

Gamecocks fall to fierce Wildcats, 89-57

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Once second-ranked Kentucky got running, it couldn't slow down.

The Wildcats put together a 30-2 run in coasting to their 16th consecutive victory, dismantling South Carolina 89-57 in Southeastern Conference play Saturday night.

South Carolina (11-5, 5-3 SEC), which had won five of six games since losing 89-60 to Kentucky on Jan. 3, elected not to run with the Wildcats. Instead, the Gamecocks ran 20 seconds off the shot clock on nearly every possession before running a play and tried to confuse the Wildcats with a two-three zone defense.

It worked for about 23 minutes.

South Carolina rallied from an eight-point deficit at the half to pull to within 46-45 on Bud Johnson's rebound basket with 17:30 to go.

Then Kentucky took control with a swarming fullcourt press.

Mark Pope hit a 15-footer and, following South Carolina turnovers, Walter McCarty scored on an alley-oop dunk and Derek Anderson connected on a 3 from the top of the

key for a 53-45 lead at 16:19.

"It did bother me in the first half," Anderson said of South Carolina's tactics. "It was frustrating, but we were able to play our game in the second game."

Kentucky's margin increased to 59-45 on Anthony Epps' 3 from the right wing before South Carolina's Melvin Watson scored on a driving layup at 11:50.

But it wasn't over.

Kentucky then scored 17 straight points, with McCarty hitting a 3 and slamming in another dunk, to go up 76-47 with 8:10 to go. The Wildcats scored 13 points off eight turnovers during the spurt while South Carolina hit only one of 10 shots.

"We didn't have the mental intensity to stay with Kentucky," said South Carolina forward William Gallman. "We made a lot of errors, turned the ball over and did not create the turnovers we needed to win the game."

South Carolina finished with 27 turnovers, which Kentucky converted to 38 points, and shot just 41 percent (23-of-56) from the floor.

"I think we played well for 24, 25 minutes, and then it all caved in," said South Carolina coach Eddie Fogler, adding that fatigue was a big part in his team's collapse.

Meanwhile, Kentucky had only 11 turnovers while making 49 percent (35-of-72) of its shots, including 43 percent (12-of-28) beyond the 3-point arc.

McCarty finished with a season-high 20 points and seven rebounds while Tony Delk contributed 14 points, Antoine Walker 13 and Epps 10 for Kentucky.

Watson led South Carolina with 16 points, BJ McKie added 15 and Johnson 10.

Kentucky coach Rick Pitino praised his team's overall play.

"I think we get our runs by our defensive pressure and what separates us from other teams is our ability to hit the 3-pointer," said Pitino, who also recorded his 300th career victory.

South Carolina returns to action Wednesday night against visiting Wofford while Kentucky entertains Florida on Saturday.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL TOP 25

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press college basketball poll with previous ranking in parentheses.

1. Massachusetts (1)
2. Kentucky (2)
3. Kansas (3)
4. Connecticut (4)
5. Cincinnati (5)
6. Villanova (7)
7. Utah (10)
8. North Carolina (11)
9. Georgetown (6)
10. Penn State (14)
11. Memphis (12)
12. Wake Forest (9)
13. Virginia Tech (8)
14. Arizona (13)
15. Texas Tech (22)
16. Iowa (22)
17. Purdue (19)
18. Syracuse (17)
19. UCLA (15)
20. Michigan (16)
21. Boston College (20)
22. Auburn (21)
23. East Michigan (nr)
24. Clemson (18)
25. Georgia Tech (nr)

USC SPORTS WEEKEND WRAP-UP

Nikki Miars posted a career-high 25 points to lead the Lady Gamecocks to a 69-66 upset win over No. 23 ranked Ole Miss on Sunday. Shannon Johnson led the Lady Gamecocks in rebounds, grabbing eight boards and scoring 24 points.

Ole Miss only hit 43 percent of their shots as the South Carolina defense played tough all game long. The game lowered the Lady Rebels record to 13-5 and 3-2 in the SEC.

South Carolina's (12-6, 2-5) next two contests are on the road at Appalachian State and then at arch-rival Clemson Monday evening.

Five members of the USC men's tennis team advanced to the third round of the SEC Coaches championship before being eliminated on Saturday, the third day of competition.

Robert Wojcik, a junior transfer from Anderson College, breezed by top-seeded and seventh-ranked Cedric Kauffmann of Kentucky 6-4, 6-1 on Friday as he advanced to the round of 16.

Four other Gamecocks advanced to the round of 16. Senior Maxsy Jimenez defeated Arkansas' Daniel Pahlsson 7-6, 1-6, 6-1. Freshman Francesco Cattini likewise defeated an opponent from Arkansas, defeating Jay Udwardia 6-7, 6-3, 7-5. Freshman Grzegorz Badurowicz defeated Tim Crichton of Arkansas 6-7, 7-5, 6-1 and junior Jorge Esqueda also conquered

Alabama's No. 1 player, Marco Mazzotta, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

The third day of the tournament, however, was quite rough for the Gamecocks as all of the players that survived to the round of 16 were eliminated. Wojcik was defeated by Ole Miss's Ali Hamadeh 6-2, 6-3, Jimenez fell to Auburn's Lee Pearson 7-5, 2-6, 1-6, Cattini lost to Alabama's Mark Johnson 7-5, 7-5, Badurowicz fell to third-seeded Pablo Montana 7-6, 6-2, and Esqueda was defeated by Georgia's Jamie Laschinger 6-4, 7-5.

In doubles action, Maxsy Jimenez and Wojcik were scheduled to play in a semi-final match, but were forced to default the match due to abdominal problems for Jimenez.

The Carolina men's track and field team finished second at the Barnett Bank Invitational held last weekend at Gainesville, Florida. The Gamecocks finished the meet with four more NCAA qualifiers and broke one school record.

Sophomore Marvin Watts qualified for the NCAA Championships with a second-place finish in the 800 meters event. Freshman Brad Snyder won the shot put competition with a toss of 57.2 while qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

Freshman Marcus Robinson, a wide receiver with the Gamecock football squad, won the 200 meters at 21.67, breaking a two year old school record.

The women's track and field team finished third at the same tournament,

as the Lady Gamecocks picked up three additional NCAA qualifiers and set two school records.

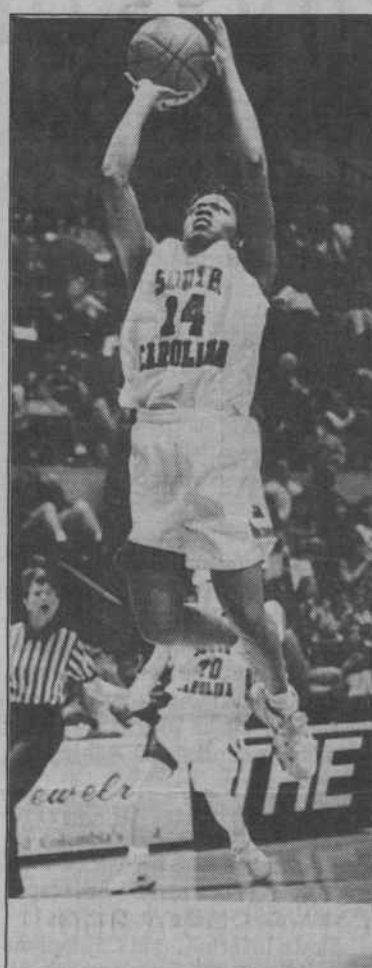
Dawn Ellerbe, Crystal Brownlee, Lisa Misipeka and Marcia Chmura all qualified for the NCAA Championships during the tournament this weekend. Freshman Dee Dee Fortman, a middle blocker with the Carolina volleyball team, broke the school record in the triple jump, which she set just last week, with a jump of 38' 1 1/4.

Both the men's and women's track and field teams will travel back to Gainesville for their next meet on Feb. 1-2 at the ACC-SEC Track and Field Challenge.

The Athletics Department named Jeff Barber, former associate Athletics Director for External Affairs at Furman University, the new Assistant Athletics Director for Development at the University of South Carolina.

In his new role at South Carolina, Barber will be responsible for athletics department development, securing major gifts for the athletics program and will oversee the fund raising efforts for all capital projects.

While at Furman, Barber raised over \$6 million for the school through various fund raising promotions and the organization of a Pro-am Golf Tournament which featured several LPGA pros, many of whom are alumni of Furman.



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock
Shannon Johnson takes a shot in Sunday's win over Ole Miss.

SPORTS BRIEFS ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENNIS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Lawyers for Mats Wilander and Karel Novacek planned to go to court in London this week to clear the players' names over allegations they tested positive for cocaine during the 1995 French Open.

The British tabloid, News of the World, reported it had evidence the two tested positive and the International Tennis Federation kept the tests a secret. The ITF refused to confirm the paper's allegations.

FOOTBALL

TEMPE, Ariz. — Coach Joe Gibbs and two of his former players, tackle Dan Dierdorf and receiver Charlie Joiner, were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday along with Mel Renfro and Lou Creekmur.

Among the 10 nominees rejected by the 36-member board of selectors were four members of Pittsburgh's four Super Bowl champions — Lynn Swann, John Stallworth, Mike Webster and L.C. Greenwood.

Gibbs, who won three Super Bowls with Washington, worked with Dierdorf as an assistant in St. Louis and with Joiner in San Diego.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Jermaine Hopkins, a defensive starter for Youngstown State, was shot and killed early Sunday, police said.

Police Sgt. Detective Rich Holzschuh said Sunday night that Eric Moore, 22, was arrested and charged with aggravated murder.

GOLF

SINGAPORE — Wales' Ian Woosnam won the PGA European Tour's season-opening Johnnie Walker Classic on Sunday, holing a 40-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff with Scotland's Andrew Coltart.

Woosnam, who earned \$151,000, closed with a 5-under-par 66 and Coltart shot a 65 for 16-under 272 totals on Tanah Merah's Garden Course. Sweden's Olle Karlsson (66) and England's Paul Curry tied for third at 275.

ORLANDO, Fla. — The United States Golf Association exempted Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson for this year's U.S. Open and elected Judy Bell the first female president in its 101-year history Saturday. Japan's Jumbo Ozaki was

granted a special international exemption for the June 13-16 tournament at Oakland Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The USGA also increased the prize money by \$400,000 to \$2.4 million and for the Senior and Women's opens by \$200,000 each to \$1.2 million.

SKIING

SERRE CHEVALIER, France — Claudia Riegler, a 19-year-old Austrian who now competes for New Zealand, won her first World Cup slalom title Sunday.

Riegler, whose mother is from New Zealand, had a two-run time of 1 minute, 31.27 seconds on the Olympique Luc Alphand course. Switzerland's Karin Roten was second, 0.29 seconds back.

Saturday's downhill was canceled.

AUTO RACING

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — A new series and star were born Saturday in the Indy 200 as Buzz Calkins outdueled fellow first-time Indy-car starter Tony Stewart to win the inaugural event of the Indy Racing League.

Calkins, 24, driving a 1995 Ford-powered Reynard, passed Stewart for the lead on the 66th of 200 laps around the mile tri-oval at Walt Disney World Speedway and, except for a few laps following the last of his two routine pit stops, led the rest of the way.

BOXING

PHOENIX — Terry Norris stopped Nicaragua's Jorge Luis Vado at 42 seconds of the second round to retain his WBC and IBF junior middleweight titles Saturday night.

Norris, fighting for the first time since winning the IBF title Dec. 16, improved to 42-6 with his 26th knockout. Vado dropped to 14-1.

Venezuela's Eloy Rojas remained WBA featherweight champ with a unanimous 12-round decision over Miguel Arrozal of the Philippines, and Bernard Hopkins stopped Steve Frank in the first round to retain his IBF middleweight title.

BASEBALL

CINCINNATI — Free agent outfielder Vince Coleman agreed to a minor-league contract Saturday with the Cincinnati Reds.

Coleman, 34, split last season with Kansas City and Seattle, batting .288 with five homers, 29



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GAMECOCKS

Sports Calendar

This Week in Gamecock Athletics

• Men's Basketball •

Wednesday

January 31

vs. Wofford at 7:30pm

in Frank McGuire Arena

• Tennis •

Saturday

February 3

vs. North Carolina State at 10am

in Tennis Complex

vs. College of Charleston at 2:30pm

in Tennis Complex

For Ticket Information Call • 777-4274
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