

Sports

Team looks to improve by leaps and bounds

Volleyballers start 2nd season in SEC



By NANCY SALOMONSKY
Sports Editor

The Lady Gamecocks volleyball team will begin its second season in the Southeastern Conference this fall.

Coming off a slow start in the SEC, South Carolina finished with a 13-24 overall record and a 1-13 SEC mark.

"With one senior, five juniors and two sophomores we have enough experience to get the job done," head coach Bonnie Kenny said.

The Lady Gamecocks will have four experienced players to fill the outside hitter position. Junior Diane Mitchell will be one of the athletes USC looks to as an outside hitter.

"If anyone had a phenomenal spring, it was Diane," Kenny said. "She was by far our most consistent and best outside hitter. If Diane maintains the competitive attitude she had this spring, she will be one of our key outside hitters."

Amy Iannoccarri, who started 25 games as a freshman, is an explosive hitter.

"Amy did a great job of going after the ball in the spring. She

needs to improve her technique, but that part will come," Kenny said.

The setter position will be filled by sophomore Jodi Thompson. She returns to the squad as the lone setter. She started all 37 games a year ago and was the only Lady Gamecock to play in every game.

"We are very pleased with the work ethic Jodi showed during the summer months. She really worked hard and came back to camp physically fit and ready to play," Kenny said.

The middle setter position is an important one for the Lady Gamecocks. USC had 3.11 blocks per game in 1991, which was good enough for second place in the SEC.

USC has three of the top five blockers in the SEC. Strong plays at the net will come from Libby Ralston, Amy Collinsworth and Jennifer Guess.

Ralston was the top hitter in 1991 with a .270 percentage. She was second on the team and tied for fourth with 34 blocked solos. Her 95 block assists placed her third on the team and sixth in the conference.

"Libby just needs to work a little

1992 Lady Gamecock Volleyball Schedule



Date	Opponent	Time
Carolina Classic Tournament Columbia, SC		
Sept. 4	Western Carolina	7:00 pm
Sept. 5	Nicholls State	12:00 noon
	Ohio University	5:00 pm
Palmetto State Invitational Tournament Columbia, SC		
Sept. 11	Furman	2:00 pm
Sept. 12	Charleston Southern	6:00 pm
	Coastal	10:00 am
Sept. 17	Winthrop	2:00 pm
	at Texas-San Antonio	6:00 pm
Southwest Texas State Tournament San Marcos, TX		
Sept. 18	Southwest Texas State	5:30 pm
Sept. 19	Baylor	12:00 noon
	Louisiana Tech	6:00 pm
Gamecock Invitational Tournament Columbia, SC		
Sept. 25	Central Florida	7:00 pm
Sept. 26	East Tennessee State	12:00 noon
	Southern Illinois	5:00 pm

Source: Sports Information

Kristin Buehlman/The Gamecock

on her technique, so she can be more fluid. She has the potential to be a dominant player at the net," Kenny said.

The first home SEC match will be against Mississippi State on Oct. 9 and then against Alabama on Oct. 11.

"The SEC will be better with four teams ranked in the preseason top 25, but we will go into every match with the belief that anybody can get beat on any given night," Kenny said.

The Spurs and Feathers contributed to this story.

Sportin' Fool

By Tim Thorsen

Sports Editor

Welcome to the wonderful world of the Sportin' Fool, the authority on sports, or at least a guy with a ton of useless knowledge. Let the game begin.

On the diamond, the big news is the Jose Canseco trade to the Texas Rangers for Ruben Sierra, Bobby Witt and Jeff Russell. Can you say desperate for pitching, Oakland fans?

Witt is 9-13 with a 4.46 ERA and Jeff Russell will be nothing but a set-up man for the Eck. Both of them will be free agents at the end of the year. Adios Oakland.

Who cares what happens in the AL West anyway?

Get this, the most exciting race in baseball is the AL East among Toronto, Baltimore and Milwaukee. And boredom reigns supreme. Pass the Somnifex.

News Flash! Cleveland and Seattle are in last place, and they both are better than the Los Angeles Dodgeballers.

Edgar Martinez — the best hitter in baseball. Too bad he plays for Nintendo — I mean Seattle.

Please, Montreal, beat out Pittsburgh for the NL East crown. I'm sick and tired of watching the Pirates get whopped by the West. It's time to give someone else a chance to lose to the Braves.

Cubs lose! Cubs lose! Cubs lose!

Shut up Atlanta fans, you win the National League by default.

Hey CBS, wouldn't you love to have the McKenzie Brothers Series? Go Jays, Go Expos, eh. Crash go the ratings.

What ever happened to the Cincinnati Red Crosses?

You may now cheer for Atlanta, if you remember Rick Mahler, Claudell Washington and Ken Oberkell.

Wasn't Minnesota in first place a few days ago? How can Oakland be in first? What happened to the White Sox? Wasn't Texas supposed to win this year?

Braves over Jays in six.

Extra! Joe Montana out until October. Wait a second while I strip naked and dance around Thomas Cooper.

Hey, Thurman, found your helmet yet?

If I hear how great the NFC East is one more time, I'm going to rip the head off my Joe Gibbs voodoo doll.

Mark Rypien and Desmond Howard are the two highest paid Redskins. Whaddya think about that, Art Monk, Ricky Sanders, Gary Clark, Darryl Green and Jim Lachey?

If Troy Aikman plays quarterback for Dallas all year, not only will it be a miracle, but Michael Irvin won't be the best receiver in the NFL. Buerlein can go deep,

See FOOL page 11

Four days and counting

USC's "Fighting Gamecock" football squad will embark on its toughest battle ever — the SEC. The Georgia Bulldogs will be in town and no one expects the Gamecocks to have a chance. Even head coach Sparky Woods is "frightened" by the SEC. But the key to any success for the Gamecocks may rest in their offensive attack.



This is the second story of a three-part series

By ANDREW BORGERT
Staff Writer

The air show is over at USC. For the first time in six years, the Gamecocks will not have an emphasis on passing.

Bobby Fuller's departure leaves Carolina with a lot of inexperience at quarterback. Wright Mitchell, whose father was an All-SEC quarterback at Georgia Tech, has emerged from the pack as the starter for Saturday's opener against Georgia.

Highly-touted freshman quarterback Steve Taneyhill has received much attention, but time will tell whether this translates into substantial minutes on the field.

Because of tremendous depth at running back, USC will place emphasis on the traditional SEC running game.

Utilizing the two-back set, look for budding star Brandon Bennett to take up the bulk of the running duties. After a record-setting freshman year, the question is how Bennett will adjust to being the primary offensive threat. Junior Rob DeBoer gives the team a "Blood and Guts" back, which will be a nice contrast to Bennett's slashing style. Sophomore Terry Wilburn will challenge DeBoer for

playing time.

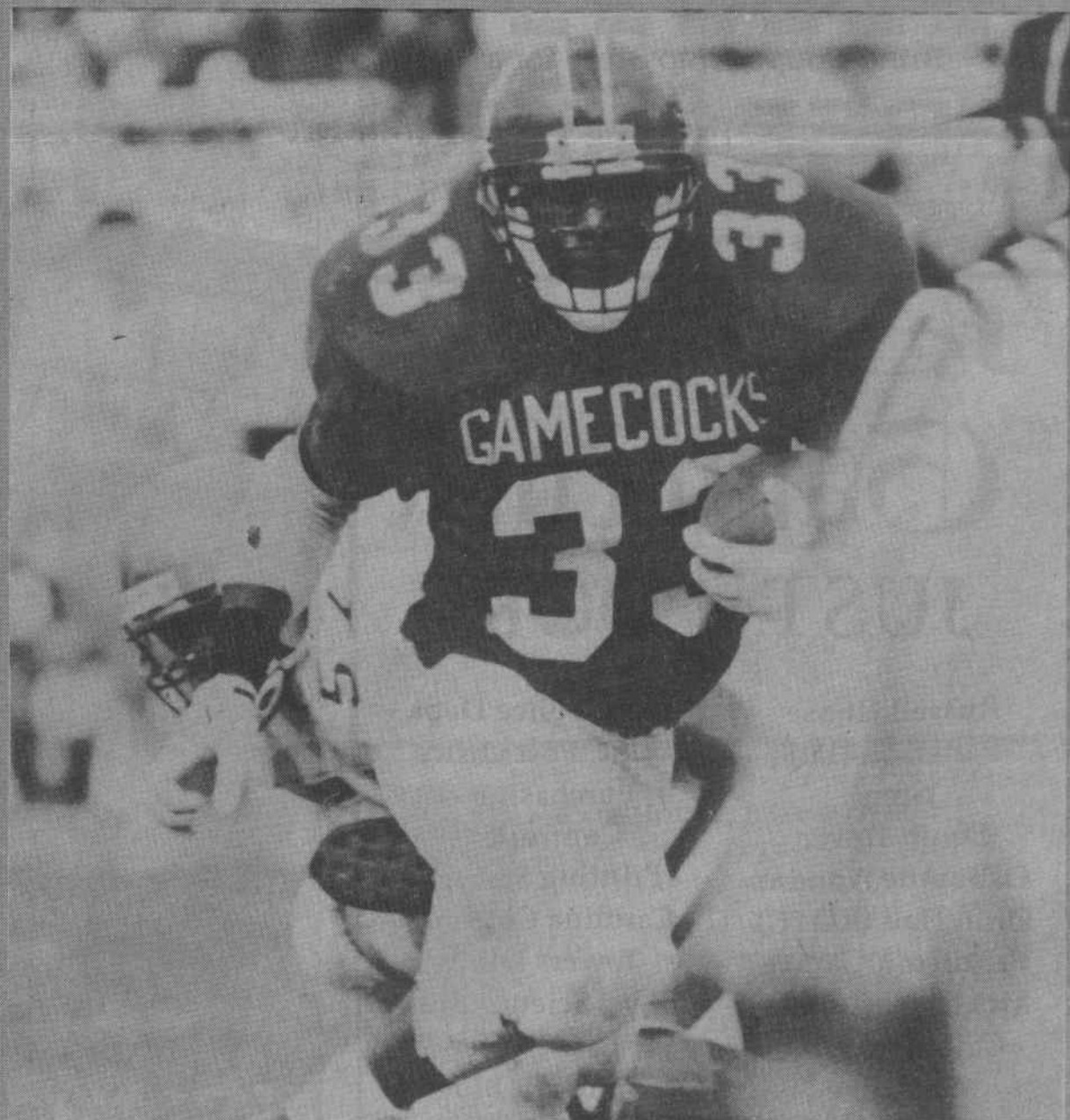
The wide receiver position is up for grabs. USC's top three receivers from last year graduated, so new faces will be getting immediate playing time.

Sophomore Asim Penny is the top candidate to carry on the torch passed from former standouts Robert Brooks and Eddie Miller. Look for senior Stacey Robinson to see a lot of action as well as converted cornerback Toby Cates. Unfortunately for the team, top recruit Monty Means is ineligible for the season.

Tight end looks to be a two-man race between sophomore Boomer Foster and junior Matthew Cambell. Cambell is the more experienced of the two, but Foster has made great strides since last fall and will be looking to get major playing time.

USC's offensive line is anchored by tackles Ernest Dye and Kevin Rosenkrans. Dye, who is Marty's "little" brother, is considered a prime NFL candidate because of his tremendous size, strength and strong work ethic. Senior Antoine Rivens and sophomore Vincent Dinkins will be the starting guards.

As a whole, USC is a better team on paper this year. They are bigger and faster at many positions, but the new SEC opposition will present a stiff challenge, especially to the younger players. Good production from the running backs and offensive line will help to take some pressure off the newcomers.



The burden of USC's rushing attack rests on the shoulders of sophomore Brandon Bennett.

Woods calls schedule "frightening"

By The Associated Press

South Carolina coach Sparky Woods predicted Monday he has his best Gamecock team yet, but said the opener against No. 14 Georgia on Saturday just begins a "frightening" schedule.

"We've got to look at one game at a time," Woods told reporters at his first pregame news conference of the season. "If you focus on the schedule as a whole, it's very frightening."

"But if you think about just South Carolina vs. Georgia ... on Saturday, it looks like a great deal of fun."

But fun for South Carolina, 3-6-2 a year ago, may not greet the Gamecocks at Saturday's 8:05 kickoff in the school's first year in the Southeastern Conference.

"We'll be interested to see how they do when they turn the lights on" at Williams-

Brice, Woods said. "Very few of them have played a great deal of football."

Georgia, on the other hand, went 9-3 last season, won 24-15 against Arkansas in the Independence Bowl and returns with what Woods feels is a substantial offensive threat, both running and passing.

Woods singled out sophomore quarterback Eric Zeier, who was the SEC's freshman of the year in 1991 and set school records for pass completions, pass attempts and passing yardage while starting just six games.

Then there are tailback Garrison Hearst, who averaged 6.3 yards per carry last season, and flanker Andre Hastings, who finished fourth in the SEC in receptions and yards gained.

On the bright side, Woods said his freshmen and sophomores who will have to short up a thin junior-senior class are solid.

Overall, Woods believes he will field "the best football team we've had" in his four years as head coach. At the same time, "I believe we'll have the most inexperienced football team we've had."

Georgia coach Ray Goff isn't buying talk about South Carolina being inexperienced.

Goff said South Carolina plans to start six seniors on offense and the Bulldogs will probably start three. On defense, he said, the Gamecocks list three seniors on the starting roster and Georgia has five.

"So I don't know if I buy all this that they don't have any experience and don't

have any seniors," Goff said. "Then we don't either, because we're starting the same number on offense and defense."

Asked to size up the Gamecocks, Goff said they always play hard, aggressive defense but had questions about its offensive potential.

"Offensively, there's some uncertainty because we're not really sure what they're going to do," he said.

Goff cited Gamecock tailback Brandon Bennett as a major threat along with fullback Rob DeBoer. South Carolina's offensive line was "as big as we'll play all year," he said.

It's "a bunch of hogwash" to question whether South Carolina would be competitive in the SEC, Goff said.

"The last two times we played, they beat us," he said. "So if they can't compete, then we shouldn't be in the league either."



Woods