and fell behind by as much as 15 points in the final period, but freshman guard Nicki Bass came off the bench to lead a charge that brought the Lady Gamecocks within one with 4:47 left in the game.

The 12 minute run by USC included three three-pointers by Bass and two by Middleton, and was thwarted only by the crucial free throw shooting of Florida State.

"The three-pointers really helped get everybody's spirits up," Bass said. "They just told me if the shot was there, and I was open, to go ahead and take it, so I did."

Florida State was powered by the aggressive play of 6-foot-1 sophomore forward Tia Paschal, who racked up a game-high 23 points.

Paschal was not the only one to have a noteworthy night. USC's 6-foot-3 sophomore center Michelle Murray shattered the Lady Gamecock season blocked shot record previously held by Sharon Gilmore. In only 16 games this season, Murray's record blocks broke the existing 1984 record of Gilmore's 34 blocks in 30 games.

With the clock winding down, USC was forced to foul and the Lady Seminoles answered the challenge, making eight of nine from the line in the last 3:30 of regulation. Florida State finished with a 71.4 percent free throw mark on 15 of 21 shooting, while USC managed only three of eight, or 37.5 percent from the line.

The Lady Gamecocks, now 11-5 overall and 3-2 in the Metro Conference, also had their woes shooting from the field Monday as the Lady Seminoles put together two consistent halves on both ends of the floor. USC hit only 36 percent of their shots from the field.

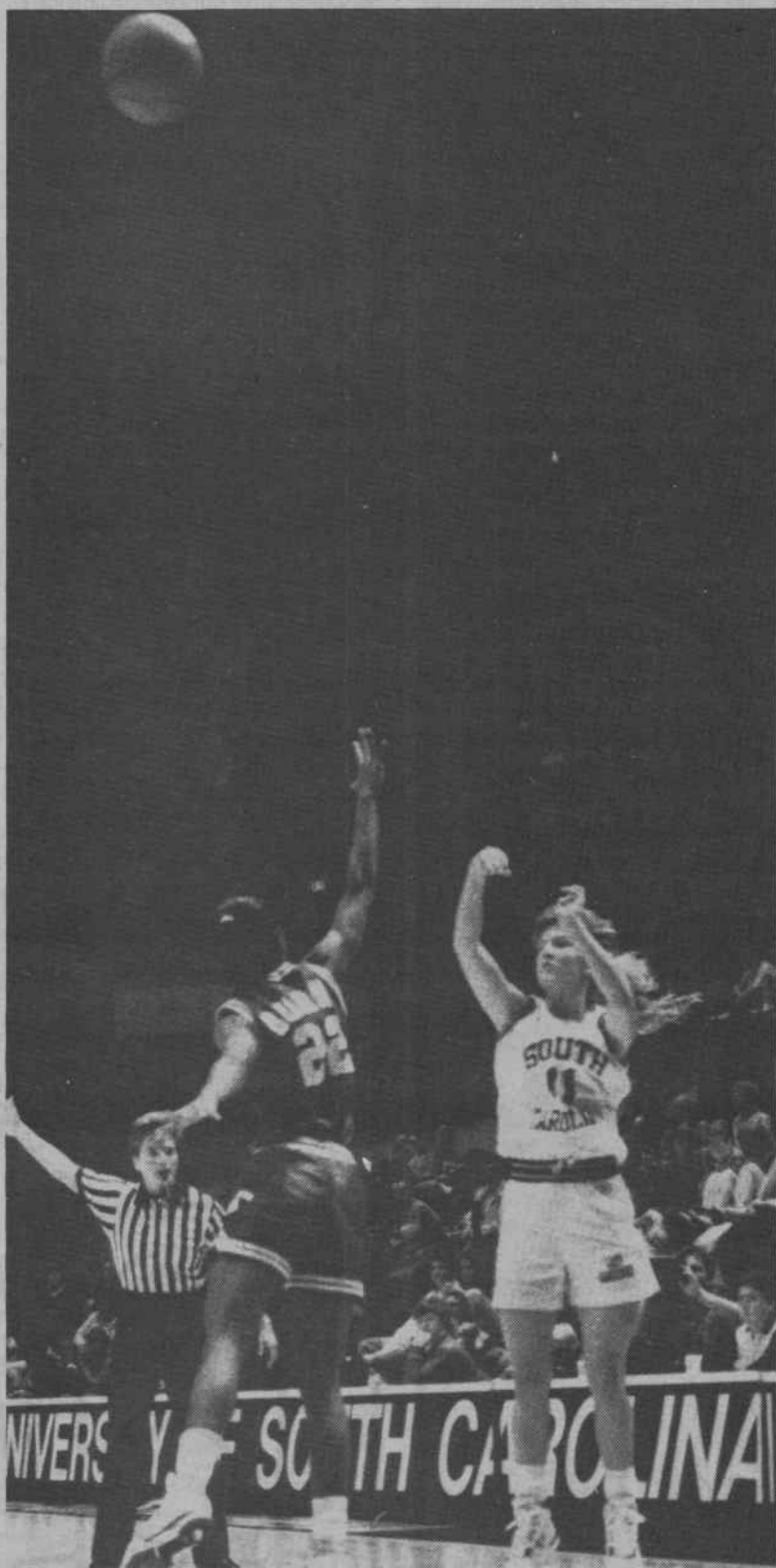
With the Lady Gamecocks playing six games in 11 days, head coach Nancy Wilson attributed some of the team's problems to fatigue. She also credited the play of Florida State.

"We're tired," she said, "but we played a good offensive team. We did a good job of coming back, but we just didn't have enough offense. Marsha (Williams) is sick. She's played a lot of minutes in a lot of games in a row. But tonight we couldn't get any real smooth things going for us."

The Lady Seminoles (12-2, 5-0) found out just prior to Monday game that they had broken into the AP Top 25 for the first time since 1983. And with both USC and Florida State moving to different conferences next year, this meeting was very important for the visitors. They were 0-15 against the Lady Gamecocks coming into the game.

"We're proud to be back in the national rankings and we knew a win tonight would help us stay," FSU head coach Marynell Meadors commented. "At least we're 1-15 (in the series) now. But you have to credit USC. Nancy has done a great job with the tradition at Carolina."

Next the Lady Gamecocks take to the road to face perennial women's basketball power Tennessee at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night. The Lady Volunteers are currently ranked 4th in the nation with a 15-3 overall record. USC returns to Columbia for a 2:00 p.m. matchup with Metro foe Tulane on Saturday.



Renee Meyer/The Gamecock

Freshman Nicki Bass shoots a rainbow for three in Monday's 69-60 loss to the Florida State Lady Seminoles. The Lady Gamecocks face the 4th-ranked Tennessee Lady Volunteers Thursday night in Knoxville, Tenn.

Buckeyes beautiful, Sterling still sharp



Rich Taylor

Chip Shots

... So much for Ohio State being overrated in hoops! The Buckeyes marched into Assembly Hall on Monday evening and convincingly defeated Bob Knight's Indiana Hoosiers 93-85. Despite playing an early schedule featuring more cupcakes than Cribb's Bakery, the 16-0 Buckeyes of coach Randy Ayers have proved their number three ranking is no fluke.

... Congrats to Sterling Sharpe for being named to this year's Pro Bowl. Despite playing in hell, a.k.a. Green Bay, Sharpe has managed to rank among the NFL's top receivers two years running. Pro Bowlers are chosen in balloting by NFL players, not sportswriters, making this a special honor.

... Columbia native Tyrone Corbin (A.C. Flora High School) recently became the first player in Minnesota Timberwolves franchise history to record a triple double. Corbin, of course, teamed with Xavier McDaniel in high school to help form the greatest frontcourt in S.C. prep history.

... Anyone else sick and tired of hearing undergraduate football players insist they will not turn pro a year early because they "promised my mother I'd stay in school", then announce a week later they are entering the football draft? C'mon guys! If you want to leave school and become a millionaire in the NFL, fine. Why, however,

must some self-righteous talk about promises to mom come pouring forth before your true decision is revealed? As Emmitt Smith said before leaving Florida for the Dallas Cowboys, "The only thing promised my mom is a new house." Word!

... Dean Smith's North Carolina Tar Heels will sport a new look next season. Smith has enlisted Alexander Julian, a Chapel Hill native, to design new warm-ups and game uniforms for his 'Heels. Julian, of course, designed the popular teal and purple garb worn by the Charlotte Hornets.

... Louisville's basketball team continues to operate under a dark cloud. Former Cardinal player Tony Kimbro was charged this week with first-degree assault in the shooting of his former girlfriend. She is reported to be in fair condition.

... What do the Detroit Pistons and Greg LeMond have in common? With the 49ers now history, courtesy of the Giants, it is now up to the Pistons and LeMond to accomplish that feat of feats, the elusive "three-peat". The Pistons are gunning for their third consecutive NBA championship, while LeMond will try this summer to tame the Tour de France field for the third year in a row.

... Memo to Todd Marinovich: "Just Say No!!" Too late.

... Finally, I offer my prediction on the Super Bowl. Giants over the Bills, 24-14. (Warning: This columnist finished dead last in this past semester's Gamecock pick-ems panel).

Swimmers win final home meet

From Staff Reports

The USC men's and women's swim teams finished their 1990-91 home swimming campaign with solid victories over the Florida State Seminoles last weekend.

Paced by All-American Rick Havekost and Mark Smith, the men's team improved to 5-2 with a 134-109 pounding of the Seminoles.

Julianne Bauer's domination of the diving events, along with the aid of All-American's Michele Smith and Isabelle Arnould, capped off a 152-82 rout for the Lady Gamecocks. The women's team surpassed the .500 mark, raising their record to 4-3.

The Gamecocks will next face the Clemson Tigers at 1 p.m. at McHughes Natatorium in Clemson.

The Metro Conference Championships will take place Feb. 27 to March 2 in the Carolina Natatorium in the Sol Blatt P.E. Center.

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Conference registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the opening session follows at 9:30 a.m. Registration and all conference sessions will be held in the Russell House University Union.

How much will it cost?

The cost for the conference is \$15 for USC-Columbia students. The deadline for all registrants is January 25, 1991. The price includes a continental breakfast, refreshments, a luncheon, and conference materials. Prepaid fees cannot be returned after the registration deadline. Space is limited. Registration fees and forms must be received to confirm conference participation.

For more information call 777-5780

Deadline January 25, 1991