

The Gamecock

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WEATHER

TODAY
Thunderstorms
High 82
Low 53

TUESDAY
Showers
High 73
Low 56

INDEX

Viewpoints 4
Etc. 5
Comics 7
Sports 9
Classified 11

Volume 89, Number 84

University of South Carolina

Monday, April 27, 1997

Lady Gamecock softball claims SEC title

BRYAN JOHNSTON Sports Editor

For the Lady Gamecock softball team, winning has become repetitive. But Saturday, USC won something it had never won before — a regular-season Southeastern Conference softball title.

The reason they had never won that title was because this is the first year it was being competed for. But, as the Lady Gamecocks swept a pair of games from Alabama, 2-0 and 6-0, it secured the school's second-ever SEC title and the first brought home by a women's sport.

"Yes, we've won the conference regular season, but that's one of many goals we've got," head coach Joyce Compton said. "It was something that was expected at the beginning of the year. It's not a surprise to anyone."

"This was just a small piece of the puzzle but a very important piece of the puzzle."

In Saturday's first game, senior Trinity Johnson dominated once again. The All-American struck out 14 batters.

USC scored its first run in the third inning when senior Chanda Lee led off with an infield single and moved to second on an error. Sophomore Kim Pietro moved her to third on a sacrifice bunt and Lee scored on senior Tina Plew's sacrifice fly to left field.

The only other run for the No. 3 Lady Gamecocks

came in the sixth inning when senior Carrie Lyons reached on a fielder's choice. Freshman Kim Schultze came in to pinch run for Lyons and scored from first on junior Sky Brown's triple to right.

The two runs would be all Johnson would need to cruise to her 29th victory.

"I felt really strong out there on the mound today," Johnson said. "I think everything is starting to come together now, which is good because I'm peaking at the right time."

In the second game, Carolina used a five-run second inning to put away the Crimson Tide early.

Lyons led off with a double to the left-center gap and was followed by junior Carrie Elliott's single. Lyons scored on freshman Leanna Troesh's single to left field and Elliott crossed the plate via one of freshman Kim Schultze's three singles in the game.

Sophomore Kendra McCutcheon and senior Kelly Dammer both reached on fielder's choices to load the bases for Pietro. Pietro didn't disappoint, clearing the bases with a triple to the left-center gap to make it 5-0, Lady Gamecocks.

Carolina added one more insurance run in the sixth when Schultze drove in Elliott.

Sophomore Nikki Beers took what her teammates gave her and breezed to her 13th-

SOFTBALL page 9



Alabama's Kierstin Arnsten dives safely back into second base under the tag of second baseman Kim Schultze. USC clinched the regular-season SEC title Saturday.

Student protests parking charge

JENNIFER STANLEY News Editor

It's that time of year again when flowers bloom, school winds up and bills for unpaid parking tickets appear in students' mailboxes.

Students who park in the Bull Street parking garage might find an extra charge if they don't return the garage access card.

The charge is \$25, and students are told to return the card when they stop parking in the garage or leave the university, said Bill Baker, director of the Department of Parking and Vehicle Registration.

"You have to give the the user an incentive to return it," Baker said of the fee.

Freshman Brian Alessi did not return his card, but appealed the \$25 bill.

"They [USC] were illegally ripping the students off," Alessi said. "They made modifications to the contract without both parties knowing."

Baker said students don't sign a contract but fill out an application that includes car information, personal information and billing information. After paying the parking fee, \$160 for a garaged parking space, the applicant receives a notice about the \$25 charge.

Alessi said he disagrees. An application, Alessi said, does not contain payment information on it. The Parking and Vehicle Registration application contained information about the price of the garage, he said.

Users can get a refund after hearing about the charge, Baker said. He said that informing users of the extra charge is not "after-the-fact" and they're informed during the payment process.

The committee waived Alessi's fee after the appeal.

"We didn't know if he was right or wrong, but we gave him the benefit of the doubt and decided to study the information [Alessi gave us]," said Woody Carothers, of the Division of Student Affairs and a member of the appeals committee. "We did not have enough information to make a good, sound decision. In a case like that, we look into it and give him the benefit of the doubt."

Carothers said the committee would refer the situation to Parking and Vehicle Registration, which administers parking. Baker said the fee will stay intact.

Alessi said he is asking the committee to reimburse everyone who paid the \$25 fee. He also said he would hire an attorney and "sue the university if it is not changed."

Cockstock Night & Day takes place despite rainy weather



NIKKI THORPE The Gamecock

The Columbia-based band Shades of Grey perform at Cockstock '97. The concert was moved to the Township Auditorium due to rain. The concert featured local bands Betty Fordy Experience, Five of a Kind, Shades of Grey, Ghetto Blaster and Clarence Lawrence during the day and R&B recording artists 112 in the evening.

MARCUS AMAKER Staff Writer

Sunday's rainy weather might have dampened attendance to Cockstock '97 at the Township Auditorium.

Because of the weather, the annual event had to be moved from its planned site at the P.E. Field. Despite the small crowd, fans were still excited to see their favorite bands.

"I'm here to see all the bands," said Carolina Productions officer sophomore Emilie Greene. "I think the crowd is small because the Township is far from campus."

Kip Shives, lead singer for Ghetto Blaster, wasn't bothered by the lack of attendance.

"It didn't bother our performance. We're used to playing in front of small clubs," he said. "I think if it was outside next to the dorms it would be better."

According to Bob Wertz, outgoing vice president for marketing and head of security for the concert, the small crowd might have been a result of the weather.

"This is intended to be a festival. A rainy day is always going to slow it

down," he said.

Senior Amanda Lyle, who is also a member of Carolina Productions, said, "Traditionally, it's an outdoor concert. This [location] takes away from the atmosphere."

Still, the rain didn't alter the crowd's enthusiasm. During a performance by Shades of Grey, people like junior McKenzie Wofford had a good time.

"Shades of Grey's performance was great," Wofford said. "I like them because they're not limited to guitar and drums. They're just better than anybody else."

Ghetto Blaster also received a good response.

"They put on a damn good show even though nobody was here," said junior Lindsey Bruce.

Other performers were Betty Ford Experience, Five of a Kind, Clarence Lawrence and 112. Some people had suggestions for future Cockstocks.

"I'd love to see Jump Little Children here," said Irmo high school student Lidsey Shafer. "I'd also pay \$50 to see Marilyn Manson."

"It [low attendance] didn't bother our performance. We're used to playing in front of small clubs. I think if it was outside next to the dorms it would be better."

Kip Shives
lead singer for Ghetto Blaster

Students win scholarships

BRANDI M. MARTIN Staff Writer

Senior Michael Boone and Junior John R. Tatulli are two examples that students at USC can win fellowships or scholarships.

Both students competed nationally to win.

Boone has been awarded the Department of Defense's National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship.

There were only 90 selected nationally for this graduate fellowship. The Department of Defense National

Greenbacks page 2

GAMECOCK INSIDE



British band the **Boo Radleys** latest album, *C'mon Kids* may not have had the success in America that it had in their native Britain, but that didn't stop staff writer Matt Cheverton from interviewing the band. Check it out in ETC.

MUSIC & MORE MUSIC
PAGE 5

A SCRAPBOOK YEAR PAGE 10

The athletic programs at USC had a great year, or so says Sports Columnist Achim Hunt. Find out the highlights of the 1996-97 year including a recap of the basketball season and memories of some student athletes' best seasons. See what Hunt has to say in SPORTS.

What percentage of Americans say Monday is their favorite day of the week?

ANSWER: three percent

Source: Harper's Index

JUST FOR FUN

