

Santori's Shots

Enough with 'Ice Capades'

Skategate. Does anyone out there really believe that Tonya Harding had absolutely nothing to do with the attack on fellow skater Nancy Kerrigan? Harding's ex-husband/boyfriend and bodyguard have already been implicated, and she still continues to play Ms. Innocent. Yeah, and Ruby was just a concerned citizen and extreme patriot when he shot Oswald.

Remember the "Texas Cheerleader Incident." You know, the case where a mother in Nowhere, Texas, tried to have one of her daughter's cheerleading rivals killed to eliminate the competition. Considering that HBO made a movie, oh, about three days after that, how long will it be before we get to see this version of "Ice Capades" on cable?

And honestly, aren't there many guys out there who wouldn't have followed this event if Kerrigan wasn't the hottest thing on ice this side of Katarina Witt?

We're No. 1...No We're Not. See, North Carolina is No. 1 in college basketball. Oh, hello Georgia Tech.

Well, then it's obviously Duke. It's not when the Blue Devils lose to Wake Forest at home.

Kansas? Kansas State 68, Kansas 64. Try again, Toto.

That would leave UCLA in position to take over the top spot. The Bruins host Arizona Thursday night. Is there a trend developing here?

Why can't any team hold the top spot? It's simple. There are so many good players and teams in the country that upsets are going to happen night in and night out. Parity is still the magic word. Don't be surprised if the team that wins the National Championship has at least five or six losses.

The Bigger They Are, The Harder They Fall.

Remember back to the late 80s and early 90s when the biggest, baddest boys on the NCAA hoops block were the UNLV Runnin' Rebels. Welcome to 1994. Not only is Jerry Tarkanian long gone, but apparently so is all the talent.

Over the holidays, the Virginia Cavaliers walked in to the Thomas and Mack Center and spanked the Rebels before the home folks. UNLV scored a record-low 39 points in that contest. Attendance is down. The crowd is beginning to boo their formerly beloved Rebels.

And to make matters worse, the Rebels lost their first home conference game in almost six years Monday night to New Mexico State. Somewhere, there are many members of the NCAA infractions committee smiling. It took more than a decade, but the commit-



Tony Santori

SPORTS EDITOR

tee finally broke up the UNLV dynasty. Prediction Corner.

NFC Championship: San Francisco 49ers 24, Dallas Cowboys 21. AFC Championship: Kansas City Chiefs 31, Buffalo Bills 21.

Super Bowl: Chiefs 28, 49ers 27. Joe Montana gets ring number five, and everyone finally has to admit that he is the greatest quarterback of all time.

Rating the Recruiting. New Gamecock football coach Brad Scott has already begun to land some "blue-chip" players. The player making people talk the most is quarterback Anthony Wright, who is rated by many scouts as a top QB prospect coming out of West Craven High School in Vanceboro, N.C.

Wright's athletic ability has many wondering if Scott is going to implement the same style of offense that he ran with Heisman trophy winner Charlie Ward at Florida State.

According to other publications, there are a lot of other talented scholastic players still considering USC as one of their college options.

Understatement of the Week. "Our margin of error is very small" — Dallas Mavericks coach Quinn Buckner about his team's 2-32 record.

You Want How Much Money? Remember when Derrick Coleman turned down about \$13 billion (or something like that) from the New Jersey Nets because he thought he might want to test the free-agent waters after the season?

Then Maybe the Bears Can Use Him. Speaking of Michael Jordan...Does he really think he can make a major league baseball team? If MJ goes to spring training to try to make the White Sox roster, he will embarrass himself and major league baseball.

Yes, he's probably one of the greatest athletes of our time, but hitting a 90 mph fast-ball is probably the most difficult task in pro sports. Jordan would be lucky to make the Sox single-A team. Here's hoping he wakes up and stays home.

SEC names Johnson Player of the Week



David Mandrell/The Gamecock

Point guard Shannon Johnson has been the catalyst for the USC women's basketball team this year.

From Staff Reports

USC — Women's basketball player Shannon Johnson was named SEC Player of the Week for the week ending Jan. 15. She posted the conference's best single-game scoring performance of the season with 38 points against LSU, including 31 in the second half to lead the Gamecocks to victory.

The sophomore guard averaged 26.3 points, 8.3 rebounds, 6.6 assists, 3.6 steals and 1.3 blocks during a three-game span in which the Gamecocks recorded victories against Western Carolina (114-56) and LSU (90-82). Johnson registered a double-double against each team: 20 points and 11 assists against Western Carolina and 38 points and 12 rebounds against LSU.

The Hartsville native shot 47.5 percent from the field (29 of 61), 56.2 percent from the three-point arc (nine of 16) and 70.6 percent (12 of 17) from the charity stripe.

Against LSU, Johnson keyed a 29-11 USC run with 20 points with the score 48-31 and 18:32 remaining in the second half. This helped bring the Gamecocks back to even ground. She posted 10 points in the final 5:11 to help USC pull away and earn a victory.

Johnson leads the Gamecocks this season in scoring, assists and steals.

Women's Basketball

Tennessee heads women's SEC rankings

Current SEC standings

Table with 5 columns: SEC, Pct., All, Pct. Lists SEC standings for Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Florida, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, LSU, Auburn, Mississippi State, and Arkansas.

This week's schedule

Schedule for January 19-23 listing games between SEC teams like Alabama at South Carolina, Auburn at Arkansas, etc.

Source: SEC Media Relations

Men's Basketball

USC 1-2 in Eastern Division of SEC

Current SEC standings

Table with 5 columns: SEC, Pct., All, Pct. Lists SEC standings for West and East divisions, including teams like Mississippi State, Arkansas, LSU, Alabama, etc.

This week's schedule

Schedule for January 19-23 listing games between SEC teams like Alabama at LSU, Arkansas at Mississippi State, etc.

Source: SEC Media Relations

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

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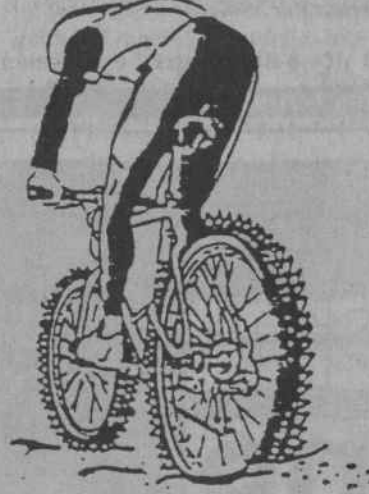
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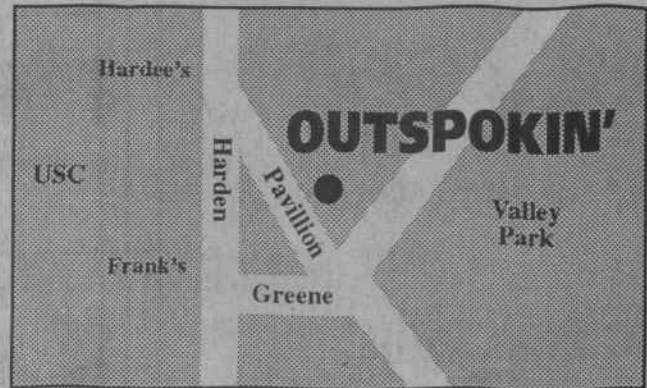
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