

Baseball team defeats Charleston Southern

By SEAN RYAN
Assistant Sports Editor

The Gamecock baseball team blasted the Charleston Southern Buccaneers 13-2 Saturday at Sarge Frye Field.

South Carolina improved to 5-0, and will battle Georgia Southern Monday and Wednesday in a two-game series.

The Gamecocks belted 14 hits and knocked the Bucs' starting pitcher Jim Maas out of the game before the fourth inning. The Gamecocks have outscored their opponents 67-19.

Senior first baseman Jeff Parnell led the offensive attack with four RBI, three from a home run in the seventh inning. Parnell's other RBI came from a triple in the fifth inning.

Junior lead-off hitter Joe Biernat raised his batting average to .529 with three hits, including a two-run triple in the second inning. The ju-

nior college transfer also had an RBI single in the third.

"I started off a little slow," Biernat said of his hot hitting. "Coach Sullivan told me to shorten up my swing, and work on making good contact."

Senior catcher-designated hitter Dave Willman added two hits and scored two runs, while senior third baseman-pitcher Burke Cromer had three singles and an RBI.

"In order to be good, you have to play good competition," Willman said. "We're playing better and better every game, and we're going to see how good we are very shortly."

South Carolina worked five pitchers into the game, with junior Rich Pratt getting the win. Pratt worked three innings, giving up three hits and striking out five. Senior Burke Cromer closed out the win, pitching a scoreless ninth.

"We're playing better, but we're

not at the level that we need to be to win in the SEC," Pratt said.

Defense was not a bright spot for the Gamecocks against Charleston Southern. The Gamecocks committed five errors, raising their season total to 14.

Competition will be tougher for the Gamecocks over the next few weeks. After Georgia Southern, the Gamecocks will play non-conference games against UNC-Charlotte, Richmond, and Jacksonville with the SEC opponents around the corner.

"We're a good enough team and we will surprise people," Biernat said. "We have enough talent, depth and pitching to do well."

"We've got some quality everyday players," head baseball coach June Raines said. "It's a tough job trying to write names in the lineup, but it's also a pleasant job, because you don't feel like you fill out a bad lineup."



Lori Toney/The Gamecock

South Carolina defeated Charleston Southern, 13-2, in baseball Saturday at Sarge Frye Field.

Gators 'snap' SEC door shut on Gamecocks

By JOHN REESE
Staff Writer

The USC men's basketball team added another loss to its disastrous nine-game losing streak Saturday with a sloppy second half to Florida, 50-48.

Florida improved their record to 14-9 overall, and 7-5 in the SEC, while the Gamecocks dropped to 10-13 overall and 2-8 in the conference.

The Gamecocks will now travel to Rupp Arena for a Wednesday rematch against SEC East Division leader Kentucky. The Wildcats won the first meeting, 80-63, Jan. 4.

USC will play its last home game of the season against Vanderbilt on March 4.

The Gamecocks dominated Florida in the first half. Their 1-3-1 zone baffled the Gator shooters, limiting them to 16.7 percent from the floor and 14.3 percent from 3-point range.

In the first four minutes, neither team scored a field goal. South Carolina scored its first three points from free throws by sophomore forward Jamie Watson and senior guard Barry Manning.

Junior swingman Troy McKoy broke the Gamecocks' silence from the floor with a 3-pointer with 15:40 left in the half. South Carolina scored 22 points off shots by senior center Jeff Roulston, se-

nior guard Jo Jo English, junior forward Chris Leso, Manning and Watson.

South Carolina took a 28-17 lead into the locker room, and was led by Roulston, who had seven of his game-high 15 points in the first half.

In the second half, it was all Florida. At the 9:23 mark, Florida's Craig Brown hit a three-point jump shot from the right corner giving the Gators their first lead since early in the first half.

South Carolina took the lead for the last time when Watson hit a 12-foot jumper at the 8:49 mark to give the Gamecocks a one-point lead. After that, Florida opened up a seven-point lead, which was their biggest lead of the game.

The Gamecocks finally cut the lead down to two as Watson hit a driving lay-up with six seconds left. However, South Carolina, with no more timeouts, was unable to stop the clock.

"Our inability to rest our people has plagued us," coach Steve Newton said. "Our guys worked hard, but didn't get enough done to get the 'W.'"

South Carolina did have some bright spots on an otherwise ugly day. Florida's junior forward Stacey Poole, who has been averaging 19 points a game, was held to only four Saturday because of Leso's tough defense.



Eric Glenn/The Gamecock

Florida sophomore guard Carl Brown defends against senior guard Bojan Popovic in South Carolina's loss to Florida.

Men's soccer team signs three players

By TIM THORSEN
Staff Writer

Three signees for the men's soccer team might make an impact on next year's team.

The Gamecocks inked William Clifford of Plymouth, Mass., Barry Purcell of Richmond, Va., and Josh Richter of Kirkwood, Mo.

"I'm very pleased with this year's recruiting class. We've filled some holes created by graduation, and I think these players will be able to help us immediately," head soccer coach Mark Berson said.

Clifford is a 6-foot-2, 165-pound defender from Sacred Heart High School. He is a member of the United States Youth Soccer Association's Region 1 Olympic Development Program and the Massachusetts State Select Team. He also set his school's season goal scoring record with 37.

Berson expects Clifford to fill the void left by graduating senior Brian Scott.

"Billy has excellent size and speed, and is very sound at moving forward out of the back," Berson said.

Purcell is a 6-1, 180-pound goalie from Collegiate School. He is now the goalkeeper on the USYSA Region 1 squad.

Purcell played with the Prince William Spartans of the Under-19 division in the Washington, D.C. area last year which compiled a 9-0 record. He only allowed an average of 0.15 goals per game, and recorded six shutouts in 13 games.

"We expect Barry to come in and really push for a starting job in goal. He has the ability to read the game well and should develop into a quality collegiate goalkeeper," Berson said.

Richter is a 5-8, 150-pound midfielder/forward from Christian Brothers College High School. Richter was selected to the Missouri All-State Second Team, and has been a member of the prestigious Scott Gallagher Select Team.

"Josh should help us in our attack, and can be moved all over the field to contribute. He has great speed, and has a knack for putting the ball in the net," said Coach Berson.

Softball team wins doubleheader

By CHAD BRAY
Sports Editor

The Lady Gamecock softball team won its first two home games in a doubleheader against Georgia Tech Saturday, 8-2 and 1-0.

In the first game, South Carolina jumped to an early 3-0 lead in the first inning. Junior shortstop Tiff Tootle lead the Lady Gamecocks with two singles, two

walks and three stolen bases.

The team won the second game by holding the Lady Jackets scoreless after junior first baseman Dawn Lantiere drove home the game-winning RBI in the first.

Freshman pitcher Darlene Gareis picked up the win after pitching five innings of hitless softball, including three strike outs.

Poor shooting keeps women under .500

By NANCY SALOMONSKY
Staff Writer

South Carolina's Lady Gamecocks lost a close road game Saturday to Mississippi State's Lady Bulldogs, 58-42.

The Lady Gamecocks play their final home game Wednesday against Memphis State before travelling to play Auburn in the final game of the season March 1.

The Bulldogs led the game from the opening tip-off. They held USC scoreless from the field in the game's first 12 minutes.

South Carolina only shot 28 percent from the field overall, opposed to MSU's 45 percent.

"We became discouraged when

our shots weren't falling — this led to mistakes in other areas," sophomore guard Nikki Bass said.

South Carolina's first field goal came at the eight-minute mark when junior center Marsha Williams hit a five-foot shot, cutting the gap to 19-7.

With 55 seconds left, freshman guard Christi Timmons hit a 3-point shot to end the half, 26-16.

Bass started the second half with a 3-pointer. This closed the gap to seven points, and it was the first time the Bulldog lead had been less than 10 points since 6:47 of the first half.



Eric Glenn/The Gamecock

Sophomore guard Nikki Bass went 1-for-11 from the floor and 1-for-8 from 3-point range in the Lady Gamecocks' loss.

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