

# Facts and figures from college sports

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## Oh, this should be fun!

In both Lindy's and Athlon's pre-season football issue, Gamecock opponents are rated as some of the toughest. Tennessee is first in the nation in Athlon's and fourth in Lindy's. Florida is sixth and fifth, respectively; Auburn is 21st in both; Clemson is tenth in Athlon's and even East Carolina is ranked 23rd in Athlon's. To make matters worse, Central Florida, who makes the jump from Division I-AA to I-A, has one of the top 20 quarterbacks in the nation in Daunte Culpepper and their aerial attack is considered potent.

## Something to be thankful for

Kentucky's Moe Williams, who last year ran all over the Gamecock defense for 299 yards, decided to forego his senior year and was taken in the NFL Draft.

## Things to be hopeful for

Tennessee's Peyton Manning and

Florida's Danny Wuerfful are the top two quarterbacks in the nation. Is it too late to hope that they will enter the NFL Draft?

## In case you cared

Here are some little known facts about 1996 college football:

Cheapest Ticket: Ball State - \$2; \$4 for a good seat

Most Expensive: Arizona State and Oklahoma State - \$60 (for a really good seat)

Smallest Stadium: Idaho's Kibbie ASUI Dome - 16,000

Largest Stadium: Michigan Stadium - 102,501

Most unusual fact: Kent's school colors were orange and purple until a laundry mishap left the basketball team's uniforms dark blue and gold.

## Makes you wonder

Two recent high school graduates, Jermaine O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, were selected in the June 26 NBA Draft and

everyone says they need college experience. The same thing is said if a college football player leaves early. But nothing is said if a high school baseball star goes straight to the minor leagues. Is it a coincidence that football and basketball are the two highest grossing revenues for colleges?

## That silver lining

As bad as the Gamecock defense was last year, they had the lowest single game rushing total in the SEC when they held Kent to -20 yards.

## Speaking of Kent

Out of 111 Division I-A teams ranked in the pre-season poll, the Golden Flashes are ranked, drum roll please... 111. No where to go but up!

## Do the Wright thing

Until Anthony Wright proves he can lead the Gamecocks to victory, any comparisons to ex-Florida State QB and Heisman winner Charlie Ward are a

little premature.

## Here's a good idea

The NCAA passed a new rule to take effect this season. When a ballcarrier's helmet comes completely off, the play will be blown dead and the ball will belong to the runner's team at that spot. Makes sense.

## Not so eager Beavers

And who would be? The Oregon State football team will more than likely extend their own NCAA record for consecutive losing seasons. It is currently at 25 but should reach 26 by mid-Oct.

## And finally

USC could go 1-10 this football season, but as long as the one win comes against Clemson, the critics are quiet and Brad Scott's job is safe.

## USC BRIEFS FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

### Basketball

■As the USC men's basketball team is off to a quick 3-0 start on their tour of Scandinavia the 1996 Maui Invitational pairings and the 1996-97 television schedule has been released.

The Gamecocks drew Virginia in the first round and will play the winner or loser of the Massachusetts and host team Chaminade game.

The first round game is set for 11:30 am on Monday, November 25.

And Carolina students get your body paint and wacky signs ready because there will be plenty of television cameras around the Frank McGuire Arena this winter.

On December 17 the television schedule kicks off with the Clemson game on SportsSouth.

Then after regionally televised tilts against Georgia and Ole Miss at home the serious networks will come to Columbia.

ESPN's cameras will be here for the big conference games against Kentucky and Georgia in early February.

Both of these games start at 9:30 p.m. which can only mean one thing — Dick Vitale is coming to town.

Also the game at Kentucky to end the regular season will be seen on CBS.

### Football

■South Carolina sophomore offensive tackle Jamar Nesbit has been chosen to the pre-season All-SEC football team announced August 1 in Birmingham.

Nesbit, a 6-4, 303-pounder from Summerville, SC, was named to the SEC All-Freshman squad in 1995.

As a true freshman, he started the last 10 games at split guard. He was

moved to offensive tackle during the past spring practice.

In the preseason team poll conducted by a media panel, South Carolina was predicted to finish fourth in the SEC's Eastern Division.

In other news, South Carolina's home football game against the University of Georgia, Saturday, September 14 will be televised nationally by ESPN with starting time set for 7:30 pm at Williams Brice Stadium.

The is the SEC opener for both schools and is a change from the original starting time of 7 p.m.

South Carolina's homecoming game against Mississippi State, Saturday, Sept. 28 at Williams Brice Stadium, will also be televised.

It will be shown as the SEC Game of the Week by Jefferson-Pilot Sports. Starting time for that game will be 12:30 pm.

### Baseball

■University of South Carolina head baseball coach Ray Tanner announced Wednesday that he has hired Jerry Meyers as the pitching coach for the Gamecocks.

Meyers spent the past year as the pitching coach at Old Dominion University, helping the Monarchs to the 1996 NCAA Atlantic Regional, as his pitching staff established a school single-season strikeout record.

Meyers joins assistant coach Jim Toman and volunteer coach Greg Suire to round out Tanner's staff at South Carolina.

Tanner, who was hired June 14, worked this summer as an assistant coach to the USA Baseball team that won the Bronze medal at the 1996 Summer Olympics.

## GAMECOCK FOOTBALL FACT

The Gamecocks have had five squad members selected to the SEC All-Freshman team the past two seasons.

In 1994, defensive back Ben Washington and center Paul Beckwith earned the honor.

Last fall, offensive lineman Jamar Nesbit, wide receiver Zola Davis and defensive back Auturo Freeman were chosen to the all-rookie squad.

—from the 1996 South Carolina football media guide

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