

Sports

Gamecocks rally to 21-17 comeback

41,000 witness Vanderbilt Homecoming loss

FOOTBALL

By TONY SANTORI
Staff Writer

Head Coach Sparky Woods' Gamecock football team has found themselves a leader. The leader is a 6-foot-5, towel-waving, outspoken freshman, from Altoona, Pa., with long blond hair. The player is Steve Taneyhill.

For the second consecutive week, Taneyhill sparked USC to an upset victory, this time before a homecoming crowd of just under 41,000 at Vanderbilt.

The Gamecocks won 21-17, much to the delight of the 3,500 Carolina faithful who had made the journey to Nashville to watch the game that was played in unseasonably warm conditions.

Taneyhill completed 11 of 17 tosses on the afternoon for 218 yards and a touchdown. He did not throw any interceptions.

A touchdown pass from Taneyhill to wide receiver Don Chaney in the second quarter was the turning point in the game. The pass closely resembled an important play in last week's victory over Mississippi State.

On first and ten from the South Carolina 45-yard line, Taneyhill scrambled to his right after feeling pressure from the Vandy pass rush, and threw the ball down the field where 6-foot-6 wide receiver Don Chaney outjumped the Vandy defensive back and ran into the endzone.

The touchdown and extra point cut the Vanderbilt lead to 14-7 with about one minute left in the first half.

At halftime Vanderbilt led 17-7 following a Rob Choca field goal with two seconds left in the half.

Despite the 10-point deficit, the game was never in doubt according to Taneyhill.

"I never thought we were going to lose this game, not for a minute," Taneyhill said. "There was no doubt on our team at any point."

In the third quarter USC began to rally.

Following a blocked punt by the Commodores, Carolina took over at the Vandy 35-yard line. On third and ten Taneyhill hit runningback Mike Reddick for 33 yards and a first down on the Vanderbilt 2-yard line. Sophomore Brandon Bennett carried the ball into the endzone to close the gap to 17-14 with only 18 seconds left in the quarter.

The go ahead touchdown for USC came after a defensive stand in Gamecock territory. The Carolina defensive unit stymied Vanderbilt on third down and short at the USC 40-yard line. After a short Commodore punt, South Carolina took over on their own 29-yard line.

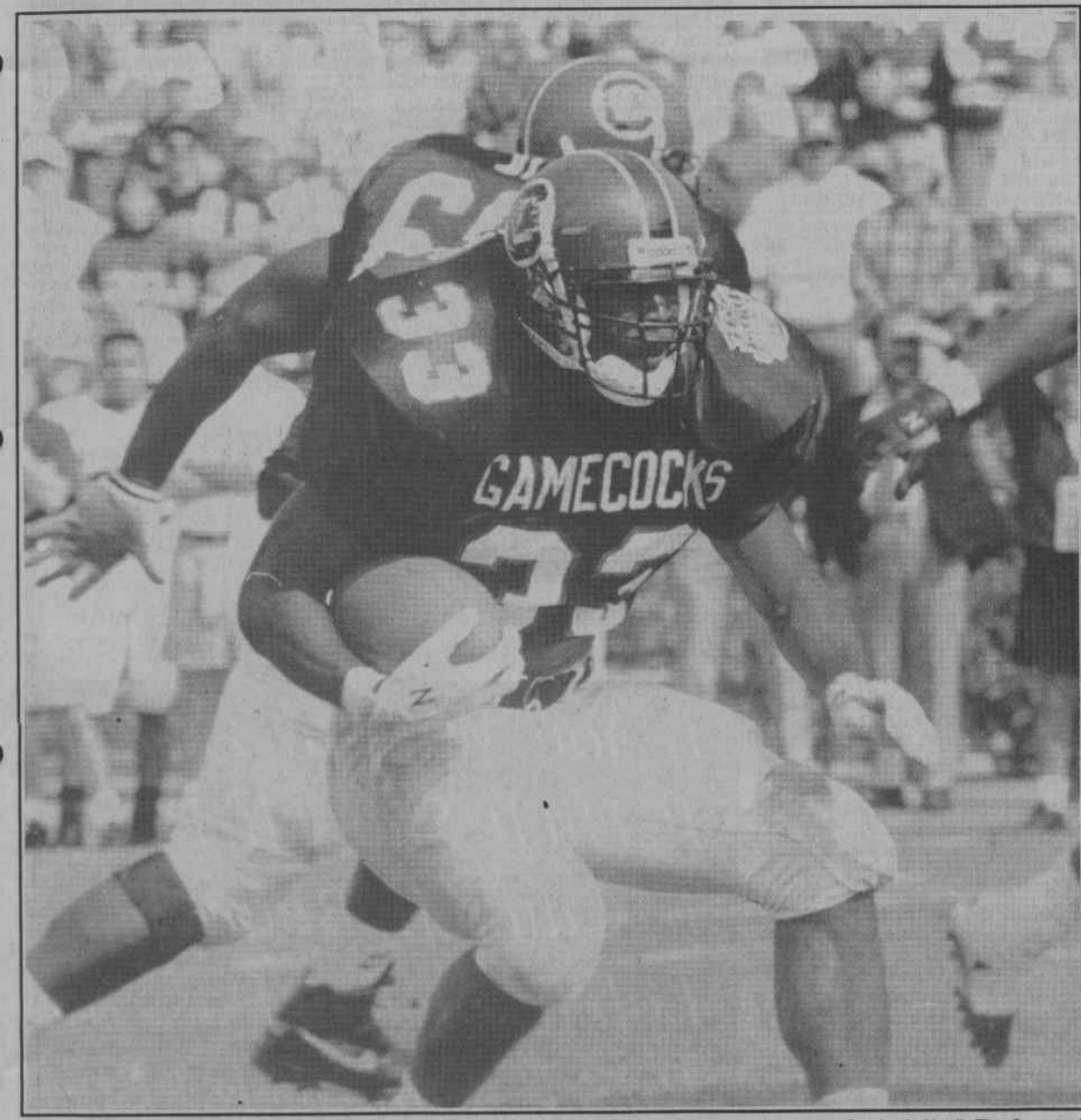
Rob DeBoer, who had 89 yards on 8 carries for the day, then led the Gamecocks' march to victory with a run of 39 yards, his career long, and a 17 yarder after that. Taneyhill then added a 21 yard completion to Stacey Robinson, but was injured on the play. Taneyhill went down clutching his passing arm after a hit which sandwiched his arm between two Vandy helmets. Redshirt freshman quarter-

back Blake Williamson came in to run the final six yards for the score on a quarterback "keeper" and the Carolina defense held on for the final seven minutes to preserve USC's second straight victory.

Head coach Sparky Woods was pleased with South Carolina's second half comeback, saying, "It was great to come in that excited (at halftime) about going back out and playing."

"And then to come back and fight out of a deficit for a win, it was a great credit to our football team," Woods said.

South Carolina will try for a third straight SEC upset victory this Saturday when the Volunteers of Tennessee charge into Williams-Brice Stadium for a 12:40 p.m. contest.



Stephanie Newlin/The Gamecock

Sophomore Brandon Bennett ran 48 yards on 20 carries in the Gamecock's victory over Vandy.

World Series trophy flies north of the border

By ROB RODUSKY
Assistant Sports Editor

The 'Old Man' finally got his due along with Canada's first World Series championship.

The Toronto Blue Jays, led by 41-year old Dave Winfield's clutch two-out, two-run double in the 11th inning, defeated the Atlanta Braves, 4-3, Saturday night to win the 1992 fall classic.

The showdown between Winfield and pitcher Charlie Leibrandt was one that would have made amends for either player.

Winfield was battling a 1-for-22 performance in the 1981 World Series and Leibrandt gave up Kirby Puckett's home run that won Game 6 for Minnesota last year.

Atlanta tried to relive the magic of their National League series victory rally over the Pittsburgh Pirates as they scored a run in the eleventh inning when pinch-hitter Brian Hunter hit an RBI-grounder, scoring Jeff Blauser, who singled earlier in the inning.

With John Smoltz standing on third base for the tying run, Otis Nixon bunted an 0-1 pitch to the

right side of the mound, but reliever Mike Timlin made the play to first to get the final out, which started the pandemonium for Toronto and their fans who were watching on a big screen in the SkyDome.

The Braves became the first team to lose consecutive World Series since the 1977-78 Los Angeles Dodgers, and for the second straight year lost despite outscoring their American League opponent.

The Blue Jays victory finally got rid of their label as the team that can't win the big game. Toronto lost its previous AL playoffs in 1985, 1989 and 1991, and dropped its last seven games to lose the AL East title in 1987.

The Blue Jays won the game on the defensive side. All-Star second baseman Roberto Alomar made a great dive on a ground ball in the fourth. Series MVP Pat Borders threw out Otis Nixon with two outs in the seventh inning. In the eighth inning Dave Winfield, who played only 26 games in the field during the year, made a diving catch of

Ron Gant's dropping line drive.

Dave Cone, coming off two bad starts in which he failed to last five innings, tallied six strikeouts as he held Atlanta to one run in six innings.

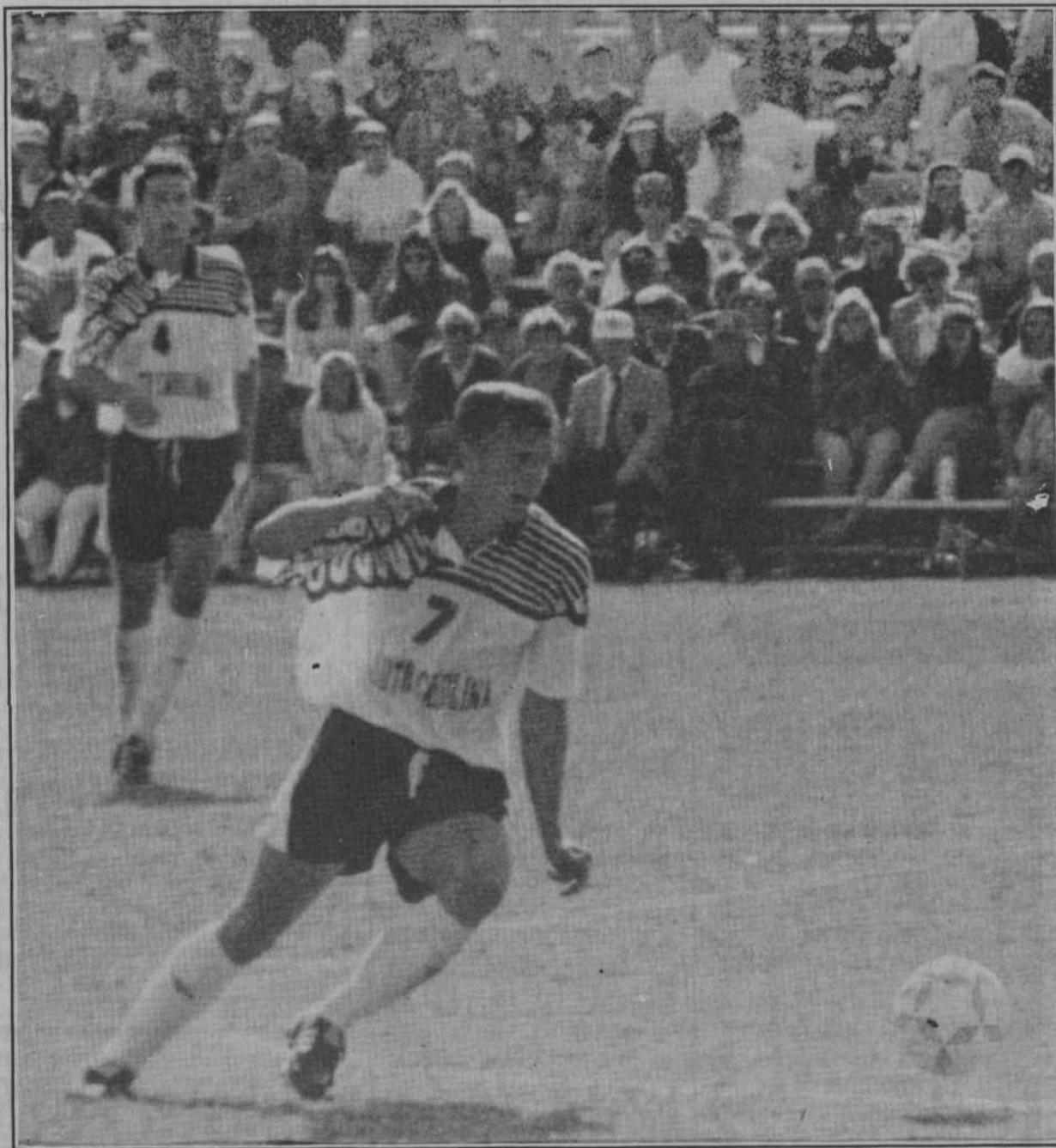
Losing for the second time in the Series was Braves starter Steve Avery. He was bothered by a thumb problem on his left hand and gave up six hits and two runs in four innings.

Leibrandt took the loss in his first Series appearance, while Jimmy Key won in relief.

Toronto leftfielder Candy Maldonado, who had no home runs in his previous postseason appearances, put the Blue Jays ahead, 2-1, with a leadoff homer in the fourth.

Devon White started the scoring quickly as he lead off the game with a single and stole second base. He scored on a fly ball by Joe Carter that Dave Justice misplayed.

Deion Sanders got Atlanta on the scoreboard in the third as he hit a double, stole third and scored on Terry Pendleton's sacrifice fly.



Lea Clayton/The Gamecock

Sophomore Billy Baumhoff attacks the ball during the 3-1 loss to Rutgers Sunday.

USC finishes third in MetLife Classic

SOCCER

By NANCY SALOMONSKY
Sports Editor

Brown University won the MetLife Classic this weekend at The Graveyard for the second straight year.

The Bears defeated Evansville, 1-0, and was awarded the championship trophy when South Carolina lost to Rutgers, 3-1.

In the two-day event, Brown started the second day of action with a victory over Evansville when Darren Eales scored at the 35:17 mark in the first half.

The South Carolina and Rutgers game was a match of two contrasting halves. The Gamecocks controlled most of the first half. Sophomore forward Chris Faklaris,

a Stone Mountain, Ga., native, scored at the 17:04 mark on an assist by sophomore midfielder Rob Smith. Smith, a Wilmington, Del., native, leads the Gamecocks in assists with six.

In the first half, USC outshot the Scarlet Knights, 9-5, in the first period.

In the second half, the Gamecocks lost their lead when Hamki Amani-Dove, the tournament's Offensive Most Valuable Player, notched the tying goal with two minutes gone in the second half. The goal came when Amani-Dove intercepted a pass from Gamecock defender Chris Crosby to goalie David Turner. Scarlet Knight forward Rocky Strazzella put Rutgers ahead, 2-1, at the 60:09 mark on an assist from Kevin

O'Connell. At the 79:29 mark Strazzella took a throw-in pass from forward Rob Johnson and sailed it past Turner to secure the win for Rutgers.

South Carolina committed 19 fouls while Rutgers was called for 16 fouls. Rutgers goalkeeper Kori Hunter had six saves while Turner had four.

Two South Carolina athletes, Peter Duitsman and Ruben Tufino, earned All-Tournament honors. Duitsman is a defender from Naperville, Ill., and Tufino, team co-captain, is a midfielder from Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Next the Gamecocks will take on Wofford Wednesday at 3 p.m. at The Graveyard. Then the Clemson Tigers will come to Columbia for a 2 p.m. match on Sunday Oct. 25.

SEC East goes to the 'Dawgs

By TIM THORSEN
Sports Editor

Eight weeks into football season and look who is on top of the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division with a 5-1 conference record.

With Heisman candidate Garrison Hearst powering their ground game and sophomore quarterback Eric Zeier controlling the skies, the Georgia Bulldogs are primed to walk away with the division title and a berth in the SEC championship game.

The only roadblock on the Bulldogs' path to Birmingham is their yearly battle with Florida, otherwise known as the "World's Biggest Cocktail Party." A Georgia victory in the Halloween night showdown would clinch the title for the Dawgs and set up a battle with Alabama, who needs only to win two of their remaining games to officially receive their invitation to the SEC's "Game of the Century."

Almost as pleasant a surprise as the play of Georgia has been the progress of Tennessee. Picked by most prognosticators to finish in the second division of the East,

the Volunteers have persevered through head coach Johnny Majors' heart surgery to forge a 3-2 conference record. Their only losses were a 17-10 heartbreaker to Alabama and a miracle comeback by Arkansas.

Their remaining games resemble a leisurely stroll through the doldrums of the SEC: South Carolina, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. With the continued progression of freshman quarterback Heath Shuler, the Volunteers could be headed to an 8-2 record and a tier-one bowl game.

Now the SEC's disappointment of the year: the Florida Gators. Ranked as high as fourth in the nation, the Gators have collapsed under the weight of blitzing opposing teams. The inexperienced offensive line has cost the boys in blue the initial aspiration of a shot at the national title.

Two-time SEC Player of the Year Shane Matthews has been unable to do anything for the 4-3 Gators (3-2 in the SEC). The year turned sour with Matthews' five-interception performance against Mississippi State. Florida never has been able to get back on track.

Kentucky, 4-3 overall and 2-3 in the SEC, is in truly rarefied air. Not only are the Wildcats not in last place, but they have actually won more than one SEC game in a season. With mobile quarterback "Pookie" Jones calling the shots in the I-Bone attack, the Wildcats have been slowly, very slowly, but steadily, improving. They have a chance to claw even higher in the standings as well as they still have a home game left against the Vanderbilt Commodores.

We all know the South Carolina story. After starting the year with a drowsy 0-5, the Gamecocks have awakened and won two games straight. The running game is chewing up yardage, and what more can be said about freshman Steve Taneyhill? The Gamecocks have a realistic shot at finishing at 4-4 in the SEC in their inaugural SEC season.

Well, Vanderbilt's Commodores are back in last place again. After last season's stunning 3-4 finish in the SEC, many expected Vanderbilt to finally cross into the domain of the upper-division. Alas, reality has struck Nashville, and the Commodores are back in last place.