

Wildcats next obstacle for Scott's Gamecocks

RYAN WILSON Asst. Sports Editor

Head football coach Brad Scott will take his Gamecocks on the road tomorrow for the first time this season. The 2-1 Gamecocks will travel to Lexington to take on the 1-2 Kentucky Wildcats.

USC is coming off its second straight win and is looking to avenge last year's home loss to Kentucky. As was the pattern for most of last year's games, the Gamecocks were leading going into the fourth quarter only to see the game slip away.

On the other hand, Kentucky has lost its last two by a score of 132-36. Coach Scott does not think Kentucky's poor showing reflects the quality of the team.

"I don't want the players to think that this is not a very good football team that we are going to play. That is extremely wrong. In fact, it is just the opposite. They are a pretty darn good football team who has had the misfortune of playing two outstanding teams," Scott said.

Kentucky head coach Bill Curry also has no answer for the Wildcats' bad start. "We have no simple answer, and I really don't have any words of wisdom for the team except champions always fight back," Curry said.

The Wildcats return five starters on offense and have added some variations to the stack in an attempt to beef up the passing attack. The Kentucky offense will be led by halfback Moe Williams, a second team all-SEC performer a year ago.

Williams will be joined by fullback Damon Hood, the Cats second leading rusher a year ago. Quarterback Jeff Speedy is questionable for the game because of a separated shoulder.

Look for junior Antonio O'Ferral to run the offense. O'Ferral was instrumental in Kentucky's comeback against USC last year.

Mark Askin and Barry Jones are the standouts on the offensive front,

while O'Ferral will look for targets split end Randy White and flanker Leon Smith.

The Wildcat defense also returns five starters. The defensive front will be led by defensive end Howard Carter. The linebackers are commanded by Donte' Key, who will have to make up for the loss of all-SEC performer Marty Moore.

The strongest area of the Kentucky defense is clearly the secondary. Free safety Melvin Johnson leads an aggressive Wildcat secondary that has shown the penchant for the big play.

The Gamecocks should look to pick up where they left off offensively against Louisiana Tech last week. During the second half, the offense began to show some of the things expected of it all season.

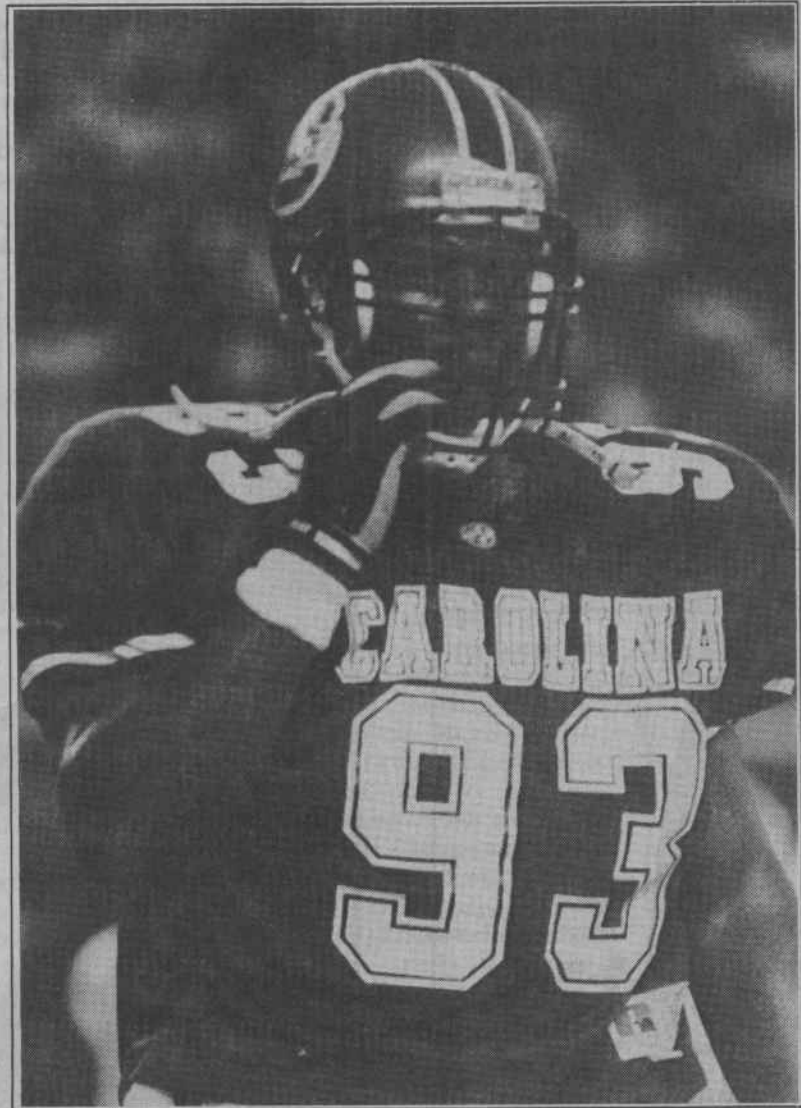
The key to a Carolina victory over the Wildcats will be the ability of the Gamecocks to control the ball. Running backs Brandon Bennett and Stanley Pritchett could spell trouble for a Kentucky defense that gave up 564 yards on the ground last week. Receivers Toby Cates and Kurt Frederick both factor into having a balanced offensive attack.

Junior quarterback Steve Taneyhill is connecting on better than 59 percent of his passes through three games (55-93). He has thrown five touchdown passes this season. His passing efficiency rating (115.2) ranks sixth in the SEC, while his completion percentage rates fifth.

The coaching staff might have finally found the right combination on the offensive line. The moves made in shifting James Dexter to split tackle and Luther Dixon to split guard seemed to be effective.

"We asked our offense to be more physical and run the football, and I think we accomplished that in the second half last week," Scott said.

The defense has not allowed a touchdown in two games. One has to go back to 1988, 65 games ago, to discover the last time a Carolina defense ac-



Van Hope The Gamecock

Senior Stacy Evans will lead the Gamecock defensive attack Saturday at Kentucky. South Carolina's defense has not allowed a touchdown in their last two games.

complished that feat.

Defensive end Stacy Evans, strong safety Tony Watkins, and middle linebacker Hank Campbell are leading the Gamecock Defense. USC is third in the SEC in scoring defense (10 points per game) and fourth in rushing defense (93.67 yards per game).

Game Notes: Kickoff is at 7 p.m. Kentucky leads the series with a 3-1-1 record. Carolina has not beat Kentucky since joining the SEC in 1992. The game will be televised on a pay-per-view basis. Contact your cable company for more information.

SPORTSLOOK

BASEBALL
ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis Cardinals general manager Dal Maxvill, who failed to lead the team into postseason play his last seven seasons, was fired.

The Cardinals said the new general manager would have input on the fate of manager Joe Torre. A search for Maxvill's successor was expected to begin immediately.

TENNIS
SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)

The owner of the pool cottage where tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis was found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning did not have an occupancy permit for the bungalow.

A Southampton Village building inspector said an inspection was required for the application permit, and an inspector might have discovered a problem in the heating systems.

Investigators suspect a malfunction in one of the heating systems used to heat the pool was the source of the lethal carbon monoxide gas that circulated into the cottage bedroom killing Gerulaitis, 40, once one of the world's best players.

HOCKEY
NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Rangers are "getting closer" to a new contract with captain Mark Messier, general manager Neil Smith said.

Messier, who led the Rangers to their first Stanley Cup in 54 years, has been a holdout since the opening of training camp earlier this month.

Messier, who has two years left on a five-year contract, is believed to be asking for a two- or three-year deal worth about \$6 million a year.

FOOTBALL
NEW YORK (AP) — Barry Sanders of Detroit, who rushed for 194 yards in 40 carries in the Lions' 20-17 upset of Dallas on Monday night, was named the NFC's

offensive player of the week, and Barry Foster of Pittsburgh won the same honor in the AFC. Foster had 179 yards in 31 carries as the Steelers beat Indianapolis 31-21.

Defensive awards went to cornerback Terry McDaniel of the Raiders in the AFC and linebacker Darion Conner of New Orleans in the NFC, while kickers Doug Brien of San Francisco and Steve Christie of Buffalo won special teams honors.

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos, hoping to end their 0-3 season-opening slump, re-signed 14-year veteran Dennis Smith. Smith, 35, a six-time Pro Bowler, had been released due to salary-cap restrictions.

BASKETBALL
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A contract agreement for Donyell Marshall, the Minnesota Timberwolves' top draft pick, is imminent, team officials and Marshall's agent said.

Negotiations followed reports that Marshall, a 6-foot-9 forward from Connecticut, is attracting trade interest from Golden State, Portland and Washington. Marshall, the No. 4 pick overall, is seeking an eight- or nine-year contract worth between \$36 million and \$40 million.

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns and Los Angeles Lakers are close to making a deal to send small forward Cedric Ceballos to the Lakers in exchange for a draft choice, Suns president Jerry Colangelo said.

Colangelo said completion of the deal involved Ceballos taking a physical and restructuring his contract to fit into the Lakers' salary cap.

Last season, Ceballos played 53 games, averaging 19.1 points in 30.2 minutes.

Volleyball team travels to Mississippi for two games, conference opener

From Staff Reports

The University of South Carolina volleyball team heads to Mississippi tonight for their Southeastern Conference season opener before traveling to Mississippi State on Sunday.

South Carolina will take their best season start since 1983 record of 10-2 on the road after a second-place finish in the South Florida Tournament.

The Gamecocks face Mississippi tonight at 7 p.m. in Oxford. Ole Miss leads the series over USC 6-4, despite the Gamecocks defeat of the Rebels twice last year. The first time the two teams met last season, Carolina won the match 3-1.

The two teams met again in the first round of the SEC tournament last season as the Gamecocks won 3-1 to advance to the second

round for the first time in SEC action.

Mississippi enters the match 2-8 overall, and head coach John Blair enters his eighth season with the Rebels with a career record of 114-151. The Rebels are led by outside hitter Julia Sitaraz and setter Liz Poemer.

The Gamecocks then travel to Starkville Sunday to face the Mississippi State Bulldogs. South Carolina broke the series tie against

the Bulldogs last season, taking a 4-3 lead.

USC and MSU tied for seventh place in the conference last season with 4-10 records. The Gamecocks defeated the Bulldogs, 3-0, in Columbia last season.

Mississippi State enters the match 5-6 overall in head coach Samye Johnson's first year. Johnson enters her 16th season of coaching with a 466-218 career record. Mississippi State is led by Nicole Carter and Heather Schilling.

Carolina is led by the strong play of Amy Iannocari. Iannocari, a senior outside hitter, leads the team in kills with 154.

Junior Katie Gerst leads in blocks, 44, and hitting percentage (.284)

Sophomore Kelly Morrow also leads in two categories. She leads in service aces with 22, and assists with 472.

The Gamecocks first home SEC match is Sept. 30 against Alabama.

Dolphins continue to dominate, top list of pivotal weekend games

(AP) The Minnesota Vikings have allowed the fewest points in the NFL—33 in three games. The Miami Dolphins have scored the third most, 91.

So we have a doubleheader in the Metrodome this weekend: an "Irresistible Force-Immovable Object" game.

A second-level "Super Bowl Preview!" As usual, Miami has injury problems—the Dolphins are down to a fourth-stringer at one corner. At usual, injury problems don't faze Don Shula (unless they get overwhelming, as they did in the final weeks of last season.)

One reason for the success of the Minnesota defense may be the opposition—Green Bay, Detroit and Chicago are NOT offensive powers—but they did hold Barry Sanders to 16 yards, or 178 fewer than Dallas was able to do.

So the Vikings are favored by 3 1/2 points, three for the HomeDome and the other half ... maybe for being in the NFC.

So give the Vikings' defense an edge and give Warren Moon an edge on that weak Miami corner. Plus, his receivers are starting to catch the ball.

VIKINGS, 24-20
New England (plus 3 1/2) at Detroit

A trap for the Lions, who played the dreaded Monday night road game and now have the dreaded short week to get ready for New England. Worse, there's the dreaded celebration factor after beating the Super Bowl champs.

That wouldn't be bad if their coach were Joe Gibbs, Dan Reeves, Jimmy Johnson or Bill Parcells, who can deflate their teams in a second.

PATRIOTS, 38-37
Denver (plus 7) at Buffalo (Monday night)

The "Wade Must Go" chants are beginning. This week, Wade goes to Buffalo, where his defense should perk up the Bills' somewhat dormant offense.

BILLS, 34-20
San Diego (plus 3 1/2) at Raiders

This is one of those games they seem to play every week. Two things going for the Raiders.
1. They woke up in Denver.

2. The Chargers aren't quite good enough to be 4-0.

RAIDERS, 22-17
Pittsburgh (pick 'em) at Seattle

These odds are a mark of how far the Seahawks have come, last week's loss notwithstanding. If Chris Warren were healthy, maybe. But ...

STEELERS, 20-17
New Orleans (plus 16) at San Francisco

How times have changed ... for the Saints.
49ERS, 41-19

Chicago (plus 7 1/2) at Jets
The Jets play better on the road, so this spread's a little big.

JETS, 17-11
Rams (plus 14 1/2) at Kansas City

The biggest controversy anyone can drum up in Kansas City is whether to rest Joe with a 20-point lead. Maybe this week.
CHIEFS 24-3
Tampa Bay (plus 7) at Green Bay

Green Bay can't run. Tampa Bay can't win.

PACKERS, 13-7
Cleveland (minus 1) at Indianapolis

If Vinny Testaverde manages to keep the ball in the hands of his own receivers ...

BROWNS, 20-10
Atlanta (pick 'em) at Washington

The Falcons are 0-10 at RFK and can't stop anyone. The Redskins are 10-0 against the Falcons at RFK and can't stop anyone.

REDSKINS, 40-38
Cincinnati (plus 8 1/2) at Houston

The Oilers' defense is fighting with the offense. The Bengals are simply fighting for a win.

David Klingler comes home.
BENGALS, 9-6

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