

Lady Gamecocks sweep Chanticleers

BRYAN JOHNSTON Staff Writer

"Hopefully we can put these (games) behind us, and (the team) will realize that one weekend doesn't make or break an entire season."

Those were the words of a dejected coach Joyce Compton after her Lady Gamecock softball team was swept by Southwestern Louisiana Sunday 2-0 and 7-2.

With a double-header against Coastal Carolina Tuesday, USC would have the opportunity Compton was looking for to get back on the winning track.

Behind solid pitching from Trinity Johnson and Sky Brown and the consistent hitting from center fielder Kim Pietro, the Lady Gamecocks defeated the Chanticleers 10-0 in five innings and 7-2.

"I thought we did a nice job of making some adjustments," said a much happier Compton after Tuesday's games. "As far as pitching, T.J. looked sharp today. Defensively, I thought we made some nice plays."

Pietro, who went 3-5 in the two games, said, "These games were pretty important for us to be able to come back."

"We came out a lot stronger and a lot more ready to go. Our team really pulled together and we seemed a lot more consistent out here."

In the first game, All-American Trinity Johnson once again dominated. Leading the nation with 168 strikeouts in 113.1 innings, Johnson (W 14-4) struck out 10 batters in four innings. She did not allow a single hit or run while on the mound.

The Lady Gamecocks jumped on the Chanticleers early. In the first inning, Pietro singled to start a two-out rally. All-American catcher Tina Plew then drove her in with a double off the center field fence. Plew then scored on a fielding error by CCU to make it 2-0.

After Johnson struck out the side in the top of the second, USC scored five unearned runs. Johnson walked and scored after Coastal catcher Leslie Steele's snap-throw to first sailed into right field.

Chanda Lee then reached first with

a perfectly placed bunt. She advanced to third on April Farr's single and scored on a wild pitch. Farr, Pietro and Plew each then crossed the plate to make it 7-0.

In the fourth, Brown reached on a fielder's choice, moved to second on Dammer's single and was driven in on Beth Collett's single to right field. Nikki Beers then drove in both Dammer and Collett with a double to right field to make it 10-0. Beers came in and pitched a scoreless fifth inning to end the game.

In the second game, USC continued to hit the ball well as the Lady Gamecocks won 7-2. Beers started where she left off in the first game by pitching two hitless innings.

In the bottom of the first, Lee led off with a bunt single and was able to score when the Chanticleer catcher Steele rifled the ball past first base.

In the third inning, Coastal Carolina scored their first run of the day after Amanda Wischowski walked and worked her way to third after two singles. She was driven in by Cari Rowe's two-out single to right field.

In the bottom of the third, Beers tripled to right-center and scored on a wild pitch. The Lady Gamecocks then put two runs across in the fourth.

In the fifth inning, Farr led off with a single to left and was driven in by Pietro's triple to center field. Plew's single drove in Pietro and Plew scored on a CCU error.

The two wins Tuesday helped to partially ease the pain from Sunday's games. USC (28-7) and USL were ranked No. 1 and two respectively in the South Region.

USL's pitching staff shut down the Lady Gamecocks and USC's pitching struggled as USL took two games from South Carolina.

In game one, USL pitcher Cheryl Longeway pitched a one-hitter. The Lady Cajuns scored the only two runs of the game in the fifth inning on a two-run homerun by Lynne Britton.

In the second game, USL scored four runs in the second inning, two in the third and one fourth as they defeated the Lady Gamecocks 7-2.

So what was the difference between Sunday's and Tuesday's games?



Freshman Nikki Beers starts her wind-up against Southwestern Louisiana this weekend.

"I think we came ready to play today," Compton said.

The Lady Gamecocks travel to Chapel Hill, N.C. this weekend for the UNC Invitational. Following the

weekend action, USC will take on UNC in the final home contests of the season. April 16 will be Senior Day as USC will take on the Tar Heels in a double-header starting at 3 p.m.

POST SPRING PRACTICE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Zola Davis (6-1, 192, So)
	Marcus Robinson (6-4, 205, Sr)
TT	Reggie Baker (6-7, 290, Jr)
	Randy Wheeler (6-2, 296, Sr) -Injured
TG	Ed Hrubiec (6-1, 279, Jr)
	Jesse Washington (6-5, 299, Jr)
C	Paul Beckwith (6-3, 277, Jr)
	Jason Thomas (6-3, 256, Fr)
SG	Travis Whitfield (6-4, 295, Jr)
	Nick Ruhman (6-4, 255, Fr)
ST	Jamar Nesbit (6-4, 303, So)
	Andrey Spearman (6-4, 285, So)
TE	Jason Lawson (6-1, 230, Sr)
	Trevon Matthews (6-2, 240, Fr)
WR	Corey Bridges (5-8, 166, Sr)
	Kerry Hood (6-0, 192, So)
QB	Anthony Wright (6-2, 185, So) <i>or</i>
	Chad Barnhardt (6-1, 214, So)
FB	Steve Mixon (5-11, 209, Fr)
	John Harkelroad (6-1, 188, Sr)
TB	Duce Staley (5-11, 207, Sr)
	Scott Moritz (5-10, 190, Jr)

DEFENSE

DE	Maynard Caldwell (6-1, 238, Sr)
	Quinn Brodie (6-1, 244, Sr)
DT	Henry Taylor (6-1, 274, Jr)
	Patrick Garth (6-4, 282, Sr)
DT	Michael Maddox (6-3, 270, Jr)
	Casey Allen (6-3, 245, Fr)
DE	Selvesta Miller (6-3, 245, Jr)
	J.J. Brown (6-2, 246, Jr)
LB	Darren Hambrick (6-2, 215, Jr)
	Corey Atkins (6-1, 215, Fr)
LB	Shane Burnham (5-11, 219, Jr)
	Jody Caldwell (6-1, 221, So)
LB	Benji Young (6-0, 210, Sr)
	Errol Rochester (6-0, 230, Fr)
CB	Joe Troupe (5-8, 185, Sr)
	Jason Joseph (5-10, 187, Fr)
SS	Ben Washington (5-11, 196, Jr)
	Chris Abrams (6-0, 167, Sr)
FS	Arturo Freeman (6-1, 185, So)
	Ray Green (6-3, 183, Fr)
CB	Terry Cousin (5-9, 176, Sr)
	Lee Wiggins (5-11, 203, Jr)
PK	Reed Morton (5-8, 183, Sr)
	Steve Florio (5-9, 194, So)

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