

Sports

Doomed by an 18-point second half

Tigers crush USC, 85-62

By ROB RODUSKY
Assistant Sports Editor

Harry Houdini was suited up for the Gamecocks in their 85-62 loss to the Tigers of Louisiana State. USC's offense was a disappearing act in the second half.

The Gamecocks played the transition game very well in the first half — so well in fact that the offense had five dunks and seven lay-ups in the first half of action.

What happened in the second half was a different story. The Gamecocks were a meager 8 of 25 from the field after hitting for a very respectable 64.3 percent in the first stanza. The only inside basket was a dunk by senior back-up center Edmond Wilson with 4:30 left.

The loss dropped the Gamecocks to 8-9 on the year and 4-4 in the SEC.

"It slowed us down tremendously," said sophomore point guard Carey Rich of the Tigers' zone defense. "We thought we had the transition down well."

While the offense did not perform well throughout the game, the defense did a super job containing LSU's leading scorer, center Geert Hammink. The 7-footer, who was

averaging 17.8 points per game, was 1 for 4 in the first half and 1 for 5 in the second half while scoring a season-low six points. Junior guard Jamie Brandon, however, made up for Hammink's no-show offense with a career-high 21 points and 15 rebounds.

The leading scorers for the Gamecocks were juniors Emmitt Hall and Jamie Watson, who both pumped in 13 points. Coach Steve Newton said the tough defense in the zone was not the reason for the Gamecocks' demise in the second half.

"Our passing was not as crisp as it needs to be against a 2-3 zone," Newton said. "We hurried some shots and took shots when we

should have made an extra pass."

LSU coach Dale Brown decided to dump his man-to-man defense when USC took a 50-49 lead two minutes into the second half. At that time, the Tigers went on a 23-6 rampage. South Carolina answered with five straight points, but never pulled closer than 11. The win extended the Tiger's home winning streak to 16 games.

"I don't think we came ready to play mentally," Watson said. The Gamecocks, with six dunks in the game, now have 19 over the last two games.

The Gamecocks next game will be on the road at Vanderbilt Wednesday at 8 p.m.



Kurt Jamagin/The Gamecock

Senior forward Jamie Watson, shown here against Georgia, scored 13 points in the Gamecocks' 85-62 loss to Louisiana State Saturday.

THE FINAL SCORE: U.S.C. vs. L.S.U.

Gamecocks	Points
62 (8-9)	E. Hall 13
	J. Watson 13
	C. Rich 7

Tigers	Points
85 (14-5)	J. Brandon 21
	M. Williamson 19
	S. Gipson 15

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

Lady Gamecocks slaughter Razorbacks using 30-0 blitz

By ANDREW BORGERT
Staff Writer

The operative word for the USC women's basketball team Saturday was "defense" as the Lady Gamecocks used a 30-0 run to put the Arkansas Razorbacks away 76-51.

Carolina, after scoring only four points in the first seven minutes, went on the big run that saw Arkansas go scoreless for 10 minutes. By the time the Hogs scored again, USC had built a 36-6 lead. They were up 43-14 at halftime.

USC coach Nancy Wilson credited her team's run to their pressure defense.

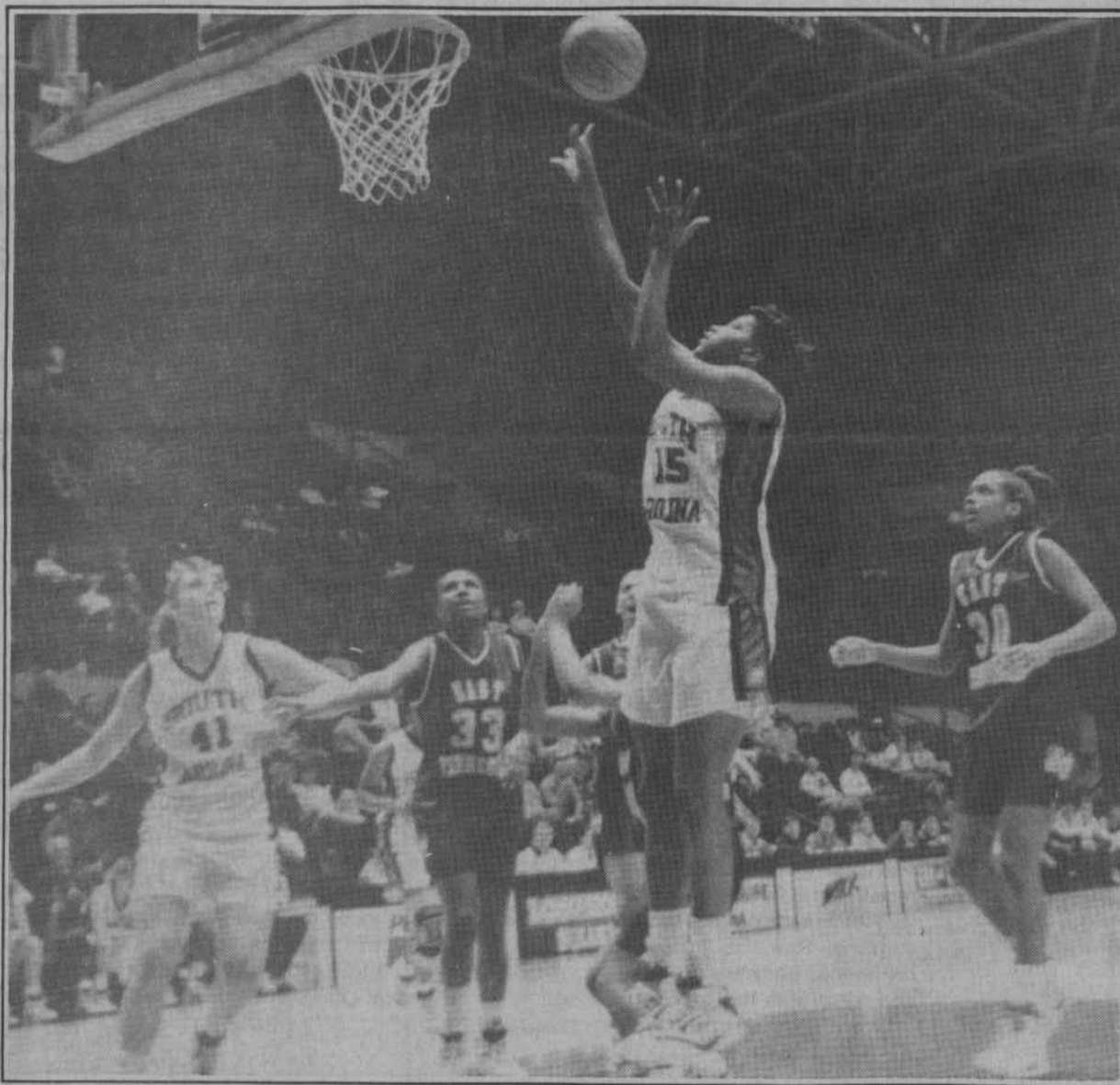
"The big run we had in the first half helped us get a lot of people into the game, which allowed us to keep fresh bodies in there," she said. "They played hard. We got outstanding defensive play from a lot of people."

Carolina got balanced scoring from the whole squad, with Shannon Johnson leading the way with 11 points. Marsha Williams kicked in 10 points and nine rebounds. As a team, USC out-shot Arkansas 46.5 percent to 36 percent and out-rebounded them 42-28.

USC has now won three in a row, upping their record to 12-6 and 4-3 in the SEC. The win Saturday came on the heels of a blow-out victory Wednesday against East Tennessee State.

In that game, the Lady Gamecocks won 86-53. Lori Joyner led the team with 13 points, while Michelle Murray and Marsha Williams both had eight rebounds.

Next up for Carolina is Clemson, which comes into town Wednesday for a 7 p.m. game. The Lady Tigers are currently ranked in the Top 20 and are in contention for the ACC women's title.



SEC STANDINGS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SEC	Overall	
	W	L
Tennessee	6	0
Vanderbilt	5	1
Auburn	5	1
S. Carolina	4	3
Florida	4	3
Kentucky	3	2
Alabama	2	3
Arkansas	2	4
Georgia	2	4
Miss. State	2	5
Ole Miss	1	4
LSU	0	6

Saturday's Results

S. Carolina 76, Arkansas 51
Tennessee 73, Vanderbilt 68
Florida 89, LSU 65
Auburn 72, Miss. State 64

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

Kurt Jamagin/The Gamecock

Junior forward Malinda McDaniel, shown here against East Tennessee State, was held to two points against Arkansas Saturday.

THE FINAL SCORE: U.S.C. vs. ARKANSAS

Gamecocks	Points
76 (12-6)	S. Johnson 11
	M. Williams 10
	M. Murray 8
	N. Bass 8

Razorbacks	Points
51 (8-9)	K. Johnson 12
	S. Henderson 10
	S. Bloomer 7

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

Williams-Brice may be home to 1995 NFL expansion action

By The Associated Press

If Charlotte wins one of the two expansion franchises expected to be chosen by the National Football League, the kickoff for its first game could be 90 miles south — in Columbia, S.C.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue announced Friday that the owners will award the expansion teams this fall, probably in October.

Richardson Sports, the group that would own the Carolinas team, had hoped for a decision this spring or summer. That would have given them enough time to build a 70,000-seat stadium in Charlotte for a 1995 debut.

"An October decision makes it virtually impossible for us to be in (the new stadium) for our first full season," said Mark Richardson, who is leading the Carolinas drive.

"We had hoped the decision was going to come earlier," he said. "The best selection time would have been late spring or early summer, but we're not in control of that."

That means if Charlotte is

awarded a franchise, the team may have to work out a deal to rent the University of South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C., for the first few games of 1995. There is no formal agreement, although the group has informally discussed that option with university officials, The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer reported Saturday.

Williams-Brice, with 72,400 seats, is the only nearby stadium that can hold as many fans as the stadium Richardson Sports plans to build.

"If indeed they would be granted a franchise, and if their stadium is not going to be ready, I'm sure they would approach us," Sports Information Director Kerry Tharp said, noting that South Carolina hosted an NFL exhibition game several years ago.

He said the lines of communication between the Richardson group and the university remain open.

Five cities remain in the hunt for an expansion team. They are Baltimore, Charlotte, Jacksonville (Fla.), Memphis and St. Louis.

NFL owners have delayed expansion at least three times and quit working on it altogether last fall to focus on negotiating a labor settlement with players.

That done, Tagliabue said during his annual state of the league address on Friday that it's time to use the NFL's new "foundation of labor peace" to make the league even stronger. One way, he said, was by expanding.

Tagliabue said the NFL expansion committee will resume its work in late February or early March. Owners will set an expansion timetable at their annual meeting March 21-26.

"We've waited for almost six years," Richardson said. "While we would like to have known in the spring, we're not going to get overly upset."

Baltimore and St. Louis also would not be able to start playing in their new stadiums at the start of the 1995 season. St. Louis is building a stadium that won't be finished until 1996 and would play its first season at Busch Stadium. A Baltimore team would open in Memorial Stadium.

So much for the Tar Heels

We hate to say we told you so...but we told you so!

We have been telling you all along that the UNC Tar Heels are simply not that good. They finally played another quality team, and they promptly got their heads handed to them. This time it was the likes of "The Durham Bull" Rodney Rogers, Randolph Childress and the rest of the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest by a 88-62 score over UNC.

This thrashing of the Heels puts Indiana as the top team in college basketball...for now.

Bob Knight's team is playing the most inspired ball in the country. Senior Calbert Cheaney continues to be the driving force in the IU machine, and as of late, the other Hoosiers have taken their respective games to the next level. Their most recent victim was the Northwestern Wildcats, whom Indiana downed 93-71 on Saturday.

For teams two through six, you may as well list them in alphabetical order because it really doesn't matter.

Starting with Kentucky, one has to consider them as No. 2 behind Indiana.

Coach Rick "I Dress Like a Model, But Talk Like a Cab Driver" Pitino has his 'Cats playing extremely well. They continue to impress despite the tough SEC

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

NANCY
SALOMONSKY &
TONY SANTORI

schedule.

The team that emerges from the ACC clash between Duke and UNC will occupy the No. 3 spot in the nation. The Blue Devils have bounced back from a couple of ACC losses to improve their play. Leading the resurgence has been sophomore center "Chief" Cherokee Parks. When Parks plays up to his potential, Duke is a very good team; when he disappears, the Devils struggle to handle bigger teams.

The "Men-to-Boys" from Michigan continue to talk a great game and occasionally even decide to play one. When the Wolverines are "on," they are unstoppable; however, they continue to ride the roller coaster "Sophomore Jinx" year. Maybe if Weber and Rose were reminded that they are still in college and told to block out the dollar signs dancing in their heads, AND if they want to finish out their "final" year of college in style, then they had better begin to play like a true "team."

What is the deal with Kansas anyway?

This team has more split personalities than Norman Bates of "Psycho" fame. It's surprising that this up-and-down team has managed to stay among the country's elite. They just don't play like a traditional basketball powerhouse, yet they still command respect around the nation. Where have you gone, Adonis Jordan?

Two of the bigger surprises in college hoops this season have been the Vanderbilt Commodores and the Cincinnati Bearcats.

Vandy has already upset Kentucky once, and have established themselves near the top of the SEC East. Every time Coach K from Duke sees Billy McCaffrey putting up big numbers in a Commodore uniform, he probably wants to scream.

Cincinnati is now 15-1 after crushing the DePaul Blue Demons 80-54 Saturday afternoon. Even though this team did go to the Final Four last year, they continue to catch teams napping with their swarming defense. Bearcat guard Nick Van Exel is one of the most underrated players in the country, but if Cincy continues their winning ways, he will get the recognition he deserves.

That's the way we see it this week. Feel free to disagree.

Please Stop Smoking.