

SPORTS LOOK

FOOTBALL

MIAMI — Warren Sapp, the star defensive lineman who failed an NFL drug test, spoke of "this unfortunate occurrence," but would not address reports that he used marijuana and cocaine.

Tuesday, the NFL said a New York Times story saying the former Miami player failed tests for cocaine at last month's scouting combine in Indianapolis was inaccurate. The NFL did not say whether Sapp had failed a test for marijuana, which a number of news organizations reported.

MIAMI — Former Miami Dolphins receiver Mark Duper and his brother-in-law, Brian Briggs, were found innocent by a federal jury on charges of conspiracy and cocaine possession with intent to distribute.

BASKETBALL

Connecticut senior forward Rebecca Lobo, averaging 17.3 points and 10.3 rebounds for the top-ranked Huskies, was a unanimous first-team selection for The Associated Press women's All-America team.

Lobo was joined by Shelley Sheetz of Colorado, Nikki McCray of Tennessee, Charlotte Smith of North Carolina and Niesha Johnson of Alabama.

TUCSON, Ariz. — The NCAA's eligibility committee ruled that Arizona junior center Ben Davis must sit out three NCAA Tournament games for receiving improper benefits.

The committee upheld a staff decision Tuesday that Davis must repay some \$3,300 in impermissible benefits before the start of the next school year, said Carrie Doyle, the NCAA's director of eligibility.

FRESNO, Calif. — Gary Colson announced his resignation as head coach at Fresno State. Colson, 61, was 13-15 this season and 76-73 in five years at the school.

SAN ANTONIO — Texas-San Antonio coach Stu Starner resigned after leading the Roadrunners to a 15-13 record this season and an 84-58 mark in five seasons.

HOCKEY

TORONTO — NHL players moved closer toward competing in the 1998 Olympics after a meeting in Switzerland featuring three top hockey executives.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman was joined at the daylong meeting by Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee; Rene Fasel, president of the International Ice Hockey Federation; and Bob Goodenow, executive director of the NHL Players Association.

PAN AMERICAN GAMES

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina — Josh Davis of San Antonio won the 400-meter freestyle and swam a leg for the victorious 400 freestyle relay team as the United States won four of five races in the Pan American Games.

Davis won the 400 in 3 minutes, 55.59 second and joined Gary Hall of Phoenix; Tom Jager of Tijeras, N.M.; and Jon Olsen of Colorado Springs, Colo., to set a Pan Am record in the relay with a time of 3:18.68.

The U.S. swimming team has won 14 golds in 20 events.

BOXING

NEW YORK — Madison Square Garden is the front-runner to stage a proposed heavyweight fight between Riddick Bowe and Mike Tyson, according to Bowe's manager. Rock Newman said hopes to hold the bout between October 1995 and June 1996.

SWIMMING

MINNEAPOLIS — Olympic gold medalist Mel Stewart of Charlotte, N.C., won his 12th national 200-meter butterfly title in the Phillips 66 National Championships with a pool-record time of 1 minute, 58.24 seconds.

TENNIS

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia beat sixth-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-1, 7-5 in the first round of the St. Petersburg Open.

Soccer team signs four recruits

Staff Reports

USC men's soccer coach Mark Berson announced his 1995 recruiting class Thursday.

The class will fill some holes left by the loss of six seniors, who led Carolina to three consecutive NCAA Tournament berths and a spot in the 1993 National Championship match.

This year's class is: Nathan Grotzke (defender, 5-foot-6, 135 pounds, Lakewood, Colo.); Edward Lopez (defender, 5-foot-11, 145 pounds, Dallas); Tony Soto (midfielder, 5-foot-11, 170 pounds, Dallas); and Joshua Wolff (forward, 5-foot-8, 150 pounds, Stone Mountain, Ga.).

"We are pleased with our 1995 recruiting class," Berson said. "We certainly lost an outstanding senior class, which gave us great leadership last year. The loss of these players, however, will open up great opportunities for this incoming group of freshmen along with players currently on our program."

"This class has the talent and the determination to propel our program forward during the next four years."

Grotzke played at Green Mountain High School for coach Dennis Hastings. He



KIM TRUETT The Gamecock

USC will look to its four recruits to fill the gap left by senior players such as Chris Faklaits.

was an all-conference selection and earned team defensive MVP honors as the senior captain last year. He was also the defensive MVP as a sophomore.

Grotzke, a track star at Green Mountain, was a member of the Club Columbine team, coached by Jeff Hart, which won the Colorado state championship in 1993 and 1994. That squad captured the Far West Regional title

Lopez also led the Dallas club team to two regional and three state championships over the past four years.

One of the top players in the nation, Soto played midfield for Guy Greening at Duncanville High School and on the Dallas Inter and Dallas Texans club teams. Soto has played on the under-17, under-20 and under-21 national teams and was a finalist for the 1994 Dial Award, which is given to the national player of the year.

Soto was a Parade and Umbro All-American last year and earned the Gatorade Texas and Southwest Region Player of the Year awards.

Rounding out the class is Wolff, who was a teammate of USC sophomore Jeff Wilson at Parkview High School for coach Karl Bostick. Wolff is a member of the U.S. under-18 national team and played three years for the DSA Mustangs under-19 team as a forward and midfielder.

Wolff led the Mustangs to the 1993 Atlanta Cup, Lightning Cup and Sarosata Invitational titles while serving as captain. He captained Parkview to the state title his junior and senior seasons while earning team MVP honors.



JAMIE CLARK The Gamecock

Junior Shannon Johnson was named the S.C. Amateur Athlete of the Year. She averaged 23.9 points per game this season.

Johnson named state Amateur Athlete of Year

Staff Reports

USC women's basketball player Shannon Johnson has been named the 1995 S.C. Amateur Athlete of the Year by the state Athletic Hall of Fame.

Johnson, a junior shooting guard, was named to the All-SEC first team for the 1994-95 season. For the second straight year, she was the league's second leading scorer, averaging 23.9 points per game.

The Hartsville native, who has started every game in her three-year USC career, finished the season ranked eighth



JOHNSON

nationally in scoring. She is ninth on USC's all-time scoring list and eighth in blocked shots, assists and steals.

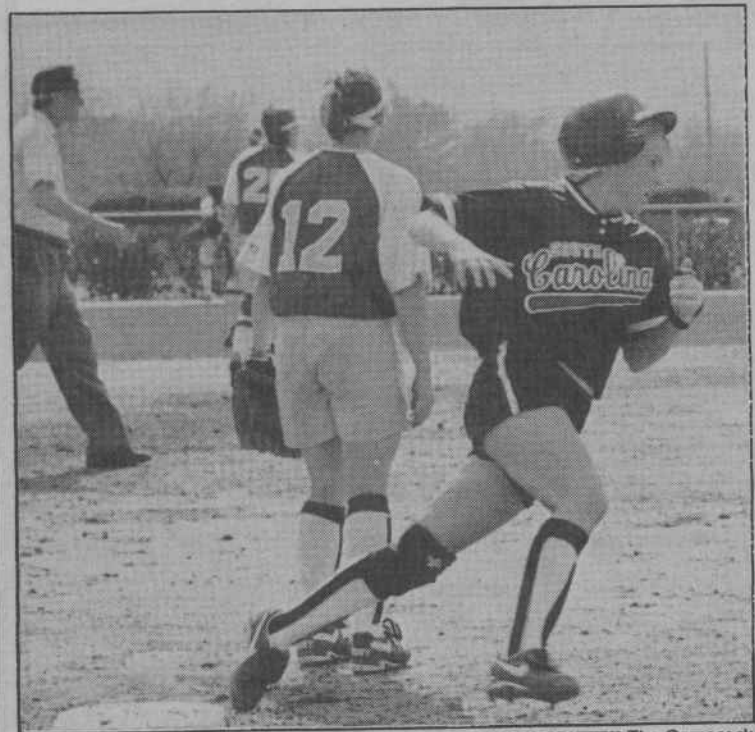
Johnson, who had a productive season after knee surgery last summer, led the team in blocked shots, scoring, assists and rebounds. In five games this season, she played the entire 40 minutes, and she scored 20-plus points in 17 of 27 games. On Feb. 27, Johnson broke her fifth Lady Gamecock record for the most points scored in a home game when she tallied 44 against Appalachian State.

Johnson reached the 1,000-point career mark Dec. 8 against Clemson before scoring her 1,500th point Feb. 22 against Coastal Carolina.

SHANNON JOHNSON

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scoring Average: | 23.9 pts/game |
| Dec 8: | 1000 career pts |
| Feb 22: | 1500 career pts |
| Feb 27: | 44 pts vs Appalachian St. |
| All SEC First Team | |
| Ranked 8th nationally in scoring | |

Gareis Brings Carolina Home



CHUCK GRIFFITH The Gamecock

Senior Darlene Gareis won two games Thursday against Furman to improve her record to 10-2. USC swept the Paladins and improved its record to 19-4.

March Madness in Carolina's future

Ah, that time of year is finally upon us. Parkas and sweaters are replaced by T-shirts and tank tops. Thick hiking boots are shed for flip-flops and sandals. But for most of us, the end of the chill of the winter months signals one thing — March Madness.

From all over the country, the competition that begins with 64 teams and ends with one satisfies every sports fan like a rare delicacy. From die-hard fans following their team around the land to the simple \$5 office pool, the aura of the NCAA Championship goes unmatched in today's sports world.

Contracts, agents, arbitrators, judges, hard copy — move over, for on this month there is something that represents the beauty of sports instead of the darkness.

Fans of beloved schools that fail to participate enjoy the show, but there still remains that thought, that question. "What if we were there," they say as they see yet another Cinderella team march through the Goliaths of the basketball world. "We could do that. We could be that team." And then, with words all South Carolina fans know all too well, the fans, with their glimmer of hope, say proudly, "Wait till next year!"

Well, with the trials and travails of this year's basketball season finally behind, Gamecock fans can indeed start crowing those famous four words — and mean it.

As the final seconds ticked off of USC's final game of the season, an 81-66 loss to Auburn in the opening round of the SEC Tournament in Atlanta's Georgia Dome, announcer Tim Brando gave his opinion of the status of Carolina basketball. "This team is going to surprise everyone next year with the addition of several big name players.



LARRY WILLIAMS
Out of Bounds

The rest of the SEC better enjoy it while they can."

Yes indeed, these words should indeed prove to be prophetic for the program in coming years. I'm sure most of you saw Kentucky and Arkansas fight tooth and nail in the SEC Championship, one of the games that will undoubtedly go down in NCAA lore as one of the most thrilling, exciting involved.

Well, fasten your seat belts, because in the near future, coach Fogler and the boys very likely could be in the thick of things, not even blinking when faced with the prospect of facing a Kentucky or Arkansas. Even Wildcat coach Rick Pitino praised Fogler's job at Carolina, saying it was only a matter of time before the Gamecocks would indeed be "one of the big boys."

In hailing his efforts, Pitino cited Fogler's masterful recruiting job this past year. For those of you who were away on spring break or too busy studying, let me brief you on the progress of USC's prized basketball signees.

BJ McKie lit up opponents and gave a preview for Gamecock fans as he led Irmo to its second consecutive Class AAAA championship.

In the lower state final against Wando of Mt. Pleasant, McKie tallied 30 points in a 71-59 victory over the Warriors. That effort would pale in comparison to the McDonald's All-American's performance in the state championship against Hillcrest of Simpsonville.

Before 8,676 dazed fans at the Col-

Swinging for the fences

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