

Sports

WAR!

Defense key in Carolina/Clemson game

By ANDREW BORGERT
Staff Writer

Clemson and Carolina will be playing Saturday in a game that, although lacking the luster of bowl implications, has the potential to be the closest between the two in recent memory.

Clemson is coming off a 53-23 spanking from the hands of Maryland. The Terps rolled up 573 yards of total offense, including a Maryland school-record 418 yards in the air. Statistically among the best in the nation, Clemson's rushing attack was held to only 120 yards while giving up 155 to Maryland. Their 3-5 ACC record is third worst in the conference.

All news from Clemson, however, is not bad news. Kicker Nelson Welch is having an outstanding sophomore season, ranking fourth nationally in field goals per game at two and 13th in points per game at 8.2. Outside linebacker Ashley Sheppard is tied for all time fifth in sacks for a single season at Clemson with 8.5. He is only two away from the record, which is currently held by William Perry. As a team, the Tigers are only two sacks away from breaking the team record held by the 1981 National Championship squad.

Carolina played a tough game against the University of Florida. The Gamecocks held a tenuous 3-0 lead against the Gators at half-time, but two second-half touchdowns gave Florida a 14-9 victory.

Considered by many to be the key to USC's second-half surge, Steve Taneyhill is rated fourth in the conference in passing. Runningbacks Brandon Bennett and Rob DeBoer are rushing for a combined 105 yards per game.

Also, Frank Adams, the only USC leader among SEC statistical categories, is leading the conference in kickoff returns at a gaudy 27.8 yards per return.

Defense will be the key to the game for both schools. Since the Mississippi State game, USC has only given up an average of 14.6 points per game. For the season, they have given 22.7 points per

Terry Smith and Larry Ryans.

Running duties will fall on the shoulders of fullback Rudy Harris and tailback Rodney Blunt. Blunt has rushed for 717 yards in Clemson's spread-the-wealth rushing attack. Backing up Blunt is former ACC rookie of the year Ronald Williams. Williams has had leg and disciplinary problems since his freshman season ended and would like to establish some momentum for next season by having a good game.

Stopping the run has become a Carolina specialty. Last week, they held Florida — who has last year's SEC rushing leader, Eric Rhett — to a season-low 69 yards. Key players for the Gamecocks will be outside linebacker Ernest Dixon and left cornerback Frank Adams. Dixon leads the team with four sacks and 10 quarterback pressures. Adams, the spark plug in the Homecoming victory over Louisiana Tech, has four interceptions and eight passes broken up.

On offense, Taneyhill, Bennett and DeBoer are all being counted on, but the true test will be on the offensive line, who will face one of the nation's most aggressive defensive fronts. Tackle Ernest Dye, center Kenny Farrell and guard Antoine Rivens are all playing the final games of their collegiate career and will have to play their best against the Tigers. A breakdown on the offensive line would be costly in this game.

There are no bowl bids on the line for this year's game. Despite the struggles of both teams during the season, public interest in the game is as intense. Recent Clemson-Carolina games have been blowouts with Clemson winning by an average 22 points. Look for the 1992 edition of this rivalry to be much closer.



Quick Facts

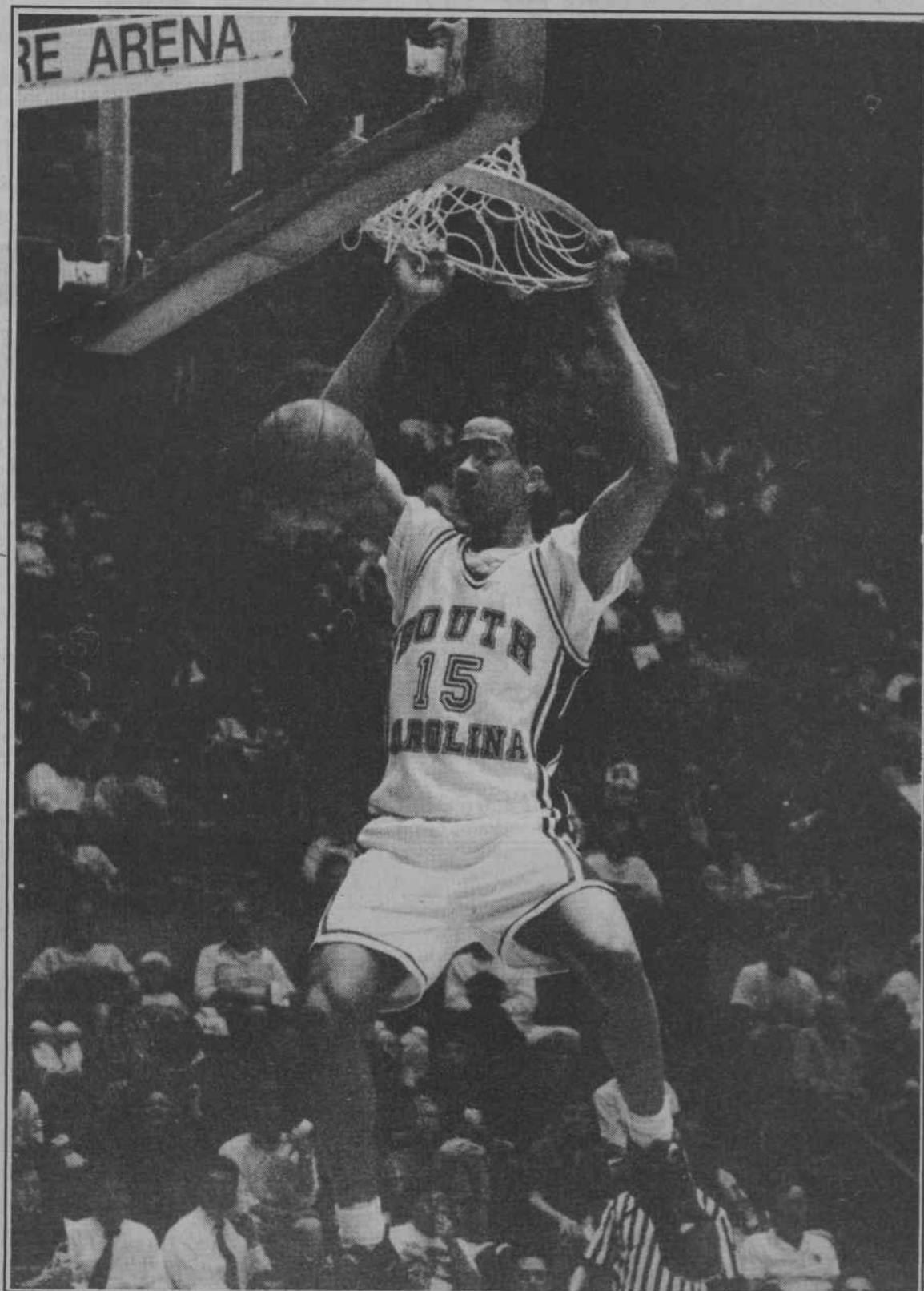
Clemson holds a 53-32-4 advantage in the series against USC. The last time the Gamecocks won was in 1987 by a score of 20-7. Clemson has won the last four games by an average of 22.5 points.

game. Clemson had been allowing only 14.5 points before the Maryland fiasco.

The Tigers will be using a three-man front on the defensive line while using four linebackers, led by an outstanding pair of outside linebackers in Wayne Simmons and Ashley Simmons. Their secondary is led by Robert O'Neal, who is among the best free safeties in the country.

On offense, the Tigers have been plagued by injuries, especially among quarterbacks, where Richard Moncrief, Louis Solomon and Patrick Sapp have all seen playing time. Sapp is listed as the probable starter for Saturday. He has been erratic at times but is blessed with tremendous strength and a good set of receivers in

Exhibition slam!



Photos by Peter Rogers/The Gamecock

Senior Jamie Watson slams home two of his 18 points in a victory over St. Petersburg AAU.

USC tips off basketball season with 95-84 exhibition victory

By ROB RODUSKY
Assistant Sports Editor

The South Carolina Gamecocks men's basketball team opened the 1992-93 campaign Wednesday evening with a 95-84 exhibition victory over the St. Petersburg (Fla.) AAU team in front of 3,465 fans at the Frank McGuire Arena.

Emmett Hall led the Gamecocks in scoring with 25 points. These points came on 10 for 17 shooting from the field and 5 for 6 from the free throw line. Also contributing heavily for the Gamecocks were Jamie Watson with 18 points and Terry Bynum with 17. Twelve of Bynum's points were from downtown as he made four three-pointers.

Hall pulled down 11 boards for USC to lead the Gamecocks. Bynum grabbed eight rebounds while Troy McKoy tallied five.

USC's first half shooting percentage of 50 percent helped them jump out to a 49-43 halftime lead. St. Petersburg was held to under 50 percent shooting from the field in both halves. Free throw shooting for the Gamecocks was only 58.8 percent for the contest.

South Carolina's tenacious defense accumulated 14 steals and four blocks for the game. Several players were tied with three steals while Obrad Ignjatovic had two blocks to pace the Gamecocks.

The second half belonged to the Gamecocks as they shot 54.3 percent from the field and held St. Petersburg to 48 percent shooting.

Brad Hinson, a junior from Columbia, has made the 1992-93 squad from an open tryout period. Head Coach Steve Newton announced Monday. Hinson's addition gives the Gamecocks a 12-man roster which now includes seven newcomers and only five returning lettermen from last year.

Hinson, a 6-foot-2-inch, 190-pound guard, transferred to USC last year after attending USC-Salkehatchie for two years. While there, Hinson was a member of the men's basketball team.



Emmett Hall hoops it up Wednesday. Hall led the Gamecocks with 25 points.

Fool's Clemson Survival Guide

SPORTIN' FOOL

TIM THORSEN



Ah, Carolina/Clemson.

One team will salvage their season. The other team will be doomed to partake of the smorgasboard of human misery all winter.

For those of you attending the game, I humbly offer to you the first ever Sportin' Fool/Clemson survival guide. After reading this, you will be truly prepared for the annual war.

Luckily for the Gamecocks, Clemson's quarterback will be Patrick Sapp. That's SAPP, as in Sorry And Pathetic Passer. This guy makes Wright Mitchell look like Johnny Unitas. In fact, rumor has it that Gamecock head coach Sparky Woods has instituted certain precautions in facing Sapp.

For starters, South Carolina will blitz only two players, and those two players will be under special instructions not to hit the loser, er, quarterback. Sparky reportedly doesn't want to risk sacking Sapp and injuring him.

In addition, all players and coaches will be required to wear helmets on the sidelines and everyone must stand 10 yards away from the sidelines. This is to prevent Carolina injuries from Sapp scuds. You can never be too sure where they are going or where they will land.

All you Carolina fans need to take precautions as well. If you

somehow managed to get seats at the game close to the field, you will need to be especially careful. Since the scuds will be in the air, you should take any protection you can. Catcher's masks and chest pads are recommended. Of course, you could always wear an orange Clemson jersey and be assured of not getting hit by a runaway scud.

This goes without mentioning the usual equipment necessary for a Clemson trip. First and foremost is one of those blue hospital masks. This should be securely affixed to your face upon entering Chow Country. If not, you run the risk of severe bacterial infection from the many contaminants in the air. You should pack two or three extra masks for gametime because the closer you get to Municipal Stadium, the heavier the stink.

Penicillin is a must. You never know when you'll be bitten by a rabid Tiger fan.

You should also invest in the newly-released hardback, "Redneck for Beginners". This will teach you their language, so you can communicate with the stupid. Remember, they can't understand English, so don't even try.

Finally, be sure to pack extra bottles of fluids. No matter what the natives say, never drink the water.

And now for the lowdown on the Clemson Republican Guard, I mean, defense. These guys gave up 573 yards to Maryland's high pow-

ered offense. High-powered, ha! According to published reports, the guard will have recovered from their injuries by Saturday, though. In a string of freak accidents, the entire Clemson Guard suffered whiplash at one point or another in the game. Doctors say it was from the constant snapping of their necks as they watched the speedy Terrapins zoom past them. Maryland rolled up 53 points on Clemson.

They would have punished them even more, except for a freak Maryland state statute. It seems that the police stopped the game in the third quarter, before the Tigers could be humiliated even worse. There is apparently an ancient law that forbids such carnage in the state of Maryland.

There's no telling how ugly things could have gotten if Maryland had been allowed to complete their decimation of Clemson.

Maryland also racked up about 1000 yards in penalties. It seems that late in the slaughter, on every Terrapin play, the officials whistled them for unsportsmanlike scoring. Thus, Maryland just continually moved up and down the field, not because Clemson could stop them, but because the refs were trying their hardest to make the game respectable.

So there it is. Everything you ever wanted to know about Clemson, but were afraid to ask. Hopefully this will aid each and every one of you on your pilgrimage.

Men's volleyball club takes third in SEC tourney

By NANCY SALOMONSKY
Sports Editor

The USC Men's Volleyball Club placed third at the Southeastern Conference Club Tournament at the University of Alabama.

The volleyball club began practicing about a month ago under the leadership of seniors Robert Flanigan and Scott Churan. Both Flanigan and Churan share the responsibility of coaching the 12-member team.

Main outside hitter Flanigan earned first team All-Tournament

honors at the SEC tournament.

"He is a major force on our team and an outstanding player," Churan said.

Churan, an engineering major, is a strong side hitter and earned All-Tournament Honorable Mention honors in Alabama.

The team gets its depth from the self-proclaimed "Fab Five Freshman": Larry Church, Jody Brooks, Brian Lewis, Chris Pagon and Chris Roach.

Two newcomers, sophomore Pat Count and junior Sean Godwin, have also made a big

contribution to the team.

The volleyball club team beat the University of Georgia and Vanderbilt in round robin play. They next played Louisiana State University, who won two of three matches, 12-15, 15-10, 17-15.

LSU eventually won the tournament, beating UGA.

The Men's Volleyball Club practices Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Anyone interested in playing should get in touch with Robert or Scott at the Office of Campus Activities.