

# Sports

## LSU to challenge USC tonight

### Sports Briefs

#### CBS, SEC might strike deal

SEC athletics directors met yesterday in Birmingham, Ala., amid rumors of a possible contract with CBS to televise the conference's football and basketball games.

CBS Sports President Neal Pilson said "conversations are going on," but he wasn't prepared to comment further on the reports. CBS recently lost its NFL broadcasting rights.

SEC teams are part of the 64-member College Football Association, which has a contract with ABC-TV through 1995. If the SEC were to bolt for CBS, it could lead the way for other conferences or individual schools to negotiate their own deals. The CFA is composed of all the major conferences except the Big 10 and Pacific 10.

CBS apparently wants to package the SEC and the Big East conferences for a possible \$25 million to \$30 million. With the Big 10 and Pac-10 under contract to ABC, the SEC/Big East package could leave conferences such as the Southwest, Atlantic Coast and Big Eight without any television deals by 1996.

#### Blue Devils, Tar Heels set to battle

The newest No. 1 team in college basketball is the Duke Blue Devils. Their first task of staying at the top is a tough one as they travel the 10 or so miles down highway 15-501 to challenge the No. 2 UNC Tar Heels Thursday. Duke (15-1) leads the ACC with only one conference loss. UNC (17-3) has lost at Georgia Tech and Virginia in conference play.

The upset bug continued Monday as No. 25 Missouri raced past No. 4 Kansas 79-67 in Columbia, Mo. The Tigers (15-2, 6-0 Big Eight) were paced by Melvin Booker's 16 points and now lead the conference by two games. The Jayhawks (19-3, 4-2 Big Eight) were led by Steve Woodberry's 19 points.

#### Richland NE's Davis arrested

Richland Northeast High School basketball star Nicky Davis was arrested on armed robbery charges Saturday night. Davis allegedly held a BB pistol to the back of a man's head. Davis and a cohort were apparently to be paid \$50 each by Clarence Joseph II for robbing a man of his Rolex watch.

Richland NE is ranked ninth in this week's USA TODAY Super 25 high school basketball rankings.

#### Baseball signings

The Chicago White Sox agreed to terms Monday with third baseman Robin Ventura on a four-year, \$20.575 million contract. Ventura, who hit .262 with 22 home runs and 94 RBIs this past season and won his third consecutive Gold Glove, now has incentives in his contract for MVP and Gold Glove awards.

The White Sox now have \$50 million invested in the corners of their infield. They signed first baseman Frank Thomas to a four-year, \$29 million contract extension Oct. 26.

Designated hitter-outfielder Bo Jackson won't be returning to the White Sox, however.

On Monday, Jackson signed a one-year contract worth a possible \$2 million with incentives to play with the California Angels.

The Atlanta Braves agreed to terms Monday with pitcher Kent Mercker, and the St. Louis Cardinals signed veteran pitcher Rick Sutcliffe to a minor-league contract and invited him to spring training.

#### Today's sports on TV

College Basketball: Maryland at Virginia (ESPN, 7 p.m.)  
Loyola (Ill.) at DePaul (WGN, 8 p.m.)  
St. John's at Villanova (ESPN, 9 p.m.)  
NBA Basketball: Orlando at Atlanta (TBS, 7:35 p.m.)

By JIMMY DeBUTTS  
Assistant Sports Editor

The LSU Tigers visit Frank McGuire Arena at 8:05 tonight to take on the men's basketball team.

The game will be televised by Jefferson Pilot Sports, which may be a bad omen for the Gamecocks (5-11, 2-5), who have lost all six previous televised games this season. The Tigers (9-7, 3-1) lead the overall series, having won two of the three meetings.

Leading the Tigers this season are Jamie Brandon, Clarence Ceasar and Ronnie Henderson. Brandon, a senior forward, leads LSU in scoring with 17.3 a game and is tied with Ceasar, a junior forward, in rebounding with 6.3 a game. Ceasar is averaging 13.5 points and 3.5 steals per game.

Henderson, a freshman guard, is averaging 24 minutes a game but is second on the team in scoring with 16.6 points per game. He is LSU's best player off the bench, contributing 3.3 rebounds and 1.4 steals a game.

The Gamecocks will have a test in ball control when they take on LSU, because the Tigers are forcing 21.4 turnovers per game. LSU has turned those turnovers into 251 points, for an average of 15.7 points per game. The Tigers are also good at turning the ball over themselves, which they have done 264 times this season.

USC senior forward Jamie Watson

continues to lead the Gamecocks this season. He is averaging 18.8 points per game, which puts him fifth in scoring in the SEC. He's also averaging 6.9 rebounds a game. Watson currently ranks 24th on the USC all-time scoring list with 1,087 points. If he continues on his current pace, Watson will finish his career 16th on the all-time list.

Emmett Hall has been struggling lately. He's now tied for first in the SEC in rebounding with Auburn's Aubrey Wiley with 9.6 rebounds a game. In his past four games, he's averaging just more than seven boards.

Hall is averaging 14.8 points and 1.3 blocks a game. Joining Watson and Hall in double-digit scoring is junior forward Andy Bostick, who is second on the team in scoring with 16.3 points a game. Bostick is eighth in the SEC in scoring.

Junior point guard Carey Rich has continued to play well for the Gamecocks. He is fourth in the SEC in assists, averaging 5.2 a game. Rich is also averaging 9.1 points a contest.

For the first time in five seasons, the Gamecocks are shooting more than 65 percent from the free throw line as a team. USC is hitting 68.8 percent of its shots from the line, putting them fourth in the SEC. USC is shooting better against SEC foes, connecting on 70.5 percent of its shots.

Andy Bostick, Emmett Hall, Donnie

Mathews and Durrant Williams are all shooting more than 70 percent from the charity stripe.

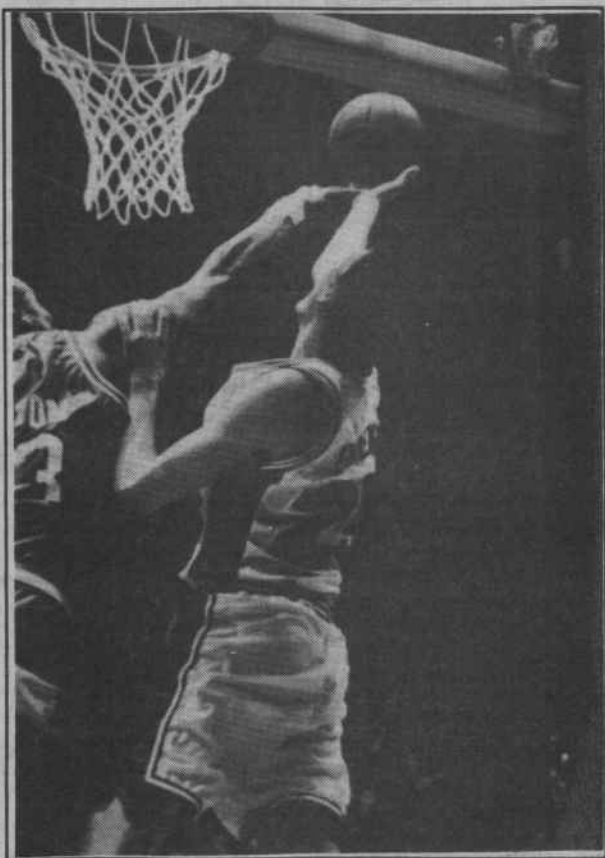
Consistently getting easy baskets has been a problem for the Gamecocks this season, but it isn't the fault of Bostick or Watson. Bostick leads USC in dunks this season with 18, and Watson is close behind with 15. The Gamecock record for most dunks in a season is held by Edmond Wilson, who recorded 36 in 1992-93.

The Gamecocks, who have played shorthanded all season, will have to deal with limiting playing time for Donnie Mathews. The freshman guard suffered a hip pointer in the first half of the Jan. 29 Georgia game after scoring five points in just more than a minute of playing time.

In limited playing time this season, freshman center George Formanek has shown potential. In four minutes of playing time against Georgia, he had five points and six rebounds.

After tonight's game, the Gamecocks play six of their final nine games on the road. Eight of their opponents are in the SEC, with Clemson being the only non-conference foe.

USC will face Ole Miss at 8:30 p.m. Saturday in Oxford, Miss.



David Mandrell/The Gamecock  
Sophomore Norm Greene goes up for a layup against Georgia Saturday afternoon. The Gamecocks take on LSU at 8 p.m. at the Coliseum.

### Johnson wins award for second time

From Staff Reports

Lady Gamecock basketball player Shannon Johnson was named SEC Player of the Week for the week of Jan. 23 through Jan. 30.

Johnson, who won the award for the second time this season, averaged 34 points, six rebounds, four assists, 2.5 steals and 1.5 blocks in two games. She shot 48 percent from the field (25-52) and converted 86 percent from the line (12-14).

The sophomore guard had an outstanding week, scoring 42 points Wednesday against East Ten-



Johnson

nessee State University, including 30 points in the second half, breaking the previous school record of 41 points set by Katrina Anderson in 1978.

The performance is the fifth-best all-time effort in SEC history and the best since 1987, when Georgia's Katrina McClain posted 43 points.

Friday against Georgia, she posted 21 of her 26 points in the second half to lead the Gamecocks in scoring.

The Hartsville native leads the Gamecocks in scoring, averaging 24.7 a game, steals (52) and assists (97). She leads the SEC in scoring and ranks 20th in rebounding (6.5), 10th in field goal percentage (47.1), fifth in three-point percentage (39.1), 12th in free throw percentage (67.7), fifth in assists (5.1) and fourth in steals (2.7). Nationally, Johnson is ranked seventh in scoring.

### Women athletes to be honored

From Staff Reports

USC will honor 15 outstanding women athletes at the beginning of tonight's men's basketball game against LSU.

The awards presentation is one of the events USC will sponsor to celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day at the university. Two athletes from each women's team will be honored.

Along with the presentation, the women's teams will have a display on the concourse level of the Coliseum on the Greene Street side. The display will be available for viewing as the doors open for the women's game against Furman as well as throughout the men's game.

"Honoring the outstanding achievements of women athletes at South Carolina serves two purposes," said Lau-

rie Massa, senior women's administrator. "It puts in front of the public the high level of student-athletes that we have here at the University and hopefully provides a source of inspiration for other young women athletes."

USC will recognize the women athletes and their teams Feb. 8 prior to the start of the women's game against Tennessee. The display will also be available during the game on the concourse level.

The national day was proclaimed by Congress in 1987 to recognize the progress of girls and women in sports and the benefits sports and fitness can bring to the lives of all girls and women. The event is organized nationally by Girls Inc., Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., National Association of Girls and Women in Sport, Women's Sports Foundation and YWCA of the U.S.A.

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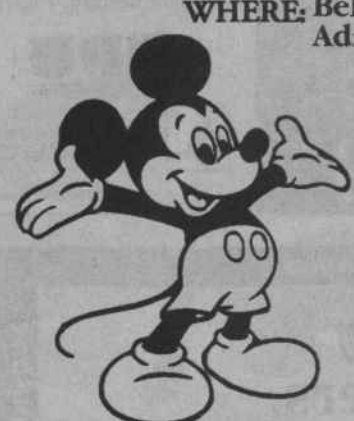
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Attendance at this presentation is required to interview for the Summer/Fall '94 College Program. Interviews will be held Friday, Feb. 4, 1994. The following majors are encouraged to attend: Business, Communication, Recreation/Leisure Studies, Hospitality/Restaurant Mgmt. and Theatre/Drama preferred.

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