

Gamecocks drop sixth against Mercer, 61-59

Poor free throw shots, missing players hurt team

By **TIM THORSEN**
Staff Writer

Can it get any worse?
USC's basketball team entered Macon, Ga. for its contest with the Mercer Bears looking to pick up a rare road win and some momentum for their battle with Arkansas Saturday.

Instead, the Gamecocks left the Macon Coliseum wondering what else could go wrong in a season that has quickly turned into a disaster.

USC lost, 61-59, in a game typifying their season to this point. With 4:39 left to play in the game, the Gamecocks held a 57-52 edge. They would not score another basket from the field the rest of the game. Mercer went on a 9-2 run in the last 4:39 to claim the victory.

Things won't get any easier for the club, as it must now travel to Barnhill Arena and tackle the 11th ranked Razorbacks. Following that game, USC plays host to junior center Shaquille O'Neal and his LSU Tigers next Wednesday.

Hopefully, senior guard Jo Jo English will be healthy enough to play. Without English, the Gamecocks leading scorer is senior guard Barry Manning, who averages just nine points per game.

The presence of English was sorely missed in the closing minutes of the game, as the Gamecocks had no one to turn to when the game was on the line.

The loss dropped the Gamecocks to 10-10 for the year. It was the sixth consecutive loss for the Gamecocks, as well as their sixth consecutive road defeat.

The Gamecocks last won a game Jan. 18 at home against Georgia. South Carolina has now lost nine out of its last 11 games, this after beginning the season with an 8-1 record.

As usual, poor free-throw shooting contributed to the Gamecocks loss. South Carolina entered the game shooting a meager 60 percent, which is last in the Southeastern Conference. The Gamecocks showed some signs of hope from the charity stripe in the first half, as they hit on all five free throws they attempted.

Unfortunately, they still finished the game shooting 62 percent, after making only five out of 11 free throws in the second half. In the last five minutes, with the game on the line, the Gamecocks made but two of five from the line. With six seconds left in the game, sophomore guard Jamie Watson missed a free throw that would have tied the game.

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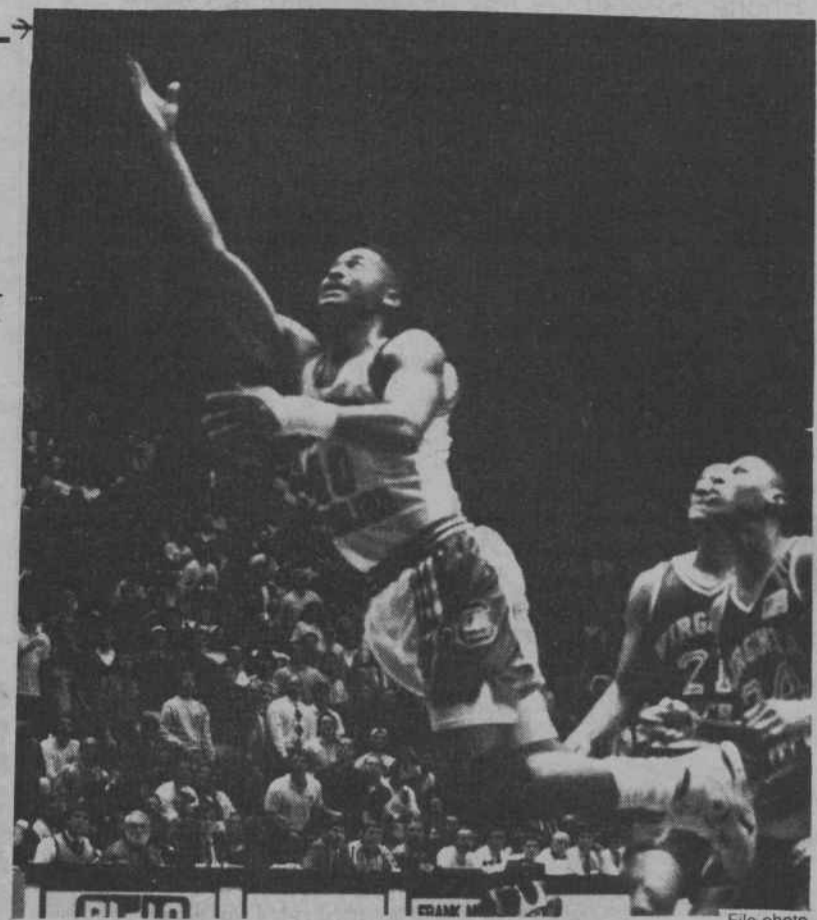
Steve Newton

Manning almost didn't participate in the contest, as he was suffering from severe headaches caused by a stomach virus. Manning did manage to play 37 minutes, but he scored just eight points.

"I'm very proud of Barry Manning. I congratulate his effort because he was suffering from a virus that left him at about 50 percent," Gamecock head coach Steve Newton said.

The leading scorer for the Gamecocks was, once again, senior center Jeff Roulston. Roulston scored 15 points and ripped down a career-high 11 rebounds. Senior forward Chris Leso chipped in with 13 points and 10 rebounds, while junior forward Troy McKoy tallied 11 points and grabbed five boards.

"I think our guys did everything we asked them to do. They certainly gave it all they had. The 61 points that we allowed is a decent defensive job," Newton said.



Senior guard Barry Manning played 37 minutes and had eight points Monday in the Gamecocks' 61-59 loss to Mercer.

Swimmers qualify for Olympic trials at SEC competition

By **CHAD BRAY**
Sports Editor

Two Gamecock swimmers qualified for the Olympic trials in March at the Southeastern Conference championships this past weekend.

Senior captain Brent Mathers and junior All-America Anne Marie Wozniak qualified for the Olympic trials in Indianapolis, Ind. March 1-6. Mathers qualified with a fourth place finish in the men's 200-meter individual medley with a time of 2:06.10.

The men's swim team came in fifth overall in the SEC championships in Tuscaloosa, Ala. with 451 points. The team beat out Auburn, LSU, Arkansas and Kentucky.

Sophomore All-America captain Rik Leishman qualified for the NCAA championships with a second place finish in the men's 100-meter butterfly with a time of :54.50.

Senior All-America captain Mark Smith posted two third place finishes in the men's 100- and 200-meter breaststroke with times of 1:05 and 2:21.08.

Other scorers included junior Jeff Palm with a fourth place finish in the 400-meter freestyle with a time of 3:58.82 and sophomore Drew Ruggieri with a fourth place finish in the 200-meter backstroke with a time of 2:06.19.

The women's swim team came in sixth at the championship. They placed over LSU, Arkansas, Kentucky and Vanderbilt.

Wozniak scored in three events, including a fourth place finish in the women's 50-meter

freestyle with a time of 26.64 and an 11th place finish in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 58.84.

Junior Marci Iddings took a seventh place finish in the women's 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 1:16.17 and a 13th place finish in the women's 200-meter breaststroke. Freshman Sara Henninger finished ninth in the women's 200-meter breaststroke with a time of 2:43.

Other finishes included an 11th place finish by junior Christy Albert in the women's 100-meter backstroke, a 12th place finish by freshman Kristin Grant in the women's 200-meter breaststroke, a 12th place finish by junior All-America Leah Land in the women's 400-meter individual medley, a 13th place finish by junior Lauren Halligan in the women's 1500-meter freestyle and a 16th place finish by freshman Sheri Burns in the women's 200-meter breaststroke.

Also, the men's and women's diving teams came in second behind LSU at the SEC diving championship on Tuesday.

Sophomore All-America Matt Borman came in second in the men's 1-meter and third in the men's 3-meter. Freshman Chris Gregory came in fourth in the men's 1-meter and eighth in the men's 3-meter.

For the women, freshman Vivian Alberty posted a third place finish in the women's 1-meter and a first place finish in the women's 3-meter. Sophomore Julianne Bauer took a sixth place finish in the women's 1-meter and a fourth place finish in the women's 3-meter.

Gamecocks enter 100th football season with year-long celebration, promotions

By **TIM THORSEN**
Staff Writer

The upcoming Gamecock football season may be one of the most exciting in recent history.

Not only will the Gamecocks be celebrating entry into the premier football conference in America, the Southeastern Conference, but USC will also commemorate its 100th year of collegiate football with a year-long celebration for the players, former players and fans.

"The entry into the most competitive collegiate football conference in America and the observance of 100 years of football will make for an exciting year in 1992," Athletic Director King Dixon said.

The university unveiled plans Monday for some of the festivities which will be a part of the celebration.

These festivities include inviting back all former players for the Spring Game April 11, marketing a 45- to 55-minute video of football highlights, holding a gala dinner and selecting two All-Time Teams.

Fans and former players also will be honored during special events surrounding home games in the fall.

"We intend to have events that are enjoyable to our students, former players and the Gamecocks' legendary cadre of loyal fans," USC president John Palms said.

Tatum Gressette, captain of the 1921 team, and Sterling Sharpe, star wide receiver for the Green Bay Packers as well as a Gamecock great from 1983 to 1987, unveiled a special logo for the



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Former Soviets take two medals in women's biathlon

By The Associated Press

Unified Team athletes captured two of the first three medals ever awarded in the women's biathlon today. Anfissa Reztsova won the 7.5-kilometer race, Antje Miserskay of Germany took the silver medal and Elena Belova of the Unified Team claimed the bronze.

Blair, America's quadrennial sweetheart, helped erase the disappointment of some early letdowns and ensured that the U.S. team has a golden opportunity to surpass its 1988 total of six medals, including two gold.

"This is great for her and great for us," said Mike Moran, spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Com-

mittee, which retooled its Olympic training program in embarrassment at the poor showing in Calgary four years ago.

"It lifted a lot of apprehension," Moran said. "We think we're on track now."

Apparently taking the cue, Myler slid her way into medals contention by completing two runs down the 5,905-foot luge track in 1 minute, 34.023 seconds — .195 seconds faster than teammate Terwilleger. Austrian sisters Doris and Angelika Neuner were first and second.

Myler, although weakened by the flu, is at least in position to match the best previous American

celebration.

The logo, designed by USC student Tom Simpson, will appear on all official publications and will adorn all commemorative items. Items such as T-shirts, caps, sweaters and mugs, as well as other collectables bearing the logo will be available for purchase through the 100-year Committee, chaired by Columbia advertising executive and former sportswriter Don Barton.

A commemorative painting has been commissioned for the centennial, and it will be created by Ted Watts, a nationally known sports artist, from Oswego, Kan.

Watts is known for his paintings of former Gamecock captains that line the wall of the Captain's Hall at Williams-Brice Stadium. Commemorative prints of the painting will be available to the public.

Barton revealed plans to have all former players enter the stadium to

the music of "2001." The oldest Gamecock football team alumni will enter the stadium first, followed by more recent team alumni.

"Fans should make plans now to attend the Spring Game. This is truly a once in a lifetime event. You will have an opportunity to meet and socialize with players no longer living in the Columbia area. After the game, the current squad and the former players will be available to visit with fans on the field," Dixon said.

South Carolina's first game was a Christmas Eve 1892 battle with in-state rival Furman. USC played the game without a coach or a captain and was defeated in Charleston, 44-0.

The team boarded the train home "slightly disfigured, but still in the ring ... It might have been worse," the campus magazine, the Carolinian, reported.

finish, sixth by Bonny Warner of Palo Alto, Calif., at Calgary. Warner was 18th in today's competition.

"Cammy's runs were very competitive," said assistant U.S. coach Claire Sherred. "She could jump up into the medals tomorrow with two good runs."

An international race jury rejected a protest by the Italians and Americans that the Austrians gained an unfair aerodynamic advantage from elastic pointing devices they wore in their boots to help keep their feet straight.

Strolz had taken the lead of the Alpine combined this morning

with the fastest time in the first of two slalom runs. World Cup leader Paul Accola of Switzerland, the favorite after Monday's downhill

portion of the event, missed some gates and fell out of contention, and Monday's leader, Jan Einar Thorsen of Norway, was a whopping 6.4 seconds behind Strolz in the first slalom run.

A.J. Kitt of Rochester, N.Y., was 10th after Monday but did not start in today's slalom because of a bone bruise on his right shin, sustained in Monday's competition. A U.S. ski team official said he is still expected to compete in the super-giant slalom on Sunday.

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