

Lady Gamecocks finish season with win

ACHIM HUNT Asst. Sports Editor

Once again, the Lady Gamecocks (16-11, 2-9) came close to pulling off a big upset, but the Chicken Curse reared its ugly head again as a lane violation cost Shannon Johnson one of her two free throws with one tenth of a second left in the game against Alabama (20-6, 7-4) on Thursday night.

The regular season finale was a different story as the Lady Gamecocks overcame a five-point halftime deficit and used the hot shooting of senior Natalie Funderburk and junior Trese Hickey to control the game in the second half.

The Alabama game was a seesaw affair from the start as neither team made a serious run in the game. The Lady Gamecocks rode a wave of 11 three pointers as they kept the score close with Alabama the entire game.

"We had a well-played game, and our outside shooting was tremendous," Coach Nancy Wilson said after the game. "Heather was excellent, and Shannon played an overall excellent game."

Sophomore Heather Godfrey was hot as she hit five three-point shots en route to a career high 15 points.

"My role here tonight was to go out there and shoot the ball," Godfrey said after the game. "I did my job, but we were not fortunate enough to win against this tough team."

Shannon Johnson was quite brilliant as she scored 23 points and was the team leader as she paced the offensive tempo for the Lady Gamecocks. She had the opportunity to win the game at the free-throw line, but a lane violation by Heather Godfrey only afforded her the opportunity to tie the game.

"We got in there and made it to overtime with one of the top teams in the country and showed them that we are competitive," Johnson said. "About the lane violation, it was the right call, and it was a mental error. We need to learn from it and play even tougher next time."

"This was a well-played game, and Shannon was great all-around," Wilson said after the game. "We made a close game out of it and gained some valuable confidence for the postseason tournament this year in this game."

The game went into overtime after tying at the end of regulation 61-61. In the first four minutes of the overtime, the Lady Gamecocks were outscored 12-3, were not able to rebound and fell to the No. 12 team in the country by a final score of 75-68.

The Lady Gamecocks rebounded from the tough loss to win over Kentucky on Senior night Saturday. Before the game, Cindy Kelly, Natalie Funderburk and All-American Candidate Shannon Johnson were honored by Head Coach Nancy Wilson and Senior Women's Administrator Laurie Massa with flowers and a game ball.

The game started out fast as the Lady Gamecocks jumped out to a quick 13-8 lead behind the strong inside play of Cindy Kelly and Trese Hickey.

Then things turned sour for the Lady Gamecocks as they went cold and were held scoreless for nine minutes of the game and let the Lady Kats build a 12-point lead. After a time-out, the Lady Gamecocks were able to pull back into the game and only trail by five at the half.

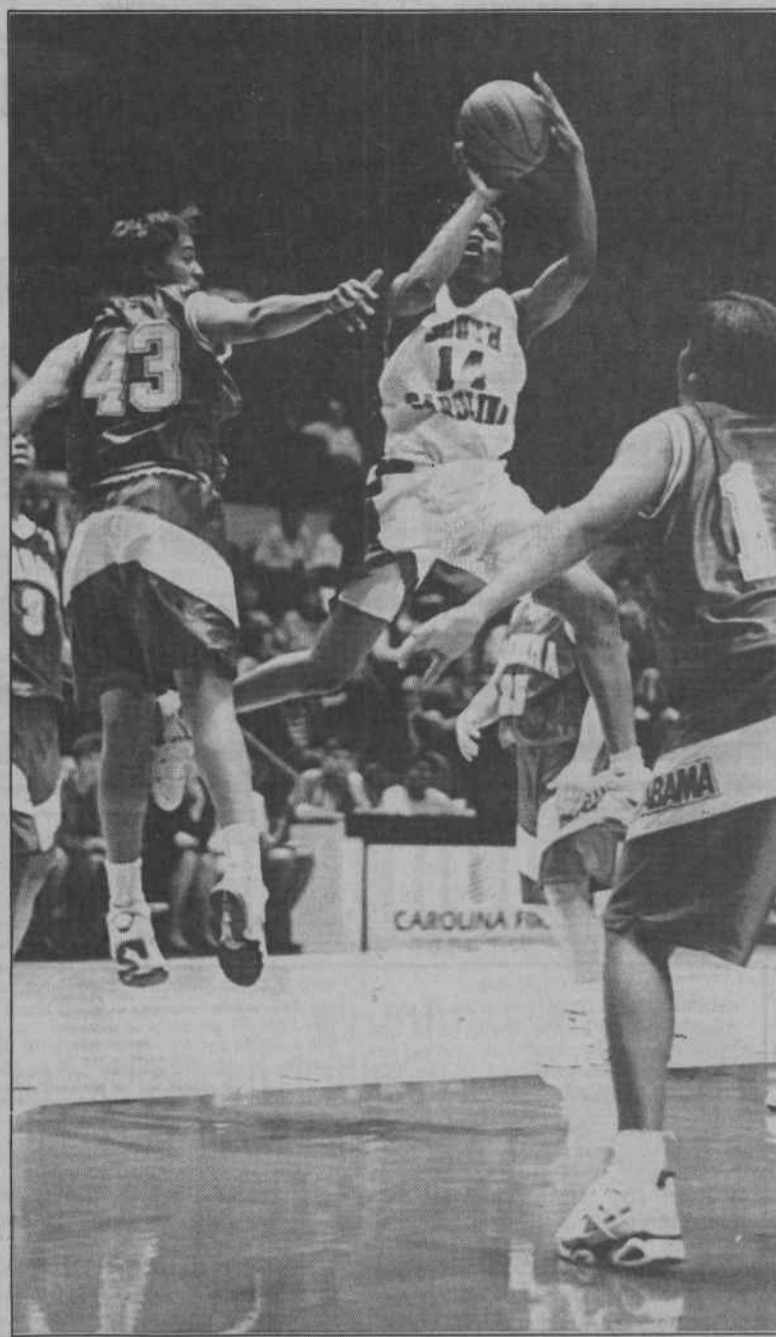
The seniors then took over as Natalie Funderburk hit four three-pointers, and Shannon Johnson played a brilliant half as she scored most of her 22 points and led the Lady Gamecocks to a win in her last regular season home game.

"I played hard, and I am glad that I was able to get a win in my last home game," Johnson said after the game. "Now we have to go the SEC Tournament and play hard and hopefully pull off a win or two."

"This game is just what we needed," Coach Wilson said after the win over Kentucky. "We played hard, got the win and gained some confidence and momentum going into the postseason."

The Lady Gamecocks start play in the SEC Tournament on March 1 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Their first-round opponent will be the Florida Gators.

There are some big stakes riding on the success of the Lady Gamecocks in the tournament. Shannon Johnson is currently 49 points away from breaking the All-Time School Scoring Record, and she may need two tournament games to have a chance at the record.



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock

Guard Shannon Johnson takes a shot in Thursday's effort against Alabama. The Lady Gamecocks closed their season Saturday.

Also, the Lady Gamecocks may need those two wins to get an NCAA Tournament berth in a conference that may send nine teams to the Women's Big Dance.

In addition, there have been rumors that Nancy Wilson's job may be in jeopardy, and a good showing at the SEC Tournament will only help her chances of returning to the team next year.

BASEBALL continued from page 8

to third on a wild pitch, Hucks drove him in with a shot to the shortstop that couldn't be handled.

In the second inning, Williams double down the first base line scored Brandon Walters to make it 2-0. Szwejbka's single combined with Spider third baseman's throwing error scored Williams. Urquhart finished off the scoring for the inning with a single to third that brought Szwejbka in and made it 4-0.

The one bright spot for Richmond came in the top of the fifth inning. Third baseman Sean Ryan got the Spider's first hit of the game with a single back up the middle. The single broke up Moore's bid for a no-hitter.

After Hucks' sacrifice fly to score Hightower in the fifth inning, the Spiders threatened to make a strong comeback in the top of sixth inning.

With the bases loaded and no one out, Moore struck out Richmond batter P.J. McGrory. Then came the play June Raines could only call "huge" Moore got Ed Tober to ground the ball to third baseman Craig Dour. After coming up with the sharply hit ball, he tossed it to Szwejbka, who flipped it to Eric Stanton for a nice 5-4-3 double play to end the threat.

"I told (Moore) after he got the left-hander (McGrory), that it might be his last batter. Then he came back and threw a big double-play ball," Raines said.

In the sixth inning, the Gamecocks struck again. After Williams' second double of the game, Szwejbka drove him in to make it 6-0. Hightower then dribbled a single between the first and second basemen to make it 7-0.

In the eighth inning, USC capped off the scoring for the night. After Williams moved him to second with his third hit of the game, Eric Stanton then drove in Walters with a single to center field to make it 8-0. Richmond added two runs off of three wild pitches in the ninth inning to make the final score 8-2, Gamecocks.

Team Notes: The baseball game with Western Carolina that was scheduled for Tuesday has been cancelled and will not be made up. The Gamecocks' next game will be on Wednesday against Georgia Southern at 7 p.m. at Sarge Frye Field.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOP 25

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press women's basketball poll with previous ranking in parentheses.

1. Louisiana Tech (2)
2. Georgia (1)
3. Connecticut (3)
4. Stanford (4)
5. Tennessee (5)
6. Texas Tech (6)
7. Iowa (7)
8. Old Dominion (8)
9. Virginia (10)
10. Vanderbilt (13)
11. Penn State (9)
12. Duke (14)
13. Wisconsin (11)
14. Alabama (12)
15. Oregon State (15)
16. Clemson (19)
17. Auburn (20)
18. N.C. State (16)
19. Florida (17)
20. Colorado (18)
21. Purdue (22)
22. Mississippi (21)
23. Notre Dame (25)
24. Kansas (nr)
25. Southern Miss (nr)

Gamecock Sports. Hittin' the long ball in the bottom of the ninth.

Thomas Cooper Library

Thomas Cooper Library has added a number of new CD-ROM products to our computer workstations. We invite students, faculty and staff to come into the library and search these new resources! And, while library tours for the semester have ended, the Reference Department staff is always there to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

SPRING BREAK is just around the corner. Please make note of the library hours:

| Library Spring Break Schedule | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| March 3 | Sunday 1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. |
| March 4-8 | 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. |

Mid semester, March 9 through April 6 will be our regular hours which are as follows:

| Regular Library Hours | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Mondays-Fridays | 7:30 a.m. - Midnight |
| Saturday | 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 1:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. |

Easter (April 7) Sunday (CLOSED)

April 8-April 22 Regular hours (See above)

Finals (April 23-April 30) Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

May 1 Wednesday 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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GAMECOCKS Sports Calendar For The Week

- **Men's Basketball** •
Wednesday, February 28
vs. Tennessee at 7:30pm
Frank McGuire Arena
- **Men's Tennis** •
Thursday, February 29
vs. Georgia Tech at 2pm
Tennis Complex
- **Baseball** •
Tuesday, February 27
vs. Western Carolina at 7pm &
Wednesday, February 28
vs. Georgia Southern at 7pm &
Friday, March 1
vs. Charleston Southern at 3pm &
Sunday, March 3
vs. Coastal Carolina at 2pm &
Wednesday, March 6
vs. College of Charleston at 3 pm
Sarge Fry Field

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