

Lady Gamecocks fall in exhibition

DWAYNE MCLEMORE Staff Writer

Slovan Bratislava invaded the Carolina Coliseum Thursday night and conquered the Lady Gamecock basketball team 81-73. The victory pushed Slovan's record to 6-0, while USC finished their exhibition schedule at 1-1.

Senior guard Shannon Johnson helped the Lady Gamecocks take control early as she scored 10 points in a game-opening 12-2 run. Slovan trailed by as much as 17, and went into halftime behind 46-33.

Coach Nancy Wilson was impressed with the team's transition game. "We did a great job with it in the first half," she said.

Slovan opened the second half with nine unanswered points. USC countered with a 9-0 run of their own, making the score 55-42 with 14:38 left in the game.

With the Lady Gamecocks up by nine midway through the second half, Johnson committed her fourth foul, forcing her to the bench. Slovan took advantage of her absence, outscoring USC 19-7, and taking the lead for good with 5:43 left in the game.

Five Slovan players finished in double-figures, with 6-foot-4 center Luba Jonisova leading the way with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Guard Sona Hudecova paced the team, scoring 10 points and handing out 8 assists.

For the Lady Gamecocks, Johnson, who scored 37 points in USC's exhibition opener against Team Champion,

finished with 25 on the evening. Forward Lisa Williams shot 5-8, including two three-pointers, scoring 12 points. "Lisa Williams has the ability to step up and score," Wilson said. "She's got that kind of confidence."

Despite the loss, Wilson continues to have a positive outlook on the upcoming season.

"If we can play at the pace on both ends of the floor that we did in the first half moving offensively, I think we're going to challenge in just about every game we go out in," Wilson said.

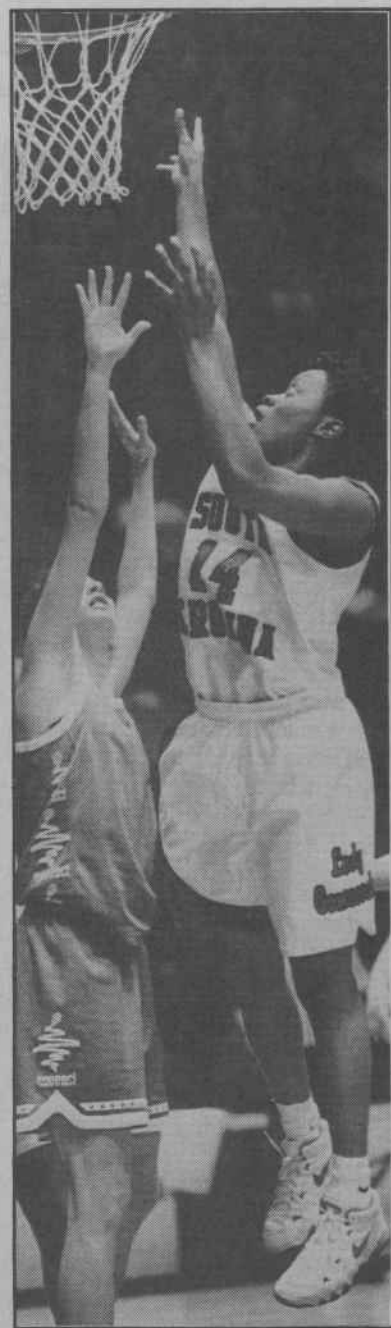
"We're going to have to convert for 40 minutes."

The Lady Gamecocks open the regular season Nov. 24-25 in the Wake Forest Tournament, facing the host Lady Demon Deacons.

Volleyball notes:

South Carolina sophomore Heather Larkin, a native of Lake Elmo, Minn., was named Southeastern Conference first team Thursday by the SEC volleyball coaches. Larkin is only the second volleyball player from Carolina to be named to the first team since Carolina joined the SEC in 1991.

Senior Kori Ermigarat and freshman Ashley Edlund were named to the second team.



ROBERT WALTON The Gamecock

Sophomore guard Heather Godfrey has had the hot hand from behind the 3-point arc during preseason play, hitting 50 percent from beyond the arc. Despite Thursday's loss, Godfrey and Shannon Johnson, shown right, have looked impressive.

Gamecock soccer looks to start championship tradition in NCAA's

PATRICK DOHERTY Senior Writer

The South Carolina men's soccer team is preparing for another run at the NCAA Championship. That run begins Sunday.

Last year, the Gamecocks were in good shape to make it far in the national championship tournament. They started off the year respectable and well known. Then came N.C. State. The Wolfpack beat South Carolina last year in the first round of the NCAA playoffs, an upset of major proportions. Now, like then, the Gamecocks are in a good position to go far in the NCAA's. The difference this year, USC brings to the field a team that was very underrated at the beginning of the year but has come on throughout the season to become one of the nation's best, and most respected, teams.

The Gamecocks will face Coastal Carolina 1 p.m. Sunday at the Graveyard in the first round of the championships. Tickets are \$5 for students and children and \$8 for adults.

This season was supposed to be one of rebuilding for the Gamecocks; but instead they have rocketed to No. 5 in the polls and grabbed a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. Unranked at the be-

ginning of the year, the Gamecocks started their regular schedule against the then-No. 2 team in the nation, the Clemson Tigers. Not only had USC not played any real competition before then, it was on the road at Rigg's Field. The Gamecocks played their hearts out against the Tigers, and scored a major upset with a 3-2 victory. That winning effort seemed to set the tone for the rest of the season. The team fell to Wisconsin and Wake Forest in successive matches early in the season; but since then they have found their stride, winning 13 out of their last 14 matches, and posting a season record of 15-3.

The key to the good play this season has been the offense. The Gamecocks boast the nation's leading goal scorer in sophomore Clint Mathis. Mathis has amazing speed and is always a threat to score when Carolina has possession of the ball. Freshman Josh Wolff returns from injury just in time to add his offensive explosiveness to the Carolina line-up for the NCAA's. Sophomores Kristinn Larusson and David Tart are also threats to score, and look to see a lot of action in the tournament. The assist man for the Gamecocks is senior Sigmar Scheving. Scheving has nine assists

for the year and has kept matches under control in the midfield.

Not to be understated is the importance of the Carolina defense. Even with captain and defender Billy Clifford out most of the season with injury, the defense was able to come together and make the difference for the Gamecocks in many close games.

With Clifford back in the lineup for the playoffs, look for the Carolina "D" to be outstanding. In goal, the Gamecocks have one of the best keepers in the nation, John Mills. As of Nov. 7, Mills had an incredible 0.58 goals against average, among the best averages in the country.

The Gamecocks have been picked by the NCAA to make it to the Soccer Final Four by being selected as a No. 1 seed. The Gamecocks have never won a national championship in soccer, even though they've played in two final fours and a one championship game.

USC looks like they have the potential to change history on Dec. 10. The South region and possibly the whole enchilada is Carolina's for taking; it's now just a matter of controlling their own destiny.



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock

Sigmar Scheving and the South Carolina soccer team received one of the top four seeds in the 1995 NCAA Soccer Championship. They will host Coastal Carolina at 1p.m. Sunday at The Graveyard.

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