

## USC derails Kentucky aerial assault



ACHIM HUNT The Gamecock

Junior Anthony Wright drops back to pass the ball on Saturday.

NATHAN BROWN Senior Writer

Carolina pounded the Kentucky Wildcats 38-24, winning the Homecoming game and improving to 3-3 on the season Saturday.

The victory marks a turning point in the season for the Gamecocks, who thus far seemed to be stuck in slow motion.

In this contest, USC exploded on both sides of the ball. Carolina was the first and only team this year to hold Kentucky's air attack to under 300 yards, a feat not even Florida or Alabama could manage.

Offensively, the Gamecocks were sparked by a running game that had been somewhat lacking earlier in the season. Overall, USC had a strong performance, and Head Coach Brad Scott seemed pleased to get this win.

"We're really excited about the way our kids played today," Scott said. "We needed that victory, there's no doubt about that. I think we came a little bit closer to playing up to the level that we thought this football team could compete at."

The step forward that sealed the game for USC came in the shape of a blocked field goal. Trailing 31-24 in the fourth quarter, Kentucky drove inside of the USC 20-yard-line, but Carolina's defense stonewalled the 'Cats, forcing them to go for three.

When the ball was hiked for the field goal attempt, senior defensive back Lee Wiggins busted through the line and blocked the kick. On this play, Wiggins racked up his eighth career block, a new school record, and set the offense up to deal their final and decisive blow, a 26-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Jer-male Kelly.

"That [the block] was huge," he said. "The emotion for our team, when we blocked that kick, surged through the whole football team. . . . Lee Wiggins is the block specialist around here."

"To be honest with you, I thought they had scored, and I said 'Them rascals are going for two.' I was a little lost."

The whole Gamecock squad appeared to be a little lost at the start of the game. On the first possession of the game, Kentucky's offense scored a touchdown on a drive that started from their own 17-yard-line.

Then, after an unsuccessful set of downs by Carolina, the 'Cats returned a punt 85 yards, scoring another touchdown. Only seven minutes and 15 seconds into the contest, USC found themselves in the hole, but Scott and his team had anticipated this quick strike.

"We talked before this game that this is a quick-strike offense," Scott said. "It's going to take us a little time to get settled into it."

"With a 14-point deficit, I remember talking to the offensive team and said 'We got to catch up one touchdown at a time' . . . But deep down inside, you're thinking 'Gee, I hope we don't spot them any more here.'"

The offensive squad listened to Scott, and the defense must have read his mind. On the first possession of the second quarter, the Gamecocks plowed their way down the field behind running back Boo Williams, who resuscitated the USC rushing attack by gaining a total of 93 yards on 24 carries.

In fact, Williams' performance earned him the starting tailback position for the rest of the year, but he was just glad to get a chance to play.

"It was fun, playing and getting a lot of attention through the crowd," Williams said. "That gets you pumped up. . . . Pretty much all year, I've been nagging the coaches to put me in and let me get a little bit of playing time. . . . I'm just happy to get the opportunity to show my stuff."

Williams' stuff helped get the Gamecocks down to the Kentucky 17-yard-line, where running back Troy Hambrick took over. He dashed into the end-zone to give USC their first score.

On Kentucky's next possession, Carolina's defense held up their end of the deal by causing a fumble that was recovered by cornerback Kevin Brooks. This set up USC's next scoring drive when Anthony Wright connected with wide receiver Kerry Hood on a 12-yard touchdown pass.

When the 'Cats got the ball back, their offensive plans were once again thwarted by the USC defense. But this time, instead of helping the offense, the defense became the offense. Free safety Arturo Freeman intercepted a pass and rumbled through a couple of tacklers for a 47-yard touchdown return.

After the kickoff, Kentucky managed to score another touchdown, but the Gamecocks were quick to retaliate with a 40-yard field goal by kicker Steve Florio. At halftime, the Gamecocks were ahead 24-21.

The second half saw less offensive output than the first half. Kentucky was the first to score in the third quarter, tying the game at 24 apiece, but these points would be the last for the 'Cats.

Offensively, the Gamecocks added two more touchdowns on two 26-yard touchdown passes to Kelly that brought the final score to 38-24. USC finished the day with 427 yards of total offense. Wright had a strong day, completing 15 of 27 pass attempts for 223 yards and rushing 11 times for 63 yards.

Defensively, Carolina kept the 'Cats idle for the remainder of the game. By the end of the day, the defense had sacked Kentucky quarterback Tim Couch two times, caused two fumbles, blocked one kick and held the Wildcats to only 132 rushing yards.

With growing confidence and redemption for a slow start in their eyes, the Gamecocks will head to Little Rock Saturday to take on the Arkansas Razorbacks.

## Volleyball continues SEC winning streak

ACHIM HUNT Sports Editor

This weekend in "The House That Hudson Built," otherwise known as the Volleyball Competition Facility, the No. 29 Gamecocks (13-3, 5-0) defeated two SEC schools from the state of Mississippi in Ole Miss on Sunday and Mississippi State Friday night.

The Gamecocks faced a tough Mississippi team that raced out to a 9-8 lead, but the serving of senior Heather Larkin led the Gamecocks to the victory in game one.

Junior setter Ashley Edlund led the way for the Gamecocks with her first triple-double since September of 1995 against Georgia. Against Ole Miss Sunday, Edlund had 11 kills, 48 assists and 12 digs. She hit a sparkling .846 for the match, while the team as a whole hit .325.

For her efforts in the Ole Miss match, Edlund was named SEC Player of the Week.

"Of course I'm honored and excited," Edlund said. "I have to thank

my teammates and the coaches first. The middles (Heather Larkin and Dee Dee Fortman) did a great job of getting up early on Friday."

But the win on Sunday against Ole Miss was just the second half a successful weekend for Carolina volleyball, as they swept Mississippi State Friday night at home.

The Gamecocks came out a little flat, still riding high off their upset win over No. 22 Arkansas last weekend. But, they quickly picked up the pace on the shoulders of sophomore Dee Dee Fortman, who hit .529 for the match with nine kills, no errors and two block assists.

"Mississippi State came out playing well," USC Head Coach Kim Hudson said. "We were a little flat. I was proud of the way the team turned it around."

The Gamecocks are now 13-3 and a perfect 5-0 in the SEC. It's the first time in school history the Gamecocks have started SEC play with a 5-0 record.

## Men's soccer upset

TRAVIS PHILLIPS Staff Writer

Any time there's a Clemson-Carolina game in any sport, the emotions will run high. This game was no different.

The match swung back and forth, with Carolina (6-2-1) controlling the tempo for about five minutes before Clemson (6-4-2) would take over.

Neither team seemed to penetrate the other's defense until the 39-minute mark of the first half, when Clemson drove deep into the Gamecock right flank and crossed the middle, where the ball deflected off a Carolina player for a corner kick. Tony Williams took the corner for Clemson

and the ball was batted around in the box before Wojtek Krakowiak put it in the back of the net to put Clemson up 1-0 going into the half.

At the 14:47 mark, Clemson drove the dagger into Carolina's heart. Bob Cavanaugh played a ball to Jody DeBruin, who dribbled down into the 18-yard box just past the outstretched arm of Jaime Starr.

Clemson would come out on top 2-0.

"Both teams played really hard, but we never got on track," USC Head Coach Mark Berson said.

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