

## Hadwin shows true spirit of athletics

**BRYAN JOHNSTON**

### 3-point play

So often in sports, we get caught up in a numbers game: 50 percent from the field, 22 points, six rebounds, three assists, one block, four fouls. Wins, losses often overshadow the true meaning of the game. Rankings and scores dominate the headlines. A journalist's job is to write on these numbers, but occasionally we come across a true feel-good story. Sports are nothing but games and should be fun. Nowhere is this more true than on the USC women's basketball team. In a season where the Lady Gamecocks have struggled in just about every category, there are a few numbers that get overlooked: 5-foot, 5 inches; No. 12 and zero scholarship money. Those are the numbers of

freshman Sara Hadwin. Hadwin has put in countless hours of practice on the hardwood just to get a chance to don the Lady Gamecock basketball uniform. As a walk-on, Hadwin received no money and had to try-out for the team. The Columbia native was graduated from Dreher High School which is just a few blocks past Five Points. She could've run track here or gone to a smaller school and gotten more playing time, but when it came down to a decision, a Gamecock was what she wanted to be. You can see that on her face whenever she gets into the ballgame. When she enters the game, the crowd yells and applauds in appreciation and anticipation. Monday night, the crowd saved its loudest ovation for the plays Hadwin made near the end of

Carolina's 80-50 blowout of Wofford. Hadwin had four points, three assists and two steals, but gave the Lady Gamecock faithful a great show. The crowd held its breath every time she took a shot in hopes of her making it into the scoring column. And when she did, a big smile came over everyone's face. Even her teammates get a kick out of watching the lightning-quick guard who plays tough defense and displays a nifty knack for dribbling. Take one fastbreak, for instance. Hadwin anticipated a Wofford pass and jumped in front of the ball. After knocking it forward and gaining possession, Hadwin bounce-passed it to Heather Godfrey who had the sure-fire layup. Instead of padding her stats, Godfrey gave it back to Hadwin for the deuce. The crowd came to their feet in approval. Everything she did, from a nice,

high-banking shot off the glass for two, to a miss-fired pass to her teammate, Hadwin did with a smile on her face, just happy to be playing. Hadwin displays an attitude long forgotten in the world of professional sport. Egotistical jerks such as Charles Barkley and Michael Irvin think it's the fans privilege to watch them play. Most seem to have lost their heart and love for the game. If only more athletes would realize that it's a great honor to be able to play collegiate sports. Very few athletes realize how lucky they are to be playing past high school. But watching Hadwin and the way she plays gives me hope that all is not bad in athletics. It's still my job to write about the numbers, but it's nice to take a refreshing break and write about the more pleasurable side of athletics. Thanks Sara.

## Gamecock Briefs

### Men's Tennis

The USC men's tennis team took two matches at Davidson University, beating UNC-Greensboro, 4-1 and shutting out host Davidson, 7-0. Olof Akes'son and Greg Badurowicz each won two singles and a doubles match to pace the No. 32 ranked Gamecocks (8-0).

### Women's Tennis

The No. 17 USC women's tennis team defeated visiting South Florida 6-3 at the Maxcy Gregg Tennis Stadium. Karolina Bulat, Tobi Rakic and Muriel Abella each won a singles and doubles match for USC (3-1).

### Men's Golf

The USC men's golf team finished in a four-way tie for seventh place at 903 with Georgia, LSU and Tulsa at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club.

Eric Ecker finished in a tie for fourth place at four-over par 220. The freshman earned a spot on the All-Tournament team with his play.

### Cycling

The USC Cycling Club has been formed. The club consists of both road and mountain biking for beginners to licensed racers. The purpose of the club is to promote cycling through group activities including club rides, racing in NCCA events, trail maintenance and community service projects. The club meets on the first and third Tuesdays outside of RH 203 at 7:30 p.m. There are weekly road and mountain bike club rides as well as club trips to regional races. The club welcomes all students, faculty and staff interested in cycling to the next meeting March 4. Further information can be found on the club webpage at: [www.sa.sc.edu/cycling/cycling.htm](http://www.sa.sc.edu/cycling/cycling.htm)

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