

USC sweeps doubleheader from Tigers

By PATRICK VILLEGAS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Gamecocks swept a rain-shortened two-game series with the Memphis State on Sunday beating the Tigers 3-1 in the first game, and 4-0 in the second.

"I was very pleased with the pitching," USC head coach June Raines said. "They were two exceptional pitched ball games."

In the first game of the doubleheader, Dave Willman broke a 1-1 tie in the bottom of the eighth-

inning with a two-run dinger to lift the Gamecocks to the 3-1 win. Allowing only four hits, pitcher Jared Baker threw the complete game for his ninth victory of the year. Because of an early Memphis State traveling time, each game of the doubleheader was reduced to seven innings of action.

In the second game, the Gamecocks prevailed again, with home runs by Brian Lawler and Jerry Shepherd. Rich Pratt pitched his fourth win of the season, allowing

only five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

In the bottom of the third inning, center fielder Mac White advanced from first base to third on a Burke Cromer single. Shepherd then hit a line drive to center field bringing in White to give USC a 1-0 lead.

On the first pitch in the bottom of the fourth, Lawler smacked his fourth homer of the year, sailing it over the left field fence to widen the gap to 2-0.

USC finally put the game out of reach with Shepherd's 13th home run of the year in the fifth. With Burke Cromer stranded on first from a quick bunt, Shepherd's two-run homer over the right field fence brought in Cromer and the final runs of the ball game to finish the game at 4-0.

With final exams putting the Gamecocks on hiatus this week, Raines is upbeat with his team's 3-2 performance the past week, even though the month of April

has brought its share of problems. He is hoping that the recent wins will help increase the players' adrenaline for the remaining games left in the season, but most of all, he hopes USC's current success will help motivate the players through their exams.

USC's next game will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8 against the Jacksonville Dolphins at Sarge Frye Field. The Gamecocks are currently 33-18 overall and 9-8 in the Metro.



Pratt

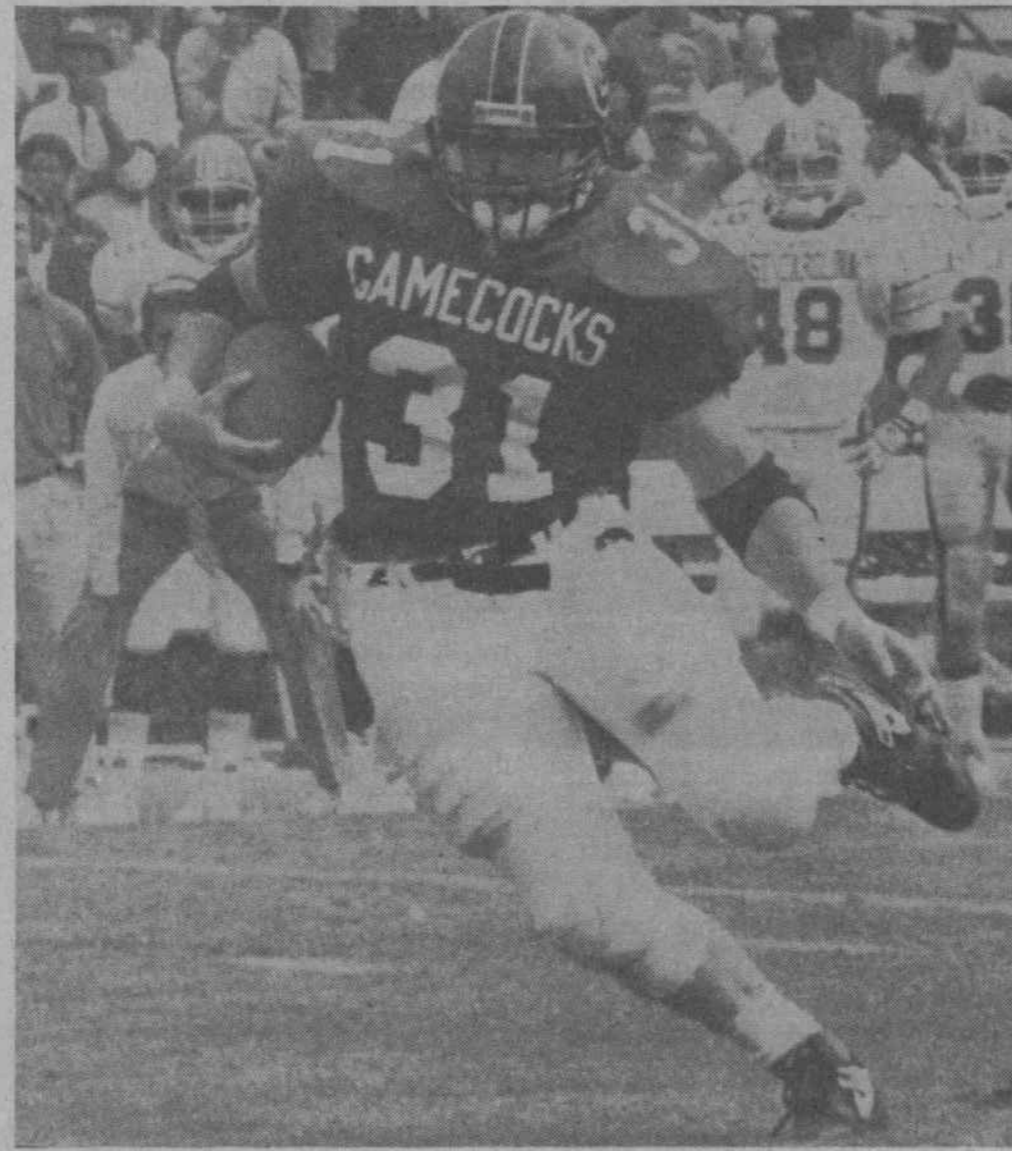
Gamecock sports full of ups and downs

De"Bo"er is batting over .300 for June Raines' baseball team.

... Gamecock quarterback Bobby Fuller, an underrated player on the field and great guy off it, earned the respect of the opposition's players and coaches alike. After passing for 356 yards and 3 TDs in a 38-29 loss to N.C. State, Wolfpack head coach Dick Sheridan told me Fuller was the best QB he would have to face all season, including highly-regarded signal-callers Shawn Moore and Shawn Jones of Virginia and Georgia Tech, respectively. Fuller is so cool-headed on the field and just "one of the guys" off it, a refreshing change from a certain past USC quarterback who was more than a little pretentious.

... Corey Miller, now the property of the Super Bowl champion N.Y. Giants, is another classy guy off the field. Corey, thanks for being the only player to always return my calls. Your maturity off the field is just as impressive as your play on it. Make the Giants' team!! And Corey, it's "Rich," not "Rick."

... I'll never forget the hurt exuded by Coach Woods in the media room after the 38-35 loss to The Citadel. What made it so difficult to see Coach Woods so down-trodden is the fact that he is absolutely and unequivocally one of the very classiest acts in all of coaching. When King Dixon said back in 1989 he was hiring a man of



File Photo

Rob DeBoer's inspired play was probably most evident in last year's Homecoming Game when he ran for 168 yards and 2 TDs against East Carolina.

honesty and integrity in Coach Woods, he was certainly right on the mark. Coach, I'm looking forward to seeing the smile on your face when you get your first win over Clemson next fall! Keep up the good work and great leadership you provide.

... I must mention the food on the press level at Williams-Brice Stadium. It is unrivaled among the various press boxes that I have had the opportunity to visit in the past year. I'm already getting hungry thinking about the football home opener against Duke on Sept. 7.

... When I heard that Sports Information Director Kerry Tharpe was a super guy, I heard right. Tharpe is truly a gentleman's gentleman, always friendly and helpful to those seeking whatever info they might need. Thanks for your support for Matt Hogue and I broadcasting Lady Gamecock basketball. We are already looking forward to next season!

... On the subject of Lady Gamecock basketball, it was truly a pleasure to travel with the team this past season and see a great coach and fabulous person guide the women's team all the way to the NCAA playoffs. I'm talking, of course, about coach Nancy Wilson. It was a great year, Coach, and I can't wait to be a part of the challenge of the SEC next season. Your support is, as always, appreciated.

... Anyone who never saw Karen Middleton play for the Lady 'Cocks really missed out. Karen finished her career as the top 3-point shooter in Carolina basketball history — men or women. I'll never forget your awesome display when we upset No. 3-ranked Auburn on December 29, or your incredible marksmanship against USM in the Metro Tournament. Or your ...

... JoJo English provided some big-time excitement to USC basketball fans with his numerous high-flying slam dunks. It's a shame the team was forced to slow

their pace to a crawl over the last half of the season (with terrible results), else we would have seen a lot more excitement from JoJo and Jamie and Barry and ...

... To my broadcast partner, Matt Hogue, working with you was fantastic. Your knowledge of sports (especially basketball) is unparalleled and your remarkable ability and maturity behind the mike defies your age. What a bright future awaits you in the field of sports broadcasting!

... Thanks and good luck to Doug Aube and Steve Johnson, my sports editors these past two semesters. Doug, it was a blast going on the road to football games. Remember the "XX" chick in the Blacksburg bar? I WILL get you back for that! Steve, it has been great working with you also. For those of you who don't know Steve, he is one of the most genuinely nice people to be found on this campus. To both Doug and Steve, thanks for the opportunity to write sports!

... And to you readers, my hope is simply that you found my various game stories, columns and editorials worthy of reading and at least somewhat entertaining. I love sports like few other things in life, and so should you! Seriously, those of you who have complimented me along the way, I truly appreciate your consideration. And to those of you who feel otherwise, I'll try to get better. In any event, thanks for reading.



Rich Taylor

Chip Shots

With exams nearly upon us, it's time for the compulsory look back at the year in sports, Gamecock style. I will attempt to concentrate on the positive, rather than negative, aspects of what has transpired in Carolina athletics over the course of the past two semesters, as well as add a few personal reflections and insights. Here goes:

... The SEC!!! Carolina's acceptance of a bid into the finest all-sports conference in the nation was THE athletic story of the year at USC. Just as sweet as joining the SEC is our leaving the wretched Metro Conference, a league with no appreciable future.

... Who can forget the Gamecock football team's incredible fourth quarter comeback against Virginia Tech in Blacksburg? USC trailed the Hokies 24-13 after three periods, only to erupt for 22 points in the game's final eight minutes to win 35-24. This game constituted the football team's finest hour of an up and down season.

... Another football bright spot came when the 'Cocks finally ended their ESPN "jinx" with a season-ending 29-10 domination of West Virginia.

... True freshman Rob DeBoer electrified Carolina fans with his hard-nosed running and intense competitiveness. On the season, DeBoer gained 700 yards on a mere 125 carries, leading the 'Cocks in rushing in seven of the final eight games. Additionally,

Gamecock Co-Athletes of the Year



File Photo

All-Metro Guard Karen Middleton



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All-American Defender Tommy Loeber

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