

## Gamecocks looking for third SEC win Tigers challenge USC with high-scoring play

By **TIM THORSEN**  
Staff Writer

The Gamecock basketball team travel to Eaves Memorial Coliseum to face the Auburn Tigers tonight in a crucial Southeastern Conference game.

USC comes into the game on a roll, having won their last two games in a row. The Gamecocks, however, have yet to win an SEC contest on the road, having fallen at both Vanderbilt and Florida. South Carolina currently sports a 10-4 record overall, 2-3 in the SEC.

Auburn lost their first two contests of the year against Arkansas and LSU, but rallied to post victories over Western Division foe Ole Miss and previously ninth-ranked Alabama.

This victory is all the more impressive considering the intensity of the Auburn vs. Alabama rivalry. Auburn is currently 8-6 overall and 2-2 in the SEC West.

This game is the first of five consecutive contests between the Gamecocks and SEC West foes.

Auburn is paced by sophomore forward Wesley Person, brother of Indiana Pacers star Chuck Person. He is currently averaging 21.1 points per contest as well as 7.1 rebounds a game. Auburn is also receiving 16.5 points per game from junior guard Ronnie Battle, as well as 15.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game from sophomore forward Aaron Swinson.

Person is especially dangerous. Five times this year he has posted double figure totals in both points and rebounds. In four of these games, he tallied over 20 points.

His season highs this year are 33 points and 14 rebounds against Troy State.

When paired with Swinson, who has scored in double figures 11 times this year, Auburn has a front line that has given opponents nightmares. South Carolina, however, cannot concentrate on just Person and Swinson, because five different Tigers have scored over 20 points in a game this year.

South Carolina leads the series 7-4, having won the last seven games in a row. However, the last time the two teams played was the 1971 season, with the Gamecocks defeating the Tigers by 21 points, 84-63 at Auburn.

This year USC has been lead by the trio of senior guards Jo Jo English and Barry Manning, as well as the red-hot senior forward Joe Rhett. English is averaging 16.5 points a game, good enough to squeak past Ronnie Battle for 13th place in the SEC.

Manning is fifth in the SEC in assists, averaging 4.8 a game, and is fourth in steals, swiping 2.5 a game. Rhett is making a big impact on the SEC, averaging 18.1 points a game (ninth in the SEC), 9.6 rebounds a game (second in the SEC), and shoots 56.9 percent from the floor (fifth in the SEC).

Auburn and South Carolina only have one common opponent between them this year, Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. Auburn defeated SIU - Edwardsville 109-86 in a game played at Eaves Memorial Coliseum, while the Gamecocks defeated SIU - Edwardsville 89-42 at Frank McGuire Arena.



Junior forward Chris Leso takes the ball up against Georgia's freshman center Charles Claxton in the Gamecocks' win over the Bulldogs Saturday.

## Junior track star having big season

By **BEN BREAZEALE**  
Sports Editor

Competing for college was hardly a consideration when USC track leader Sue Mcghie began her running career. She was just getting back at her brother.

"My older brother is the one who really got me into running," Mcghie said. "I was really overweight when I was young, and he used to always call me 'Tubs.' When I was in about fourth grade, I decided 'I am not taking this anymore,' and I went out and started running."

Twelve years later, Mcghie, who is Canadian, has become a force on the Carolina women's track team as she places in meet after meet, breaking school records along the way.

The junior placed 13th in the Southeastern Conference in cross-country running this season, earning all-conference honors and incidentally, making her the first all-conference athlete in USC history.

"She's an answer to USC trivia," women's track coach Jeff Small said. "Originally, only the top 12 SEC runners made all-conference, but because two new schools joined the conference this year, the athletic directors voted to make it the top 15. I ought to save her jersey in case some trivia buff comes looking for it one day."

In addition to cross-country running, Sue has made contributions this season in both indoor and outdoor track. She holds a school record in outdoor track for the mile with a time of 4:57. She came in first in the mile in the Clemson invitational track meet Jan. 12. Her most recent outing was an indoor meet Sunday in Gainesville, Fla. She placed third in the 3000 meter event with a time of 9:54, another USC record.

"Things are coming together for Sue this season," Small said. "She has increased her training and has stayed healthy. It is evident that she had a great summer of training. She is having a big year and is continuing to improve."

Small said one of the keys to Mcghie's success was her tough running style and her desire. "When I first saw Sue, I didn't think she had tons of natural talent, but I could tell she was an extremely gutsy runner. She will start out in the middle of the pack and pick her way up. In the district meet (cross-country) she was around 40th with a mile to go, and she ended up taking 19th."

Mcghie, who is 5-foot-4 and



110 pounds, is quite a contrast to the pudgy fourth grader who began running in her hometown of London in Ontario, Canada. "I did pretty well all through high school," she said, "but I never considered myself all that good. Certainly not good enough to run for a school in the states."

"My high school coach was in South Carolina on vacation and found out about the opportunity for me to come here. When I finally got offered the place, I was shocked. I was really scared to come here, and at first I wasn't sure at all, but I'm so glad I did. I have had some great experiences," she said.

Mcghie said one of her best experiences in South Carolina has been her relationship with the other girls on the USC track team. Only five other women make up the ladies team, three of which live with her, but Mcghie said she really enjoys being part of a smaller team.

"Because the team is small, we are extremely close," she said. "We are really hard on each other in work-outs. In meets when one of us is racing, everyone else is there to cheer them on. We don't just run with each other, either — eating meals, going out — we do just about everything together."

"Sue is doing well, and it really pushes the rest of us on," said Danielle Adams, one of Mcghie's teammates and a roommate. "There is a lot of friendly competition between us, but we always want to see each other do well. I don't think about beating her much, though. My real goal is just to catch up with her."

Mcghie plans on continued improvement and hard training for the rest of the season. She hopes to eventually make the NCAA tournament. "I basically just plan on keeping up what I've been doing," she said. "Of course, I always have that long term goal of NAAs, but I have to get there first."

## Lady Gamecocks to face tough Lady Paladins, Center leads Southern Conference in scoring

By **CHAD BRAY**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Lady Gamecocks face a talented Southern Conference squad tonight when Furman invades

Frank McGuire Arena. USC must overcome a three-game losing streak after a close road loss to Georgia, 63-62, Saturday.

The Lady Gamecocks, who lead the series 4-0, need a win against a Lady Paladin team that has won four out of its last five games.

Furman is lead by sophomore center Rushia Brown, who leads the Southern Conference in scoring, in blocked shots and in steals, even though she sat out last season because of injuries.

Brown, who averages 21.3 points per game, shot 73.3 percent from the floor, 80 percent from the free-throw line and scored 30 points in Furman's 82-71 victory over Marshall Saturday.

Another standout for Furman is senior guard Janice Rhynehardt.

who averages 16.4 points per game, is second in the Southern Conference in scoring and steals.

The Lady Gamecocks have struggled in their last three games in the Southeastern Conference. USC lost a close game against Alabama, 80-74, and they were squashed in the second half by Tennessee, 78-58.

The Lady Gamecocks need a big game from senior center Marsha Williams, who averages 24.3 points per game and who leads the SEC in scoring and in rebounding with 12.8 rebounds per game.

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