

# Sports

## USC splits series with Vols, keeps SEC lead

By **ROB RODUSKY**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The East Division of the Southeastern Conference still belongs to USC as they split a doubleheader with Tennessee on Saturday.

The Gamecocks managed to keep their one-and-a-half game lead over the second-place Volunteers when they battled back to win the second game 4-3.

Tennessee won the opener 9-3 as USC senior hurler Matt Threehouse (7-2) gave up five runs in the second inning.

The Gamecocks could not convert in the second as they loaded the bases on a hit batsman and singles by junior Rob DeBoer and

sophomore Mike Dezenzo. Senior Mike McGuire hit a pitch back to the mound that started a home to first double play. Junior Mike Tarter struck out looking to end the inning.

South Carolina managed to trim the lead to 6-3 after six innings, but could not put together another rally.

The Volunteers put the game away in the eighth as they scored three runs on three hits off freshman J.J. Pearsall.

South Carolina won the nightcap on strong pitching by senior Rich Pratt (10-1) and sophomore Mark Gugino's three-run home run.

South Carolina scored all four of their runs in the second inning off

Ryan Meyers.

DeBoer led off the second with a single, and McGuire and Tarter both walked with one out. The Gamecocks took the lead on junior Stacy Stokes' sacrifice fly.

Gugino stepped up and belted his third round-tripper of the season, a 350-foot shot that hooked inside the left-field foul pole.

Tennessee rallied to score two runs on in the bottom of the seventh. It was at this time that Coach June Raines relieved Pratt for senior right-hander Rob Mosser.

"Mosser is a fine bullpen man, but I still thought Rich was throwing the ball good," Raines said. "They were ground-ball base hits."

Mosser walked the first batter he faced, but got Richie Wyman on a

fly ball to end the game and earn his eighth save.

Pratt scattered seven hits, struck out three, and walked none over 6 2/3 innings to earn his fourth consecutive SEC win.

"He's a good seventh-inning pitcher," Raines said. "He gets you over the hump whether you win or lose the first game."

During the doubleheader, the Gamecocks committed four errors, amassed 16 hits, left 17 runners on base, and turned three double plays.

The Gamecocks stand at 32-13-1 overall and 11-5-1 in the SEC after the split.

They play a three-game series against the Florida Gators next weekend at Sarge Frye Field.

DOUBLEHEADER: USC vs. UT			
Score by innings			
GAME ONE		GAME TWO	
Gamecocks	3	Gamecocks	4
000 111 000		040 000 0	
Volunteers	9	Volunteers	3
050 100 03x		000 100 2	
WINNING PITCHERS			
Harvell		Pratt	
ip	h	r	er
3.6	2	0	0
bb	so	ip	h
2	3	6.6	7
		r	er
		3	3
		bb	so
		3	0
		3	3
USC TOP HITTERS			
	ab	r	h
Gugino	3	1	1
DeBoer	4	1	2
Rose	2	1	0
	bi		
		ab	r
Gugino	4	1	2
DeBoer	3	1	1
Stokes	2	0	1
	bi		
		3	3
		1	0
		1	1

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

## Women's tennis season ends in first round of SEC tourney

From Staff Reports

Vanderbilt edged out victories in a third-set tiebreaker at the No. 3 and 5 singles positions and went on to defeat 25th-ranked USC 5-1 Thursday afternoon in the first round of the SEC Women's Tennis Tournament.

The Lady Gamecocks finish the season at 10-12 overall and 5-7 in the SEC.

Freshman Heather Greene captured the first set of her match against Vandy's Kim Draud 6-4 at the three position, but dropped the last two sets 6-4, 7-6. Spencer

Sheffler also overcame a one-set deficit to defeat USC's Pauline Rodriguez 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 at No. 5 singles.

Heather Coburn's 6-0, 6-2 win over Vanderbilt's Allyson Kincaid was her 21st victory of the season, tying her for the team lead in total singles victories with junior Helen Crook.

Crook, meanwhile fell to Michelle Dodds 7-6, 6-3 at the No. 1 position. Dodds' victory avenged an earlier loss to Crook in which Crook rallied for an incredible three-set victory after trailing 6-4, 5-1.

## New coach, deaths highlight sports year

The end of the school year inevitably causes us all to look back on the past 12 months and see not only where we've come from, but where we are going.



ANDREW BORGERT

Here at USC, the year has been very eventful. When we came in last fall, the Gamecocks were about to undertake the first season in SEC football competition. We got to see a team struggle early, rebel against the coaching staff and come back to steamroll through the last half of the season.

The mutiny attracted national attention to Gamecock football, and it was Coach Woods' calmness and strength during the crisis that helped to end the ugly affair.

The most memorable moment for me came on Halloween after-

noon. With a little time left and Carolina clinging to a 24-23 lead, the Tennessee Vols stepped up to the line for the potential game-winning two-point conversion.

Tennessee attempted a screen pass, and as the receiver raced for the end zone, Hank Campbell came up and stuck him, thus preserving the victory. The image of Williams-Brice Stadium rocking with cheers as the final seconds ticked away left a great impression on all who were there.

Basketball season came and, unfortunately, left little in the way of memories for USC fans. We were awe-struck by the power of North Carolina, the skill of the Kentucky Wildcats and the preci-

sion and headiness of Vanderbilt's motion offense (more on that later). Carolina did treat us to a double-overtime thriller against Tennessee that ended in victory for us. It was the one time this year that basketball seemed fun in Columbia.

The most important event for South Carolina athletics came not on the playing field, but behind closed doors and over the telephone. When President Palms hired Dr. Mike McGee from Southern California, it marked the birth of a new, aggressive and well-organized athletic department.

McGee came to Carolina with the reputation for hiring respected coaches and making them run clean programs. So far he has done exactly that for us.

No more apparent was that than when the search for a new basketball coach began. The name Bobby Cremins was immediately

brought up as the obvious choice to replace Steve Newton. Cremins had the record, the national exposure and the clean image that McGee was looking for. And he was an alumnus.

We all know what happened after that, but thanks to his quick action, McGee was able to bring in an equally respected coach in Vandy's Eddie Fogler. At the moment Fogler signed, USC took a big step towards becoming the national power in basketball that it was 20 years ago.

Overall, this has been a rough year for the sports community. The deaths of Iowa basketball player Chris Street, NASCAR champ Alan Kulwicki, Cleveland Indian pitchers Tim Crews and Steve Olin and most recently ex-NC State coach Jim Valvano and former NFL player Dave Waymer shocked us all, making us realize that the final score doesn't really matter that much.

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