

Youthful cross country team moving up in conference

staff writer **LOREN THOUVENOT**

The 1998 Lady Gamecock cross country team looks to combine the talents of seasoned veterans with a number of new faces in their quest for the Southeastern Conference Championship.

The team has set a goal for the year: get back into the top six at the SEC Cross Country Championships, which will be held in Knoxville, Tenn. In the always tough SEC, Carolina will have its work cut out, but with the leadership of the returnees and the talented newcomers, cross country coach Andrew Allden believes it's a worthy goal.

In 1997, the team finished in eighth place at the SEC Championship. The Gamecocks are returning eight letterwinners from last year's.

USC's top returnee is sophomore Brooke Bryenton of Zionsville, Ind. Bryenton was the No. 2 runner last year, even though she was

slowed by an injury. She finished No. 2 at the conference meet.

Junior captain Joyce Peebles is expected to figure into the top three runners of the team. Peebles is coming off an excellent outdoor track season. She scored at the SEC conference meet and set personal records in the 800 meter, 1500 meter and 3000 meter.

Sarah Davis will also be expected to be in the top three this season. Davis set a significant personal record in the 1500, dropping her time to 4:47.32. She was a member of the distance medley team which scored at the indoor conference meet.

Kristina Brown, a junior from Charleston, is coming off a redshirt cross country season. However, as a freshman, she ran No. 1 at the SEC meet. Brown had a dramatic finish to her outdoor track season. She placed sixth in the 800m at the SEC Outdoor Championships with a personal-best time of 2:10.45. She also scored at the

SEC Indoor Championships as the lead off 1200 leg of the distance medley relay team.

Karen Padula and Andrea Hallmon should also compete for a top five spot this season. Padula is coming off her best track season in which she finished 10th in the 10,000 at the SEC Outdoor Championships with a time of 39:37.48.

Hallmon should continue to make substantial progress this year. This will be only her third season of cross country. Hallmon qualified for the finals of the 800 at the SEC Outdoor Championships, and she was a member of the 4 by 400-meters relay team which scored at both the SEC Indoor and Outdoor Championships.

Of the nine incoming freshman, Rachel Smith, from Monroe, Mich., has the best cross country time of any of the rookies. Smith has been part of one of the strongest cross country programs in the state of Michigan. She should be a top five or seven runner this year.

The roster is rounded out by Brittany Crapps, a junior from West Columbia; Katie England (West Union, S.C.); Kinsey Eshenbun (Shorewood, Wis.); Johanna Evans (Peru, N.Y.); Sonya Greaves, a sophomore from North White Plains, N.Y.; Sara Hadwin, a junior from Columbia; Megan Mitchell (Lindenhurst, Ill.); Amy Mostella, a junior from Greenville; Carrie Newton, a sophomore from Stone Mountain, Ga.; Laura Lee Phillips, a sophomore from Raleigh, N.C.; Tanya Povey (Devon, England); Suzanne Rutishauser (Cincinnati, Ohio); Abby Sox (Lexington, S.C.); and Lauren Wilson (Crownsville, Md.).

The Gamecocks will host the Gamecock Invitational on Sept. 12. On Sept. 18, the team will be competing in Knoxville, Tenn., a meet offering SEC teams the opportunity to preview the championship course.

Men's soccer team has Berson excited

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the Gamecocks in the past and bring strong work habits as Carolina captains.

Junior Jonas Myltenberg also returns as one of the Gamecock forwards. Myltenberg scored seven goals and added five assists and will be key to the Gamecocks' attack this season.

Carolina returns four forwards and adds two freshmen to give Berson six strong forwards.

Freshmen Joey Worthen and Alex Balasco have the versatility to play both up front and as midfielders. Worthen of Salt Lake City, comes to Carolina with U-20 national team experience, while Balasco, from Roswell, Ga., is a great attacking player with goal-scoring abilities from either foot.

Rounding out the forward position will be sophomore Matt Stephenson, who looks to improve upon his three-goal production as a freshman.

The Midfielders

Soccer fans might have questions about the future of the midfield.



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK
Sophomore Kim Erikson is expected to have another excellent season and to lead USC back to postseason play.

The Gamecocks lose All-American and first-round draft pick Clint Mathis, as well as Mark Anatol, David Tart, Robbie Pait and Laban Chappell. But the four returning midfielders and three freshmen midfielders bring great talent and capability to complete the Gamecock midfield.

The Defenders

The Gamecocks' deep defense welcomes back six players and brings in one freshman to complete a defense that contributed to 10 shutouts last season.

After an outstanding sophomore season, Scott Campagna will be called on to anchor the Gamecock defense. Campagna and junior Chris Morman, who started in all 20 Carolina matches, will lead the defense.

Junior Anders Ronnevig played in the backfield last season and might move to the midfield this season because of the depth of the 1998 defense. David Tart is the only defenseman that the Gamecocks lose this season.

Carolina will bring in freshman Frank Voll this season and expect an immediate impact. Voll, of Stavanger, Norway, played on the U-16 and U-17 teams for Norway. The addition of Voll makes the Norwegian total four for the Gamecocks this season.

"The backs should be a strong point for us," Berson said. "We have a nice blend of talented young players and experienced veterans returning."

The Goalkeepers

Henry Ring and Matt Landman, a strong goalkeeping duo, will return to the 1998 squad.

Ring returns after an outstanding freshman season. Ring played in all 20 matches in 1997 and started in 18. Ring ended the season with 1.00 goals against average with 53 saves. Landman played in three matches last season and did not give up a goal.

The Gamecock goalkeeping squad welcomes freshman Michael Bachmeyer. Bachmeyer is a technically sound keeper who brings a lot of promise to an already strong defensive unit.

"We feel that we have a very good goalkeeping team with Henry Ring and Matt Landman," Berson said. "Ring is one of the outstanding goalkeepers in the country, and Landman had a good season and an outstanding spring."

The Gamecocks open up their 1998 on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. when they host Coker College. All matches are played at Eugene E. Stone III Stadium at the Graveyard, on the corner of Whalley and Sumter Streets. South Carolina students with a valid student ID get into the events for free.

Ondo, Austin hope to lead women's soccer squad to SEC, NCAA Tournament

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returns at the left flank to improve on her six goal and 16-point performance of 1997.

Sanders was the midfielder point leader last season. Sanders scored the game-winning goal in the Lady Gamecocks 3-0 shut out of SEC-rival Arkansas.

The other veteran midfielder is junior Gina Iacovella, who scored one goal and a team-leading six assists for eight points.

The Lady Gamecocks add three freshmen midfielders to blend experience with youth. Lydia Bienias, a Gigharbor, Wash., native, is expected to bring great speed and aggressiveness to the Lady Gamecock squad.

South Carolina natives Morgan McIntyre and Brooke McPartland are both technically strong players who will strengthen the Carolina midfield this season, while fellow freshman Sarah D'Antonio will bring tremendous speed.

"We've got a lot of options and opportunities looking to the midfield this upcoming year," Kelly said.

The Defenders

With one of the strongest defenders in the conference in Angela Austin, the Gamecock defense is prepared to face opposing offenses. All-SEC Austin, who led the team in scoring despite her defender position, will anchor the Lady Gamecock defense this season.

The Gamecock defense returns two starters in Austin and Jessica Workman. Workman played in all 19 Carolina matches.

Junior Leslie Lamb may step into a starting role after a strong spring. The versatile Linda Greene might also see playing time at the sweeper spot as well as up front as a forward. Kim Murray could also see time at the sweeper position.

Four freshmen round out the stable and strong Carolina defense. Jessica Ward looks to see playing time behind standout Austin. Melinda Carter and Bienias may make an immediate impact in the Carolina backfield as well as seeing time in the midfield. Columbia native Katie Hook could challenge for playing time as a true freshman.

The Goalkeepers

The Carolina goalkeeping squad welcomes first-team All-SEC transfer Carrie Warner from Alabama this season to solidify the goalkeeping staff. For the first time in Carolina soccer history the Lady Gamecocks enter the pre-season with four goalkeepers. Junior Warner joins senior Emily Crain, sophomore Jessica Freas and freshman Carolyn Ortega to complete the Carolina goalkeeping quartet. Freas started five matches for the Lady Gamecocks while Crain started four.

The experience of Warner will only strengthen the Carolina defense. Warner ended the 1997 season with a goals against average of 1.77.

"Carrie Warner is extremely capable of keeping us in games and probably winning games for us that come down to the wire, keeping us involved," Kelly said.

The Lady Gamecocks open their season Sept. 1 at Davidson, but will play their home opener at 7 p.m. Sept. 4 against Wake Forest. Admission is free to Carolina students with a valid student ID.

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