

Carolina defense sets sights on stopping UGA offensive attack

BRYAN JOHNSTON Asst. Sports Editor

The Gamecocks will look to continue their winning ways Saturday as they take on the Georgia Bulldogs. After last Saturday's 33-14 victory over Central Florida, Carolina will open up their SEC schedule with the second of four straight home games.

Georgia comes into town with a 0-1 record, following a stunning loss to Southern Mississippi, 11-7. They will be looking to give first-year head coach Jim Donnan his first victory as a Bulldog. Coming off an by-week, Georgia has had plenty of time to prepare for the Gamecocks.

"We feel like we've got a lot to prove as a program after last week's game, but at the same time we feel like we're capable of doing it," Donnan said.

If the Bulldogs are going to do it, they must play a lot better than they did against Southern Mississippi. In that game, Georgia looked flat and rusty as the offense sputtered. Running backs ran into quarterback Mike Bobo on hand-offs and receivers ran the wrong routes.

Defensively, Georgia was sound in holding the Golden Eagles to 11 points, but got no help from the Georgia offense.

"We need to build around our defense and hopefully get a little better kicking game," Donnan said. "We've got to get

consistent play out of our quarterback and get the ball to the skilled people."

Although the Georgia offense looked rather unimpressive against USM, the Bulldogs have the talent to play with any team in the SEC. Led by Bobo and running back Robert Edwards, Georgia has the ability to score a lot of points. All the Gamecocks have to do is look back at last year's game to see just how potent UGA's offense can be.

In his first game at running back after being moved from defensive back, Edwards broke a Georgia school record that had stood for over 100 years. Neither Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker nor Garrison Hearst have ever scored five touchdowns in a game for the Bulldogs.

Edwards scored four TD's on the ground, rushing for 169 yards on 30 carries, and caught two passes for 42 yards and another touchdown, as Georgia ran away from the Gamecocks in the second half in a 42-23 Georgia win.

"The South Carolina game was unreal. Unreal," Edwards told writers at the SEC Media Days in July. "I've looked at the tapes a couple of times, and I've wondered how I did some of those things I did. I guess it was just reaction, instinct. I don't think I could go out and imitate it again."

Gamecock fans certainly hope he doesn't. After shutting down a potent Central Florida team last week, Carolina's defense looks to do the same this week. Another strong performance from Terry Cousin, Ben Washington, Keris Sullivan and Arturo Freeman is needed in the secondary to shut down the passing attack of the Bulldogs.

Up front, the job of stopping Edwards will belong to defensive end Maynard Caldwell, tackle Henry Taylor and the rest of the line. They need to get pressure up front, plug the holes and let linebackers Shane Burnham, Darren Hambrick and Benji Young put pressure on Bobo.

Offensively, the Gamecocks need to continue running a balanced offense. Tailback Duce Staley will look to build upon last week's strong performance in which he carried the ball 29 times for 187 yards and three TD's.

Anthony Wright will be making his second start at quarterback for Carolina. Last week he had a solid showing as he completed 12 of 19 passes for 236 yards, one touchdown and 0 interceptions. What was even more impressive was that he completed passes to eight different receivers, and the way he checked-off to certain plays at the line of scrimmage after reading the defense.

As far as special teams go, both teams have quality kickers. Junior Dax Langley returns for the Bulldogs after a solid 1995 campaign. The punter/placekicker is an SEC all-star candidate.

USC has a potential future all-star player in freshman Courtney Leavitt. In his debut last week, he connected on all four of his PAT's, and was 1-2 on field goals (making a 32-yarder and narrowly missing a 47-yard attempt). His first punt traveled 48 yards, and his second rolled dead inside the 20-yard line, resulting in a 37-yard average.

The stage is set for the annual Georgia-USC grudge-match. The series dates back to 1894, with UGA holding a 36-10-2 lead. The last time Carolina defeated Georgia in Columbia was in 1988, when the 14th-ranked Gamecocks upset the No. 6 ranked Bulldogs 23-10. In Williams-Brice Stadium, Georgia leads the series 14-5-2.

This game could do a lot for the Gamecocks' national ranking if they should win. The game is being broadcast nationally by ESPN, with Ron Franklin and Mike Gottfried calling the game. Last week's record-crowd of 76,411 will be broken, as the game is already sold out. Because of the television coverage, kick-off has been moved back to 7:30 p.m.

Coach's Corner

Selected comments from Brad Scott, USC Head Coach

"We played well for an opening ball game, and yet at the same time we've got quite a bit of work to do, because of the schedule that we play. We are a long ways away from being a really good football team."

"We have to continue to improve every week, because, just as this week, the competition gets tougher every week. We have won the opener, and that's just a good start."

"We are playing a lot of young players and that definitely excites me, because that is the future of this football team. It is good that we are playing these young players so early for two reasons. One reason being that they are getting plenty of reps this early and the other being that it shows how youthful our team really is."

"I thought that Anthony Wright played very respectable for an opening ball game. He made some good decisions out there, but mostly I was impressed with his poise."

"And now we step up to another level this week, and he will see a completely different type of defense. So, it will be another stiff challenge for Anthony, but I think he will be prepared for Georgia like he was last week."

"Now Duce, I thought played real well, and he ran with the blockers well, but he also ran without the blockers well. I think that it gives our offensive line a lot of confidence and encouragement to have a player behind them that can get the job done."

"Now Georgia presents a whole different challenge for us. I think that their coach said it well when he said it was a surprise to everybody that their offense didn't play as well the first game as they're capable of playing."

"We all know that they've got very gifted and talented players on the offensive side."

"Robert Edwards is a back who is one cut away from taking it the distance every time he touches the ball. He's a very gifted back."

"Mike Bobo is a very good quarterback. He was a little out of sync in their opening game."

"I think what we've got coming into the Williams-Brice house is kind of an angry, mad and embarrassed Georgia football team. From their offensive side of the football, that's bad for us."

"On the defensive side of the ball, they played extremely well. That will present a great challenge for our young offensive football team because they return a lot of people."

"Their front four is as good as any in this league. It might be better. I'm not sure, but their inside are outstanding. They've got the skills and speed on the outside. That's going to be a big challenge for us."

"I think that the new atmosphere at Williams-Brice Stadium is the best in the country. Last week's crowd was great, but with even more people in the crowd, it will be better."

Volleyball team travels to Kansas for tournament

The Gamecock volleyball team looks to improve on its 5-2 record in the K-St. tourney.

DWAYNE MCLEMORE
Asst. Sports Editor

The Gamecock volleyball team heads to Manhattan, Kansas, this weekend, and will attempt to continue its winning ways in the Kansas State Invitational.

Carolina, 5-2, opens the tournament at 2 p.m. today against the Eastern Michigan Eagles. The team will then face host Kansas State Wildcats tonight at 7 p.m.

Tomorrow, Carolina has a 10 a.m. match-up with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos. And in its final match of the weekend, the team faces the Boise State Broncos at 2 p.m.

It will be the first meeting for Carolina with all four schools.

Head Coach Kim Hudson is hoping the team will gain valuable experience



HUDSON

in the tournament. "This weekend, it's important for us to focus on being more consistent," Hudson said. "We need to work to gain more confidence."

The Gamecocks are coming off a 3-1 finish at this past weekend's Carolina Classic Tournament, the team's first matches in the new Volleyball Competition Facility. Junior Lori Drost and freshman Fernanda Laire were named to the All-Tournament team. Hudson does expect senior Shani Abshier, who has been nursing an injured ankle, to be ready for this weekend. Carolina returns home Sept. 18 to face arch-rival Clemson.

South Carolina Volleyball

Kansas State Tournament

September 13th-14th

South Carolina-Eastern Michigan

Friday, September 13th

2:00 pm

South Carolina-Kansas State

Friday, September 13th

7:00 pm

South Carolina-Missouri-Kansas City

Saturday, September 14th

10:00 am

South Carolina-Boise State

Saturday, September 14th

2:00 pm

Gamecock Sports Challenge

USC/UGA CU/Mich. VT/BC ND/Purdue SCSt./Furman

Achim Hunt Sports Editor 9-2	USC	Michigan	Va Tech.	ND	SC State
Bryan Johnston Asst. Sports Editor 8-3	USC	Colorado	Va Tech.	ND	SC State
Dwayne McLemore Asst. Sports Editor 9-2	USC	Colorado	Va Tech.	ND	SC State
Adam Snyder News Editor 7-4	USC	Michigan	BC	ND	SC State
Martha Hotop News Editor 0-0	USC	Colorado	BC	ND	Furman
Ben Muldrow Graphics Dude Jr. 0-0	USC	Colorado	BC	ND	SC State
Chris Dixon Viewpoints Editor 0-0	USC	Michigan	BC	Purdue	Furman
Darryl Jones Grill Guy at GMP 7-4	USC	Michigan	Va Tech.	ND	SC State

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Applications may be picked up in Russell House Room 331. Deadline for completed application is 3 p.m. September 20.