

Sports



24

REVENGE!



13

USC returns last year's favor by upsetting Clemson in Death Valley



Peta Rogers/The Gamecock

Rob DeBoer ranks 15th in USC career rushing with 1,525 yards. The junior from Omaha, Neb. had 41 yards on 13 carries against Clemson to finish the season with 540 yards on 120 attempts.



Stephanie Newlin/The Gamecock

Sophomore runningback Brandon Bennett's fourth quarter touchdown was his sixth of the season and fifteenth of his career.

By JILL BUEHLMAN and NANCY SALOMONSKY
Staff Writers

The "Pride Bowl" is over, and, though they wear no ring, the Gamecock football team will carry the 24-13 victory over Clemson with them the rest of their lives.

Saturday's match-up in Death Valley resulted in South Carolina's first win over the Tigers in four years and the largest win margin ever at Clemson.

"I give all the credit in the world to our seniors," USC Head Football Coach Sparky Woods said. "They provided leadership down the stretch, and the younger players' maturity really showed through."

"I would like to commend Clemson," he said. "Coach (Ken) Hatfield has a class program here."

"Everybody played hard, but we're lacking something, and we've got to work on it next spring and fall," Hatfield said in his team's defense. "If we knew what it was, we would have worked on it already."

Clemson's first possession of the

game ended with a 23-yard field goal by sophomore placekicker Nelson Welch.

USC took control of the ball with 7:16 in the first quarter. Freshman quarterback Steve Taneyhill completed a 46-yard pass to sophomore wide receiver Toby Cates to put the Gamecocks on the Tiger 18-yard line. It was Taneyhill's 21-yard touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Asim Penny that put Carolina on the board 7-3.

Clemson answered the USC score with a touchdown of their own in the second quarter when Clemson's sophomore inside linebacker Tim Jones intercepted a Taneyhill pass that was tipped by outside linebacker Wayne Simmons. This 26-yard touchdown pulled the Tigers ahead 10-7.

USC sophomore Marty Simpson evened the score with 10 seconds left in the half with a 43-yard field goal.

South Carolina started the second half on their own 20-yard line. Taneyhill made a series of handoffs

to sophomore runningback Brandon Bennett, moving the Gamecocks to the Clemson 30-yard line.

With 11:30 left in the third quarter, Taneyhill rifled a 30-yard touchdown pass to Cates. Simpson's extra point bumped the Gamecocks up to a 17-10 lead.

After 15 plays and 60 yards-gained, the Tigers ended their scoring efforts with a 40-yard field goal by Welch.

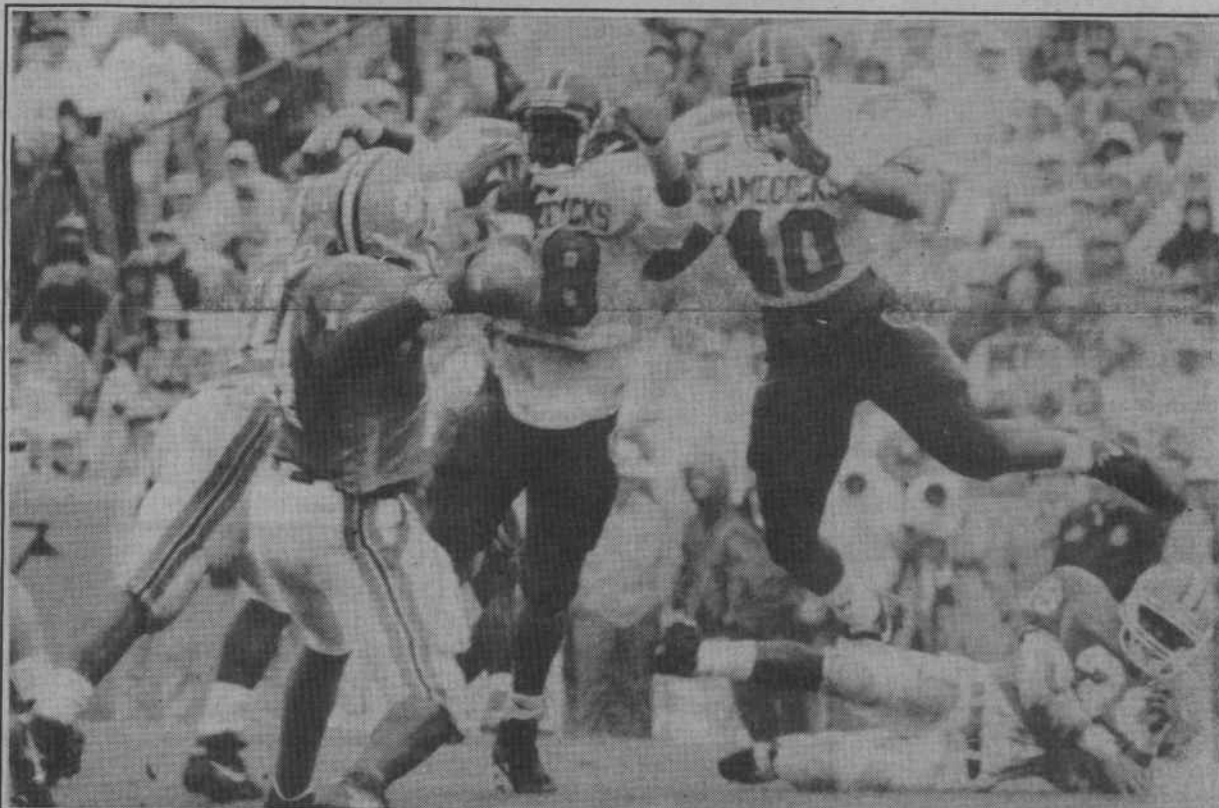
South Carolina led at the end of the third quarter 17-13.

Four first-down rushes by junior Rob DeBoer and Bennett put South Carolina on the Clemson 4-yard line.

The Gamecocks clinched the victory when Bennett tiptoed into the end zone. Simpson made the point after the touchdown, ending the game in Carolina's favor 24-13.

Woods hopes the victory will make a difference in recruiting this spring.

"I can't see this victory doing anything but helping our program in the future," he said.



Stephanie Newlin/The Gamecock

Eric Brown and Ernest Dixon blitz Clemson's Patrick Sapp in Saturday's victory against the Tigers.

A time to be thankful you're a Gamecock

By ROB RODUSKY
Columnist

As Thanksgiving is nearly upon us, many of us are ready to head home to a nice home-cooked meal and spend some time with our family and friends. While this is a time to reflect on the things in life that we take for granted such as friends, family, health, education, etc., we as Gamecock fans should be thankful for a number of things. I have composed a list of such blessings bestowed upon us this

year:

- Our football team has a lot of heart and willingness to win after going 0-5 and asking Head Coach Sparky Woods to resign.
- Coach Woods had the backbone to say to his players that he was not leaving and was going to try to get things back on the right track.
- Quarterback Steve Taneyhill, known for pulling the upset, did not decide to help George Bush in his bid for re-election. Now he can help lead us to a bowl game on

New Year's Day in 1994, 1995 and 1996!

- We saw a Heisman candidate in Georgia runningback Garrison Hearst.
- Our soccer team finally got its due and made the NCAA playoffs.
- We are not King Dixon.
- Or Steve Newton.
- The Sportin' Fool only writes once a week.
- Especially be thankful that we do not go to Clemson. How sweet it is!



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