

QUICK HITS

In the latest Trackwire rankings, the USC men's track and field team is ranked No. 2 in the nation. The women are ranked No. 8. The two teams travel to Reno, Nev., this weekend for the Bill Cosby Classic.

SPORTS

NATE SAYS...

Nate says Tennessee's first basketball victory came on Jan. 27, 1909 when the Vols scored a 55-16 victory over the Tennessee School for the Deaf.

Friday, February 6, 1998

The Gamecock

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Gamecocks hold off Vandy

asst. sports editor **NATHAN BROWN**

"Double your pleasure, double your fun" sounds like a promising enterprise, especially coming from the lips of two hot twins in the ads for Wrigley's Doublemint Gum. For Carolina basketball, however, "double" doesn't conjure up the same feelings of pleasure or fun but rather feelings of anticipation and anxiety.

As the No. 13 Gamecocks (17-3, 7-2 SEC) head into their last eight games of the regular season, USC will face five opponents whom they have already played. In their first go around, Carolina recorded four wins and one loss against the teams of the SEC East. Although USC won a majority of these contests, three games were decided by fewer than nine points.

The closest game was against Vanderbilt Jan. 3 when USC eked out a one-point victory. In Nashville, Carolina took on the Commodores for the second time on Tuesday. But instead of just doubling their pleasure, the Gamecocks quadrupled their delight, winning by a margin four times greater than that of their first meeting, 65-61.

Behind a strong defensive effort and the sinking of key foul shots down the stretch, Carolina came back from a half-time deficit of four points to get the win.

But in the first half, the Gamecocks found themselves down by as many as nine points and never led in the first 20 minutes after scoring the first basket of the game. In the second half, USC climbed out of their half-time hole and took the lead for good at the 10:58 mark on a dunk by LeRon Williams.

Carolina's advantage, however, never grew to more than eight points. In the last minutes of the game, Vandy, who was down by only four at the time, used the old foul-and-hope-you-miss strategy. But the Commodores picked the wrong guy to foul.

Starting with 1:19 to go, Bj Mckie was sent to the foul line three times where he calmly made 5 of 6 to seal the game. Mckie finished with a team-high 15 points, seven of which came from the free throw line.

At the other end of the court, USC's defense held the SEC's second-leading scorer, Drew Maddux, to 12 points, which is well below his season average of 18.1.

In the meantime, Carolina stymied the entire Vandy team, which ranks first in the SEC in field goal percentage, from the floor. On average, VU hits 48.5 percent of their shots, but Carolina allowed them to make only 42 percent. USC also forced 13 Commodore turnovers.

"I credit the players for getting themselves ready to play after that tremendous comeback (against Cincinnati) on Sunday in Columbia," USC coach Eddie Fogler said. "They deserve a lot of credit because this is an awfully difficult place to win against a very good Vanderbilt team. I was really pleased with our poise and patience offensively. I think defensively we did a great job on Maddux."

While the defense rattled Vandy's offense, Carolina's offense worked like a well-oiled machine, hitting 48.1 percent of their shots from the field, knocking down 76.5 percent of their free throws, and racking up 11 assists.

Six of the Gamecocks' 11 assists came from Melvin Watson who du-

bled his fun on Tuesday by scoring his first double-double of the year with 13 points and a game-high 11 boards.

"Watson was great here today," Fogler said. "He was really into it. He was outstanding and made some awfully big shots down the stretch on possessions where the clock was running down, and that's one-on-five to some degree. I know Ryan Stack was absolutely great here in the second half."

Stack finished with 12 points on an incredible 6-for-7 from the field and three rebounds. With eight of his 12 points coming in the second half, Stack was instrumental in helping the Gamecocks get back into the game, especially when he sank a shot at the 14:41 mark to tie the game.

"It feels good going out," said Stack, a native of Chapmansboro, Tenn. "[It's] personal satisfaction, knowing that I gave it all tonight. [We] played well, and the team came away with the victory. So it was a good win...[Now, we] have to move onto the next game at Tennessee this Saturday."

Stack will get to see some more of his home state, as Carolina heads up to Knoxville to take on the University of Tennessee Saturday. In their first meeting of the year, Carolina blew out the Vols 81-51 in Columbia.

But this time around, USC will face two obstacles that weren't present in the first game. First, the game takes place in Thompson-Boling Arena, which seats 24,535. Playing in Knoxville can be tough as No. 14 Ole Miss found out earlier this year when they were upset by the Vols 67-77. Posting a record of 6-9 at UT, USC has also had difficulty with the Vols on the road.

Second, not only will Carolina have to face thousands of screaming Volunteer fans but also UT's leading scorer Tony Harris, who missed the first contest with an injury. Harris is averaging 14.2 points and 1.8 steals per game.

Carolina heads into the game on a seven-game winning streak while the Vols are coming off of a 29-point victory over Georgia.

The tip-off is slated for 2 p.m. The game will be shown on J-P Sports.

Carolina quite a team when all 5 come to play

Larry WILLIAMS
Scoop Shots

We wistfully wondered what would happen if USC's basketball team finally put it all together. We thought we knew what would result when not only Bj Mckie and Melvin Watson came to play, but when Ryan Stack, William Gallman and LeRon Williams did, too.

"Whenever those four put it all together in one," most of us said to ourselves, "that's going to be a damn good basketball team."

Tuesday, in USC's 65-61 win at Vanderbilt, five players put it all together. USC was a damn good basketball team. And, for the first time this season, the No. 13 Gamecocks played like the No. 13 Gamecocks. Or, quite possibly, better.

Sure, in the beginning, middle and end, USC was led by the usual suspects, those two sure-things, future USC Hall-of-Famers, Watson and Mckie. But filling in the holes with rebounds, putbacks and tough defense were Williams, Gallman and Stack. Three players whose performances made this the truest of team victories. Three more reasons to think that if this happens with a smidgen of consistency, anything can happen from here on out.

Call this one a "complete" victory, USC's first of the season. All too often in the past, the guards rescued the team with their last-minute feats. This time, however, the rest of the team played with a certain malevolence, an assassin's mentality that gave the Gamecocks an entirely different look. When this happens - when Carolina gets it from five players instead of two - the Gamecocks can beat anyone, anywhere.

You could tell from the beginning that coach Eddie Fogler's intentions weren't to let Watson and Mckie win it by themselves.

In the first half, Williams got more attention than usual from Watson in the low post - so much attention that Williams twisted and turned his way to score seven of USC's first 13 points.

With four minutes left in the first half, Williams showed one too many of his feisty moves. Williams and Vandy's Austin Bates found themselves a tangled mass in the middle of the lane, falling to the floor. Whistles blew. Bates said something Williams didn't like, gave him a little shove. Williams gave his parting shot, a finger jabbed surreptitiously to Bates' face. The refs didn't see it, but Fogler did. Williams to the bench.

Three minutes later, Williams checked back in. This time, he retaliated the correct, and legal, way. First play on the offensive end, Williams hauled in a pass, executed a forceful pivot move and shot a mean turnaround jumper from 10 feet. Bates had tight coverage, but unfortunately, so did his jaw, which fell victim to a brutal Williams forearm.

Williams lost his cool the first time, came close to incurring a technical foul. Second time around, he sent a different message to Bates: I'll do it legally, and it's still going to hurt.

Fogler wanted to see if Williams could carry the offensive load Tuesday. After Williams made three baskets, drew three Vandy fouls and scored 11 points, Fogler might have had his answer.

He got an answer from Stack, too. The senior played a hard, rough-and-tumble 37 minutes, shedding his timidity for tenacity. Stack showed his usual moves on the perimeter that, no matter how many times we see them, just don't seem conceivable for someone 6 feet 11 inches.

Two times he faked Vandy defenders out of their astute gorges for easy baskets. But Stack's most impressive moments came in the paint, where he showed his muscle, battled for offensive rebounds and put them back into the basket with vigor.

Stack was a little bit of everything Tuesday, which is all USC ever needs him to be.

And what would a close USC victory be without Antonio Grant? To USC fans, that's Antonio Grant, sir. The freshman left his late-game heroics in Columbia this time. Two last-second, game-winning shots in two games are enough for one week, thank you. But Grant still managed the impossible in the first half, this time taking a transition pass from Watson under the basket for a spinning, squirming shot that had no business going through the net.

Gallman was his usual, blue-collar self. In 19 minutes, he grabbed six rebounds and scored six points. Unimpressive at first glance, but Gallman's impact transcends the simple box score. He's got the most energy on the floor, plays scrappy defense and does just enough to force an off-balance jumper or tip the ball to a teammate.

Yes, USC's come-from-behind, 67-65 win over Cincinnati Sunday was impressive, a true miracle from somewhere. But Tuesday's win at Vandy told us something more, that these Gamecocks aren't just lucky. They can be good, too.

South Carolina a t Tennessee

GAME TIME: 2 P.M. SATURDAY; TELEVISIED: J-P SPORTS

KEY MATCHUP:

Mckie vs. Harris
USC defeated Tennessee Jan. 21, 81-51. But the Vols were without freshman Tony Harris, who was out with an injury. Harris is back and averaging 14.2 ppg. He will go against Mckie, who averages 17.3 ppg.

Gamecocks: 17-3, 7-2 SEC **Volunteers: 14-5, 4-5 SEC**

USC concentrates on defense in '98 recruiting class

sports editor **BRYAN JOHNSTON**

USC football coach Brad Scott has put together his best recruiting class since coming to Carolina.

"South Carolina has put together a very solid class," Southeastern recruiting analyst Forrest Davis said. "It's the best class since Brad [Scott] has been there."

The biggest of those early commitments is Keith Matkins of Charlotte. The 6-foot-3-inch quarterback from West Charlotte High School is ranked as the No. 7 quarterback

prospect in the nation on PrepStar's Dream Team.

"The arm strength that he has and the potential that he's got is what is so exciting about him," Scott said.

While one player on offense is generating a lot of talk, 18 prospects on defense is what Scott was most pleased about.

"On the defensive side of the football, we ended up with 18 scholarships," Scott said. "It was a big need area for us there. We got the players we really went after."

Carolina signed two excellent linebackers with good size and speed in Richland Northeast's Gerald Robinson and Allendale-Fairfax's Kenny Harney.

Scott was also extremely pleased with the runningbacks the Gamecocks were able to sign.

"The quality of the runningbacks in this class are extremely good," Scott said.

Jamie Scott is recognized as one of the top runningback prospects in the Southeast.

Nate Gary rushed for 1,703 yards and 19 touchdowns his senior season at Laurens High School.

Jonathan Martin was an All-state selection from Richland Northeast High School.

Keeping the state's best talent home was important to Scott and his staff, and they managed to sign five of the SuperPrep's top 10 state prospects.

In all, Carolina signed 12 players who participated in the 1997 Shrine Bowl.

The Sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta

Welcome their spring 1998 New Members

April Freeman

Shana Jordan

Meredith Lauckner

Jacque Mittelstadt

Nettie Seagraves

Jennifer Smith

CONGRATULATIONS!

The ladies of Alpha Delta Pi would like to invite the following gentlemen to their **Black Diamond Formal** on Friday, February 6, 1998...

Corey Albert	Ben Cunningham	Charlie Hunt	Deric Rosenbaum
Stephen Ardis	Sam D'Angelo	Delbert Inabinet	David Rumph
Bryan Baxter	John Mason Davison	Glen Johnson	Billy Schwartz
Bailey Beard	Matt De'Antonio	Caldwell Johnston	Heath Sessions
Scott Beebe	Will Dennis	Stephen Kelly	Brian Simon
Matt Behr	Stephen Dinkins	Jason Kivet	Reid Sharard
Danny Blocker	Trey Duckett	Hammond Lister	Michael Shryock
Matt Bogart	Lee Dumas	Jason Lockhart	Jason Smallwood
Bill Bowden	Paul Faistl	Jack Lostetter	Clay Smith
Miller Brice	Lee Ferguson	Levin Lynch	John Smoak
Bubba Britton	Matt Freeman	Cooper Lynn	Ridge Stafford
Blake Brown	Matt Gough	Brad Mann	Jeremy Stansell
Jason Brown	Eric Griffin	Patrick Marino	Mike Starnes
Walt Burch	Kevin Hamilton	Peter Matra	Eric Strand
Ryan Butler	Hamilton Harrelson	Kevin Meetze	David Strawhorn
Judah Cannon	Jason Harvey	Edward Murphy	Jason Sutton
Jeff Cartwright	David Harwell	Wade O'Kelly	Joseph Thompson
Jay Coan	Wes Harwell	Drew Painter	Trey Tolbert
Grady Chandler	Matt Hefferman	Matt Pruitt	Jon Vanttook
James Compton	Hugh Hellenga	Bryan Rabb	Justin Verona
Edward Conroy	Joe Hills	Steven Reeves	Daniel Ward
Chris Copenhaver	Kip Hodge	Wayne Ridgeway	Barry Wheeler
Kyle Cox	Jason Hodge	Chris Riley	Cory White
Kyle Crabb	Stokely Holder	Chris Robbins	Kelly Williams

Some start trends, others create legends.

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After 10 p.m.

Wed.
James Bond Night
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Specials and Cizars
All Night Long
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Thurs.
College Night
\$3.50 Pitchers of Beer with College ID.
Other Drink Specials

Sun.
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8 p.m. 'till Midnight

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Also in February

Brass Candle	Feb. 13 & 14
The Crude Earles	Feb. 20 & 21
Barefoot Brothers	Feb. 27
Crash Andrews	Feb. 28

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If you are under the age of 21, it is against the law to buy alcoholic beverages. All ABC regulations enforced.

love, money, success?

check out your horoscope on pg. 4

Get it 3 Times A Week.

The Gamecock

DEAL CLAM PLOT
ERLE HAWED LINE
BITE ADORE AMES
TEE USELESSNESS
RAKES TOE
SHAMED TWISTING
NOTE PIANO LIE
ERIN CARRY ELLIE
EDO HAVEN DIES
RENDERED YSETSE
ANT SEINE
BESTSELLERS RED
ACHE ROARS FALA
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