

Crimson Tide washes away Gamecocks, 94-77

By MATT PLODINEC
Senior Writer

USC — It would have been easy for the Lady Gamecock basketball team to fold up the tent Saturday and quit after giving up the first nine points to the University of Alabama. Down 0-9, the Gamecocks chipped away at the Crimson Tide lead and were tied at halftime before faltering in the second half and losing 94-77.

For the second year in a row, the Crimson Tide broke a USC three-game winning streak. On Thursday, USC topped the S.C. Bulldogs 99-73. Shannon Johnson led the Gamecocks with 31 points, scoring more than 30 points for the second game in a row. She also contributed seven assists.

Against UA, Johnson scored the first basket for the Gamecocks 4:26 into the contest. After Johnson's basket, the ladies inched back into

the match and took the lead at the 8:13 mark on a three-pointer by Natalie Funderburk. After Funderburk partially blocked a shot at the other end, Nicki Bass hit both ends of a one-on-one to give the women a five-point lead, 30-25.

In a game of streaks, the Tide took the momentum next and scored 10 unanswered points. The two teams battled for the rest of the half. USC grabbed a two-point lead with :08 left, but Niesa Johnson hit both ends of a one-on-one to tie the game at 42 at the half.

As they had in the first half, the Gamecocks gave up the first points of the half. Neisha Johnson converted the charity shot after Bass fouled her as she made a running jump shot from six feet.

The Tide slowly built its lead to 13 points at the 14:02 mark of the second period before Christy Timmons and Funderburk keyed a

14-4 run for the Gamecocks. Timmons hit three treys to bring the women within three at 45-42 with 8:41 remaining.

With 7:28 remaining, Johnson of Alabama hit a shot from NBA three-point range to build the lead back up to six. The closest that the Gamecocks came the rest of the way was four points.

Shannon Johnson was the leading scorer for the Gamecocks as she has been all season long. She and Timmons combined for 25 of USC's 35 points in the second period. Johnson was unavailable for comment after the game because her previously injured knee was being re-evaluated. Her status will be announced today.

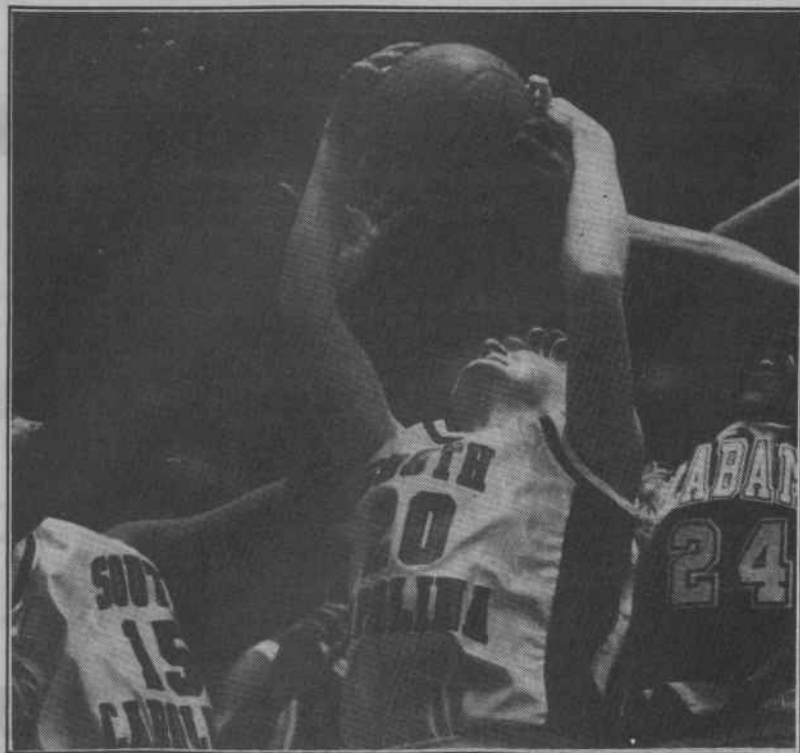
The Alabama game, which was closer than the 17-point difference, was no surprise, according to USC coach Nancy Wilson. She wasn't proud of the loss, but she was hap-

py with the way her team played against the No. 15 Tide, who lead the SEC in just about everything but technical fouls against the mascot with less than three minutes remaining in games played Thursday.

USC point guard Natalie Funderburk agreed with her coach. She was pleased to see the way the team had matured since earlier blowouts at the hands of Ole Miss and Kentucky. In both of those matches, the Gamecocks fell behind early and lost their composure. USC was unable to come from behind, losing both games by large margins.

"We got back in there and played with a little bit of pride," Funderburk said.

USC will travel to East Tennessee State and Georgia before coming home to face Furman Feb. 2.



David Mandrell/The Gamecock

Junior Christi Timmons fights for possession against Alabama. The Lady Gamecocks are 11-6 overall on the season.

USC, Coaches Association to sponsor football clinic

From Staff Reports

USC — The S.C. Football High School Coaches Association in conjunction with the Carolina coaching staff will host a football coaches clinic Feb. 4-5 on campus. The clinic is open to all high school coaches, and registration information can be obtained by calling 777-6657.

Two University of Miami defensive coaches, Rick Petri (line) and Greg McMackin (secondary), are featured guest lecturers. The USC staff, including coach Brad Scott, will conduct seminars. Coaches from 18 other colleges and universities, including Clemson coach Tommy West, are included on the program.

The theme for the clinic is "Football for Real." This is the first joint venture between the SCFCA and the USC coaching staff.

Coons, medley relay teams qualify for NCAA Indoor Championships

From Staff Reports

USC — Sophomore Leslie Coons provisionally qualified Friday for the shot put at the NCAA

Indoor Championships during the first day of the USAir Invitational in Johnson City, Tenn.

Coons, who placed second in the shot put with a throw of 47-9 3/4, led the Lady Gamecocks in the non-scored meet. Coons joins teammate Crystal Brownlee as the second Gamecock to qualify for the shot put at the NCAA Championships, which will be held March 12-13 in Indianapolis.

The USC distance medley relay teams had a fine show-

ing. The women placed second (12:19.48; Marielle Bertrand, Deanna Smith, Tracey Capper, Danielle Adams) and the men placed third (10:10.05; Adrian Bonner, Frank Mansah, Teddy Towle, Tom Cronin). Cronin also placed fourth in the mile with 4:23.23.

On Saturday, the men and women finished the USAir Invitational on a high note by winning three individual events and setting a school record in another.

The women were paced by senior Sue McGhie, who won the 3,000 meter with a time of 10:04.53. Sophomore Tracey Capper won the mile with a time of 5:03.31.

The men were led by senior All-American Ron Willis, who won one event and placed second in another. Willis threw 64-11 1/4 to place first in the 35-pound weight throw and placed second in the shot put with a toss of 57-1/4. Willis, runner-up in the 35-pound weight throw at the 1993 NCAA Indoor Championships, qualified for the NCAA Championships in both events earlier this season.

Junior Adrian Bonner placed second in the 800 meter with a time of 1:50.61 to set a new school record. His time was just off from qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

Tennis Invitational starts Friday

From Staff Reports

USC — With only two days of practice time under their belts, the men's tennis team travelled to New Orleans for the SEC Individual Championships.

Seeded players for the Gamecocks included Maxxy Jimenez, No. 15, and Jose Frontera and Johan Sandberg in doubles, No. 6.

The Gamecocks' top two doubles teams fell to the top two seeds in hard-fought eight game pro sets, each decided by a seven point tie-breaker.

Frontera and Sandberg lost a tough 9-8, (7-5) battle to Mississippi State's nationally ranked team of Laurent Miquelard and Joe Simmons in the A flight quarterfinals.

Ole Miss' top seeded Joakim Applequist and Ali Hamadeh

edged USC's Ben Cook and Jim Panagopoulos 9-8, (7-3).

In A flight singles, three USC players advanced to the round of 32.

Freshman Jorge Esqueda played well before falling to Arkansas' Marcus Hilbert. Hilbert, ranked eighth in the country, dropped the first set before rebounding to defeat Esqueda 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Panagopoulos and Sandberg were eliminated by seeded players from LSU. Janne Holtari, No. 14, defeated Sandberg 6-0, 6-4. Panagopoulos fell to 16th seeded Alex Guevar 6-4, 6-2.

Gamecock coach Kent DeMars' team makes final preparations for their dual match slate in the USC Winter Indoor Invitational to be played at the indoor facility beginning at 9 a.m. Friday.

Stop Smoking!

Spring 1994 Treasurer's Workshops

**TODAY AND TOMORROW
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GENERAL TREASURER'S WORKSHOPS

Monday January 24 5:00-6:00 p.m. Russell House Ballroom A
Tuesday January 25 3:30-4:30 p.m. Russell House Ballroom A

SPECIAL TREASURER'S WORKSHOPS

Sports Clubs/Campus Rec

Wednesday January 26 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blatt P.E. Center

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