

# Men's tennis team pulls third straight upset

By TONY SANTORI  
Sports Editor

The USC men's tennis team continued its strong play Saturday with a 5-2 home victory against Ole Miss (11-5, 4-3), marking the Gamecocks' third consecutive win against a Top 15 opponent in the past 10 days.

USC (13-4, 3-4) won on the strength of its outstanding singles play as the Gamecocks won the top five positions, most in close fashion.

Gamecock Mark Bommelje rallied from a second-set deficit to post the match-clinching point at No. 5 singles. The freshman from Orlando, Fla., won the first set 7-5 but trailed 2-5 in the second. However, he won three straight games and eventually won the set and the match in a 7-6 (7-4) tie-breaker against Van Van Lingen.

The match was Bommelje's second since returning from a two-month illness.

"I've just been dying to get back on the court," he said. "I'm not nervous at all. In fact, I enjoy having to fight back when I'm behind."

Senior Johan Sandberg once again played strong for the Gamecocks at No. 1 singles, defeating Joakim Appelqvist. The match between the two Swedes went the distance. Appelqvist won the first set 7-5, but Sandberg rebounded to win the final two sets 6-4, 6-3.

Sandberg has been no stranger to three-set matches, playing in seven. He has proved his toughness by going 5-2 in those matches. Despite playing the nation's toughest schedule at No. 1 singles, he has yet to lose back-to-back matches this season.

Sophomore Maxxy Jimenez won his fourth match against a ranked player when he defeated Ole Miss' Mahesh Bhupathi at No. 2 singles. Jimenez downed then-No. 27 Bhupathi 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

Junior Jim Panagopoulos defeated the Rebels' No. 36 Johan Hede at No. 3 singles 7-6 (7-5), 6-2. The win was Panagopoulos' 20th singles victory of the season.

"Today was by far the best match I've played on slow courts, outdoors,"

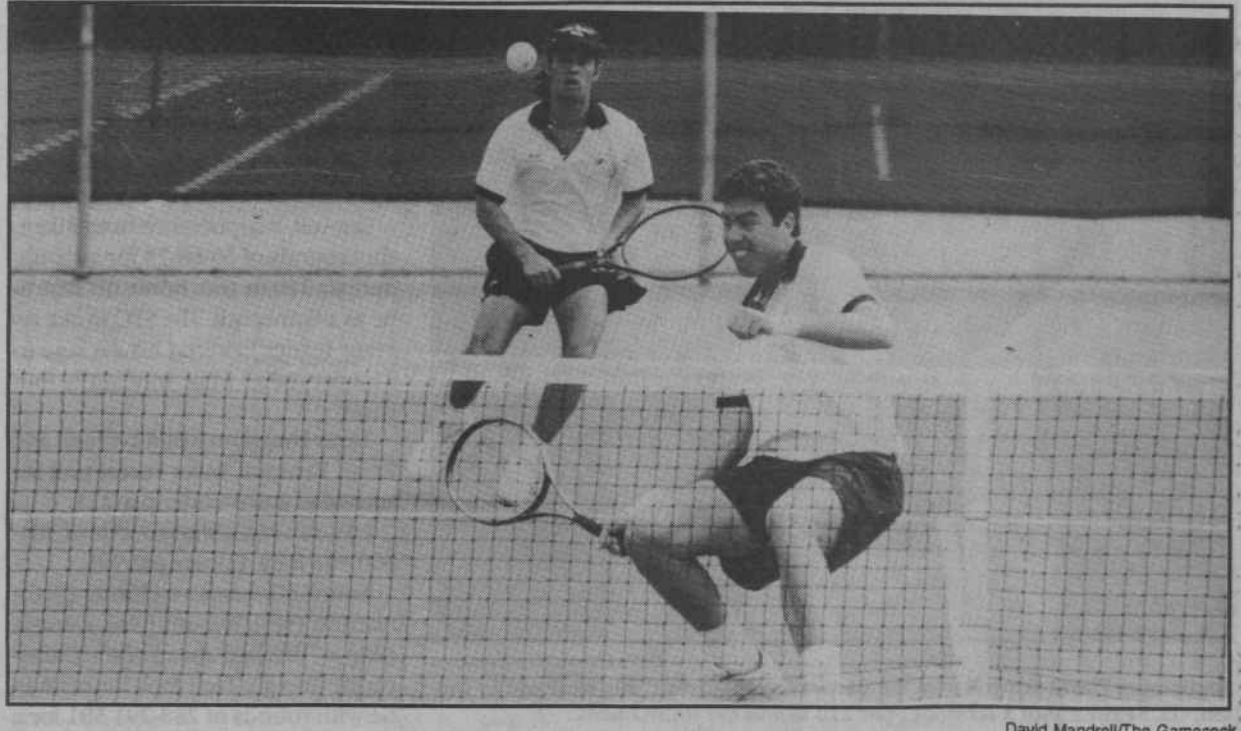
Panagopoulos said. "Winning the first set gave me the confidence to go for everything on my serve and forehand."

Jorge Esquida earned USC's other singles point at No. 4 singles with a 6-3, 6-4 victory against Ali Hamadeh.

The Gamecocks' lone victory in doubles came via the team of Jimenez and Panagopoulos. The duo, who defeated Appelqvist and Hamadeh 8-5 at No. 2 doubles, have a chance to duplicate Phil Duker's and Steve Geller's 20 wins for USC in 1975.

USC's 13-4 start is the best since the 1989 team, which reached the NCAA semifinals. Coach Kent DeMars is confident about the Gamecocks' recent play.

"We began putting the pieces together in the Duke match," he said. "They say you are only as strong as your weakest link, but I don't know that we have one now that the team is completely healthy. This is the strongest singles lineup since...1989, when we went to the Final Four."



Mark Bommelje and Jose Fontera charge the net in the Gamecock's 5-1 victory Tuesday against UNC. Bommelje and Fontera defeated Paul Harsanyi and Cooper Pulliam 8-4.

## No. 10 Duke defeats Lady Gamecock tennis

By TONY SANTORI  
Sports Editor

The USC women's tennis team lost its first Southeast Region match of the year Friday against No. 10 Duke in Durham.

USC (15-3) lost 7-2 to Duke as Carolina began a six-match road streak. This was the Gamecocks' sixth consecutive loss to the Blue Devils.

Gamecock Helen Crook, ranked No. 72, was a bright spot on the afternoon as she defeated No. 35 Monica Mraz at No. 1 singles. Crook, a senior from Essex, England, won 7-5, 7-5. This was the seventh time she's defeated a ranked opponent in her USC career.

USC junior Murial Abella won a tight three-set match against Karen O'Sullivan at No. 4 singles. The Bompas, France, native dropped

the first set 4-6 before rallying to take the last two sets 6-4, 6-1.

For both Crook and Abella, it was their 20th victory of the season.

Gamecock sophomore Heather Greene lost for the third time this spring as she fell 6-1, 6-1 to No. 34 Wendy Lyons at No. 2 singles.

USC junior Victoria Davies dropped a straight-set decision at No. 3 singles. Christine Neuman downed Davies 6-2, 6-4.

The Gamecocks had a chance to win at No. 3 doubles. Abella and Sophie Ljucovic won the first set 7-6. The duo then lost two tough sets 4-6, 4-6 to the Devils' Wendy Fix and Kim Schiff.

USC will return to action at noon Sunday against No. 16 Kentucky in Lexington.

## Track teams each win four at SpecTown Invitational

From staff reports

The USC men's and women's track teams each won four events this weekend at the SpecTown Invitational in Athens, Ga.

Junior Leslie Coons competed in all four throwing events for the Lady Gamecocks, winning two. She won both the javelin and hammer throw, setting two records in the hammer.

The Poway, Calif., native threw the hammer 174-6, which is the fifth best ever by a collegiate and sixth best ever in the United States. Her 162-9 throw in the javelin qualified her for the NCAA Provisionals.

Fellow Lady Gamecock Lisa Misipeka broke the school and meet records in the shot put. Misipeka, a freshman from Temecula, Calif., threw the shot put 50-10 1/4 to win

first. Coons finished fourth behind Misipeka with a toss of 46-5.

Misipeka finished second in the hammer throw (155) and discus (155-5). Coons, competing in her fourth event of the day, finished fourth in the discus (136-6).

Sophomore Tracey Capper had a strong meet for the Lady Gamecocks. She won the 1,500m (4:37.15), while placing fourth in the 800m (2:14.55).

Assistant coach Kim Dean was pleased with Capper's performance. "Tracey continues to show her strength and versatility in a number of middle distance events," Dean said.

Freshman Tara Hughes placed fifth for USC in the long jump (19-3 1/2), breaking the school record by more than two feet.

Seniors Danielle Adams and Sue

McGhie placed second and third in the 5,000m and 3,000m with times of 17:56.99 and 9:56.79 respectively. Freshman Lisa Monti placed eighth in the 3,000m (10:20.05).

The men's team excelled in the 110m hurdles and the hammer throw. USC placed first through fourth in the hurdles with sophomore Frank Mensah pacing the way (14.05). Senior Terry Winston, junior Steve Owens and sophomore Marcus Phillips finished behind Mensah with times of 14.09 (season best), 14.59 and 14.69 respectively.

Phillips also placed second in the 400m hurdles (52.19).

Senior All-American Ron Willis continued his winning ways in the hammer throw with a toss of 211-10 to take first.

Willis' teammates — Sophomore John Stoikos (209-10), junior Brett Murray (204), senior Lavon Page (172-3), sophomore Chad Moreau (150-11) — finished second through fifth.

Senior Tom Cronin won the 3,000m steeplechase (9:18.87), with sophomore Eric Rorschick finishing fifth (9:49.35).

Senior Mark Cruz placed third in the 5,000m (15:05.50), while teammate senior Jared Haag finished seventh (15:18.45). Junior Chris Swartz placed third in the 1,500m (3:58.80).

Both the men's and women's track and field teams will compete in the Sea Ray Relays Thursday through Sunday in Knoxville, Tenn.

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