

Mathis' lone goal tops Davidson. 1-0

■ Fatigue evident in Carolina's overtime victory over Wildcats

ACHIM HUNT Staff Writer

The No. 6 Gamecock soccer team (11-3) seemed fatigued from the start of the match with Davidson (8-10-1) because they had to play just three days after returning home from the tough UMBRO tournament in St. Louis this past weekend.

The young team showed they weren't over the jetlag as they struggled to defeat an inferior Davidson team 1-0 in overtime Wednesday night at The Graveyard.

Sloppy play and a lot of missed opportunities were the themes for the Gamecocks on this clear, muggy night in Columbia. Carolina was shut out in regulation for only the second time in the 1995 season.

Coach Berson knew even though his team was heavily favored in the game they would struggle to win because of the hard weekend they had and the long trip to St. Louis.

"There was a definite challenge in this game in that it was very tough to come back from the long, hard road trip," Berson said. "We were tired but we showed some mental toughness to be able to come out and sneak this game out. We had two guys out and our reserves stepped up when they had to just as we have done all year."

"I am quite proud of John Mills and his outstanding play tonight. His great saves kept us in this match tonight."

Mills, a 6-2, 190-pound junior from Alpharetta, Ga., played a great game and recorded his sixth shutout of the season against



ROBERT WALTON The Gamecock

Gamecock freshman Tony Soto takes the ball away from a Davidson defender in USC 1-0 overtime victory Wednesday night. Carolina's next game is against Georgia Southern Sunday at The Graveyard.

Davidson. Following the game Mills was quick to give others credit for the shutout and praised the defense played by his teammates. "Tonight we had a total team effort," Mills said after recording the shutout. "We played good defense tonight, the whole team was focused and we just shut them down offensively."

The one goal of the game was scored by none other than sophomore Clint Mathis from Conyers, Georgia. The goal was his 19th of the season and moved him up to 14th overall in Carolina history for most goals scored in a career and remember, he is just a

sophomore. Mathis, like Mills, credits the team's desire to win through the fatigue as a major contributing factor in the overtime victory over Davidson.

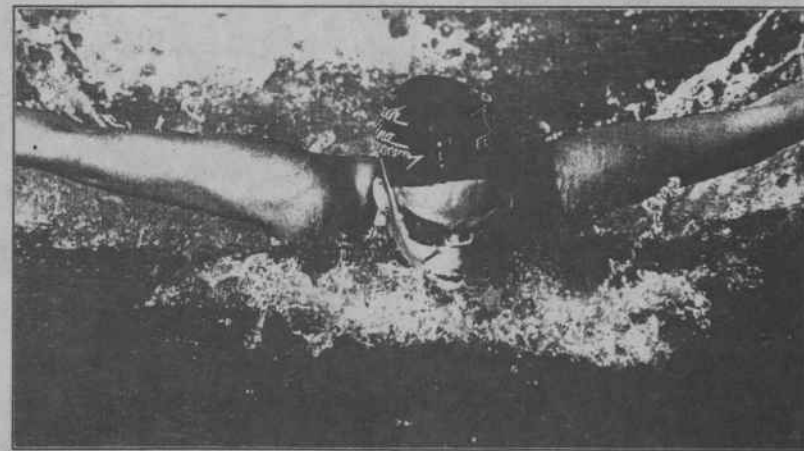
"We came out as slow tonight as we have this season," Mathis said. "The team played together and we survived a scare because we did not beat ourselves and we played as hard as we could even though it was tough after the long trip this weekend."

The Gamecocks had 26 shots on goal to Davidson's 10 shots. Davidson had 9 saves and John Mills had 5 for South Carolina.

The match was quite rugged, with 30 fouls for Davidson and 20 for Carolina. Mathis led the Gamecocks with 9 shots on goal and one goal. Freshman Nathan Watkins made the assist on Mathis's goal, which was scored 97:16 into the game.

The Gamecocks have four days to rest up before the next game at The Graveyard against Georgia Southern on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

This begins a four match homestand that will conclude the regular season before the NCAA tournament begins.



FILE PHOTO The Gamecock

Junior Charlene Miller has been a key part of the Lady Gamecocks success the last two seasons. Miller's main event is the 200 meter butterfly and she will be a key part of USC's relay teams.

Miller prepared to lead butterfly, relay events

ACHIM HUNT Staff Writer

One of the least known sports at USC is women's swimming and diving. However the team is consistently good and is always nationally ranked.

One of the reasons Carolina's teams are good is the performances of junior Charlene Miller. Miller has consistently won her events and posts some quite impressive times in all her events.

Miller's main event is the 200 meter butterfly and she is expected to be a standout in this event for the Lady Gamecocks this season. The 100 meter fly and the individual medley will also be strong events for Miller this season. She is a leader on many of the Lady Gamecock's relay teams and her performances should dictate the successes of the relay teams this year.

Last year Miller performed quite well in all of her events scoring in the SEC finals and qualifying to compete in the NCAA championships last year in Austin, Texas. Head Coach Kelly Parker-Medlin believes Miller is a vital member of the team and is a great performer.

"Charlene is an experienced leader on our team," Parker-Medlin said. "She provides our team with leadership and the skills that we need to perform well in the SEC this year. In the past she just had talent. Now she has talent and

experience that lead to leadership for our swimming team."

Miller was quite humbled by the coach's statements and wants to do the best she can to help the team and not just herself.

"I perform well to help the entire team win our matches, not just so Charlene can be the best," Miller said. "In this tough conference we have to think team above self to have any chance of being successful. You look at the successful teams around this conference and they have lots of individual talents that play well together as a team, also."

The Lady Gamecocks defeated the College of Charleston 56-24 last Sunday. Miller finished first in three events and second in two events for a total of 21 points.

Under Miller's solid performances and leadership the Lady Gamecocks should compete for the conference and will gain some positioning in the national rankings.

The Lady Gamecocks are 1-0 in the young season and continue to compete in non-conference matches before opening up the conference schedule in mid-November.

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