

► The USC Lady Gamecocks coming off an upset of the No. 6 Vanderbilt Lady Gamecocks lost at Florida on Saturday night 73-57. They next face East Carolina tonight at home. Tipoff is set for 7.

Nate says that when Jefferson Pilot Sports broadcasts the Gamecocks next game against Tennessee, it will be the first home televised game of the season. Last year at home the Gamecocks were 5-1 on TV.

Dawgs sent home with tails between their legs

asst. sports editor NATHAN BROWN

ATHENS, Ga. — After losing their last six games at Georgia including their only Southeastern Conference defeat of last year, the No. 14 Gamecocks finally beat the Bulldogs at Stegeman Coliseum, 68-62.

The Gamecocks broke their two-game road losing streak in an arena where they hadn't won since joining the SEC in 1991 and avenged two tough losses from last year.

USC (11-3, 3-2 SEC) needed the win to stay in the hunt for an SEC East title while Georgia's hopes have nearly been destroyed.

Carolina gave the Dawgs their fifth consecutive loss and shoved them into the cellar of the SEC-East.

"It was good [to win here]," USC head coach Eddie Fogler said. "Winning here is a nice win for us. We have to win on the road, to some degree, to stay in the SEC race... and for NCAA [tournament] consideration.

"I was happy with our competition. I thought the second half we rebounded much better. And of course, Bj shooting the threes [helped to get the victory]... Mckie was good here today."

The Gamecocks were led to victory by a rejuvenated junior guard Bj Mckie, who in the three games prior to the

Kentucky game had averaged only 10.3 points. Mckie finished with a team-high 24 points.

"I felt like I was going to get out of [my slump] sooner or later," Mckie said. "I never really was worried about it. I was just worried about us playing better as a team and eventually I'd get it going. My team did a great job of picking me up while I was down."

Early in the first half, USC found themselves down by six points, the highest deficit of the game for Carolina.

With 14:53 to go, Mckie nailed a three to close the gap.

Herbert Lee Davis followed with another three to narrow UGA's lead even further, and Mckie hit his second three to tie the game at 41.

The lead fluctuated between both teams three times before USC took the lead for good at the 8:22 mark on two foul shots from Antonio Grant.

Carolina's advantage never grew to more than four points until the last 19 seconds of the game when Mckie sealed Georgia's fate.

With :19.8 left, Georgia was down by four and had the ball. Mckie stole the ball and on a fast break was intentionally fouled by Larry Brown.

Despite being heckled by upset Georgia fans, Mckie calmly sank both free-throws to put the Gamecocks up by

six. Carolina added four more free throws to take the eight point victory.

In the first half, after jumping out to a quick lead on an 8-2 run, the Gamecocks headed into the locker room down by one point, 28-27.

With five lead changes in the first twenty minutes, the game appeared it could go anyway.

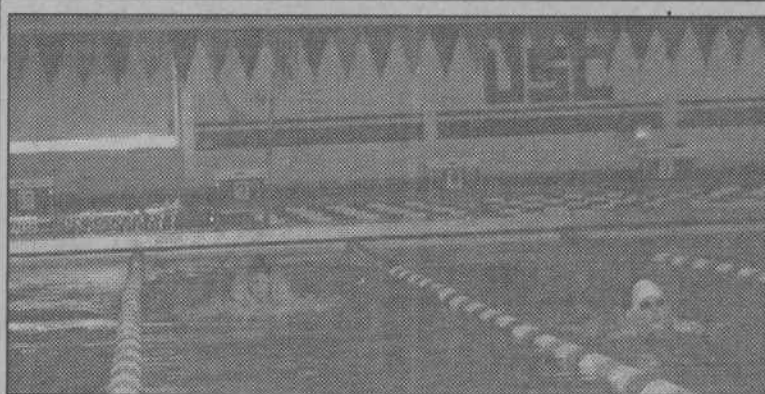
USC outscored the Bulldogs 10-6 in the first five minutes, but Georgia fought their way back to tie the contest at 10 with 12:50 remaining. The Bulldogs led for the next two minutes until Mckie hit a three-pointer to move the Gamecocks ahead by two. The lead fluctuated several more times until UGA grabbed the lead with 2:02 left in the half.

Next game: The Gamecocks will host the Tennessee Volunteers who recently upset No. 11 Ole Miss.

The game is scheduled for an 8 p.m. tip-off Wednesday at Frank McGuire Arena.

"We're happy to have this one and now you go back home and you try to hold serve at home," Fogler said. "Hopefully we can do that Wednesday against Tennessee."

Sinking The Tigers



SEAN RAYFORD The Gamecock

Two swimmers race to the finish during Saturday's meet at the Sol Blatt PE Center. The men's swimming and diving team beat Clemson, and became the first USC varsity sport to beat Clemson this year.

sports editor BRYAN JOHNSTON

The USC men's swimming and diving team accomplished something Saturday that no other South Carolina athletic team has managed to do in head-to-head competition this year—beat Clemson.

Behind strong performances from senior John Bruening, sophomore Andrew Cho and sophomore diver Chad Sheldon, the Gamecocks pulled away from the Tigers and won 151-83.

Carolina men's coach Keith Switzer wasn't aware of his team's feat, but was happy to know his guys were the first to beat the Tigers.

"It's always good to beat a rival," Switzer said. "It was a real good meet for us, and we only lost one event. It's good to help out the University and win

of Jon Lowell, Joel Frey, Chris Henninger and Bruening.

The women's team wasn't as fortunate, losing 153-88.

The Lady Gamecocks received solid performances from Rae Abbott and their corps of divers. Abbott, a sophomore from Coquitiam, British Columbia, won the 100 Breaststroke for the Gamecocks.

Also, led by Nikki Unroe and Michelle Suozzi, the South Carolina divers swept the diving portion of the competition. Unroe won the One-Meter diving competition, while Suozzi won the Three-Meter competition.

In each competition, the South Carolina divers finished 1-2-3.

In the women's 400 Freestyle Relay the two South Carolina teams finished 2-3 with the team of Jodi Keuck, Erin Olsen, Susie Stark, and Rae Abbott finishing second.

The team of Emily Greenway, Anna Krenk, Brooke Fonder, Allison Redmond.

Up next for the men's team (6-3, 1-1 SEC) will be in action on Saturday, Jan. 24 when they host the Wolfpack of N.C. State. This will be the final home meet for the men.

The women (3-2, 0-1) will take two weeks off before travelling to Arkansas to meet Arkansas and Drury on February 1.

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