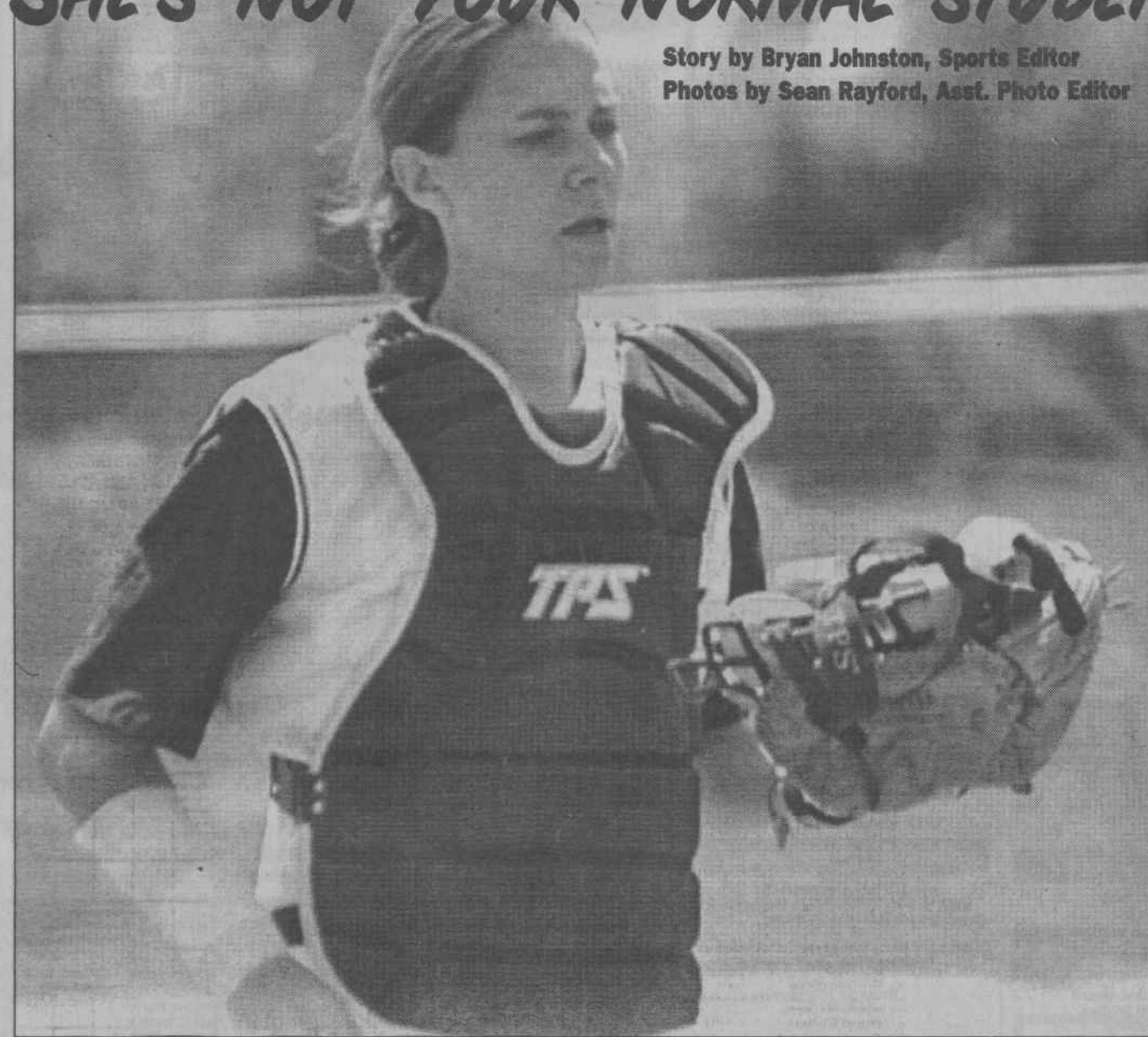


► USC junior Adam Everett was honored by the SEC Office Monday when he was named Player of the Week. The short-stop hit .571 (8-for-14) with two doubles, two RBI and had two stolen bases in the sixth-ranked Gamecocks' 3-1 week.

BJ says, being the big softball fan he is, sophomore Kim Schultze has started every game in her career and has yet to miss an *inning* since coming to Carolina last year. Schultze has started in 116 consecutive games for USC.

SHE'S NOT YOUR NORMAL STUDENT-ATHLETE

Story by Bryan Johnston, Sports Editor
Photos by Sean Rayford, Asst. Photo Editor



Carrie Elliott-Hoshour has managed to balance academics, athletics, night classes and marriage. The senior from Birmingham, Ala., will be playing her final home softball game today for the Lady Gamecocks.

For most normal students, taking 21 hours in one semester is absurd; taking nursing classes at Midlands Tech is a rarity; starting on a USC athletic team is a dream; marriage is a thing in the distant future.

For most normal students, doing all of these things at once is absolutely unheard of. Well, almost.

Meet Carrie Elliott-Hoshour: student, future nurse, athlete and wife.

USC's resident do-it-all might seem like she has too much occupying her time, but Elliott-Hoshour wouldn't have it any other way. Married Dec. 20, 1997 to Carolina pitcher Chad Hoshour, the catcher on the Lady Gamecock softball team said married life is hectic, but is exciting and different.

"I don't see Chad hardly at all because he works and he hurt his arm, so he does about four hours of rehab every day," Elliott-Hoshour said. "Our schedules just don't coincide. We're both taking 21 hours and we're both graduating in May. So I hardly ever see him. But it's great, and I love being married."

Elliott-Hoshour said she wasn't afraid at all and considers herself lucky to have found a mate who understands her commitments.

"I wasn't at all scared because I knew that it was meant to be," Elliott-Hoshour said. "It's very interesting, but it's also very tough. After the school, the softball and the practice, which have to come first at this point in my life, Chad is the one who gets short-changed."

"It takes a lot of understanding, and he is also a student-athlete, so I'm very lucky there that he understands that I have other demands that I have to do and the same goes for me with him."

Elliott-Hoshour and Hoshour met when the two lived in The Roost, the then-athletic dormitory.

"We met through a mutual friend and after three weeks, I knew he was the one I was going to marry," she said. "We have yet to have a fight, and that was the only thing I was reluctant about when we got married is that hey, we haven't had an argument yet, and we still haven't. So I thought, oh my gosh, this is too good to be true."

"It's wonderful, and I can't even explain it because we're so much alike. I never dreamed that I would actually marry another student-athlete. I always wanted to, but I never dreamed that it would happen, and it did."

The two wed in Elliott-Hoshour's hometown of Birmingham, Ala., over Christmas Break, thus limiting the number of teammates and coaches who could attend. Pitcher Sky Brown, from Montgomery, Ala., attended, and former teammate and current assistant coach Trinity Johnson was in the wedding.

The Christmas wedding might have limited the attendance, but it was when Elliott-Hoshour wanted it.

"I've always dreamed of having a Christmas wedding, and it was most convenient for us," Elliott-Hoshour said. "So that's when we decided to do it, and it was wonderful."

The two had their honeymoon in Gatlinburg, Tenn., but ran into their first marital problem just two days after marrying. Hoshour's truck was broken into the night after they got married. The thief didn't take any of the wedding gifts that were in car, but smashed in the window of the Hummer.

Elliott-Hoshour said the hardest part of adjusting to marriage was changing her last name, but there have been other adjustments they have had to make.

"The biggest adjustment has probably been the conflicting schedules," Elliott-Hoshour said. "I also had to get used to the combining of the finances, which I'm still getting used to. I'm very, very independent, so it's hard for me. But that's understood. We wanted it that way; our finances are each other's."

Elliott-Hoshour said one would think with their schedules that their Bentley Court apartment would be a disaster area, but it is actually very clean.

"I'm very particular about things, and so is he," Elliott-Hoshour said. "It tends to get messy during the week because we come in and drop things, change clothes and leave. On the weekends, we always pick it up. When we have schedules like we do, we have to be very organized and we have to know where everything is, and everything has its place."

These last few weeks of school will be the hardest, according to Elliott-Hoshour, with the end of the season and exams coming up, but she still has some goals.

"I want to keep my grades up," she said. "This has definitely been my hardest semester since I've been here, because I'm taking 21 hours. Plus, I'm going to nursing school at Midlands Tech."

Elliott-Hoshour will start attending nursing school in June at Midlands Tech.

"We're going to live here for two years," Elliott-Hoshour said. "Chad's getting his Master's in education, and he's going to teach. Then, who knows where we'll be."

Elliott-Hoshour said even though she's married, she's still close with her teammates.

"We still hang out," Elliott-Hoshour said. "Chad's friends with my teammates, and they all think he's really cool. Trinity was in the wedding, and the day of the wedding she looked at me and said, 'You're getting married!' and I said 'Yeah.' The first day of practice Sky said to me, 'I can't believe you're married.' It's weird, but I'm still the same person."

"Chad and I were always very devoted to each other, so they're used to that. But it is kind of strange, especially for the freshmen because they're just starting their college experience, and I'm married."

Sophomore third baseman Sondra Hall agreed with Elliott-Hoshour, but said the name is the only thing different about Elliott-Hoshour since she got married.

"Carrie's always been like a mother to most of us," Hall said. "Basically, she brings a lot of maturity to this team and after getting married, she didn't change her ways; all she did was come out here and play the same way she always has."

"She's always been a mature player. It hasn't been much of a change for us, but it is kind of weird having a little bit of a different last name there."

Carolina softball coach Joyce Compton said Elliott-Hoshour brings a lot to the team, both on and off the field.

"I think she brings some leadership," Compton said. "She's been through some good times here and some bad times here. I think she's been a good role model for the players, and she works hard."

"She's been beat up this year from the get-go, yet every time we've called on her, she's comes out. The young kids know what's right and what's wrong, and Carrie does things the right way."

Elliott-Hoshour has been a consistent starter at catcher for the Lady Gamecocks this year, contributing both behind and at the plate. But when she takes to the field today for Carolina's 6 p.m. game against Winthrop, it will be her last game at home, a fact she's well aware of.

"It's hit me, and it's kind of a reality check," Elliott-Hoshour said. "It'll hit me real hard Wednesday, but it'll probably hit me the hardest when I play my last game."

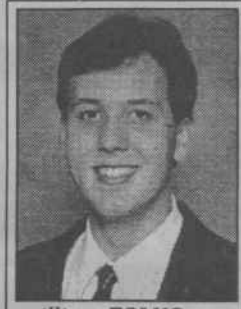
But even after her softball career is over, Elliott-Hoshour is already living most normal students' future. She is happily married and has her career path planned and in action.

"It's really cool," Elliott-Hoshour said. "It's all been kind of a fairy tale for me."



Elliott-Hoshour has been the Lady Gamecocks' starting catcher all season and is considered "like a mother" to her younger teammates.

USC new face at top of charts



william FOLKS
Common Folklore

The woman was hardly watching the game. With a red rain-slicker draped over her head and shoulders, her eyes were fixed instead on the dark grey storm clouds wrapping their way across Columbia sky, floating over Assembly Street from Williams-Brice Stadium and then stopping, seeming to

churn intentionally over themselves once they reached the outfield at USC's Sarge Frye Field. "God, please let it rain. Why hasn't it started raining yet?"

While she offered her plaintive plea, South Carolina's ace reliever Jason Pomar was trying to finish what left-hander Brett Kondro had started, the deciding game of a three-contest, weekend homestand against the nation's No. 4 team, the Florida Gators.

At the plate was Chuck Hazzard, the Gators' senior DH who had earned All-America honors at UF just two weeks before. Hampered by a broken thumb for most of the season, the man who was drafted by the New York Yankees had already put a ball over the left-field fence that afternoon.

"I really felt like I was starting to swing the bat well for the first time since the injury," he said. "I had just hit a homer the last time up, and I thought I was seeing the ball a lot better."

In fact, Pomar's last offering had just been sent about 300 feet down the right field line, a gust of El Niño leftovers barely pushing the ball foul. With the bases loaded, Hazzard was looking to put a sizable dent into USC's 9-3 lead (and keep the Gators on top of the SEC East leader board). But if it wasn't the rain, maybe it was that little breath from above that symbolized the Gamecocks' good fortunes of late on this particular day, as a Pomar change-up on the next pitch forced Hazzard to check his swing, but check it just a little too late.

"Yeah, he fooled me on that one," he said. After taking two of this weekend's three games, the SEC has a new team at the top of its Eastern Division standings: the South Carolina Gamecocks. Tied for first with Florida at 14-6, USC owns any tiebreaker with the Gators based on head-to-head results.

"They have a great program here," Hazzard said. "I remember when I played against Coach Tanner while he was at N.C. State how tough his teams were. When I heard he got the job at South Carolina, I knew they were going to do some great things. But wow, two years and they are in first place. That's unbelievable."

Gator coach Andy Lopez was as equally complimentary of Tanner's job.

"Ray Tanner has done an unbelievable job," Lopez said. "South Carolina has a hard-nosed, intense and well-focused baseball club. Whatever he's doing, he's got them ready to play every time they go out there. They're a very tough team right now."

Where did it all go right?

After the game, I sat in the dugout with USC's resident "David," 5-foot-8-inch senior leftfielder Derick Urquhart. I asked him what was different about playing for USC this year than when he first arrived.

"The biggest thing is that we're finally a team now," Urquhart said. "There's not even a trace of animosity or anything like that. I think

FOLKS page ten

USC equestrian team advances to Nationals

news editor SARA LADENHEIM

The USC women's equestrian team has qualified for the NCAA finals after only two seasons as a varsity sport.



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK
Ellen Miller won the tie-breaker at the Zone Finals for USC.

Led by seven strong freshmen and one sophomore, USC has representatives in each of the five "showing" categories.

The sole member of the team to represent USC at the Intermediate level is jumper Jennifer Connor. A freshman from New York who has extensive show experience, Connor says she's "so excited about being able to go to the tournament in my first year here."

Following last weekend's zone competition, USC needed to place in the top three to qualify for the tournament. As the last round approached with USC appearing to be in second place, Connor said she was "so nervous. I couldn't even watch. I had to go for a walk around the ring so that I could collect my thoughts."

When the final tabulation was announced, USC was tied for second place with MTSU. A draw would ensue with one team being chosen as the representative to the final. For USC, the rider that made that decision was Ellen Miller was "extremely excited and very nervous."

Miller, a freshman from Columbia, represents the first classification of riders for Carolina, Walk/Trot/Canter. There is no jumping involved in this

class, but riders are required to be disciplined and prepared to change speed with the horse as called by the announcer at the show. The other classifications (in increasing order of experience and difficulty) are Novice, Intermediate Flat and Intermediate Fences, and Open and Open/Fences, which consists of the most experienced riders, all of which are freshmen.

The top riders on the team, Amy Bell and Jenn Wood, successfully won their classifications at the zone competition. Connor also took the intermediate classification.

When Miller's name was drawn as the tie breaking rider, "we were shaking," said Connor. "Intense is the word to describe what it felt like just to wait and watch. It was so exciting for Ellen, being as she has only been showing for two years to be the deciding factor as to whether we would go to the tournament."

It is unfortunate to mention that the team almost didn't have the opportunity to have a post-season. According to Connor, their coach, Janet Brown, was only notified the Friday before zones that funding for the post-season would be available. The confusion

EQUESTRIAN page nine



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK
Members of the University of South Carolina women's equestrian team will be competing in the NCAA finals in May. The team is in its second year of being a varsity sport. The team took second place at the Zone Finals last weekend to qualify for the finals.