

**SPORTS LOOK** Associated Press

**BASKETBALL**

■ **WASHINGTON** — Rasheed Wallace, the No. 4 overall pick in the NBA draft, signed a three-year, \$6.18 million contract with the Washington Bullets. The 6-foot-10 center-forward spent just two years at the University of North Carolina.

The Bullets also got someone to get Wallace the ball, acquiring point guard Mark Price from Cleveland for a first-round draft pick in 1996.

Price is a four-time All-Star and the NBA's career leader in free throw accuracy.

■ **MILWAUKEE** — The Milwaukee Bucks signed guard Shawn Respert, the eighth pick overall in the NBA draft, to a three-year contract.

The 6-foot-1 Respert was the career scoring leader at Michigan State with 2,351 points and averaged 25.6 points as a senior.

■ **NEW YORK** — Although the NBA has resolved its contentious labor dispute with its players, the league's referees remain without a contract and the NBA is threatening to hire replacements.

The labor deal expired last June, and the NBA has offered the refs a no-strike, no-lockout agreement like the one it reached with its players last October.

If the referees don't accept that offer and no new labor agreement is reached before Sept. 29, the league said it will hire replacements to work training camp and officiate exhibition and regular-season games.

**FOOTBALL**

■ **FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** — Seattle Seahawks receiver Brian Blades filed a written plea of "not guilty" to a charge of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of his cousin.

The 29-year-old former University of Miami player was charged Sept. 6 with one count of manslaughter with a firearm by the Broward County state attorney's office. He had been charged by police in July in the death of Charles Blades, 34.

Blades is free on \$10,000 bond.

Charles Blades was killed by a shot in the head with Brian Blades' .38-caliber semiautomatic handgun at the player's home in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Plantation on July 5.

■ **NEW YORK** — Houston's Chris Chandler, who had a career day with 352 yards and four touchdowns last week, was one of six players honored by the NFL with weekly awards.

Chandler, who completed 23 of 26 passes in the Oilers' 38-28 victory in Cincinnati, was AFC offensive player and his teammate, John Henry Mills, earned special teams honors with three tackles and a forced fumble. Linebacker Pat Swilling of the Raiders was designated the AFC defensive player.

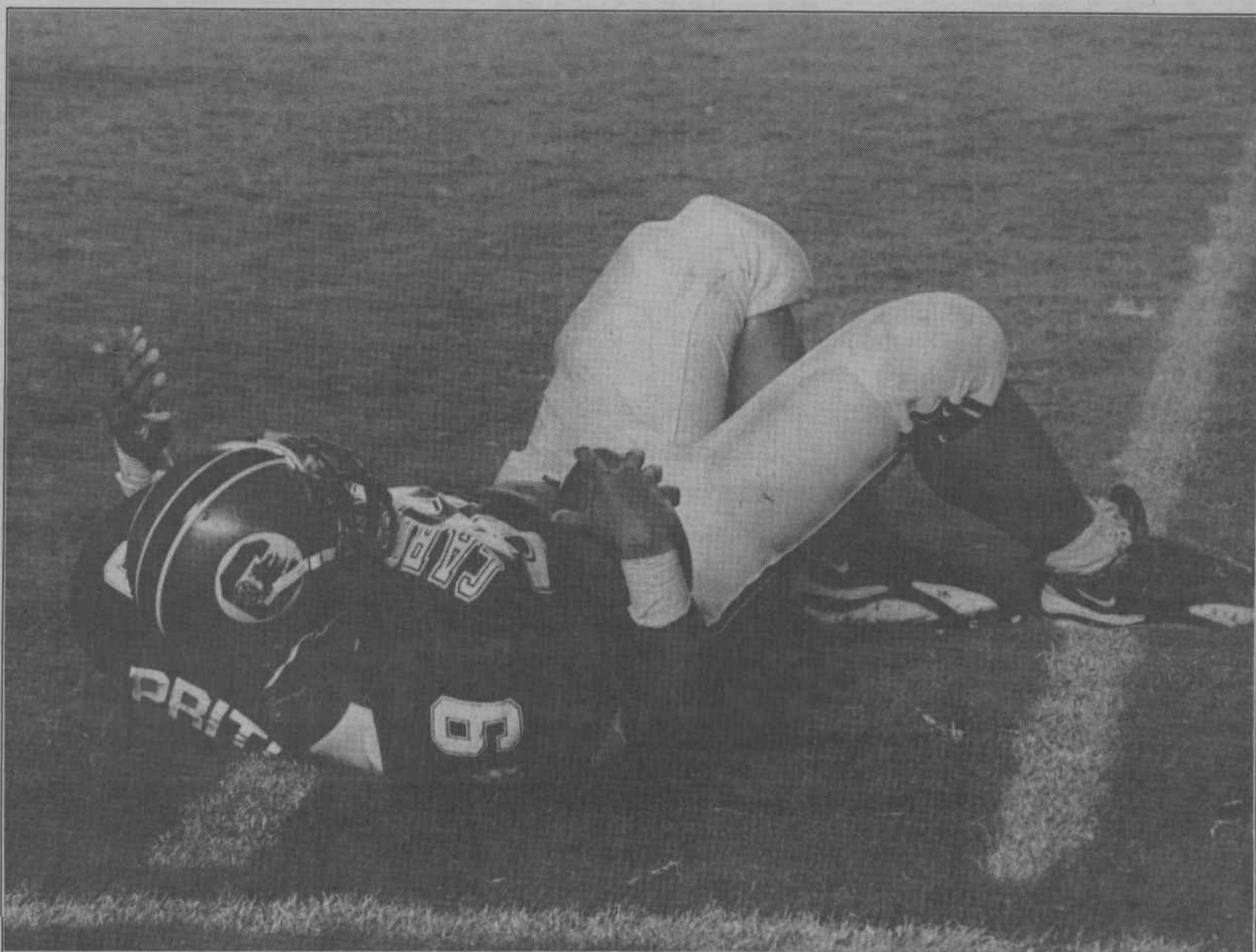
Quarterback Chris Miller of the St. Louis Rams was the NFC offensive player; Minnesota cornerback Orlando Thomas was the defensive choice, and Detroit kicker Jason Hanson was the special teams player.

■ **TAMPA, Fla.** — Tampa Bay Buccaneers owner Malcolm Glazer announced a seat deposit plan that could raise \$30 million toward building the type of stadium he says is necessary for the team's success.

Glazer, who paid \$192 million for the team, said the Bucs need a modern home that will give him a chance to make a return on his investment as well as generate money to field a winning team.

Team officials insisted a predetermined number of deposits, ranging from \$190 to \$480 for regular seats and \$950 to \$2,450 for club seats, doesn't have to be collected before the project is deemed a success.

A complete sellout of about 40,000 regular seats and 15,000 club seats would bring about \$30 million that will be refunded to fans over a 10-year period.



DANIEL CIVELLO The Gamecock

In a disappointing season, Stanley Pritchett and the Carolina football team have often found themselves looking up at the competition. Tomorrow, they will look to reverse that trend when they take on the no. 14 LSU Tigers. Kickoff is at 12:30 p.m.

## PICKING UP THE PIECES

Gamecock football team looks to get up for LSU and first SEC win

It's put up or shut up time this week for the Gamecock football team. The 14th ranked, 3-1 LSU Tigers will travel into Williams-Brice Stadium this Saturday for a regionally-televised showdown with the 1-3 Gamecocks.

The Tigers are riding a three-game winning streak after losing their opener to 9th ranked Texas A&M. LSU was a 52-7 winner over Rice last week and a 12-3 winner over Auburn the week before. The Tigers are in a two-way tie with Arkansas for first place in the SEC West.

The Gamecocks are coming off a 35-30 loss to SEC perennial cellar-dweller Kentucky. Wildcat tailback Moe Williams had 299 yards rushing, as he broke the SEC yard-per-carry record for a single game, set by N.Y. Giant and former Georgia runningback Herschel Walker in 1981.

The Gamecock defense has faced nightmare after nightmare this season. In their three SEC games, the Gamecocks have given up more than 150 yards, and no less than four touchdowns to each of three runningbacks: 169 yards and five TDs to Robert Edwards, 178 yards and six TDs to Madre Hill, and 299 yards and four TDs to Williams. Carolina has turned each one of these backs into the SEC Player of the Week.

It doesn't get any easier. The Gamecocks face six more running backs ranked in the top ten in the SEC before the end of the season. This is including Tennessee's Jay Graham and Florida's Terry Jackson, who average 5.2 and 7.2

**OVERTIME**

Robbie Meek

yards per carry, respectively.

This week, the Gamecocks are going to face LSU runningbacks Kevin Faulk and Kendall Cleveland. Faulk and Cleveland rank eighth and tenth respectively in the SEC in rushing. Faulk enters with 311 yards rushing and 4.4 yards per carry.

The worst part for the defense is, with the exception of Georgia, the Gamecocks have not faced a team that will put up a lot of numbers passing. LSU can, if they have too, and will. Last week, quarterback Jamie Howard put up 356 yards passing and four touchdowns.

The best part for the USC defense is that Howard is also interception-prone. Last season against Auburn, LSU entered the fourth quarter with a sizeable lead. Howard threw three interceptions for touchdowns in that quarter as Auburn completed their comeback.

First, Carolina has to stop the run, which they haven't done all season. Second, if they stop the run and get Howard rattled the Gamecocks will be in position to pull off a big upset. Don't be fooled, however. When Howard's on his mark, he can beat you, and beat you bad.

To complete the upset, the Gamecock offense has to score often and grind time off the clock, which they haven't done against a respectable opponent this season.

The Gamecocks are averaging 119 rushing yards per game. Preseason All-SEC runningback Stanley Pritchett is averaging a mere 3.3 yards per carry. Tailback Duce Staley, however, is averaging 5.3 yards per carry.

The Gamecocks are averaging a little under 33 carries per game. Is it that we are not running the ball enough or is it that we just have no running game?

We should have a running game, all but one offensive line starter returned and yes we lost Brandon Bennett, but where is the Stanley Pritchett we saw last season?

Steve Taneyhill's stats are looking really well. He has a 62.3 completion percentage, has thrown for 1255 yards and a SEC-leading 12 touchdowns.

Taneyhill, however, is making some mistakes that an experienced Taneyhill shouldn't make and just didn't look very impressive against Kentucky.

Last week, there was a pass on first down that Taneyhill tried to force into the end zone and it was picked off. Later, Taneyhill called the interception a "freshman mistake" that he never should have made. Taneyhill has five interceptions in four games; he threw only eight in 12 games last season.

Pritchett and Zola Davis are third and fourth in the SEC in receiving. Pritchett has 24 receptions for 298 yards. He and Taneyhill connected on a 93-yard touchdown last week. Davis is averaging 13.6 yards per catch and has four TDs.

The Gamecocks need to look for the deep ball more often. One of the big suc-

cesses of the Gamecock offense in the Louisiana Tech game was the bomb. When you have a Cory Bridges, a Monty Means, and a Zola Davis you should go deep no less than two or three times a game. If the deep ball works it will set up the running game.

The offense has scored a lot this season, but most of the scores have been quick strikes. This is the reason the small Gamecock defense has been on the field just about the whole second half of every game. This defense could have a good game as long as they are not on the field long periods of time.

As if the offensive and defensive performances weren't bad enough, Carolina is averaging 84.75 yards per game in penalties and have a -1.50 turnover ratio.

As we saw last season, the Gamecocks have talent. They should be able to play with most of the better teams in the SEC, much less a Kentucky. Because of my memories of the 1994 season and the talent that returned this season I can't help but to believe that the Gamecocks will get it together sometime down the road.

As far as Gamecock bowl hopes, the Wildcats took them back to Lexington last Saturday. Could this be the Gamecock's coming out party? More than likely, no, but if they can find a running game and have a solid defensive performance this could be the Gamecock's first win in the SEC this season. Without these elements this could be another long day for Carolina. My prediction: LSU 38, Carolina 27.

## Abshier developing with volleyball program

KAYCIE WILLIAMS Staff Writer

Sophomore Shani Abshier is aiming for success on and off the volleyball court.

The Arizona native said that she chose the University of South Carolina because it is a developing program.

"I wanted to be part of a growing program. I really love the team and the coach. I like being the underdog and helping something grow and become really good," she said.

It's that worker's attitude which keeps her on top of her game and her studies. Abshier earned a starting position last year but had to concentrate on defense due to a shoulder injury. After a summer of rehab she has returned to the court as an outside hitter which is her natural position. She is averaging a little over two kills per game.

Abshier is a history major in the Honors College and is considering a double major in Art History. Abshier says being a student athlete is tough but worth the effort.

A typical day has her on the go until eight p.m. with classes, practice,

weights and rehabilitation. In between she must find the time to eat and study.

"I study on the plane and on the bus. I have a lot of work and sometimes it's hard to keep up," she said. "There is really no time to relax but that is part of it. Everything is planned for us, every minute."

Abshier finds support in her teammates with coping with the demands of being a student athlete.

"We are really close and we help each other out when it gets tough. That's our saving grace. When we fall a little behind we just look to each other."

She says playing in the SEC is hard but that the competition helps the team improve. It's their goal to beat a top 25 team and become ranked themselves.

"We keep taking steps up and we have to continue to play well. We have to earn our victories. No one is going to give it to us and I like that."

South Carolina will have an opportunity to improve their record in the SEC this weekend as they take on Arkansas Friday at 7 pm and LSU Sunday at 2pm. Both matches are at the SOL Blatt PE Center and admission is free.

**Catch me if you can**



File Photo

Sophomore forward Robbie Pait and the Gamecock soccer team, fresh off a 3-2 victory at the Citadel, return home Sunday to play Presbyterian. Gametime is 2 p.m.

### THE GAMECOCK SPORTS CHALLENGE

	USC vs LSU	N. C. State vs Clemson	Okl. State vs Tennessee	PC vs Wofford	Ohio State vs Notre Dame	Alabama vs Georgia
<b>Ryan Wilson</b> Sports Co-Editor Record: 15-11	USC	N. C. State	UT	PC	Ohio State	Alabama
<b>Larry Williams</b> Sports Co-Editor Record: 19-7	LSU	N. C. State	UT	PC	Ohio State	Alabama
<b>Robbie Meek</b> Assistant Sports Record: 21-5	LSU	Clemson	UT	PC	Ohio State	Alabama
<b>Patrick Doherty</b> Juror 178	LSU	N. C. State	UT	Wofford	Notre Dame	Georgia
<b>Ethan Myerson</b> Lance Ito stand-in	USC	Clemson	UT	PC	Notre Dame	Alabama

**Need Tickets?**

The USC Athletics Department has student tickets left for the LSU game. Tickets can be obtained at the ticket office on the Northeast corner of Williams-Brice Stadium starting at 9 a.m. Saturday.

**GS**  
Gamecock Sports.  
Smooth.