

Ray Tanner named new baseball coach

STAFF REPORTS

The Athletics Department selected Ray Tanner as the Gamecock's new baseball coach Friday.

Tanner, a 38-year-old native of Benson, N.C., comes to USC from North Carolina State. At N.C. State, he averaged 45 victories a season while compiling a 395-173 record with the Wolf Pack.

He also led N.C. State to their first ACC championship in 1992. He was

the ACC coach of the year in 1990, and has led his team to seven NCAA tournament appearances in nine years. He is the second-winningest coach in school history. He has had 30 players go on to play professional baseball and coached them to a school-record 49 victories in 1993.

Tanner was given a five-year contract worth \$70,000 a year. It's a \$10,000 increase over his N.C. State salary and \$20,000 more than former coach June Raines was paid last year.

■ USC announced that Equestrian will become USC's 11th varsity sport for women and puts the school in compliance with the SEC gender equity policy. South Carolina features nine men's sports in its athletic program.

Janet Brown, who has served as coach of the Equestrian Club, will coach the varsity team. Coach Brown owns and operates Softwinds Farm, where the team will train and host its home events.

Gamecock athletics prepare for wild year

**BRYAN JOHNSTON
SCRUM DOWN**

O. J. Simpson will be elected President in

ing in the nation. To no one's surprise, Clemson coach Rick Barnes complains.

November; Princess Diana will marry Andre Agassi; Bobby Cremins will make peace with Gamecock fans; and Dennis Rodman will decide to get all of his tattoos removed.

Yes my friends, these next 10 months will be weird ones, but even stranger things will happen on the campus of The University of South Carolina.

Join me as we take a look at what will happen in the sports world at USC during the coming school year. Keep a copy, so when they come true, I won't have to say "I told you so."

SEPTEMBER

USC is forced to move all soccer matches inside the Frank McGuire Arena due to the lack of seating at The Graveyard. The first-ever indoor match in collegiate history draws a sell-out crowd of 12,401 as USC defeats Clemson, 4-1.

OCTOBER

Only weeks into their inaugural season as a varsity sport, the women's equestrian team is put on probation by the school after horses run wild around campus. Two women's volleyball matches are postponed because of odor problems after several horses are found roaming in the volleyball complex.

NOVEMBER

After upsetting number one Tennessee, USC students tear down the goalposts and carry them to the pond in front of the Thomas Cooper Library, where they will stay for years to come.

Three weeks later, vandals sneak into Death Valley and cover Howard's Rock with superglue. After all of the Clemson players become stuck to it, the game is postponed, and 84,000 fans riot.

DECEMBER

Kevin Garnett and Jermaine O'Neil announce they will retire from the pros and play for the Gamecocks. They say they feel they are missing out on their youth. Within minutes, USC jumps to the number one rank-

JANUARY

After beating Florida State for the National Championship, Carolina re-names the stadium Brad Scott Stadium. Scott announces plans to overthrow Strom Thurmond and replace him in the Senate.

After setting yet another indoor shot-put record, Dawn Ellerbe announces she will "now be throwing bowling balls because the sport has gotten too easy."

FEBRUARY

Cocky, the beloved mascot, is kidnapped and presumed dead. Needing a fill-in quickly, Athletics Director Mike McGee announces Hootie and the Blowfish will become the new mascots of USC.

Wanting to continue the tradition started by the Florida Panthers, fans start throwing rubber rats on the basketball floor after every Gamecock basket. The 92-78 victory over Florida takes two days to play and classes are cancelled because of it. A teacher strike is narrowly avoided.

MARCH

At the post-game press conference, just moments after suffering a heart-breaking loss in the championship game, basketball coach Eddie Fogler says Carolina will not field a team next year because all his recruits and current players have declared themselves eligible for the NBA draft.

APRIL

Senior pitcher Trinity Johnson leads the softball team to a 20-0 start with an ERA of 0.00. As a result, the NCAA forces Johnson to start throwing from second base.

These are just a few of the wacky things that will happen during the 1996-97 athletic year. Forecasters predict a strange year ahead for all, but especially for South Carolina.

Maybe that darned Chicken Curse can be used against Gamecock opponents. Hold on to your seats because it's going to be a wild ride.

Baptist Student Union

BSU is: **Christ-centered community
Addressing needs with
Love and
Variety by
Accepting and
Responding to
You!**

Thursdays 7pm
large group meeting

Bible Study
Discipleship

Retreats

Choral Ensemble
"Foundation"

Drama Group
"Exalt"

Mission
Opportunities

Baptist Student Center • 700 Pickens Street • 803 799-3854

St. Thomas More Catholic Center

Mass Sunday 11am; Mon-Thurs. 12:15pm; Sat. Vigil 5pm



Confession
half hour before Saturday Mass

Newman Club
Evening Prayer 6:45pm
Meetings: Tues. 7pm

1610 Greene Street

Rev. Michael F. McCafferty, Chaplain

Bored this summer? Got nothing better to do? Then join the Gamecock Sports Staff this summer. Call 777-7182 to become real cool!