

# Tigers claim state bragging rights by ripping Gamecocks



BRYAN JOHNSTON The Gamecock  
Clemson QB Nealon Greene threw three TDs Saturday.

witnessed the Tigers reel off 27 consecutive points on their way to a 47-21 rout.

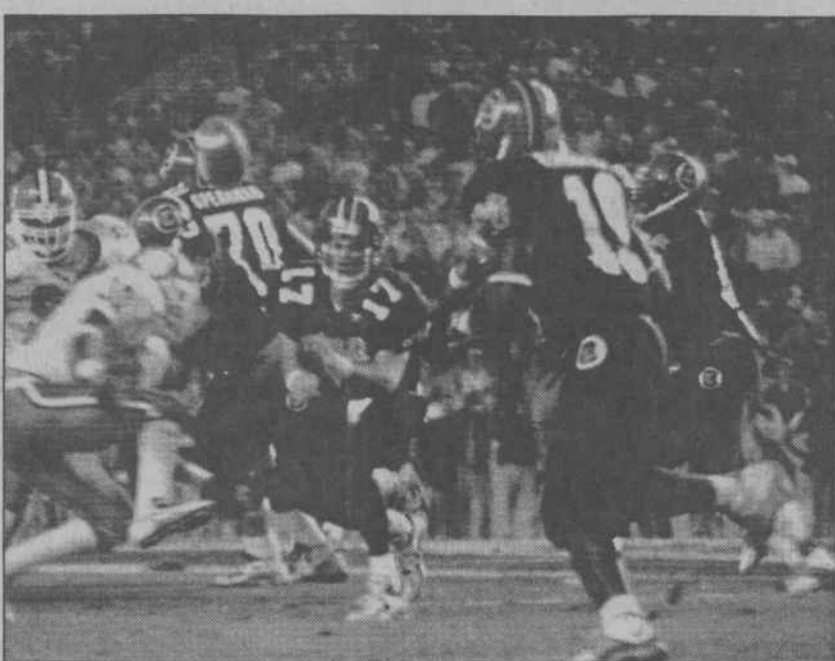
"It's a tough loss," USC Head Football Coach Brad Scott said. "It's a tough loss for our players, especially for our seniors who have given a lot to our program and worked very hard. I thought our kids were emotionally ready to play tonight. Football is such a game of emotions. There seemed to be a big turn there just before half, and we never seemed to get it back."

The point where the tides changed in Clemson's favor came late in the second quarter. Ahead 14-6, the Gamecocks took over on its own 20-yard line. In three minutes and 37 seconds, USC drove down to the Clemson 19-yard line and looked to be on the verge of scoring.

But on first down, the most dreadful play of the year was sent into the game. If the play would have gone as planned, quarterback Vic Penn would hand off to running back Troy Hambrick, who would flip the ball to wide receiver Kerry Hood. Hood would then throw the pigskin back across the field to Penn who would scramble into the end zone.

However, things didn't go as planned. The hand off to Hambrick worked, but the toss to Hood sailed over his head.

The ball dropped to the ground and was immediately enveloped by a Clemson player. The



BRYAN JOHNSTON The Gamecock  
Vic Penn pitches to sophomore Troy Hambrick on Hambrick's 54-yard touchdown run in the first quarter of Saturday's 47-21 loss to Clemson.

turnover set up a Tiger's score and gave the team the momentum of the game. Instead of being ahead by 14 or 11 points, the Gamecocks went into halftime up by only one point, 14-13.

"I got too intense and threw [the ball] too hard," Hambrick said. "And it went over [Hood's] head. That was a change in momentum. We had them going. They weren't stopping us. We were stopping ourselves. That was the big difference in the game."

"It was just my carelessness. I got a little excited at times. I knew it was going to work because they were chasing me all over the field. I just got a little excited and threw it too high."

Hambrick had every right to be excited. In the first half, he was the catalyst of the Gamecocks' offense, running for 132 yards on 10 carries and for two touchdowns.

With a 54-yard TD run, Hambrick had the longest TD run this season and the longest rushing TD since his 75 yarder against the Tigers last year. This rush also was the longest against

Clemson this year. Hambrick tore up the Clemson defense once more on a 35-yard TD rush.

In the second half, the Tigers defense readjusted and came up with the big plays that propelled them to victory. On Carolina's first possession of the third quarter, Penn was picked off by Tiger cornerback Antwan Edwards.

This turnover set up a Tiger's TD, which was followed by another TD when Clemson returned a punt 39 yards for six points. On Carolina's ensuing drive, Edwards snagged his second pickoff of the game and sprinted 43 yards for a TD. The Tigers scored again in the third to increase USC's deficit to 26 points.

In the final quarter, Clemson added seven more points on a rushing TD. Carolina's senior running back Scott Moritz punched in a TD from nine yards out to bring the final score to 47-21.

With the loss, the Gamecocks finished the season with a record of five wins and six losses. Scott's overall record at USC is 22-22-1.

## Wild ride for seniors

KELLY MAGUIRE Staff Writer

They came in as young, naive freshmen.

Some of them were recruited by a different head football coach. Yet, 19 Gamecock senior football players reached the end of their careers Saturday night at Williams-Brice Stadium.

What a ride it's been. These seniors won USC its first bowl game in 1995. These Gamecock seniors defeated Clemson two of the past four years.

The 1997 senior class consists of students, athletes and heroes. 1997 was not the season of which they dreamed, but it allowed the men to show of what courage consists, and they made some great plays while doing it.

Seven members of the senior class, known as the "original seven," were recruited by former Head Coach Sparky Woods. These seven include Scott Beebe, Ed Hrubiec, Jason Lawson, Calvin Owens, Gerrick Taylor, Travis Whitfield and Lee Wiggins.

The "original seven" brought leadership through adversity to the new recruits.

"It's just amazing to see all the things that have happened since the first year I got here to the last year," Taylor said. "I've been blessed so much with the opportunity to play football. I just want to give God all the praise and glory, and as far as being a Gamecock football player, it's been the best thing that's ever happened to me."

Wiggins said he has made a lot of "lifetime friends" playing on the team.

Wiggins said he will miss "teammates, 2001, running out of the tunnel and fans" the most.

"It was great playing here," Wiggins said.

Paul Beckwith, Shane Burnham, Scott Moritz, Henry Taylor and Ben Washington were all members of Brad Scott's first recruiting class.

"It's been the best four years," Burnham said. "Most people don't get to live out their dreams. This is my dream since I can remember."

Burnham said he hopes he's shown people that "dedication and hard work can take you a long way."

Selvesta Miller and David Herman both joined the football team and earned valuable roles in the process. Miller earned a starting position the past two years as a defensive end.

"As a senior, you've just got to take every moment and enjoy the moment that you have because you never know when it's going to end, and it's ended for us now," Miller said.

Miller said he has been proud of how the team has changed.

"When I first came here there were a lot of individual players," he said. "It wasn't really a team thing. When we lost, there was always finger pointing. This year, we won and we lost as a team."

The transfers, consisting of Darren Hambrick, Mark Love, Michael Maddox, Joey Unitas and Jesse Washington, brought new life to a team in need of a lift.

These Gamecock seniors fought through adversity and injury, faced competition known throughout the nation and competed in the best college football conference.

These Gamecock seniors have shown what success can do on the field by using their celebrity to help a community in need of role models.

The athletes who competed in their last Carolina football game Saturday night came to USC with different goals. They arrived as boys and will leave as men.

Their sacrifice for the Carolina football team will never be forgotten. They will always remain stars in the history of Gamecock athletics. They have made us proud.

## Botched trick play costly for Carolina

NATHAN BROWN  
Asst. Sports Editor

For the first quarter and a half, everything looked to be going in USC's favor.

Behind the roar of 83,700 fans, a new stadium record, the Gamecocks dominated the Tigers.

The streak of the home team losing, which now stands at seven games in this series,

appeared to be in jeopardy, along with Clemson's bowl bid.

USC, on the other hand, was ready to head off to its first bowl game since the 1995 Carquest Bowl and avenge its last two losses against Florida and Tennessee.

Then came the loathsome, terrible, damnable third quarter. The same 15 minutes that saw Tennessee pull away from a halftime score of 9-7 and Florida expand its 14-7 half-time lead

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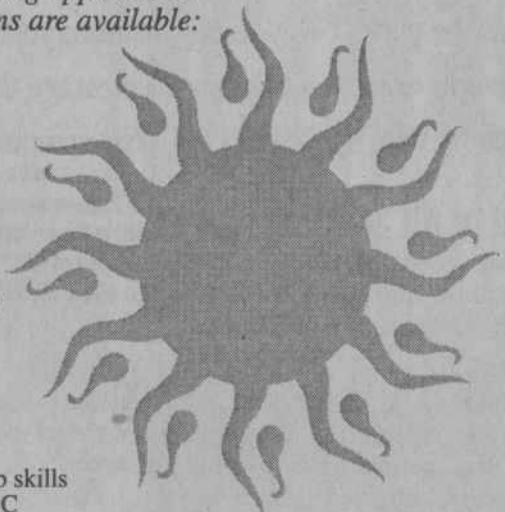
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Applications may be picked up in the Office of the Director of Student Life, Russell House Suite 115. The deadline for completed applications is **November 25, 1997 by noon.**

For more information, please contact the Office of the Director of Student Life at 777-5782.

