

SPORTS

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ATHLETICSBaseball vs. Wofford
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The Gamecock

Monday, April 14, 1997

Defense dominates Spring Game

NATHAN BROWN Senior Writer

Before the start of the annual Spring Game, many of the 7,000 spectators were probably not quite sure what to expect.

Would Anthony Wright, who wore a yellow jersey signaling he wasn't to be touched, lead the white offense to victory? Or would the redshirt freshman Victor Penn be the hero stepping up his performance to show of what he is made? Would the defense completely shut the offense down? How would the running game be without Duce Staley or the injured Troy Hambrick? And just how far could Courtney Leavitt punt the ball?

All of these questions were answered Saturday at Williams-Brice Stadium as the Garnet team defeated the White team 9-3.

The only scoring came in the second half as field goals were exchanged by the two teams. The deciding factor was Scott Moritz's touchdown run from six yards.

By splitting the Gamecock squad in half, the two teams, comprised of everyone from walk-ons to scholarship players, were fairly equal.

From the beginning, it was apparent that the defense had the upper hand.

The first possessions of both the Garnet and White teams resulted in a punt. Although, Victor Penn, quarterback of the Garnet team, gave the crowd a glimpse of his potential by completing two passes, scrambling around the end for a short gain of seven yards and laying a block for Moritz, the tailback.

On the next possession, the White team managed to drive the ball into field goal range, but the kick was blocked by Preston Vinson and was recovered by Ben Washington.

After an unsuccessful set of downs, Courtney Leavitt was brought in to punt the ball, ending the first quarter

in a 0-0 deadlock.

The second quarter resembled the first because the defense dominated. Anthony Wright was "considered down" five times, and Penn was sacked twice. Despite the defensive efforts, Penn completed a 62-yard touchdown pass to Kerry Hood, but it was called back for offensive holding.

The only other scoring opportunity was a missed 47-yard field goal by Leavitt. Perhaps the better moments of the first half, or at least the most appealing to the crowd, were produced from Leavitt booting the ball 54 yards. At the end of the first half, the score was 0-0.

At the beginning of the third quarter, a Penn pass was intercepted by Arturo Freeman, who returned it to the Garnet's 13-yard line. Despite the close proximity to the goal line, the offense was unable to score a touchdown, having to settle for a field goal.

With 8:06 left in the third quarter, Kevin Brooks scored the first points of the game on an 18-yard field goal, giving the White team a 3-0 lead.

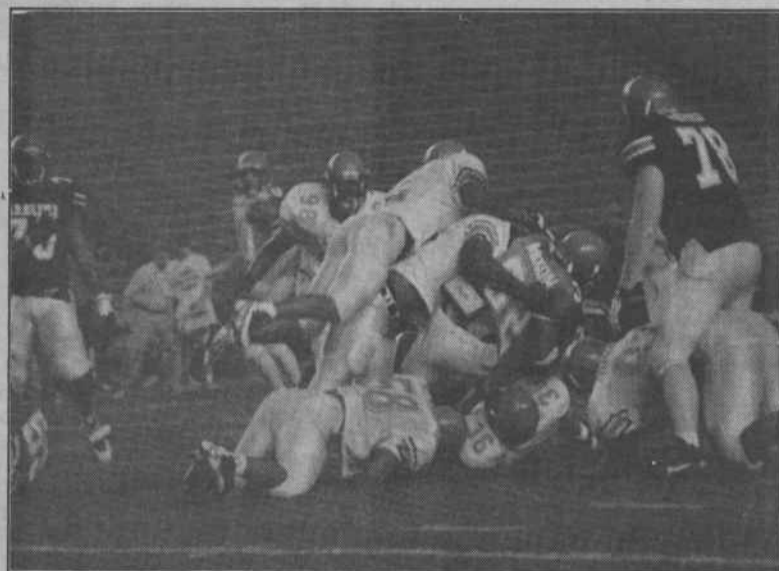
After the score, the Garnet team drove the ball down the field through a successful completion for a 24-yard gain and strong running from Moritz. Within field goal range, Leavitt kicked a 43-yarder to tie the score at 3-3 with 2:47 to go in the third.

The start of the fourth was characterized by strong running from Moritz, who ran in a touchdown from 6-yards out with 8:48 left in the game.

The scoring drive consisted of eight plays for 51 yards.

The extra point attempt from Leavitt was blocked by senior defensive lineman Michael Maddox. The score was 9-3, which ended up being the final.

Besides the initial drive of the Garnet team, the offenses of both sides were shut down by the defense.



BRYAN JOHNSTON The Gamecock

Sophomore fullback Steve Mixon (No. 32) is stopped by junior Arturo Freeman (in the air) and the rest of the White team defense.

By the end of the game, the White squad completed two passes for 45 yards and rushed 32 times for 26 yards.

On the other side, the Garnet squad rushed 37 times for 124 yards and completed eight passes for 97 yards.

Throughout the game, the defense showed that they were very deep and skilled. "We have more depth on the defensive line than we do on the offensive line. The two defensive lines dominated the football game," head coach Brad Scott said.

Even though the defense controlled the game, Moritz said the offensive linemen must be commended.

"The offensive line, the guys wearing the black jerseys, were the real work horses for the night. I just can't say enough about them. They worked real hard out there, and I get all the credit. [You have to] give credit to the offensive line for blocking as well as they did. You know they played every play. I just run where the holes are," Moritz said.

Moritz had the best performance of any of the running backs, rushing 26 times for 111 yards and a touchdown.

Scott was very pleased with Moritz's performance.

"Scott ran extremely hard. I thought he had a tremendous night. Scott did a really good job this spring, and after his performance tonight, we'll go out of spring practice listing Scott as our starting tailback," Scott said.

Another back who had a good showing was Penn as the Garnet team's quarterback. Penn connected on eight of 17 attempts for 97 yards and one interception. His longest pass was a 32-yard reception by Jermale Kelly.

Overall, Penn was satisfied with his performance. "I felt great. This is what I've worked for all Spring, to come out and to be able to play with all the guys. It's a lot of fun. I'd like to thank God that I was able to

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Moritz to enter fall practice as starting tailback for USC

ACHIM HUNT Sports Editor

Scott Moritz certainly has had a knack for stealing the show at USC's football games over the past two years.

Two years ago, against Louisiana Tech, Moritz scored an apparent touchdown that broke the school record for the most points scored in one game. But the score was called back because of a holding call, and Moritz's claim to the record books as an unknown sophomore went by the wayside.

At the press luncheon after the game, head coach Brad Scott joked that Moritz was not upset about the holding call, but he said that Moritz would break the record next time.

At that year's homecoming game against Kent a few weeks later, Moritz scored the final touchdown in that game. That score broke the record, and Moritz's name is etched into the Gamecock's football record book.

Last year, Moritz was playing at tailback for the injured Duce Staley and scored a touchdown against the Tennessee Volunteers at home.

After Moritz crossed the goal

line, Smokey, the mascot of Tennessee, bit him on the backside. Highlights were replayed by ESPN and CBS, not to mention Dick Clark's Bloopers and Practical Jokes.

"To be honest, I did not know that it had happened until the next day in the news," Moritz said. "They then told me that it had happened. I only saw it on ESPN."

And most recently, Moritz was the star of a defensive Spring Game on Saturday night. Once again, Moritz took advantage of the injury

of a teammate to grab a starting position in the game.

This time, the injured was sophomore Troy Hambrick, who sat out the game with a sprained ankle. All Moritz did was lead the Garnet team to a 9-3 victory on the strength of 26 carries for 111 yards.

Moritz does not take credit for the strong performance; he gave all the praise to an offensive line that played both ways.

"I ran were the holes were," Moritz said. "There were guys out there, the offensive line, and they were wearing black jerseys. Those guys were the real workhorses for the night because they played every play. I just give all the credit to them."

Moritz made a huge impression on the coaching staff, including Scott, who said that going into two a day practices, he will probably be the No. 1 running back.

"Scott Moritz, I thought ran really hard," Scott said. "Scott is a journeyman, a tough youngster. He kind of took control of the game for his team in the second half. Scott really did a good job this spring, and I would probably say that after tonight's game we would go into the fall with Scott as our No. 1 tailback."

The praise for Moritz even came from game coordinator John Reaves, who said that Moritz would add a lot to the passing offense.

"Moritz really bounced back tonight from a day on Wednesday," Reaves said. "He is a good threat, and of course we missed Troy Hambrick tonight, and he is going to help our running game."

But Moritz said that he started

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BRYAN JOHNSTON The Gamecock

Senior Scott Moritz tries to break away from sophomore Matt Marsters in the Spring Game.

Gamecock baseball takes two from Bulldogs in Athens

MARK PIRAS Staff Writer

The Gamecock baseball team took two out of three games from Georgia last weekend (14-10, 5-17, 6-4), evening their record at 9-9 in the SEC.

Friday's game featured Ryan Bordenick, who hit two home runs and drove in seven runs. Bordenick now has 10 homers and 61 RBI on the year, in only 39 games. With at least 17 games left to play (not including SEC tournament games and possible NCAA playoff games), Bordenick is now on a pace to break

Joe Datin's USC record of 88 RBI in a season.

Saturday, Georgia showed USC pitcher Jake Whitfield an offense that had been in hibernation, scoring in each of the first 6 innings for a 17-0 lead. USC scratched back with two in the eighth and three in the ninth, but fell way short, losing 17-5.



BORDENICK

Sunday, Coach Ray Tanner decided to give freshman Jamie Poston his first career pitching start, and Poston did not disappoint. Poston, who pitched well in relief appearances during the LSU series, allowed no

runs in the first seven innings. USC scored six times in the first inning on four hits, two hit batters and a throwing error by the Bulldog pitcher,

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