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Equestrian team heads to NCAA finals despite problems



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made it possible for only eight of the 22 team members to be able to go to NCAA finals as well

"It is so discouraging that our entire team can't travel," Connor said. "We worked really hard to get where we are now, and it seems as though everyone should get the chance to go.

While it is a setback to BELL

morale that the entire team will not be able to travel to New York, the winning spirit remains

USC will compete against 16 other teams, in-SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK cluding the University of the South, which took first Jenn Connor and her horse jump over a fence. Connor won place at zones, and Cazenovia College in New York, which has long been a strong competitor at NCAAs.

New attitude has USC flying high in SEC

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her classification at Zone finals last weekend.

Coach Tanner has brought that out in each of us. He makes everyone give him everything they've got no matter what. I think that's helped bring us together, because we go into every game now knowing that we can win if we stay together."

The fight in the dog

Not widely recruited out of high school, Derick symbolizes the new breed of Gamecock ballplayer, overcoming all odds in pursuit of success. Just fighting for a spot on the roster after signing, he somehow managed to earn a starting outfield spot, hit-

ting .242 as a freshman, .331 as a sophomore, and an amazing .378 as a junior. So far this year, he's hitting .318 with 13 homeruns and 50 RBI.

Urquhart is also the only Gamecock player to ever hit for the cycle (a single, double, triple and homerun in one game), accomplishing the feat against George Mason as a freshman. Often unheralded by the media, Urquhart says he likes it that way.

"I've been fortunate," he said. "Mike [Curry] was a freshman All-America two years ago, and he's the fastest player in the SEC. Adam [Everett] was a USA National Team Player, and hitting behind him is great. Ryan [Bordenick] is an All-

America and one of the best hitters I've seen, so those guys deserve the publicity they get. I just try to do my job, what I need to do to win. I'm not a flashy power hitter; I just try to put the ball in play."

While it may not be flashy, Derick's determined brand of baseball has been a key ingredient in catapulting the South Carolina program to the top of the SEC. The conference that produced the likes of Frank Thomas, Will Clark, Albert Belle, Rafael Palmeiro and Bo Jackson now has a new name on the leader board: Derick Urquhart and the South Carolina Gamecocks.



USC Bookstore's Spring

A place to study, take a break, and grab a snack during Finals. Page 9



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