

SPORTS LOOK

BASKETBALL

HOUSTON — Vernon Maxwell, the suspended guard of the Houston Rockets, has filed a federal lawsuit, claiming the fan he punched slandered him.

Maxwell filed the suit in Houston, contending Steve George and his brother, Nick George, slandered him by "maliciously accusing him of a crime, namely assault."

Maxwell was suspended for 10 games and fined \$20,000 for going into the stands to punch Steve George of Atlanta on Feb. 6 in Portland. Maxwell said George shouted racial and sexual insults about his family.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK — Baseball's expansion committee talked about the possibility of adding two teams to one league instead of adding one team each to the American and National leagues.

No formal decisions were made during a conference call that lasted about one hour, and the committee will hold another conference call next Wednesday.

Committee chairman John Harrington said adding one team to each league would necessitate interleague play in order to be able to schedule a game for each team every day. Currently there are 14 teams in each league.

BOSTON — Mike Easler, who did not want to work with replacement players who make more money than he does, was dropped as hitting instructor of the Boston Red Sox.

General manager Dan Duquette said the team made the move after Easler indicated he wouldn't work without a raise in the salary he signed for three months ago.

HOCKEY

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman Larry Murphy moved past Bobby Orr into fifth place in NHL career points among defensemen with a first-period assist in a 5-3 victory over Boston.

Murphy has 222 goals and 694 assists for 916 points in 1,115 games

with the Penguins, Washington Capitals, Los Angeles Kings and Minnesota North Stars. He is 42 points behind Larry Robinson, who is fourth. Detroit's Paul Coffey leads with 1,290 points.

TENNIS

PARIS — Martina Hingis, the 14-year-old sensation who is already ranked No. 68, defeated Katerina Maleeva at the Paris Open, making her French pro debut with a victory over the world's 30th-ranked player.

Steffi Graf and Mary Pierce received first-round byes.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Defending champion Todd Martin beat Alexander Mironz in the second round at the St. Jude Indoor.

No. 7 seed Andrei Chesnokov lost to Brett Steven in a second-round match, and Brad Gilbert and Anders Jarryd won in the first round.

MILAN, Italy — Fourth-seeded Michael Stich, No. 5 Yevgeny Kafelnikov and No. 6 Petr Korda advanced to the second round of the Muratti Time indoor tournament, while No. 7 Jason Stoltenberg and No. 8 Alex Corretja were ousted in the first round.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Top-seeded Brenda Schultz, a finalist in this tournament last year, was among the players winning first-round matches at the IGA Tennis Classic.

No. 2 Amy Frazier, No. 7 Tami Whitlinger-Jones, No. 6 Nicole Bradtke and No. 9 Elena Likhovtseva also advanced.

AUTO RACING

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Dale Jarrett posted the fastest time in the first round of qualifying for Sunday's Daytona 500 with a speed of 193.494. Dale Earnhardt, Sterling Marlin, Robert Pressley and Terry Labonte have the next four fastest times.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Michael Waltrip captured the No. 1 position for Saturday's Goody's 300 with a speed of 185.326 mph.

Tigers, Weems too much for Gamecocks

ROBBIE MEEK Staff Writer

The USC Men's Basketball team lost a nail-biter Wednesday night, 80-78 to SEC foe Auburn. The game was played in front of a crowd of 6,387 rowdy fans in Frank McGuire Arena.

The Auburn Tigers came into the game 12-8 overall and 5-6 in the conference. The Tigers have beaten such ranked teams as No. 4 Arkansas, No. 23 Florida, and No. 21 Mississippi State during the course of this season.

The Gamecocks entered 3-8 in the conference and 7-13 overall.

"They've got a very nice team," said Coach Eddie Fogler. "Auburn is for real, they're very good."

The Gamecocks opened the game on a 8-0 run. The run included two treys by Carey Rich and Andy Bostick, respectively.

After a Melvin Watson trey, with 14:23 in the half, Carolina had a 14-2 lead. The Gamecocks were seven of 15 from three-point land, in the first half.

Auburn then went on a 9-3 run, and at the 9:46 mark, USC held a 21-19 lead. The run included two Tiger treys. Auburn was 6-15 from the three-point line, in the first half.

The two teams then exchanged baskets until the 3:19 mark when the Gamecocks went on a 10-2 scoring streak to end the half.

The first half ended with Carolina in front 37-34. The Gamecocks shot 45 percent from the floor and the Tigers shot 48 percent.

The Gamecocks and Tigers came out of the locker room exchanging baskets. With 16:53 left Peter Van Elswyk scored on a layup to give USC a 45-39 lead.

Then the game went downhill for the Gamecocks. Auburn went on a 12-

5 run. The run was sparked by a Moochie Norris trey. At the 12:28 mark Auburn led by one, 51-50.

At the 11:57 mark Auburn started its assault on the Gamecocks. Lance Weems sparked the Tigers with his fourth trey. Weems had five treys in seven attempts. He was Auburn's leading scorer with 18 points.

"I shot a lot better," said Weems. "I've been in a bit of a slump here lately. I really got my confidence back last game when I made a big three. I think I really found it tonight."

In the next 12 minutes Auburn held a lead of 10 or more three different times. The Tigers held a 79-68 lead at the 1:22 mark.

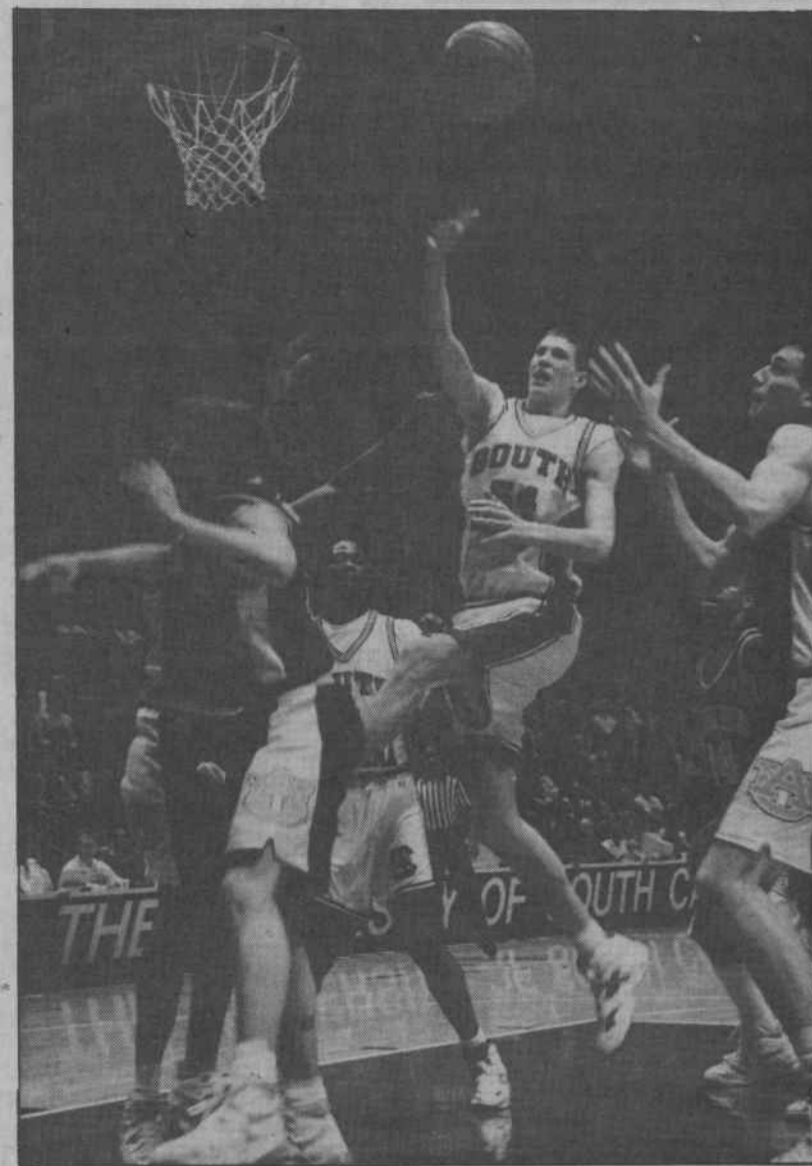
The Gamecocks then started their comeback. The comeback began with a Bostick layup. Bostick finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

"Bostick was really good here tonight," said Fogler. "He was all over the place for us. That's one of his better efforts."

Time ran out on the Carolina comeback despite a 10-1 run.

The Gamecocks shot 49 percent from the field and 42 percent from the three-point line. The Tigers shot 52 percent from the floor and 44 percent from the three-point line.

The Gamecocks next contest is against Vanderbilt Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank McGuire Arena.



JAMES PONCE The Gamecock Freshman Ryan Stack and the Gamecocks attacked the basket against Auburn Wednesday but came up short, losing 80-78.

USC softball team splits two with Furman

Staff Reports

The USC softball team traveled to Furman University and split the first two games of the season.

The Lady Gamecocks were defeated in the first game, 3-1. The losing pitcher was Darlene Gareis. She threw six innings, with five hits, three runs, two walks and three strikeouts.

Tina Plew, Trinity Johnson and De-

bie Parker each had a hit in the game, with Plew and Johnson scoring. USC scored in the fourth and sixth innings, but the Lady Paladians put up three runs in the bottom of the fourth that proved to be the difference.

The Lady Gamecocks then rebounded to win the second game 3-0. Johnson picked up her first victory of the year. Johnson threw seven innings, giving up

three hits, walking two and 15 strikeouts.

Offensively Carolina was led by Dana Fulmer and Carrie Lyons, who each had three hits. USC scored two in the fifth and added a run in the seventh.

The Lady Gamecocks, 1-1, are back in action Saturday, Feb. 18, when they take on Coastal Carolina in 1 p.m. doubleheader.

PANTHERS EXPANSION DRAFT PICKS
1 Rod Smith CB - Patriots
2 Harry Boatman OT - 49ers
3 Kurt Haws TE - Redskins
4 Tyrone Rogers DT - Seahawks
5 Mark Thomas DE - 49ers

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In the spotlight More bright ideas are needed from you! Join the Special Programs Committee Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Russell House Room 235. This program paid for, in part, with student activity fees.

WE WILL!