

## SPORTS

## Men's basketball improves as season progresses

By JIMMY DeBUTTS

Senior Writer

USC — Although the men's basketball team has started the season 0-3, the team has shown definite signs of improvement under Coach Eddie Fogler.

The Gamecocks first three losses have all been close; only 14 points separate the team from being 3-0. USC, which had eight players dressed out, played competitively against Old Dominion but was unable to handle a 16-7 run by the Monarchs in the second half and lost the game 84-80.

Leading the way for the Gamecocks was Andy Bostick, a transfer from Spartanburg Methodist Junior College. Bostick had 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds in his first ever Division I game.

Emmett Hall also played well, scoring 19 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. He blocked four shots and dished out three assists.

With team captain Carey Rich out for three weeks because of appendicitis, Fogler has made Durrant Williams the starting point guard. Williams has played well in the two games he has started. The junior is four of eight from three-point land and has run the offense effectively in his first two games.

Fogler's only two senior players are leading the way. Jamie Watson and Emmett Hall were both All-SEC squad members last year and have played impressively so far this year.

Hall is averaging 18.3 points per game and has six blocked shots. Watson is averaging 15.5 points per game and seven rebounds.

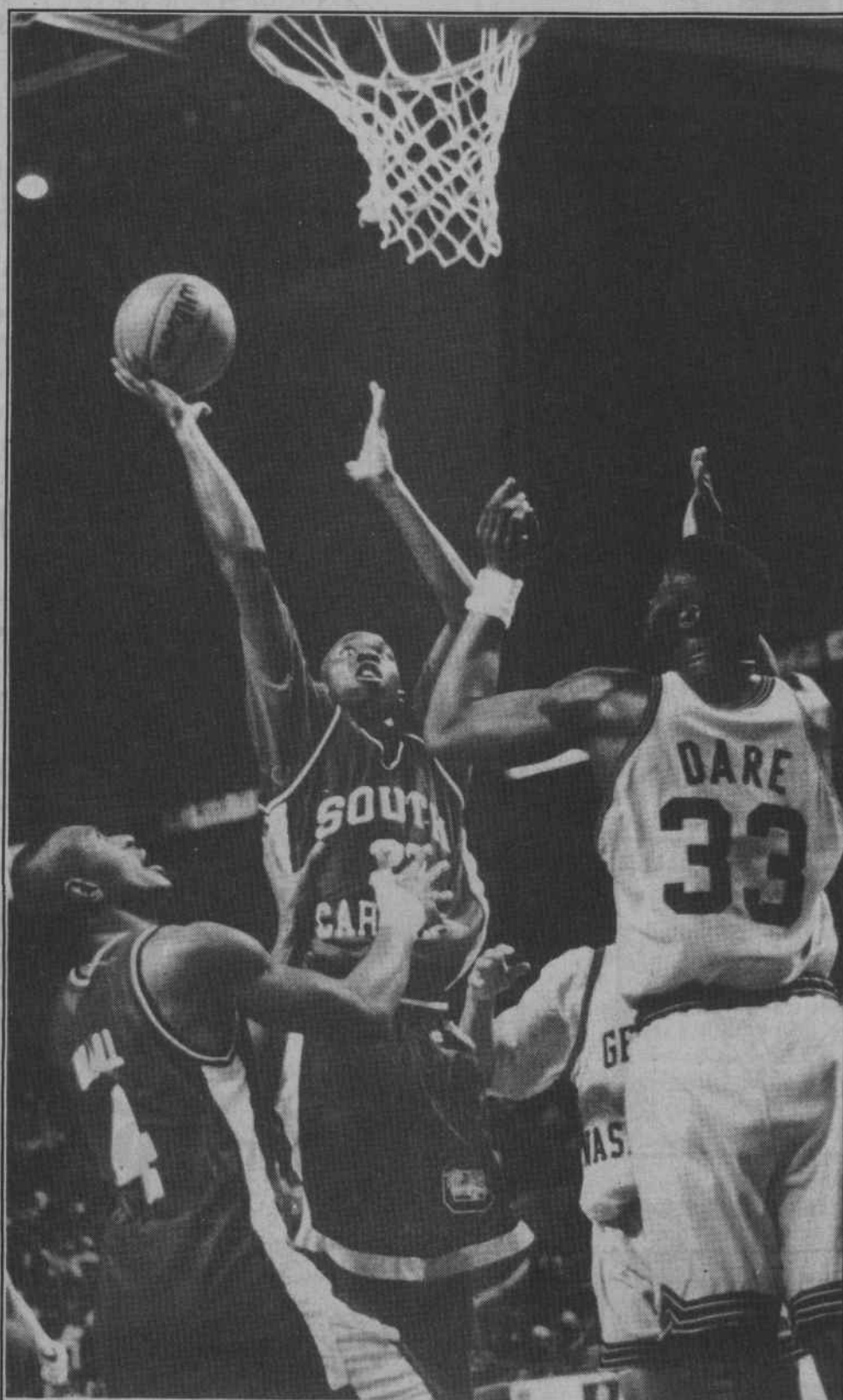
In the middle for the Gamecocks is freshman center Peter Van Elswyk, who handled his duties well at the Diet Pepsi Tournament of Champions. Against George Washington, he held the 7-foot-1 235-pound sophomore sensation Yinka Dare to 10 points while scoring eight himself.

With each game, the Gamecocks are improving. With the return of Rich, USC should be able to compete with anyone on its schedule. The team seems to be getting better with each game, which is evident in the number of turnovers in each game.

In USC's first game, against Old Dominion, the Gamecocks turned the ball over 27 times while forcing 18. In its next game, against BYU, the team committed 13 turnovers while forcing 22. Against George Washington, the No. 22 team in the country, Fogler's team dropped the number to 10 while forcing nine.

While school is out for the holiday break, the Gamecocks will play seven games, five of them at the Coliseum. USC will play two home contests at the beginning of the break, South Carolina State (Dec. 20) and College of Charleston (Dec. 22).

The Gamecocks will travel to Providence (Dec. 31), then come home for Alabama (Jan. 5). USC will play at Tennessee (Jan. 8), then come home for the rest of the break with games against Campbell (Jan. 12) and Florida (Jan. 15).



David Mandrell/The Gamecock  
Junior Andy Bostick scored 29 points and pulled down nine rebounds in his first game for USC. The Gamecocks have started the season 0-3.

## USC sports figures deserve holiday gifts

Being in the Christmas season, I will take this time to give some presents to those individuals I feel are deserving. I have checked the list and have checked it twice, so I know it's right.

Football players Asim Penny and Benji Young. An injury free season so they can play up to their capabilities and show Gamecock fans why we give them scholarships.

Soccer Coach Mark Berson and the team. One more post-season victory so USC can have its first national championship. Sorry, 1976 bowling team.

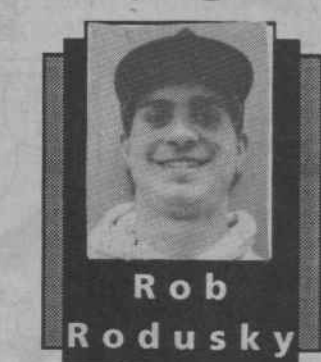
Two-sport athlete Rob DeBoer. The best of luck while working his way up to play major league baseball. It's too bad a football team probably won't take a gamble on his hard-nosed style of play.

The softball team. Diet snacks so the players can get down to the playing weight Coach Compton wants them to be at.

Quarterback Steve Taneyhill. The ability to go out and prove what he says in the beginning of the year (see 1993 preseason: 11-0, national championship). If that doesn't work out, maybe he can take music lessons and form a cover band with former Gamecock quarterbacks Todd Ellis and Wright Mitchell. A possible song they can do is Van Halen's "Where Have All the Good Times Gone?"

Ex-football Coach Sparky Woods. A coaching job where he can show people that nice guys do finish first.

Men's basketball Coach Eddie Fogler and staff. Patience while waiting for a tremendously talented young team to



improve.

Athletics Director Mike McGee. One year of not having to worry about firing a coach and looking for a replacement.

Almost men's basketball Coach Bobby Cremins. A book on how to save face while not looking like a backstabber.

Women's volleyball Coach Kim Hudson. A front line of 6-foot-6 players who have the vertical leap of Michael Jordan.

Gamecock football fans. One quarterback only. If you want to win games, a quarterback controversy is not the way to go. Batteries not included.

Runningback Brandon Bennett. Some Heisman trophy exposure for next season.

Volleyball player Jodi Thompson. A date with a certain sports senior writer of Italian descent.

Men's baseball Coach June Raines. A strong five-man rotation that will lead us to the College World Series.

New head football coach Brad Scott. A great rookie season like the one Auburn's Terry Bowden had.

Gamecock fans. A happy and healthy holiday season.

Rob Rodusky is sports editor of The Gamecock.

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