

ECU matchup brings rivalry

PAULA COBB

From the Hip

If USC loses to East Carolina, Joe Reaves can never go home.

Reaves is from a small town by the name of Whiteville, N.C. Ninety percent of the graduates from his high school go to ECU. So beating ECU has been a big part of Reaves's college career.

Reaves and I are in a similar position. No, I don't play linebacker, and I'm not getting a Masters in Business Administration, but my closest friends and loved ones also worship the ground ECU was built on.

For the past eight years, this game has been a time of joy for us. This past year I sat proudly in Williams-Brice and smiled. OK, so I did yell continuously that day to my ECU visitors, "Ya'll are terrible!"

Reaves made a point after each game to call his friends and remind them that they would never have a team to beat us. We used to laugh when they swore they were better than us.

I have never met fans like those of ECU. They are die-hard win or lose. They are famous for running their mouth. Which amazes me since they have never beaten us. It must be in their college creed or something.

This year is a little different though. ECU has the 17th best offense in the nation. They are also 2-1, and should be 3-0 if it wouldn't have been for a lousy official taking away their major upset over Illinois. The other problem is that USC doesn't have the power team we are accustomed to. So I am worried.

So what about our "young" players, I ask.

"I remind them that every week is a different game. It doesn't matter who or how you played the week before. The freshmen get caught up in the mystique of college football. I remind them they have got to be ready every week, and every team we play is going to be good," he said.

So how is our defense going to handle ECU's ranked offense?

"The same thing we try to do every week. Be intense and keep motivated," he said.

Reaves said ECU's offense uses big plays to win. "We have to key in on the three wide guys and keep the quarterback covered. The line has to fill up the holes, if we are going to shut them down."

It sounded like he had everything covered, but I was not completely convinced. So you really think we are going to win?

"ECU better be ready to for the Cocks. We are ready to play. They are a another notch in our belt, and just a stepping stone to a winning season and a bowl game. They better have their helmets strapped on because we are going to Ficklen Stadium to win."

Gamecocks take momentum on the road



Senior wide receiver Robert Brooks catches a pass in this past season's game against ECU.

By AARON SHEININ
Sports Editor

The 1-1-1 Gamecocks roll into Greenville, N.C., Saturday to face an above-par East Carolina squad, as USC looks to notch up win number two.

The 2-1 Pirates opened the season by almost upsetting Illinois. If not for a disputed taunting call, ECU might have pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the season. Instead, the Illini won 38-31 and the Pirates went home thinking of what could have been.

The next week, ECU beat an inconsistent Memphis State team at home 20-13 and followed it up with a 47-25 trouncing of Central Florida on the road. Now comes USC, a team that might have straightened itself out with a win against Virginia Tech.

With its 17th-ranked offense in the country, ECU faces a suspect Gamecock secondary. However, the Pirates have never beaten the Gamecocks in eight tries. ECU's potent offense has also had its share of problems against the

Gamecocks. In the eight meetings between the teams, ECU has only scored 26 total points in the second half, an average of 3.25 points per game. The last time the Pirates scored in the fourth quarter against USC was 1987.

Senior quarterback Jeff Blake is in his second year as the starter for the Pirates. Through three games, Blake has passed for 795 yards and six touchdowns. He is rated at a 161.5 passing proficiency.

Joining Blake in the I-formation is senior fullback David Daniels and Cedric Van Buren at tailback. Van Buren leads the team in rushing with 164 net yards, Daniels is second at 107. As a whole, the Pirates offense has generated 1358 yards. The Pirate defense, however, is giving up 1393 yards per game.

Led by senior inside linebacker Robert Jones, the ECU defense is allowing an average of just over 25 points per game, in multiple alignments, compared with the Gamecocks giving up just over 21. Jones was the leading returning tackler in the nation this past year,

with 167 tackles. He also tied a school record with 23 tackles against Temple. Lining up beside Jones will be Ken Burnette, another senior. Burnette has 16 tackles in 120 plays.

The biggest hole in the ECU defense is in the secondary, very much like USC's major problem Junior Derrick Fields at strong safety is the only returning player with starting experience, and he has been fighting injury problems all season. At free safety, Greg Grandison has made 29 tackles, second on the team to Jones. Four starters from 1990 are gone, and two junior college transfers will be looked upon for a lot of support.

One of the more solid areas for coach Bill Lewis's Pirates is the special teams. Senior punter John Jett is currently the second ranked punter in the nation, averaging over 41 yards per kick. Sophomore Anthony Brenner, redshirted this past season will handle the place kicking. Brenner is 5-7 for field goals on the season, and has made kicks of 50, 39, 36, 33 and 25 yards.

USC soccer team grounds Ga. Southern

By BRANT LONG
Copy Desk Chief

The rain stopped on Wednesday just before kickoff at The Graveyard. Unfortunately for Georgia Southern, the worst was yet to come.

The Eagles, 3-4-1, held the 10th-ranked Gamecock soccer team scoreless through 65 minutes with great play from their goalie, Kevin Chambers, and a lot of missed opportunities by USC.

But the lightning struck with 24 minutes remaining in the game. Junior Hans Lohner and freshman Chris Faklaris would score twice in the next four minutes and senior Jonas Gudjonsson, who has spent the first weeks of the season on the bench with an injury, added a penalty kick goal to give USC, 5-1, a 5-0 win.

"You have to credit Georgia Southern," Gamecock head coach Mark Berson said. "Their goalkeeper was very good in the first half. I really want to credit our guys because they never lost their composure. A lot of times you fear that your team is going to rush forward and get frustrated with a tremendous number of shots and nothing on the board, then get victimized on the counterattack."

And tremendous was the word, as USC outshot the visitors 38-4. The Gamecocks also had 14 corner kicks to the Eagles one.

USC started the scoring when freshman Bill Baumhoff received a deflection off of a corner kick to the right of the Eagle goal. He crossed the ball back in where Lohner headed it in for the game's first score.

Less than three minutes later, another corner kick, by junior Andy Ferguson, set up a goal. Ferguson's boot was headed strongly by Faklaris into the right side of the goal past Chambers for the 2-0 advantage.

"Both those guys (Lohner and Faklaris) have played real well. It was great to see Hans get such a tremendous goal. That was a brilliant assist by Billy Baumhoff and Chris Faklaris' header was really an outstanding goal. It was good to see them score."

USC added two more quick goals, within 12 seconds of each other to take the life out of the Eagles.

Freshman Rob Smith, with 20:26 remaining in the game, crossed the ball on the ground from the right side. Faklaris, set up in front of the goal, slapped it in past Chambers for his second score of the game.

Before you could blink, Lohner dribbled the ball to the top of the penalty box, faked a defender and lifted a shot over Chambers for the 4-0 advantage and his second goal of the day.

Gudjonsson then came in. The senior from Reykjavik, Iceland who is 15th on the Gamecock all-time scoring charts, got a nice hand from the few hundred spectators that braved the rain.

With just over eight minutes remaining in the match, Gudjonsson got the ball just to the right of the goal. While he was dribbling, Eagle goalie Kris Trainor, who re-

placed Chambers, pulled him down, and a penalty kick was awarded.

Trainor guessed to the right on the kick, and Gudjonsson beat him to the left for the final 5-0 tally.

The two Eagle goalies combined for 14 saves, while USC goalie Spencer Leuders recorded the shut-out, which keeps his goals against average at a nonexistent 0.00. Faklaris is now tied with senior captain Andrew Coggins for the team lead in goals with four. Lohner has three goals this season and Ferguson notched his fifth assist to lead USC.

The Gamecocks now hit the road for their first away game of the season at the Aces Soccer Classic in Evansville, Ind. this weekend. Tonight, USC takes on the Dons of San Francisco, 7-1 and ranked 18th in the nation.

The Gamecocks and the Dons have met only once, at the Stanford Invitational Soccer Tournament this past season, where USC

triumphed 1-0. San Francisco is coached by Steve Negroesco, the winningest college soccer coach ever with 452 wins. The game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

"I've seen San Francisco on tape," Berson said, "and they are an absolutely sensational team. They have great quickness and have a number of new players in the lineup, and they just look tremendous."

Sunday, the Gamecocks face the host Evansville Aces, who are 3-3-2 and coached by Fred Schmalz. USC won the only meeting with the Aces in 1987 at the Adidas/Met Life Soccer Classic in Indiana, beating them 2-1.

"Evansville is a team that is always in the national top five, let alone the top 20," Berson said. "This year they lost a couple of

tough games and they are not in the top 20, but they are certainly a great team.

"These games are going to be real important, and it will be a good measuring stick for us. I thought the North Carolina game was a good test for us. Now we come up to another major test. Two games in a real quality tournament on the road in a very tough environment. Evansville at Evansville on Sunday will be one of the biggest challenges our guys face. We're looking forward to going out there. I think it should be fun."

Kickoff for the Evansville contest is at 3:30 p.m. Both of USC's games will be played at Black Beauty Field in Evansville.

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WELCOME

Lady Gamecocks win, improve to 5-6 overall

By SEAN RYAN
Staff Writer

The Lady Gamecock volleyball team ended their five match losing streak with a thrilling 3-1 win over the College of Charleston Sept. 24. The win improved their overall record to 5-6.

The match opened with a service ace by freshman Jodi Thompson. However, the Lady Cougars from Charleston raced out to a 10-6 lead, and later widened the margin to 14-8. The Lady Gamecocks fought off one match point and scored six straight points to tie the match. A service ace by Amy Skidmore and a Caryn Case kill capped off a dramatic 19-17 opening game.

The Lady Cougars jumped out to an early lead again in the second game of the match. The score was 13-6 before the Lady Gamecocks began their second furious comeback. In this game, USC scored the last nine points for the 15-13 win. Amy Collinsworth had a crucial ace and Amy Iannocari had a great save for a point before ending the game with a kill.

After losing the third game of the match 15-6, the Lady Gamecocks blasted the team from Charleston 15-2 to close out the match three games to one.

The Lady Gamecocks will play in the Winthrop Tournament in Rock Hill starting Sept. 27.