

Davis, Washington highlight recruiting class

By NANCY SALOMONSKY
Carolina! Editor

National signing day proved to be exciting for USC football coach Brad Scott, as he and his staff added the names of 17 talented athletes to the young USC roster. "Of course, I, like every other college football coach today, stands before you and tells you that I am very excited about the class that we have signed," Scott said Wednesday at the signing day press conference. "This is very special because this will be my first class as head coach, and there will be a lot of firsts along the way, but certainly this is one of those magic moments for me." "I am extremely proud of the class that we have signed, because it represents a group of young men that I think gave us SEC-caliber players. I think that the experience that I had at Florida State helped me as I began to evaluate these players. That is really what excites me. I know the caliber of this class."

USC went up against some of the best football schools in the nation and came up big with signees such as Ben Washington, Zola Davis and Anthony Wright. Washington, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound defensive back from Tallahassee, Fla., is said to be one the country's best high school secondary players. He was a member of the Florida Super 24 All-Star Team and was named Defensive Player of the Year

by the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. "Ben Washington is a tremendous talent," Scott said. "He is very powerful and extremely fast."

Zola Davis is probably USC's top recruit this year. He comes to the Gamecocks as the No. 1 wide receiver in the nation, according to Super Prep magazine. Davis is a Parade All-American and, according to Deep South Recruiting Guide, a S.C. Player of the Year. Davis, 6-foot-2, 195 pounds, runs the 40 in 4.4.

Anthony Wright, who is 6-foot-2, 185 pounds, is a standout quarterback prospect. Wright was named All-American by Super Prep magazine, which rated him as the No. 7 quarterback in the nation and the No. 2 quarterback in North Carolina.

Even with an exciting signing day, the USC recruiting staff had two major let-downs. The Gamecocks lost two key recruits, Anthony Downs and Vonnice Holiday, to other universities.

"Well, we are all a little greedy," Scott said. "I sure would have liked to have those guys. In fact, when they told me, I thought they had the wrong number at first."

"I wanted to be sure they called the right place. They are fine players, and I certainly wish them well at their respective universities. You can't judge a whole recruiting class on what one person does

1994 Football Signees

The following players have signed with the Gamecock football team as of Feb. 2:

Backs & Receivers	Height	Weight	Hometown
Zola Davis	6' 2"	195 lbs.	Charleston
Arturo Freeman	6' 0"	180 lbs.	Orangeburg
Jeff Kilgore	5' 9"	165 lbs.	Greenville
Shah Mays	5' 11"	155 lbs.	Tallahassee, Fla.
Keris Sullivan	5' 8"	170 lbs.	Woodbine, Ga.
Homer Torrance	6' 2"	195 lbs.	Oakland, Fla.
Ben Washington	6' 1"	190 lbs.	Tallahassee, Fla.
Anthony Wright	6' 3"	180 lbs.	Vanceboro, N.C.
Linemen & Linebackers	Height	Weight	Hometown
Reggie Baker	6' 6"	270 lbs.	Jacksonville, Fla.
Paul Beckwith	6' 4"	255 lbs.	Palatka, Fla.
J.J. Brown	6' 4"	235 lbs.	Chesterfield
Shane Burnham	6' 0"	200 lbs.	Tallahassee, Fla.
Jody Caldwell	6' 3"	225 lbs.	Hartsville
Jamie Lawrence	6' 4"	220 lbs.	Columbia
Maurice Miller	6' 4"	260 lbs.	Cheraw
Andray Spearman	6' 4"	290 lbs.	Greenwood
Henry Taylor	6' 3"	240 lbs.	Barnwell

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

Source: USC Sports Information

and what another person does. You have to look at it as a whole."

Scott credits assistant coaches Brad Lawing, Clyde Wrenn and John Gutekunst for the success of his first recruiting class. "Those guys were here during the transition and held this class together," Scott said. "After taking the job in early December and then leaving for almost an entire month, those guys continued to work and work."

"I said earlier when I took the job that one of our recruiting needs would be to recruit the best. The guys I call 'runners and hitters' with the greatest ability to move, to run... You can't get enough of those kind of players."

"I can't ever remember walking away from the best players in all of the years that I have been in business. They will certainly be able to stand on their own merit with any across the country."

Track star Page stresses work ethic, academics

By NANCY SALOMONSKY
Carolina! Editor

From a low profile walk-on to a NCAA Tournament qualifier, senior Lavon Page has made an impact on the USC track team with his tremendous work ethic and drive in the 35-pound hammer throw.

"He is a very hard worker in the weight room," said throwing coach Larry Judge. "Perseverance and hard work have really made a difference with Lavon in the transition from a walk-on athlete to a scholarship athlete, and now to an athlete who is competing at the national level."

"Last year, Lavon set a goal of qualifying for the NCAAs," Judge said. "He was the driving force for the whole crew in the weight room. We had a saying 'One more for the bird,' which meant Lavon would try to get an extra repetition or two to make the plane for nationals."

Page gives credit to his parents for his work ethic. "My parents and my upbringing have always told me to give 100 percent if I want to accomplish something," Page said.

Page, a finance/corporate management major, places his education as a top priority and last year was named to the SEC All-Academic team.

"School comes first," Page said. "I came to USC to get an education first and to make myself more marketable after graduation. After I graduate, I would like to do financial services or maybe be-

come a stock broker."

The USC track team started its indoor season on Dec. 3 and continues until March 13 with the NCAA Championships.

"We have a young promising team with good senior leadership and pretty good freshman-talent," Page said. "Personally, our (the field events) biggest opponent is Georgia because they have a good throwing squad, but overall Arkansas is going to be tough because of their running squad."

Page said working with the national record holder, Ron Willis, has been very rewarding.

"He is a great motivator and a great athlete," Page said. "Seeing his accomplishments makes you want to do bigger and better things."

"Lavon really helps motivate Ron Willis and the other guys with his work ethic," Judge said. "He wasn't the most physically gifted and talented, but he worked hard. I guess you could say he is the 'Rudy' of the track team, but he's taken it to a lot higher level than 'Rudy.'"

Before a big meet, Page psyches himself up by becoming mentally ready.

"I'll listen to music and try to think about something that I haven't accomplished yet," he said.

Being an athlete and a representative of USC is very important to Page.

"It's a pride thing," Page said. "It is hard to put into words... it gives me a sense of accomplishment. It is emotionally satisfying to be a part of a team and to be recognized as a leader and to be able to achieve the goals we set."

The USC track team will be competing at home in The Gamecock Invitational on Feb. 19.

"We don't get a lot of exposure for home track meets. It's always a help to the athletes to get support from the students and community."



Page

Lady Gamecocks hold off Furman with free throws

By JIMMY DeBUTTS
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team beat Furman Wednesday 77-74 at Frank McGuire Arena.

The Lady Gamecocks (13-7) were led by center Malinda McDaniel, who scored 16 points. She also grabbed 14 rebounds, including 9 offensively.

The Lady Paladins (7-10) gave Carolina a tough game, forcing the game-deciding points to be made at the free-throw line. Jenny Randall gave the Gamecocks the victory when she converted both of her free-throw attempts with 28 seconds left.

Furman was led by Rushia Brown who led both teams with 24 points. She also led Furman in rebounding with 14. Karen Stanley also played big for the Lady Paladins with 22 points and four steals. Stanley made 4 of 7 three-point

ers.

Stanley hit a three-pointer with 33 seconds left in the game to put Furman within two points, but USC never relinquished the lead. Jennifer Jones and Kristi Creamer also scored in double figures for Furman. Jones finished with 15 points and led the team in assists with eight. Creamer had 10 points and grabbed 7 rebounds.

Sophomore standout Shannon Johnson scored 15 points and led the Gamecocks with eight assists. However, Johnson took just 11 shots and made only one attempt from behind the three-point line. Randall was the leading scorer for Carolina, with 17 points. She also had two blocked shots.

Christi Timmons came off the bench to contribute 16 points, two steals and seven rebounds for the Gamecocks. The Gamecocks never trailed in the

game, scoring the first two points of the game, and amassing a nine-point lead at halftime. Furman shot just 39 percent in the half, while USC was hot, connecting on 54 percent of their shots.

Carolina cooled off in the second half, hitting just 10 of 32 shots from the field, while Furman improved their shooting to 44 percent with 14 of 32 from the field.

Furman was able to get within two points on three occasions in the second half, but were never able to overtake the Gamecocks. What helped the Gamecocks was converting 8 of 12 of their free-throw attempts in the second half. USC was able to keep the lead by not allowing Furman to get to the line in the second half. The Paladins only shot six free throws in the half, making just three of them.

Carolina will play No. 2 Tennessee at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at Frank McGuire Arena.



David Mandrell/The Gamecock
Shannon Johnson drives in for two points Wednesday against Furman.

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