

# Sports

## Sports Briefs

### NFL Hirings, Firings

The Atlanta Falcons named offensive coordinator June Jones as their new coach at a Monday press conference. Jones, 40, a former Falcon quarterback, vowed to keep the "run-and-shoot" offense in place. He said he will concentrate on improving the team's defense, which struggled through the 1993 season when Atlanta went 6-10.

The Phoenix Cardinals and owner Bill Bidwell fired coach Joe Bugel Monday. Bidwell gave Bugel an ultimatum to produce a winning 1993 season or lose his job back in August. The Cardinals finished 7-9 but won four of their final five contests, apparently saving Bugel's job. Bugel's staff was also dismissed Monday.

### NFL's Dolphins Purchased By Video Tycoon

H. Wayne Huizenga, the founder of Blockbuster Video, purchased the Miami Dolphins from the family of Dolphins' founder Joe Robbie Monday. Huizenga also owns the NHL's Florida Panthers and baseball's Florida Marlins, which could cause a problem. The NFL has in the past prohibited owners from owning other pro sports teams. The NFL and Joe Robbie Stadium lenders must decide on the approval of the sale.

### Baseball Signings

Outfielder Sammy Sosa and the Chicago Cubs avoided salary arbitration Monday as they agreed on a one-year, \$2.95-million contract. Sosa had originally asked for more than \$3 million; the Cubs were offering \$2.7 million. Sosa hit 33 home runs and stole 36 bases in 1993, becoming the first 30-30 player in Cub history.

The Cincinnati Reds are expected to re-sign reliever Rob Dibble to a one-year contract after agreeing to terms. Dibble is expected to earn \$2.45 million, a cut of \$50,000 from 1993. The right-hander had 19 saves this past season but was 1-4 with a 6.48 ERA.

Left-handed reliever Derek Lilliquist and the Cleveland Indians have agreed to terms on a one-year, \$1.35-million contract that will almost double his salary. Lilliquist was 4-4 with 10 saves and a 2.25 ERA in 1993.

### Richland NE Drops Three Spots

Richland NE High School is ranked No. 11 in this week's USA TODAY Super 25 basketball rankings. Richland was ranked No. 8 this past week, but the team lost to Hopkins Lower Richland 57-50 despite 21 points and six blocks from Nicky Davis. Davis also had 37 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks in a 63-44 rout of Sumter.

### Lewis to Defend WBC Title

Lennox Lewis will defend his WBC heavyweight title in May against No. 5 contender Phil Jackson. Main Events, the promoter of the fight, announced the bout will probably be May 6 or May 14 in Atlantic City, N.J., or Reno, Nev.

### Today's Sports on TV

- NCAA Basketball: Seton Hall at Miami (Fla.) (ESPN, 7 p.m.)
- NCAA Basketball: DePaul at Alabama (WGN, 8 p.m.)
- NCAA Basketball: North Carolina at Florida State (ESPN, 9 p.m.)
- NBA Basketball: Phoenix at Atlanta (TBS, 7:35 p.m.)
- NHL Hockey: Montreal at Hartford (ESPN2, 7:30 p.m.)

# Gamecocks look to upset Wildcats

By JIMMY DeBUTTS  
Asst. Sports Editor

The men's basketball team visits Rupp Arena at 7:30 today to take on the Kentucky Wildcats.

The Wildcats, 13-3 overall and 4-2 in the SEC, are second in the eastern division. The Gamecocks are 5-9 overall and 2-3 in the conference. Kentucky has dominated USC in the overall series, winning 12 of 13 meetings.

Kentucky is led offensively by Tony Delk and Travis Ford. Delk, a sophomore guard, is leading the Wildcats in scoring with 14.9 points per game. Ford, a senior guard, is leading the SEC with a 88.2 free throw percentage. He's also averaging 6.3 assists per game.

Balancing the Wildcat attack are junior center Andre Riddick, who is leading the team and the SEC in blocked shots with 42, and sophomore forward Jared Prickett, who leads the team in rebounding with 6.2 per game.

Along with Riddick, the Wildcats are led by Delk and Walter McCarty in blocked shots. The trio have combined for 64 shot blocks, an average of 2.5 per game.

Kentucky will be without the services of senior center Rodney Dent for the rest of the season because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament and a torn medial collateral ligament. He underwent reconstructive surgery Jan. 16, but he isn't eligible for a medical redshirt.

The Gamecocks, still without a

consistent starting lineup, enter their second conference game on the road against a top 10 team. Sophomore forward Norm Greene will again be in the starting lineup. Greene is averaging 2.5 points and 1.9 rebounds a game and is making his third start.

Emmett Hall comes off the bench to average 15.5 points a game and lead the SEC in rebounding with 9.9 a contest. Hall appears in the top 10 of five different statistical categories in the SEC. He is 10th in scoring, seventh in field goal percentage (49.7), ninth in free throw percentage (74.2) and eighth in blocked shots (1.3).

In USC's past two games, Hall has scored 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. He shot five-of-17 from the field in those two games.

USC's other senior forward, Jamie Watson, goes up against the Wildcats as the Gamecocks leading scorer, averaging 18.2 points per game. Watson is also averaging seven rebounds and 2.5 assists.

Junior guard Andy Bostick is contributing big numbers for the Gamecocks. He is averaging 16.9 points and 4.7 rebounds per game.

Watson, Hall and Bostick are the second-highest scoring trio in the SEC. They have combined to average 50.6 points per game. The trio are behind Auburn's Wesley Person, Aaron Swinson and Aubrey Wiley. Also, the Gamecocks are the only team to have three players in the league's top 10 scoring list.



File Photo  
Kentucky sophomore Tony Delk leads the Wildcats in scoring with almost 15 points per game. USC plays at Kentucky at 7:30 p.m. today.

USC will have to improve its shooting if the Gamecocks are to remain competitive. The Gamecocks have been struggling on the road. The team is hitting only 40.1 percent of its shots on the road, compared to 46.1 percent at Frank McGuire Arena.

Although the Gamecocks' shooting percentage drops when they are on the road, their free throw and three-point accuracy improves. USC is shooting 31.2 percent from three-point land on the road, compared to 25.2 percent at home. They are also connecting on 70 percent of their free throws on the road, compared to 66.7 percent from the charity stripe at home.

After tonight's game, the Gamecocks return home to play Georgia at 2:05 p.m. Saturday and LSU at 8:05 p.m. Tuesday. Both games will be televised locally by Jefferson Pilot Sports.

## Basketball

### South Carolina/Kentucky series notes

After last year's series sweep of the Gamecocks, Kentucky now holds a 12-1 lead in the series between the two teams, having won the last 10 games. USC's only win came in the 1932-33 season, a 44-38 victory in Columbia. In the Wildcats' current 10-game streak, UK captured a 1979 contest, 126-81, marking the most points ever scored against a Gamecock squad. The 108 points scored by the Wildcats last year in Columbia were the most points ever scored by an opponent at the Frank McGuire Arena.

### South Carolina vs. Kentucky

1927-28	40-56	L at Atlanta	1978-79	74-79	L at Columbia
1932-33	36-44	L at Lexington	1979-80	81-126	L at Lexington
	44-38	W at Columbia	1991-92	63-80	L at Columbia
1941-42	25-64	L at Lexington		56-74	L at Lexington
1967-68	66-76	L at Lexington	1992-93	82-108	L at Columbia
1976-77	67-98	L at Columbia		66-87	L at Lexington
1977-78	65-84	L at Lexington			

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