

# SPORTS

Friday, September 6, 1991

GAMECOCK

## Gamecocks start 99th year of football Saturday

By AARON SHEININ  
Sports Editor

For the past five years, the Duke Blue Devils have fell victim to the Gamecocks in football, the past two on opening day.

Now, Duke comes to Columbia Saturday looking to stop the Gamecocks streak, with 10 returning defensive starters in-tow. Saturday at 7 p.m., USC begins its 99th season of football, and the last before SEC play begins in 1992.

Offensively, Duke features senior quarterback Dave Brown who split time the past two seasons with Billy Ray. Duke is 4-3 when Brown starts. The Blue Devils also feature two-time All ACC tailback

Randy Cuthbert who is ready to play after undergoing double-knee surgery in the offseason. In 1989 Cuthbert became only the second Duke rusher to gain 1,000 yards.

In 1990, Cuthbert battled knee problems all season, but still played in all 11 games and rushed for 595 yards and four touchdowns, and was named second-team All-ACC. He also led the team in receptions, with 46.

Brown has passed for 22 touchdowns and nearly 3,000 yards in his career. This past season, he was 129-145 for 1,444 yards and eight touchdowns.

On defense, however, the Blue Devils have an abundance of experienced starters. They are led by

this past year's team MVP, free safety Erwin Sampson. Sampson has 34 career starts and had 101 tackles this past season, third on the team and ninth in the ACC. He also had three interceptions in 1990. Over three years, Sampson has accumulated 355 tackles and broken up 27 passes.

Also in the defensive backfield for Duke are senior cornerbacks Quinton McCracken and Wyatt Smith, who each have 28 career starts.

McCracken, who also plays baseball for Duke, had 48 tackles this past fall at right cornerback, and returned nine kickoffs, averaging 20.3 yards per return.

Also at cornerback is junior Keith DuBose who started five games and made 39 tackles, swiped two passes and broke up five more. Derrick Jackson has started two seasons at rover back and made 55 tackles this past year.

The one starter Duke did lose on defense came at linebacker, outside linebacker Tom Corpus. However, senior Mark Allen and junior Darrell Spells are returning on the inside. At outside linebacker, juniors Duane Marks and Travis Pearson both return as well.

"They were a good secondary last year, but what we need from them now is not to be just the same as they were a year ago. We need all four of those guys, Quinton McCracken, Derrick Jackson, Erwin Sampson and Wyatt Smith to rise up and improve their level of play by intercepting a few passes and not allowing any deep pas-

ses to be caught," second-year head coach Barry Wilson said.

For the Gamecocks, the biggest questions entering the season will be a young offensive line and a younger secondary.

Both starting offensive tackles from a year ago are gone. Calvin Stephens is currently playing for the New England Patriots of the NFL. Taking their place will be junior college transfer, Ernest Dye and senior Rich Sweet, who started five games and played in all 11 this past season.

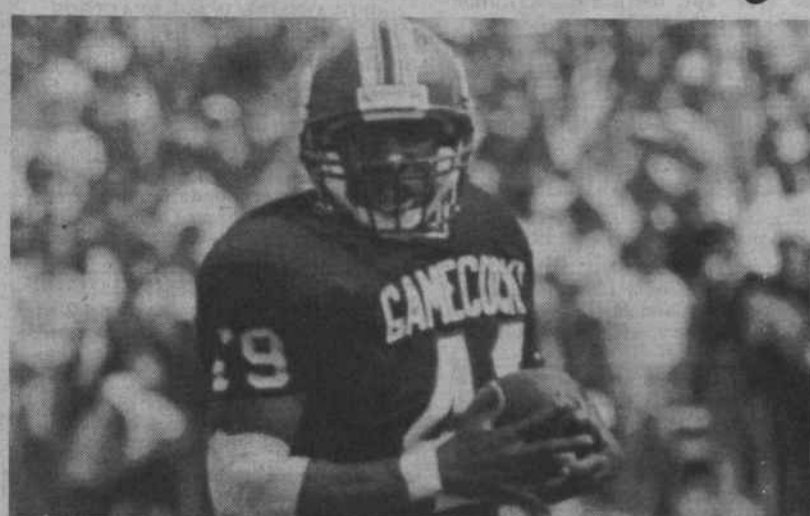
Inside at right guard is junior Antoine Rivens who got the start for nine games this past year. At the other guard is freshmen Vincent Dinkins, who will have to learn as he plays. In the middle is senior center Jay Killen, who also started nine games this past year.

"We will have a lot of new names playing on the line for us this fall," USC head coach Sparky Woods said. "We will need to grow up in a hurry at that position."

In the defensive secondary, two sophomores and two freshmen will get the nod. Senior Leon Harris was kicked off the team during preseason, leaving the secondary without much veteran leadership.

Freshmen Tony Watkins will start at strong safety, ahead of junior Cedric Surratt, who had 51 tackles and two interceptions in 1990. The other freshmen in the defensive backfield is left cornerback Toby Cates.

Bru Pender, a 5-11 sophomore will start at free safety and Jerry



File photo

Senior wide receiver Robert Brooks will be a popular target for senior quarterback Bobby Fuller.

Inman, a 6-0, 180 lb. sophomore will start at right cornerback.

While USC will feature young players in the secondary, Woods said he still expects quality play from them. "I don't think we are in great shape in the secondary, but we should be better than in years past," Woods said.

On the offensive side, the Gamecocks will feature senior quarterback Bobby Fuller and senior wide receiver Robert Brooks. Brooks, along with senior flanker Eddie Miller will both receive attention from NFL scouts this season. Brooks only needs four more touchdown receptions to become the school leader in that category.

In the backfield are a pair of returning lettermen and a standout freshman. Sophomore Rob DeBoer was a crowd favorite this past sea-

son running past and over defensive opponents with a bull-like style. DeBoer was second in rushing for USC this past year with 700 yards (averaging 5.6 per carry) as a true freshman. Senior Albert Haynes also returns.

Freshman running back Brandon Bennett, who has shown flashes of brilliance during preseason camp, also will see a lot of playing time.

Game time is 7 p.m. Saturday at Williams-Brice Stadium. Duke leads the overall series 24-17-2 and holds a 17-13-1 advantage in Columbia. This past season, the Gamecocks beat Duke 21-10 on

opening day. Because USC is joining the SEC and Florida State has joined the ACC, this will be the last meeting between the two teams during this century.

### Braves WATCH

**National League West**

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10
Los Angeles	74	59	.556	—	5-5
ATLANTA	73	60	.549	1	6-4
Cincinnati	66	67	.496	8	6-4
San Diego	66	68	.493	8 1/2	6-4

Atlanta lost again Wednesday night, their third loss in four games. Los Angeles defeated St. Louis Wednesday to move ahead of Atlanta again. Next weekend the Dodgers play the Braves in Atlanta.

*MVP WATCH:	AB	H	AVE	HR	RBI
Terry Pendleton	467	145	.310	17	71
Ron Gant	461	115	.249	28	85

CY YOUNG WATCH:	W	L	E.R.A.	K
Tom Glavine	17	9	2.23	165

\*stats through Wednesday's game

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