

Willman's heroics push USC over Jacksonville, 7-2

By STEVE JOHNSON
Sports Editor

Strong pitching and timely hitting spelled victory for the Gamecocks in Jacksonville Saturday as USC won its season-opener over Jacksonville University, 7-2.

The Dolphins were held scoreless through the first six innings, in large part because of USC's starting pitcher, Jared Baker. The sophomore from Goose Creek gave up only three hits while striking out four through the first five innings.

The Gamecocks drew first blood offensively in the fourth inning as they finally managed to get to Jacksonville starter John Wylie. As the inning wore on, two walks and an error loaded the bases for USC leftfielder George Rush.

With two outs Rush singled in two runs to break the scoring drought and give the Gamecocks a 2-0 lead. The score would remain unchanged until the seventh inning.

USC pitcher Matt Threehouse took over for Baker in the sixth

and was rocked around for four hits and two runs through three innings of work. Both runs came across in the same manner, off infield outs, one each in the seventh and eighth innings.

The first run was batted in by Dolphin leftfielder Tyrone Boykin, a native of West Columbia and a graduate of Brookland-Cayce High School. Threehouse held on to strike out two batters en route to picking up the win for USC.

The hero of the day though was the man behind the plate all game

long, junior Dave Willman. The Gamecock catcher did enough defensively alone to put a clamp on the Dolphins. By gunning down two baserunners and for half of his four assists, Willman tied the school record for assists in a game by a catcher. Willman extended his excellence to the front of the plate when it really counted though.

In the classic pressure situation, Willman stepped up to the plate in the top of the ninth with two outs and the score tied 2-2. The bases had been loaded after Jacksonville

pitcher Rod Van Dyke gave up a walk, a single and hit a batter. Willman drilled a hard double into the outfield to break the tie and drive in three runs. Rightfielder D.T. Cromer capped the scoring for USC by driving in Willman and scoring the final run himself.

USC reliever Charlie Young closed the book for the Dolphins prior to Willman's heroics by striking out the side in the top of the inning.

The Gamecocks are now 1-0 and will open their season at home on this Friday.



Willman

Basketball captain Glover provides team leadership

By MELISSA WINGATE
Staff Writer

Michael Glover's middle name might as well be consistency.

He's the hometown guy, the quiet small forward who has scrapped his way into the starting line-up. He is also the only senior on USC's upstart basketball team, the first of many Columbia and South Carolina players to decide to stay right here at home.

To use a well-worn phrase, he chose to be a Gamecock when being a Gamecock wasn't cool.

Glover graduated from Keenan High School in 1987 as one of the state's bright shining basketball stars. He was named the South Carolina Class AAA Player of the Year by *The Greenville News*, was All-Conference and All-Area his junior and senior seasons, and represented the victorious South team in the annual North-South All-Star game.

Needless to say, Glover was widely recruited by a number of Division I schools, yet he chose to stay at home, to play for the hometown team, to take a chance on being a part of USC head coach George Felton's first recruiting class for the 1987-88 season. And that took a lot of guts.

"I knew South Carolina had a good, rebuilding program," Glover said. "But I also started out in business administration and I knew that program was ranked. That had a lot to do with it."

Three years later, Glover finds himself the lone senior on an impressive USC squad. Teammate Barry Manning joined the club the same year as Glover, but is only a junior because he was placed on medical hardship this past season. Glover sees a lot to be optimistic about for this, his last, year wearing a Gamecock jersey.

"We have great potential," he said. "We have a good chance at the NCAA if we qualify, and I think we can do some real damage this year. Our goal, though, is still to win the Metro Conference regular season and championship titles."

Glover knows he's important to this year's team in a special way. He isn't the big scorer or the big play man. He's "Mr. Consistency," the man who does a lot of positive things like set screens and comes through on his well-timed, near perfect jump shots. Defensively he has to rebound pretty well and do all the little things that don't show up on the stat sheets.

Basketball hasn't always been the passion for Glover, believe it or not. He started out in sports at age 11 playing Little League baseball and loving every minute of it. He says it's still a secret love, that he's somewhat of a frustrated baseball player deep inside.

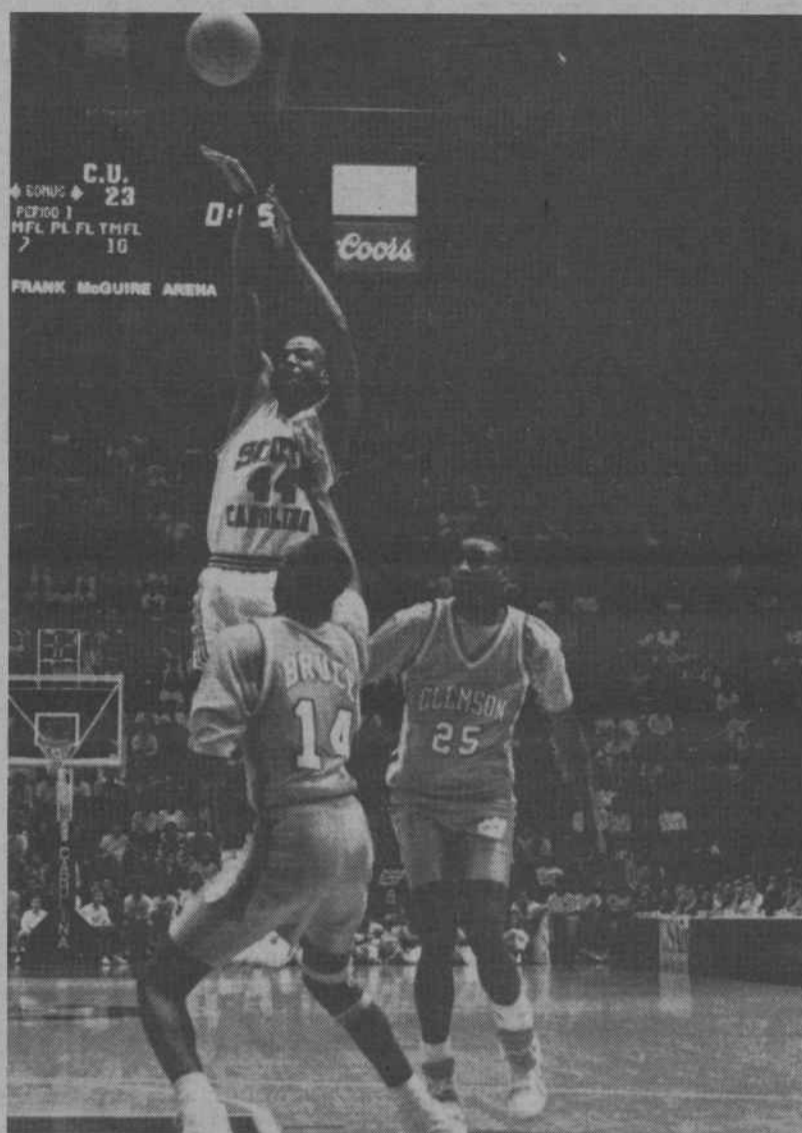
He even lettered one year in the sport in high school, but he realized he was better at basketball and that he was even slightly afraid of getting hit by a baseball.

But basketball seems to run in the Glover family, and the bug finally caught up with Glover. Both of his parents had played the game, his mother in high school and his father all the way through Benedict College.

Glover's older brother preceeded him at Keenan before and also played two years at Spartanburg Methodist College. The youngest of the Glovers, nine-year-old Lisa, is the only one who doesn't appear to have an interest.

"The doctors told her she's gonna be tall," Glover said with his easy laugh, "but she hates basketball. I think she wants to be a cheerleader."

Glover gives his mother the most credit for helping him keep his level head and his consistency. She has always helped him keep his life in perspective and given him good advice and, most impor-



File photo

Captain Michael Glover demonstrates his soft touch in this year's win over Clemson.

tantly, she has encouraged him with his schoolwork.

Glover plans on graduating in December, just four and a half years after arriving at USC, with a degree in criminal justice.

After graduation, he doesn't plan to rest on his laurels. He'd like to pursue a master's degree in the same field, or maybe receive training as a paralegal.

After the tough time the USC basketball team had this past season, Glover seems to be quite happy with the way things are rolling along this year. When looking for momentum, though, he looks all the way back to USC's highly emotional last-second defeat of

then-ACC regular season champion Clemson in February. That game, he says, set the tone for a successful start for this year's much healthier team.

Glover doesn't have to look too far back in his almost four year history as a Gamecock to find the moment that means the most to him, the one that will linger long after the cheers have faded.

As any loyal Gamecock basketball fan will remember, on November 30 in the Charlotte Coliseum, he sank the jumper that gave USC its first win over neighbor and former ACC-rival North Carolina. With just seconds to go on the clock, Glover's shot pushed the Gamecocks over the edge for a 76-74 victory.

Gamecocks plagued by miscues, Bearcats

By PATRICK VILLEGAS
Assistant Sports Editor

Turnovers . . . turnovers . . . turnovers. As a matter of fact, there were 22 of those little nasties for the Gamecocks.

These nasties, along with 11,929 other packed nasties in Shoemaker Center, helped Cincinnati continue their tremendous seven-game winning streak as the Bearcats thoroughly trounced USC, 68-58.

By committing 22 turnovers, 11 in each half, the Gamecocks lost all chances and possibilities they had of overcoming a Bearcat 14-2 first half run that eventually allowed Cincinnati to hold a 38-25 halftime lead.

Throughout the first 10 minutes of the opening half, both the Gamecocks and Bearcats fought basically an even match, punching back and fourth until four Gamecock turnovers helped spark the Cincinnati run.

The first half Bearcat runaway was capped by a 55-foot last-second desperation shot by Cincinnati's Louis Banks that essentially took all the air out of the Gamecock emotion. Banks led all scorers with 21 points on the night.

Although allowing Cincinnati to get ahead by as much as 16 points early in the second half, the Gamecocks, fueled by Jo Jo English's six points in five minutes, began a 12-2 run to decrease the Bearcat margin to 45-37.

But lo and behold, Turnover again reared its ugly head on USC as seven more nasties in the first 10 minutes of the second half helped Cincinnati squash the apparent USC run.

Although the Gamecocks outrebounded the Bearcats 38-27, Cincinnati took advantage of USC's miscues and regained their posture to go up 51-37.

"We just dug ourselves into too big a hole," English said. "We tried to do a lot of things, but for some reason they handled it."

With 6:44 left in the game, Barry Manning, who for the second time this season was held to under double figures with six points, hit a field goal to help the Gamecocks close within nine points, 53-44.

On the next series, Michael Glover, with eight points on the game, attempted a block shot and fell down with a sprained left hamstring. The injury slowed the Gamecock momentum and allowed Cincinnati to maintain its lead. Despite the injury, Glover is expected to play against Tulane on Thursday.

In the remaining two minutes of the game, USC again managed to close the margin to 60-54 on a three-pointer by English. But English, who had 19 points on the night, couldn't do it by himself.

With no timeouts left and under a minute left to play in the game, the Gamecocks were forced to foul the Bearcats, and likewise, Cincinnati capitalized to end the game 68-58.

The Gamecocks, now 18-6 overall and 5-4 in the Metro, are still currently third in the Metro Conference and are still on the inside track to a NCAA tournament bid.

USC, now in the midst of a three-game road trip, will travel to the "Big Easy" to face the Tulane Green Wave (11-11 and 4-6 in the Metro) in New Orleans Thursday night.

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