

Sports

USC to tackle 9th-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide

By TONY SANTORI
Staff Writer

Sparky Woods' winless Gamecock football team travels to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to take on the University of Alabama in what appears on paper to be a classic mismatch.

The 9th-ranked Crimson Tide roll into this week's game off a 13-0 shutout against Louisiana Tech last Saturday, and the bad news for USC is that low point totals for Alabama opponents is not an isolated case.

Head Coach Gene Stallings' squad is ranked No. 3 in the nation in scoring defense with an average of 7.3 points per game. This scoring stinginess combined with the Tide's No. 1 ranking in yards allowed per game does not bode well for the Gamecock offense. 'Bama is only allowing their opponents a measly 143 yards per outing, and has given up but three touchdowns in four

games.

The defense is led by a pair of outside linebackers, Antonio London and Lemanski Hall. London, the 6-foot-2, 220 pounder, leads the Tide with 28 tackles, including three for lost yardage. Hall, a junior, has recorded 26 tackles with 2 sacks and also has recovered 2 fumbles.

Another standout for Alabama has been junior cornerback Antonio Langham, who has picked off three opposing passes and leads the speedy secondary.

On offense, Stallings has at his disposal one of college football's most exciting performers in flanker David Palmer.

The diminutive sophomore propelled himself into the national spotlight with seven touchdowns in his freshman campaign, one for rushing, and three each for receiving and returning punts. He also added two more TD's in the Blockbuster Bowl against Colorado. But Palmer sat out

the first three games due to a suspension for two DUI violations.

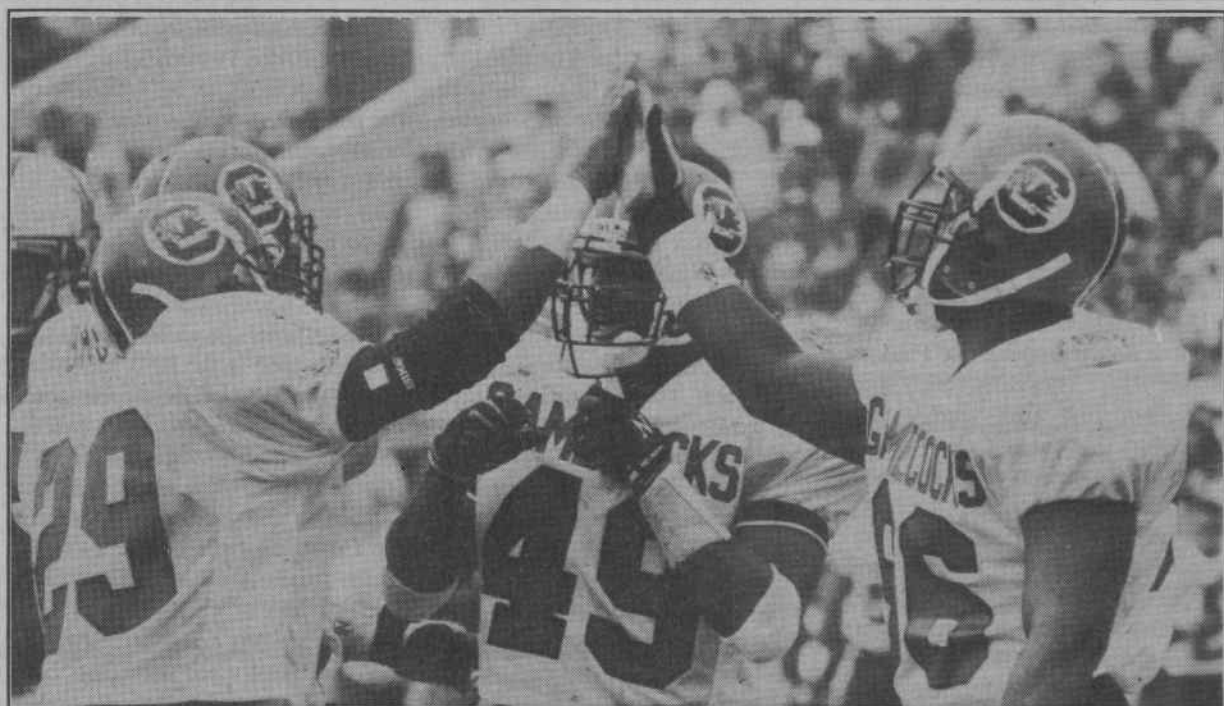
Coach Stallings said of the Saturday game against USC his team would "try to establish a running game first, as we do against most of our opponents." He also said they would try to mix in passes about 35-40 percent of the time.

Stallings also said USC "is a much better team than their 0-4 record shows...they could easily be 3-1."

South Carolina stumbles into action after dropping a close decision to the Kentucky Wildcats last Saturday.

Turmoil has surrounded the Gamecock program this past week as former starting quarterback Wright Mitchell quit the team, apparently because of a lack of playing time against Kentucky.

Redshirt freshman Blake Williamson took over for Mitchell in the second quarter of last week's



The Gamecock offense, shown here against Kentucky, faces the number one defense in the SEC Saturday

battle and is expected to start against Alabama.

Woods said if USC is to be successful against the Crimson Tide, they must establish a running attack early. In order to do so, runningback

Terry Wilburn will need to turn in another solid performance. Wilburn rushed for 93 yards on 15 carries against the 'Cats.

For the past two weeks Carolina has faced two diverse offenses in the

"Stack-I" ground game of Kentucky and the aerial attack of East Carolina. The defense held their own despite the differences in styles, and played solid football against both teams.

Gamecocks fall to Deacons

By JILL BUEHLMAN
Staff Writer

USC's soccer team faced its first defeat of the season, 1-0, on Wednesday in Winston-Salem, N.C., against Wake Forest.

The loss to the Demon Deacons broke USC's undefeated record, giving the Gamecocks a 4-1-3 overall standing.

Wake Forest senior midfielder Ralmo deVries booted in the only goal of the game at the 8:15 mark on an assist from teammate Steve Gillmor. Gillmor worked his way through the Gamecock defense, passing the ball to deVries just outside of the penalty area where he fired it past USC goalkeeper David Turner.

USC tried eight unsuccessful shots on the goal and Wake Forest attempted nine, but the remaining 81 minutes of the match passed without another score. Turner made three saves for the Gamecocks and Wake Forest goalkeeper Mike McGinty prevented six goals.

Twenty-five fouls were called on the two teams, and two cautions were issued during this physical match.

In the end, the 12th-ranked Deacons claimed their fifth win of the season.

The Gamecocks return home for a South Region match at The Graveyard against Furman Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. The Gamecocks will try to avenge a 1-0 loss to the Paladins last season in Greenville, S.C.

FSU-Miami highlights college weekend schedule

ANDREW BORGERT
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW



The question facing college football this week is: Will the real Miami Hurricanes please stand up? Is this season's squad the one that blew away Iowa or the one who escaped Arizona?

Saturday we'll all find out as the second-ranked Hurricanes face No. 3 Florida State, Miami lost defensive lineman Rusty Medearis, who was a key to their defensive front. His knee injury in the Arizona game might keep him out until sometime next year. Runningback Stephen McGuire is still trying to regain his step after a knee injury last season.

What does all of this mean? Reason would dictate that Florida State should win this game. They have gotten better and better with each passing week. Of course, playing Wake Forest isn't exactly the biggest challenge in the world. Despite all of the reasons why they should lose, instinct and tradition say that Miami will come out on top. Miami has tremendous depth at every position, and they thrive on adversity. Coach Dennis Erickson will rally his players around the "Us versus the world" philosophy that has worked so well in the past.

Miami will win. In the Midwest, Notre Dame will play host to Stanford in cozy South Bend. The

Irish are still being criticized for their tie against Michigan. Of course they've blown every other team they've played out of the water. Stanford is a bit of a mystery team. They are still looking for an identity under coach Bill Walsh. Logic, once again, would say that Notre Dame will whip Stanford. Don't forget Stanford beat Notre Dame two seasons ago when the Irish were top ranked. They are looking for respect, and this would be a great way to get it. Notre Dame will win, but the Cardinal will scare the hell out of them.

Danny Ford makes his return to college football Saturday as Arkansas plays Georgia. Sure he's only a "consultant," but he's back and would sure like to show people he can still coach. The Hogs will play Georgia tough for one quarter, then Zier, Hearst, and company will take over. Color this game Georgia red.

The most interesting game in the SEC this week has Vanderbilt playing at Auburn. No one is sure what to make of either team. From what I can tell, Auburn isn't as good as most think, and Vandy is better. A big road win over an established

power would give the Commodores credibility. This will be that win. Vanderbilt could be in a bowl game this winter.

In the Big 10, Michigan plays at home against a reeling Iowa squad. Iowa has been a major disappointment this year. After two seasons of 10 or more wins they will be lucky to win six or seven. Their biggest loss from last year was All-Big 10 quarterback Matt Rodgers. Michigan looked awesome in their win against Houston and will blow the Hawkeyes away.

Is it my imagination or does the ACC have a big game every weekend? This time NC State plays at Georgia Tech. The same story holds true for both teams: one more loss for either team eliminates them

from the ACC championship picture. Tech played a great first half against Clemson last week, then used a strong defense to hold off the Tigers. NC State was involved in a great game against UNC last week — the type of game that was just what the Wolfpack needed after their big loss to Florida State. Their offense has much more punch than Clemson and that will be the difference as they eliminate the Jackets from the title hunt.

The two best teams in the PAC-10 play Saturday, only they don't play each other. Washington plays host to Southern Cal and, UCLA is at Arizona. Pity poor Southern Cal. How far the mighty have fallen. They don't have the talent to hold off a loaded Washington team.

How long has it been since O.J. Simpson played there?

UCLA could be primed for an upset. Arizona put up the defensive effort of the year when they held Miami to eight points. UCLA is no Miami. They do have Kevin Williams, a great runningback, and yet another great defensive backfield. They'll get out of Tuscon, but barely.

The big game in the Northeast has Boston College facing West Virginia. Both teams are undefeated and want respect from the rest of the college football community. Is quarterback Glen Foley the second coming of Doug Flutie? No, but this could be BC's best team since then. They'll beat the Mountaineers.

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