

Gamecocks set to tame Tigers



FILE PHOTO The Gamecock
USC basketball coach Eddie Fogler and LSU coach Dale Brown converse before last year's contest. The Gamecocks will face the Bayou Bengals tonight in Baton Rouge. Tipoff is at 8 p.m.

SPORTS LOOK

Baseball

■ **SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — The strike could force a delay in the awarding of two new franchises, but expansion committee Chairman John Harrington said officials are still aiming for a decision in March.

Phoenix, which along with St. Petersburg, Fla., seems almost certain of getting one of the two teams for 1998 if owners approve Harrington's recommendation, must have a decision by March 31 to take advantage of a stadium construction tax.

NFL

■ **KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Safety David Whitmore, who came to Kansas City from San Francisco along with quarterback Joe Montana, said he thinks the four-time Super Bowl winner is through.

"He's probably done, that's all I can say. I have to be careful what I say," Whitmore told WIBW-TV in Topeka, Kan. "There's a lot of things he's real unhappy about with the organization and things of that nature." Montana, 38, has one year left on a three-year contract.

NHL

■ **EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)** — Neal Broten, one of two members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team still in the NHL, joined New Jersey in a trade that sent Corey Millen to Dallas.

Broten, 35, had four assists in 17 games this season and 266 goals and 586 assists in 14 seasons with Minnesota and Dallas. Millen, 30, had two goals and three assists in 17 games this season.

Broten and former University of Minnesota teammate Mike Ramsey of Detroit are the only members of the 1980 team still playing in the NHL.

■ **SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — San Jose traded captain Bob Errey to Detroit for a draft choice, a day after he was told that he would no longer play for the Sharks. Errey, 30, had two goals and two assists in 13 games.

■ **NEW YORK (AP)** — Philadelphia left wing John Leclair, who had four goals and three assists in two games last week, was selected NHL player of the week. Leclair, acquired from Montreal on Feb. 9, had three goals in the Flyers' 7-0 victory over the Canadians on Saturday night.

Tennis

■ **ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)** — Third-seeded Wayne Ferreira beat Luiz Mattar 6-4, 6-3, and Jeff Tarango defeated Patrick McEnroe 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), 6-2 in the first round of the ABN AMRO Championships.

■ **SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Top-seeded Todd Martin beat Markus Zoccke of Germany 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 to advance to the second round of the MassMutual Championships.

■ **MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Top-seeded Alberto Berasategui beat David Rikl 7-6 (7-1), 6-4 in the opening round of the Mexico Open.

Boxing

■ **LONDON (AP)** — As Gerald McClellan's chances of survival improved, British boxing officials dismissed appeals for the sport to be banned and called for a world body to supervise safety in boxing.

McClellan, of Freeport, Ill., remained in critical but stable condition on life support at Royal London Hospital, where he had a blood clot removed from his brain after being stopped by Nigel Benn in a WBC super-middleweight title fight Saturday night.

NBA

■ **MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Minnesota released center Charles Shackelford, two days after he cleaned out his locker when he was put on the injured list.

Shackelford, who averaged 4.5 points and 3.2 rebounds in 21 games, missed the preseason and 32 games with a lower back injury.

■ **NEW YORK (AP)** — Portland guard Rod Strickland, who averaged 29.3 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds in three victories last week, was selected the NBA player of the week.

Skiing

■ **MARIBOR, Slovenia (AP)** — Switzerland's Vreni Schneider won her 54th World Cup race, beating Slovenia's Katja Koren in the completion of a slalom.

Schneider, who trailed Germany's Martina Ertl by 0.19 seconds after the first run Sunday, finished 1.39 seconds ahead of Koren. Snow and rain Sunday forced postponement of the second run for the first time in women's World Cup slalom history.

LARRY WILLIAMS Staff Writer

Tonight, the South Carolina Men's basketball team will travel to Baton Rouge, La. to battle the Louisiana State Tigers. An SEC foe, the Tigers will be the Gamecocks' last conference road foe as well as their second to last SEC contest.

The Tigers enter the game with a 12-12 record overall, 6-8 in the SEC. The Gamecocks have an 8-16 record overall, 3-11 in the SEC.

The Gamecocks last game was in Athens against the Georgia Bulldogs, where Carolina fell behind 41-28 at half-time and eventually lost 66-56. Two Gamecocks managed double figures, Melvin Watson with 14 and Andy Bostick with 10. Malik Russell hauled in 12 rebounds.

LSU appears to be back on the winning track, as they broke a five-game losing streak with a convincing decision over Auburn at the Assembly Center.

Star Ronnie Henderson led the Tigers with 32 points, and Roman Rubchenko checked in with 17.

The Tigers have been plagued by inconsistency this season, as their longest winning streak is four games, which happened to come at the hands of weak early season opponents.

A major downfall in their poor season to forget is the mid-season injury to freshman sensation Randy Livingston. Livingston, a top candidate for SEC freshman-of-the-year honors, fractured his right patella (kneecap) Jan. 31 against Arkansas and will be out for the remainder of the season.

Livingston averaged 14.0 points per game, 4.0 rebounds, 9.4 assists and 2.5 steals. He was on pace to set school records for season assists and a national freshman record for assist average.

Sporting News columnist Gene Wojciechowski wrote of Livingston, "Livingston already has been praised by Magic Johnson for his play and rightly

so. He loves to pass and reminds some of Jason Kidd - but with a better shot." Prior to Livingston's injury, LSU had a 10-6 record. After, they have managed only a 2-6 mark.

LSU's leader is unquestionably Ronnie Henderson. Henderson was named the SEC Player of the Week, as he went over 1,000 career points.

The sophomore All America candidate as been coming on of late, averaging 30 or more points over the past six games, including each of the past three

weeks.

Henderson's 40-point career night against Alabama (Feb. 30) was the first time an LSU player had scored 40 or more points in a game since Shaquille O'Neal scored 43 against Northern Arizona in 1991.

Forward Clarence Caesar is a force in the paint, averaging 12.3 points, 6.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game. The Tigers check into the SEC at no. 3 in scoring, averaging 74.8 points per game. Tipoff for tonight's game is 8 p.m. EST.

South Carolina returns home March 4 for their last home game of the season against the Tennessee Volunteers. It will be the last career regular season game for seniors Carey Rich and Andy Bostick. It will also be the last broadcast from the Frank McGuire arena by Bob Fulton, the Gamecocks' legendary play by play man. He will broadcast the SEC tournament March 9-12 and then do occasional duties with baseball before concluding his illustrious 43-year career with the Gamecocks.



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DAYS AND COUNTING

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