

The men's team fell from 4th to 22nd

The women's team remained the 4th team in the country.

SPORTS

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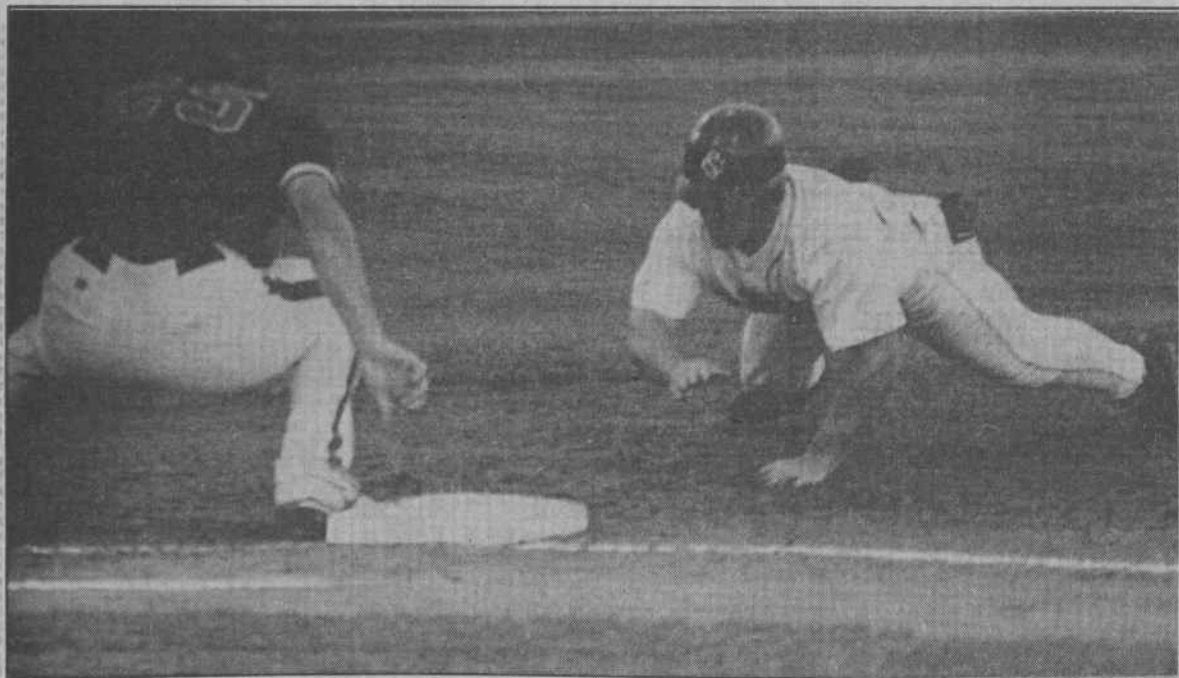
Softball @ Arkansas and LSU
Friday, 6 p.m. and Sunday, noon
ON THE ROAD

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The Gamecock

Friday, April 11, 1997

Tigers light up Carolina



BRYAN JOHNSTON The Gamecock

Mike Curry dives back to first base in the Gamecocks' 15-1 loss to the Tigers on Wednesday night at Sarge Frye Field. The Gamecocks beat the Tigers last week 11-3 at Clemson and return there for the third game of the four game series. The game is set to begin at 7 p.m.

MARK PIRAS Staff Writer

If Clemson was still reeling a bit from last week's 11-3 loss to the Gamecocks, it didn't show. The Tigers used the embarrassing loss to fuel a dominating 15-1 spanking Wednesday.

Clemson pitcher Matt White started the first game of his career, and surprised even his own coach with a 6-hit complete game.

Gamecock pitcher Jason Pomar helped out the Clemson cause, overthrowing the ball and trying to aim it rather than pitch it.

Pomar walked Eric Demoura, the game's leadoff hitter, in the top of the first. DeMoura retired himself trying to steal second.

Pomar then had one out and nobody on base, but quickly remedied that by walking Gary Burnham and hitting Matthew LeCroy.

The fourth hitter of the game was Jason Embler, who worked the count full.

This was the third batter that Pomar had taken to a full count out of four batters (he hit LeCroy on the second pitch). Pomar threw a low fastball on the outside of the plate, but Embler swatted it over the left-centerfield fence.

Pomar then walked Matt Padgett (on a full count) and Kurt Bultmann.

Gamecock Coach Ray Tanner decided he had seen enough of Pomar, so he decided to bring in junior Steven Bray.

Pomar left the game in the first having thrown 36 pitches, 24 of which were called balls.

Bray got Nathan Broome to pop out to short for the second out, but Clemson wasn't done.

Brian Holstad walked to load the bases, and Bradley LeCroy swatted a single into right to make the score 5-0 Clemson.

DeMoura batted for the second time in the inning and walked again, to once again load the bases. Burnham came to the plate and drilled a 3-1 fastball off the rightfield foul-pole for a grand slam homerun.

That put Clemson up 9-0 and the Gamecocks never challenged the Tigers' lead.

Matt White pitched the rest of the way, overcoming

a strike zone by ACC umpire Pete Bock that was less consistent than the University's policy on class attendance.

"You can't dig yourself a hole the way we did in the first inning against a team that's been to two College World Series," Tanner said.

"I'll be honest with you, four or five runs in the first—after they got those I said, 'Hey, man, we got 27 outs,' but they put a nine-spot up there after the grand slam, and that's very difficult to battle back from."

White said his performance was nothing spectacular.

"It's kind of easy when we've got an 11-run lead the whole time," White said.

"It kind of gives me a little bit of self-satisfaction, just going out there and pitching my game and not having to do what they're doing—playing catch-up the whole time."

Clemson coach Jack Leggett said he was extremely pleased with White's pitching.

"He did exactly what the doctor ordered right now," Leggett said.

"We've been struggling a little bit in the early parts of the ballgames and it was nice to be on the other side of it for a change."

When it was all said and done, Tanner used six pitchers, including freshman second baseman Mac Baroody, who pitched a perfect ninth inning.

The pitching gave up 13 hits, walked 13, and hit one batter with a pitch.

Bordenick drove in the Gamecocks' only run with a double down the rightfield line that scored Mike Curry in the first inning.

"We've got to pick ourselves up off the canvas and head to Georgia," Tanner said.

Next Game:

The Gamecocks play at Georgia this weekend and at Clemson Wednesday.

Coach Tanner has added a home game against Wofford Tuesday. The Gamecocks and the Terriers have also added a game in two weeks on Tuesday at home.

Stretching success

by reginna green, staff writer

In a day when sports spectators think athletes are paid too much and don't truly love the games they play too little, many would say Gamecock baseball's primary starting catcher is a welcome and refreshing change.

Senior captain Rob Streicher, who likes major league catcher Mike Piazza because "he's a catcher who can hit, who just loves the game of baseball," played four years of high school baseball in Boca Raton and moved from Florida Atlantic University to Santa Fe Community College of Gainesville before settling at USC—all because he loves the game of baseball.

Streicher first attended the four-year university Florida Atlantic right out of high school and only transferred to a community college after he saw little playing time. Streicher then notched a .348 batting average at Santa Fe, hit 5 home runs and drove in 40 runs. His stellar season at junior college convinced him he could play at a higher level.

"My goals were always to play in the SEC and I believed I could play in the SEC," Streicher said. "And once I got to play in junior college and had a pretty good season there, I knew I wanted to play in the SEC and that's exactly what I did."

"Coach Tanner's given me a chance to play every day. He's letting me prove to myself that I can play at this level and that's what I've been doing all season."

And he's doing it well. Going into Wednesday night's second game with Clemson, Streicher was third in the SEC in fielding percentage, with a .992 average. He is tied for seventh place in home runs with



STREICHER

11 and has driven in 45 runs, which puts him in 11th place for RBIs in arguably one of college baseball's best conferences. Through April 6, the SEC had seven teams in Baseball America's Top 25 poll—more than any other conference in the country. The next most successful conference was the PAC-

10 with five teams. And the Gamecocks have beaten SEC teams such as LSU, the No. 1 ranked team in the country and defending National Champions. They've also beaten No. 3 Auburn, No. 6 Alabama, No. 20 Mississippi State, and No. 25 Arkansas, all of whom are SEC opponents.

Streicher said he has been pleased with the performance of a team picked to finish dead last in the SEC Eastern Division.

"No one likes for it to be said that you're gonna be in last place and picked and chosen to finish last. If you have pride you don't like that. And I think most guys on this team have pride," Streicher said.

The Gamecocks now stand in second place in the SEC East, just one game behind Tennessee.

"I'm happy with where we're at right now," Streicher said. "I feel like there's a couple of games we lost that we should have won, but that's baseball. That's the way it is."

"Then on the other flip side, there's games we won—that maybe we should have lost—that we won just because we kept playing harder than the other guys. We wanted it more," he said.

Streicher, along with fellow captains Etienne Hightower and Ryan Szwebijka, plays the all-important role of captain and, in this position, tries to be a role model

both on and off the field. He said his five years of experience in college baseball enables him to help the team's younger and newer players.

"I try to keep everyone focused, let them know what's going on and how it works, things like that," Streicher said. "I try to lead by example and always keep a good attitude [and] even when I'm having a bad day, I try to keep a positive attitude so other guys see that it's just one game, and there's 55 more to go. That's the way I try to lead."

One game of the 56 games the baseball team plays which made Streicher's day was game two of the Mississippi state series in Starkville. Streicher hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning that helped the Gamecocks pull off the victory over what Streicher believes is one of college baseball's best teams.

"Hitting in two runs at Mississippi State was a good feeling because Mississippi State has always had a great feel of baseball and it's known around the country as one of the best baseball schools in the country," Streicher said. "Just playing there is unbelievable: the facilities they have, the fans they have. That's probably the highlight of my year so far, helping us get that one victory at Mississippi State."

Those facilities and those fans are also two reasons Streicher loves playing baseball in the SEC.

"Play[ing] in front of a lot of fans every day—that's important, because you like to be seen, and it's fun to be seen. It's fun to have home crowds and it's fun to go on the road and play at facilities that are just top notch," Streicher said.

"It just makes baseball fun and that's what it's all about."

Lady Gamecocks remain No. 4 after CCU sweep

STAFF REPORTS

The softball team (43-3, 15-1 SEC) is ranked No. 4 in this week's USA Today/NFCA Top 25 Poll, garnering its first ever first-place vote.

Carolina is coming off a 7-1 week, sweeping Georgia Tech and Coastal Carolina.

Wednesday, USC swept Coastal Carolina 4-3 and 6-0. Senior Tina Plew went 3-for-4 with four RBI in game one. Sky Brown improved to 12-0 with the win.

In game two, sophomore Nikki Beers improved to 8-1 with the three-hit shutout.

The Lady Gamecocks also took three of four from SEC rival Tennessee Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, Carolina set an NCAA single-season consecutive games won record with 38-straight victories before losing Sunday.

Head coach Joyce Compton also won her 500th game at Carolina on Saturday and All-American pitcher Trinity Johnson became Carolina's all-time strikeout leader with 884.

Leading the Lady Gamecocks on the mound is senior two-time All-American Johnson.

She posts a 23-2 record with a 0.27 ERA and has struck out 251 batters in 155.2 innings pitched.

She has been named national player-of-the-week twice, SEC pitcher-of-the-week twice and was named the Speedline/South Florida Classic Most Valuable Pitcher.

At the plate, senior All-Americans Plew and Chanda Lee are leading the Lady Gamecocks.

Lee is second on the team in hitting with a .333 batting average with 47 hits. She also leads the team with 16 stolen bases.

Plew leads the teams in batting with a .350 average on her 50 hits. She also leads the team in runs (36), triples (4), and RBI (36).

After sweeping Coastal Carolina on Wednesday their new winning streak stands at three games after a 6-1 loss to Tennessee on Sunday.

USC returns to SEC play when they travel to Arkansas today for a doubleheader which starts at 6 p.m.

Then they travel for a doubleheader with the SEC's first place team, the LSU Lady Tigers on Sunday at noon.

Gamecock Sports.
Getting taken behind the
proverbial woodshed.

(in honor of Mackey and Barone)

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