

Lady Gamecock basketball wins with a flair, 110-71

ROBBIE MEEK Asst. Sports Editor

The Lady Gamecock basketball team opened their exhibition schedule Tuesday night as they defeated Team Champion 110-71 in the Frank McGuire Arena. Carolina relied on the trey as they shot 52 percent from outside the three-point arc and never trailed at any point in the game.

"Well, we have some real good three-point shooters," said Carolina head coach Nancy Wilson. "Most teams that we play in the SEC are not going to give us the three-point shot quiet as easily as we got it tonight. We run a motion-style offense that we can get cuts to the basket as well, and we also want to involve our post players a little more in the offense than we did tonight."

The Lady Gamecocks received an outstanding performance from Shannon Johnson. Johnson shot 14 of 22 for 37 points. The senior guard also had seven assists and nine rebounds.

"Shannon, she played an excellent game, especially offensively, and pretty much could have done whatever she wanted out there," said Wilson.

The Lady Gamecocks also got big performances from Lisa Williams and Heather Godfrey. Williams shot 3 of 5 from the three-point line as she scored 18 points. Godfrey was 5 of 9 from behind the arc as she turned in 17 points.

"Heather Godfrey shot extremely well from the three," said Wilson. "And then, of course, with the newcomers you have to be especially pleased with how Lisa Williams played."

USC opened the game on a pair of three pointers from Johnson and Williams. The Lady Gamecocks led 6-0. A Godfrey trey and a Williams two pointer came on back-to-back possessions with 12:35 left in the first half. USC held a 23-11 lead. The Lady Game-



Freshman Nikki Miars heads to the basket in the Lady Gamecocks 110-71 thrashing of Champion Tuesday. Miars, who is from St. Mary's, Ohio, finished with five points, two assists and two rebounds.

cocks got their biggest lead of the first half as they went up by 26 on a Shannon Johnson trey at the 1:06 mark. The Lady Gamecocks took a 58-32 lead into the locker room at the half. T r e s e Hickey scored two of her eight points to open the second half. Johnson's three-

point play with 14:32 to play gave the Gamecocks a 71-38 lead. Heather Godfrey later added two treys on back-to-back plays to give Carolina a 84-56 lead with 9:12 remaining. Five of Godfrey's three pointers came in the second half. USC broke the century mark on a John-

son field goal with 3:21 remaining.

The Lady Gamecocks will face Czechoslovakia on Thursday night in the Frank McGuire Arena at 7. The Lady Gamecocks will open the regular season in the Wake Forest Tournament Nov. 24-25.

Just plain kickin' butt



Shannon Johnson goes up to score one of her game-high 37 points against Champion. Johnson is a Naismith Award nominee. The Lady Gamecocks play Czechoslovakia Thursday.

Tigers looking for win Saturday, berth in Gator Bowl

Associated Press

You don't have to force Clemson coach Tommy West to gush about the Tigers. He does it often and pretty much without anyone asking.

"This is such a fun bunch to be around," West said Tuesday. "They approach the game well every week and always do first-class things."

But the Tigers (7-3) already have qualified for a bowl game, so can they keep their edge against arch-rival South Carolina?

"This is a great team because they've shown they can handle adversity and then came back to prove they can handle success," he said.

Sure, Tommy, but won't it be tough to play the Gamecocks, who are out of the bowl picture and are looking to kick a little Tiger tail right in the season-end?

"I don't worry about that because of

the way they've fought and given great effort every game for 10 weeks," West said. "You can't replace that with talent."

Enough, already. But maybe Clemson deserves a bit of talking up. The Tigers beat Duke 34-17 a week ago, their fourth straight win after starting 3-3. They have risen to third in the Atlantic Coast Conference behind Virginia and Florida State.

A victory Saturday would likely get them the league's slot in the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla.

West led Clemson into the 1993 Peach Bowl a month after replacing former coach Ken Hatfield. But this postseason trip will have a lot more meaning for the longtime Clemson assistant under Danny Ford.

"I'm so proud of this team and what they've done to get us here," West said. "They probably could have found every excuse and opportunity to fall apart, but

they decided to work hard and improve."

Clemson players are normally low-key and uninvolved in the big-game hype. They didn't bite before the Sept. 9 game against then-top ranked Florida State; they wouldn't speak out much leading to Oct. 7's game against Georgia, the 100th anniversary of Clemson football; and they are not putting too much into Saturday's rivalry.

"It's a big game for us because playing your state rival is always important for the fans," safety Andre Carter said. "It's also important for us to keep working hard and getting better."

The game Saturday is at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, a place where Clemson won two years ago, 16-13. They lost at home last year, 33-7.

The Tigers have been successful on the road this year — "We've just played great away from here," West said — going 4-0 with victories at Wake Forest, North Carolina State, Maryland and

Georgia Tech.

South Carolina is coming off a miserable home loss to No. 3 Florida this past Saturday, 63-7.

"I think the teams they played could make anybody look bad," Clemson full-back Emory Smith said. "We have to be prepared."

The Tigers' rushing game continued strong against Duke. They rushed for 433 yards overall and tailback Raymond Priester set a school record with 263 yards on the ground. He became Clemson's seventh 1,000-yard runner and is 57 yards from the school's single-season total set by Terrence Flagler in 1986.

"Raymond's just been a great player for us this year, but our offensive line has started to block some people too," West said. "Nobody could run behind them a year ago and look what they're doing now."



File Photo, The Gamecock

The Clemson Tigers will invade Williams-Brice Stadium Saturday to battle the Gamecocks for state bragging rights. In last year's contest, USC won, 33-7.

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