SPORTS

Gamecocks prepare for Met Life

By BRANT LONG Copy Desk Chief

For the fifth consecutive year, The Graveyard will be the site of one of the nation's premier collegiate soccer tournaments as USC again hosts the Met Life Classic Saturday and Sunday.

This year's tourney involves the Washington Huskies, Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the Adelphi Panthers, along with the host Gamecocks.

USC is now 11-4 after narrowly escaping an upset bid by the Mercer Bears Wednesday, defeating the visitors 2-1. The Gamecocks are ranked 12th nationally by Soccer America.

The Gamecocks are looking to repeat after winning this past year's Met Life title, knocking off UNLV 3-1 and beating Indiana in the championship game 2-1.

The tournament schedule is as follows: Saturday, October 26. Washington v. Adelphi, 12 noon; USC v. Notre Dame, 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 27. Notre Dame v. Adelphi, 12 noon; USC v. Washington, 2 p.m.

Notre Dame is currently 9-3-1

and nursing a seven-game win streak after Wednesday's 4-1 drubbing of Georgetown. They are coached by Mike Berticelli and are trying to rebuild from an injuryplagued 1990.

The Irish are lead by goalie Bert Bader, a freshman who has held opponents scoreless in seven of Notre Dame's last 10 games. Jean Joseph leads the team in scoring with 14 points. Saturday will be the first ever meeting between the Gamecocks and the Fighting Irish.

Washington started off its 1991 season with a bang, winning an early-season contest over defending national champ UCLA. But injuries have plagued the Huskies and they are now 5-6-1.

Head coach Ron Carter has built the Huskies into a power in the tough West Region. USC and Washington have also never met.

Adelphi, just like Notre Dame; is riding a seven-game unbeaten streak and the Panthers are fresh off of a 3-1 victory over Fairleigh Dickinson on Wednesday. Freshman sensation Tamir Daniel, who is back from an early season hamstring injury, notched a hat

trick in the win and leads the Panthers with six goals and four

Adelphi head coach Bob Montgomery notched his 150th career victory at AU with Wednesday's win and looks to return to the NCAA Tournament after an appearance in 1990.

The Gamecocks are 7-0-1 in Met Life action at The Graveyard and are 8-2-0 at home this season. USC is lead by senior captain Andrew Coggins. The forward from Charleston has 11 goals and two assists this year for a team-leading 24 points.

Head coach Mark Berson is looking to get closer to his 200th win at USC. He needs only two more to acheive the milestone. He collected his 200th career win against Presbyterian on September

Berson's 198th win was not the prettiest of his career, as the Gamecocks held on to a 2-1 advantage to down Mercer Wednesday at The Graveyard.

USC got on the board first at the 18:01 mark when junior midfielder Ruben Tufino garnered his first of

two assists on the day, crossing to freshman Bill Baumhoff streaking down the right side of the field. Baumhoff dribbled into the goal box, and beat Bear goalkeeper Mike Potier to the left.

Three minutes later, the "Bolivian Connection" teamed up for the Gamecocks' second goal. Off of a free kick from the left side, Tufino's ball was controlled by fellow Bolivian, Hans Lohner. Lohner turned and fired a shot that beat Potier to the left for the 2-0 first half advantage.

The Bears got their only goal at the 74:00 mark, when Vince Dattilo got the ball at the top of the goal box, dribbled left, then right, and put a shot past USC goalie David Turner, who had earlier replaced Spencer Lueders, to narrow

But Mercer could not equalize as USC rebounded from Sunday's 1-0 loss to Wake Forest.

A large crowd is expected for the weekend tournament. USC students, faculty and staff get in free with a USC ID.

1991 Met Life Soccer Classic



USC Gamecocks 1991 record: 11-4-0



Notre Dame Fighting 1991 record: 9-3-1



Adelphi Panthers 1991 record:8-3-2



1991 record: 5-6-1

MET LIFE SOCCER CLASSIC (Games to be held at the Graveyard)

Saturday, Oct. 26 Washington vs. Adelphi - Noon USC vs. Notre Dame - 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27

Notre Dame vs. Adelphi - Noon Washington Huskies USC vs. Washington - 2 p.m.

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Cleveland's a nice town, if you don't play sports

John Reese

Commentary

"The mistake on the lake," "The City of Pity," or just the word "Cleveland," has been the punch line to almost every sports joke since I can remember.

I'm from Akron, Ohio, which is about an hour south of Cleveland. Neeldess to say I am a big Cleveland fan because I lived so close, not to mention it being an Ohio state law.

Sure we have never won a Super Bowl, but I would bet no other team has lost as many AFC Championship games in the last minute as the Browns have. Who could forget "The Drive" in the 1987 Championship game between the Browns and the Denver Broncos?

Cleveland had just scored the go-ahead touchdown to give them a seven-point lead with one minute to go in the game. Anyone who has watched football in the past five years knows what happened

The Broncos took the ensuing kickoff and marched 80-plus yards in less than a minute to score the tying touchdown that sent the game into overtime and spelled the end of the Brown's Super Bowl.

The 1989 season offered the Browns another shot at its first Super Bowl birth. The scenario was the same as in '87.

The Browns were playing the Broncos, except this game was in Denver, and this time instead of "The Drive," it was "The Fumble" that spelled disaster for Cleveland. To set the stage, the Browns were losing by a touchdown with one minute to go in the game.

Cleveland quarterback, Bernie Kosar, conducted one of his miracle drives and got the Browns down to the Denver 1-yard line with 30 seconds to go in the game. Usually a pretty safe call on the goal line is a handoff up the middle. Cleveland felt this way as well, so on the next play, Kosar handed off to running back Earnest

Disaster struck, the ball slipped out of Byner's hands as soon as he hit the line. Denver recovered and ran the clock out giving them their second Super Bowl appearance in three years at the expense of my Cleveland Browns.

Is it 35 or 36 games this season? Of course I'm talking about how many games out of first place the Cleveland Indians ended this baseball season. So what if we haven't won a pennant in more than 30 years, not to mention the World Series in around 70.

Well at least we have won the World Series before, let's see the Mariners and the Rangers say that. Of course, we have been in the league about 60 years, more than both of these teams, but when you have had a history like the Indians, you will hang on to any cheap shot you can get.

It's not that we always have bad teams. It's just that we don't play well together. For example, this past season, the Indians had one of the best offenses in the American League East, but they also had one of the worst pitching staffs in all of baseball.

This year we couldn't use that excuse because the offense and defense both stunk up the league. I think the Indians will not have to worry about having bad seasons in about five years, because right now they have so few people coming to their games, they won't be able to afford to keep the team in

You are probably wondering why I am not writing about the Cavaliers and their excuses for not bringing home the big NBA title yet. Well I'm tired of making up bull-malarkey excuses, and the best thing to do is end this with Cleveland still having a little pride.

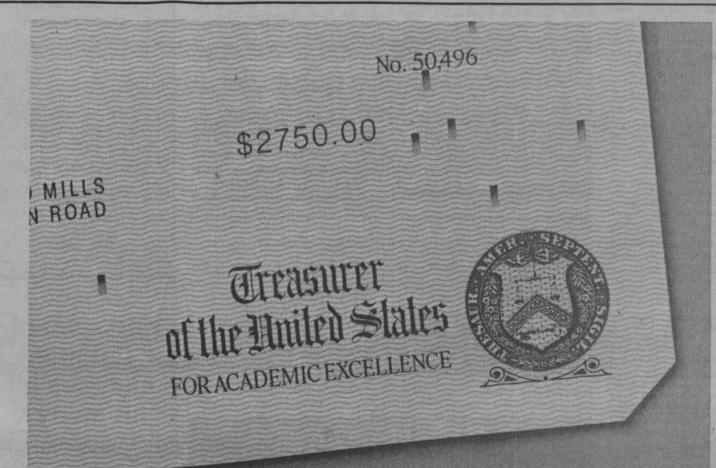
I would like to ask those of you out there who frequently use Cleveland sports as a joke, and you know who you are, to please show a little respect for the weak, I mean we know we stink, but we don't need everyone to keep reminding us. I also want to leave the Cleveland hopefuls out there with a little faithful reminder, "It may be 20-30 years, but Cleveland will rise again.

adults holding jobs are functionally illiterate.

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