

Players say record won't be on mind, affect Saturday play

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record of 874. Going into Saturday's game, Johnson has 866 K's, 9 away from the record.

With all of this going on, will Carolina be distracted as they take the field?

"I think we've done really well with not thinking about the streak and just thinking about one game at a time," senior Carrie Lyons said. "We've been looking at the team we have to play that day instead of looking up and into the future."

"I think it'll be in the back of everyone's mind, but not so much as it will affect us and our play. I think we have the willpower to stay focussed and on track," Johnson said.

"I'm very proud of this team for not looking ahead because the streak we have going is a very good accomplishment. It's pretty exciting and hopefully once we get through Saturday and break the record, maybe

the pressure will die down a little bit," Lyons said.

Compton said she believes her team will be able to look past the historic event and concentrate on the game.

"There's probably no way the streak can't be on their minds, but I don't think it's going to be affecting them as far as their preparation and thoughts going into the game."

Johnson said Compton's victory and her strikeout record won't be on her mind as she takes to the mound Saturday.

"No matter what, coach is going to get her 500th win this season. And if things keep going they way they are now, I'm going to get the record. It's not something that it's now or

never," Johnson said. "It's something that's going to happen so hopefully my mind won't be focused on, 'Okay, I have to do it today.' I'm just going to pitch my game and see what happens."

When looking at the schedule back in January, no one on the team would have believed the team would be 38-2 and ranked No. 4 in the nation.

"We've never jumped out to a beginning like that before. So we never thought it would be within our grasps. When you play every other day like we do, any team can beat you on any given day," Lyons said.

"I never doubted that we could do it, it was just a matter of everything falling together and pulling

it through," Johnson said. "Our team has always had the ability to do it, it was just a matter of doing the little things to be successful."

With the team assembled by Compton, an SEC title looks eminent and a trip to the College World Series looks probable.

With five seniors (Johnson, Lyons, Lee, Plew and Kelly Dammer) on the team, Johnson said now is the time. She saw a T-shirt for the women's Olympic soccer team with the slogan "This is the team, now is the time" on the back and has adopted the slogan for the softball team.

"Every time I think of our team, that's what I think of. We have a lot of seniors who really want to go through and put [the championship] off," Johnson said. "This is the team and now is the time. We have the ability to do it and I think we have the focus to do it."

But for now, the time is Saturday and the team is Tennessee.

Volleyball headed to UNC



Head volleyball coach Kim Hudson will take her Lady Gamecocks to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this weekend for their first tournament of the spring. USC will be competing against UNC, Duke and George Washington.

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