

Gamecocks light up scoreboard, look to arch rival Clemson

ACHIM HUNT Assist. Sports Editor

The baseball team's new motto has to be "better late than never." The game against College of Charleston was originally scheduled for March 6 but was postponed until Tuesday night because of rain.

The last time sophomore Chad Hoshour hit the mound he was rocked for five runs on four hits in only two-thirds of an inning against Georgia Southern on Feb. 28.

This time was a better outing for Hoshour as he gave up two earned runs in a six-inning stint in getting the 17-2 victory. The effort allowed the pitching staff to rest from a tough series against LSU this past weekend and prepare for a big matchup against Clemson tonight.

"It is a game we needed. We needed something on the mound," head coach June Raines said of the rest Hoshour provided for the pitching staff. "We are thin on the pitching staff. Hoshour has been struggling, so we need him to have a good game, which he did."

The offense was in high gear as they produced 17 runs on 18 hits. The offense was led by Ryan Szejbka who had three hits in four at-bats and drove in three runs.

Also the lead-off hitter, Etienne Hightower was perfect as he went three for three and had three RBIs.

The Gamecocks struggled with the gloves as they had two errors that allowed the College of Charleston to take an early 2-0 lead.

"We are not a great defensive team out there," Raines said of the team's defense. "Until we learn how to catch the ball, then our bats will have to cover for us."

After falling behind 2-0 after some sloppy defense, the offense was able to get warm with a two-run single by Ryan Szejbka. But the best was yet to come.

In the third inning Mike Curry was able to pick up a lead-off walk. Then Derick Urquhart was able to bring him home with his first home run of the season. The Gamecocks were able to keep pouring on the runs as singles by Szejbka and Stanton drove in one run a piece.

The highlight of the game was when Etienne Hightower drove in two runs on a double, and then on an errant



Mark Mapes greets Brian Hucks after his homerun in Sunday's game against LSU. The Gamecocks split a double-header against the fifth ranked Tigers.

throw he was able to come all the way around the bases to score. He was only credited with a double and not an in-the-park home run.

The game with College of Charleston was sandwiched between a doubleheader on Saturday against LSU and the big game against archrival at Clemson tonight.

"We needed to play, we really did," Raines said of the tough stretch his

team is in now. "I thought that on Sunday they were excited playing LSU, the pre-season No. 1 team in the country. We played well and played real good. I was afraid we would be down for Clemson after that high, and tonight helped us relax some."

Looking ahead, the Gamecocks travel to Clemson tonight for a 7:15 tilt. Clemson won the last meeting on Wednesday night at Sarge Frye Field

by a score of 4-2. Freshman Brett Jodie (1-3) will be the starting pitcher in the game.

The Gamecocks will return to conference play this weekend as they face the Georgia Bulldogs for a three-game set. The Gamecocks are currently tied for second place in the conference, three games behind conference leader Florida.

ROBERT WALTON The Gamecock

Sport Briefs Associated Press

BASEBALL

NEW YORK — Baseball fans are slowly starting to come back, judging by attendance figures from the first week of the season.

Despite bad weather that caused seven postponements, attendance was up 4.5 percent for the first 79 dates compared to last year. The first week average through Sunday was 26,579, up from 25,441 for a similar number of games at the start of last season.

When compared to last season's final average of 25,257, attendance was up 5.2 percent. Last year, attendance dropped 20 percent following the strike from a 1994 average of 31,257.

NEW YORK — Reacting to the death of John McSherry, baseball officials gave a leave of absence to umpire Eric Gregg so he can lose weight and get in shape.

Gregg, listed at 325 pounds but visibly heavier, has long been an example used by critics of overweight umpires. The decision to give him a leave was made following a Sunday night meeting among AL president Gene Budig, NL president Len Coleman and umpires union head Richie Phillips.

McSherry, whose weight had gone up to nearly 400 pounds at times, had a heart attack and collapsed behind home plate on April 1 seven pitches into the season opener in Cincinnati. He died about an hour later.

Also, the NL chose Ed Montague to replace McSherry as a crew chief.

NEW YORK — Ryan Klesko of the Atlanta Braves, who hit .526 with three homers and six RBIs in the season's opening week, was National League Player of the Week.

NEW YORK — Dave Hollins, who hit .615 for Minnesota in the opening week is the American League's first player of the week. Hollins, the Twins' third baseman, was 8-for-13, scored six times and had seven walks.

BASKETBALL

DURHAM, N.C. — Washington Bullets rookie Rasheed Wallace, who is sidelined with a broken left thumb, was arrested over the weekend in North Carolina and charged with misdemeanor assault.

The team's top draft pick was arrested Sunday and charged after allegedly failing to obey a restraining order filed against him by ex-girlfriend Chiquita Bryant, mother of his son Ishmiel, according to police.

FOOTBALL

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles signed a one-year, \$300,000 deal with veteran receiver Mark Seay. Seay, who has played the last three seasons with the San Diego Chargers, had 45 receptions for 537 yards and three touchdowns last season.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NEW YORK — St. John's turned over its head basketball coaching job to Fran Fraschilla, who had a 17-12 record last season at Manhattan and was 85-35 in four years there.

Brian Mahoney was dismissed following a dismal 11-17 record, the school's worst in 33 years.

Fraschilla, an assistant at Providence, Ohio State, Ohio University and Rhode Island before coming to Manhattan in 1992, will become the 15th head coach in St. John's history.

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Marshall hired former player Greg White as its new basketball coach. White, who had been coach at the University of Charleston, was a point guard at Marshall and later an assistant coach at the school.

White, 37, is Marshall's fourth coach in seven seasons, a stretch in which the program has struggled after dominating the Southern Conference during the 1980s. He received a five-year contract.

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