

Ripken's record goes beyond baseball

I am not a baseball fan. Sure I pay attention to which teams are doing what, and I have a favorite team: the lowly St. Louis Cardinals, which are 25 games out of first place in the NL Central. (I always have hope for the Cards, but they always seem to fall apart around the All-Star break.)

But when it comes to checking daily box scores and watching ESPN doubleheaders, I don't have much of an interest.

My indifference is not a result of the strike or the play of my favorite team. I just could care less about pro baseball. (Well, pro sports in general; give me a good college matchup in any sport and I'll be happy.)

Tonight, all that will change, and I will be as big a baseball fan as anyone ... well, at least for a little while.

In case you have been living on Mars (or in South Bend), the big event tonight will be at Baltimore's Camden Yards, when Cal Ripken breaks baseball legend Lou Gehrig's record for most consecutive games played. Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played has stood for over 50 years.

Ripken's feat is overwhelming to anyone who knows anything about sports. I can't imagine doing 2,131 of anything, let alone playing a sport without getting a serious injury.

POINT BLANK

RYAN WILSON
Sports Editor

I think the best thing about "the streak" is the fact that it is happening to one of the best role models in professional sports; Cal Ripken represents everything that's right about baseball.

He is the guy you could always count for an autograph or a photo. He has been known to spend hours after games signing autographs. Some of today's younger players can learn a great deal from Ripken.

Don't think the Orioles opposition hasn't noticed. At Monday's game against California, the Angels joined in with Baltimore fans giving Ripken a standing ovation during the fifth inning ceremony when the Baltimore Mascot changes the 10-foot numbers (counting up the game total) on the B&O Warehouse adjacent to Camden Yards.

"You start getting goose bumps all over your body when the number drops," Baltimore third baseman Jeff Manto said. "It elevates the emotion, no doubt about it. It's probably the best way to recognize the streak."

Tonight the streak belongs to Cal and Cal only ... 2,131 and counting.

Ermigarat shines, Carolina starts perfect at 4-0

RYAN WILSON Sports Editor

The USC volleyball team finished a very successful weekend with a 3-0 win at Davidson College Monday evening. The win moves the Gamecocks to 4-0 while Davidson drops to 1-4.

"It was a good win for us because we were able to see the freshmen play, and they did a fine job," coach Kim Hudson said. "The more game experience everyone is able to get now, the better off we'll be when we start the conference season. Even though we are quite young, I like what I see out there so far."

The Gamecocks won the three games 15-9, 15-5 and 15-10. Carolina was led by senior Kori Ermigarat, who had 16 kills, 17 digs and one ace. Also lending hand was sophomore Heather Larkin, who had eight kills, 13 digs, and two aces.

In earlier weekend action, the Gamecocks won the 1995 Carolina Classic tournament at Sol Blatt P. E. Center, going 3-0 in the two-day event.

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Kim Hudson, USC volleyball coach

"I was proud of the way the girls played this weekend," Hudson said. "This team is very young, and they get better and better with each game. I think it was a great way to start the season."

The Gamecocks opened the tournament Friday with a 3-0 win over Xavier. In that game, Carolina started three sophomores, a senior and two freshman, including Columbia native Cindy Robarge, who finished the match with eight kills, four blocks and an ace. USC was led by the strong play of Ermigarat with 18 kills and 19 digs.

Carolina started the match slowly, and the Musketeers were able to capitalize and built a 8-2 lead. The Game-

cocks came back to win the game 15-12. Carolina went on to take the next two, 15-11 and 15-6.

"The girls were a little nervous in the first game, and Xavier was able to capitalize," Hudson said. "The freshman played really well and showed their strengths. Overall, I thought we played real well."

The Gamecocks won Saturday's morning game 3-0 over Appalachian State, 15-8, 15-8, 15-9. USC was led by Heather Larkin, who had 14 kills and 11 digs.

In the afternoon game Carolina defeated Alabama-Birmingham, 3-0, by the scores of 15-2, 15-1 and 15-4. Ermigarat was the leader in this match as

well, with 11 kills and seven digs. Ermigarat, a Bakersfield, Calif., native, was named unanimously as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "This was a real team effort," Ermigarat said. "I thought we played well considering we're young. We all just seemed to click this weekend."

Joining Ermigarat on the All-Tournament team were USC freshmen Cindy Robarge and Ashley Edlund, with Larkin also garnering All-Tournament honors.

Xavier's Sally Schulte, UAB's Allison Barnard and Appalachian State's Sheri Leverette also were named to the team.

"I was surprised to be named to the All-Tournament team," Robarge, a 1995 graduate of Spring Valley high school, said. "It's exciting to play here because I can hear so many people I know cheering for the team."

The Gamecocks are in action tonight against UNC-Greensboro at Blatt P. E. Center. Gametime is 7 p.m., and admission is free.

Women's soccer starts first season off on right foot

PATRICK DOHERTY Senior Writer

The USC women's soccer team started their inaugural season this Labor Day Weekend by going 2-0 in their first two matches.

The bleachers were packed for both games at the Graveyard, and student support for the team is apparent. "It's absolutely unbelievable," head coach Sue Kelly said, "amazing."

The first game was Saturday night against the Lady Paladins of Furman University. The Gamecocks took control at the outset and dominated the Paladins, keeping the ball on Furman's side virtually the entire game. USC's first goal was scored by Tessa Kenerson by way of soccer's version of the give-and-go. Kenerson passed the ball to the centered Perry Moniuszko, who then gave it back to Kenerson, who then promptly headed the ball into the top left corner of the goal.

The goal was the Gamecocks first ever and would turn out to be the winning goal of the match. Of the goal, Kenerson said, "Nothing felt better. We were all crying, we were all happy."

Aside from problems finishing the game, the coaching staff seemed pleased with the team's first match. "There's nothing like making history. This is very important for us," assistant coach Karrie Miller said.

Coach Kelly also had accolades for her team. "I'm very pleased, a tremendous display, more impressive than I would have thought. You're always pushing the team to create opportunities, and you can't say we didn't tonight. They've absorbed everything they've been taught in the preseason."

On Labor Day, the Gamecocks faced another first-year program in Memphis. It took to the 25:37 mark for USC to score its first goal of the match; but after that, they quickly found that "Moniuszko" is apparently a synonym for "Goal."

Freshman Perry Moniuszko opened up the scoring in the first half and ended up scoring the hat-trick in USC's 5-0 romp over Memphis. Her first goal came off a cross-field pass by junior Happy Payne. Her second goal came ten minutes later off another big pass, this time by junior Tanya Yavarow.

Moniuszko, a native of Matthews, N.C., waited until the 70:22 mark to score her third goal off assists by Debbie Smith and Lexi Tourtelotte.

"We're starting to look out for each other," Moniuszko said. "We're really impressed about the way the team is coming together."

Carolina scored two other goals against Memphis. Nikki Garzon scored an unassisted goal at the 47:43

mark. Debbie Smith, a junior from Benfleet, England, scored Carolina's final goal at the 72:43 mark, off an assist from the seemingly assist-happy Lexi Tourtelotte.

Another highlight for the Gamecocks came when freshman goalkeeper Amy Toms made a huge block on a Memphis penalty kick in the 69th minute. "I don't really focus on anything but the ball," she said, "I just go for the kicker and wherever the ball goes I hope I make it there."

Kelly was pleased with how the team closed the game out. "We finished a lot better," she said. "It wasn't pretty, but a W is a W."

When asked about USC's upcoming game against the SEC's top-ranked team, Vanderbilt, she was straightforward about what her team had to do.

"We're going to go hard, we're going to go tough," she said. "We're going to have a lot of adrenaline, and we're going to be very mentally prepared." Coach Miller added, "They're the top-ranked team in the conference, so from that point on, we'll know where we need to be."

USC's game against Vandy is at 7 p.m. Friday in Nashville.

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