

# Soccer's Nathan Watkins plays for higher authority



SEAN RAYFORD Sports Photo Editor

Senior Nathan Watkins, shown here against UCLA, is a co-captain for the 1998 Gamecock soccer team. The team is 8-2 and hosts nationally-ranked Clemson at 2 p.m. Sunday at Stone Stadium.

staff writer LEAH GENEST

"It has always been a dream of mine to celebrate with him after I score a goal," said Nathan Watkins, referring to his 11-year-old brother Joel, a ball boy for most of USC's home soccer games.

On Sept. 6, that dream came true. USC played No. 1 UCLA at Eugene Stone Stadium. Watkins, a senior co-captain and forward for the Gamecock men's soccer team, left yet another mark in Carolina soccer history, scoring one of the team's two goals against the Bruins, in front of a record USC crowd.

"The team was focused, driven that night. We had a new job to get done," Watkins said. "We bonded and held strong." Their effort was evident, with a final score of USC 2, UCLA 1.

Watkins is truly an asset to not only the men's soccer team but the entire soccer program. He has gained great respect from his teammates and from the fans. He was elected a captain for the 1998 season by his teammates, not the coaches. This is a true sign of the respect the team feels for him. "It is a great honor," he stated. "I am really thankful for that."

When Watkins first came here, he wasn't on scholarship. He selected Carolina because it had a top soccer program and great coaching. "I wanted a place where I could become a better player," he said, speaking of his decision.

He came to college from Parkview (Ga.) High after helping his team there win three consecutive state titles in the sport. Watkins was also named to the Georgia State Select Team. In his freshman year, he played in 12 matches, assisting on three goals. His first career college start came in the final game of the season vs. Duke in the NCAA Tournament.

Watkins' sophomore year brought more career firsts. He scored his first goal against Wofford, which, with one goal and one assist, was also his best game of the season.

In his junior year, Watkins was the team's second-leading scorer, with a total of 27 points on nine goals and nine assists. He played in every game last season, starting one, against Georgia Southern. His season-high came in the game vs. North Carolina where he scored two goals. Coming into his final season, Watkins had scored a total of 37 points.

Watkins' statistics are impressive, but his strongest assets as a player are his leadership skills. As stated before, he was elected captain by his team, proving that his ability to lead did not go unnoticed by the other players.

Watkins is an impressive guy on the field, but he is even more impressive off it. He is considered the resident Christian on the team. He is a member of Athletes in Action and the Fellow-

ship of Christian Athletes. He also attends small-group bible studies. "I feel a burden for people to know about Jesus," Watkins said. He would like to be a teacher for a bible-study class or run a camp that brings in children from all over the country, especially the city, and teaches them about God and Jesus Christ.

Watkins' greatest accomplishment off the field, he says, has been giving his life to Jesus Christ and knowing that he is unworthy to be paralleled with such an almighty power.

"I live my life by the Bible," he proclaimed, "... by the standard that Jesus Christ set for us."

Nathan wants people to know what Jesus has done for him. He had no joy, no focus before he gave himself to Jesus Christ, but he does now and he is confident that Jesus will take him where he wants him to go.

"I live my life for the things that are eternal, not temporary," he says.

Watkins' outlook on the rest of the season is definitely favorable. He feels that the team is really coming together. "The team is a team. We have great potential," he assures. "There are a few things to work out, but I am confident about our chances to win [the NCAA tournament]."

As for the future of his post-collegiate soccer career, though, "That," he says, "is in God's hands."

## Earn Extra Credit

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## Aerobic Instructor Training Program

Course Held Fridays  
October 16th-December 11th  
1 - 3 PM  
in the Blatt P.E.Center

Campus Recreation Fitness Programs is offering an 8 week training course for anyone interested in becoming an aerobic instructor. This comprehensive course will focus on both the theoretical and practical components of aerobic instruction. At the completion of the course, students will have the opportunity to apply for employment with the USC Aerobic Program. This course will also provide the necessary preparation to pass a national primary certification exam.

To sign up call Sara Morgan at 777-4687

# Cocked & Ready For the Tigers

## Carolina Women's Soccer

## Carolina Gamecocks vs. Clemson Tigers

October 7 at 7:00pm  
Stone Stadium

## Campus Recreation Fitness Programs Aerobics Schedule October 14 - December 6, 1998

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7:00-8:00 AM	STEP	BODY SCULPTING	STEP	BODY SCULPTING			
8:30-9:30 AM		STEP & KICK		STEP & KICK			
11:00 AM-Noon						STEP	STEP & SCULPT
Noon-1:00 PM	CARDIO COMBO		CARDIO COMBO		CARDIO COMBO		
1:05-2:05 PM	FACULTY/STAFF AEROBICS		FACULTY/STAFF AEROBICS	FACULTY/STAFF AEROBICS			
2:00-3:00 PM						BODY SCULPTING	CARDIO BLAST
3:15-4:15 PM	STEP & SCULPT	STEP & SLIDE	STEP & SCULPT	STEP & SLIDE	STEP & SCULPT		
4:05-4:20 PM	BACK TO ABS		BACK TO ABS		BACK TO ABS		
4:30-5:30 PM	AEROSTEP	STEP & SCULPT	AEROSTEP	STEP & SCULPT	ROCK BOTTOM	AEROSTEP	
5:30-6:15 PM	WATER AEROBICS	WATER AEROBICS	WATER AEROBICS	WATER AEROBICS			STEP ATTACK
5:45-6:45 PM	POWER INTERVAL	BODY SCULPTING	POWER INTERVAL	BODY SCULPTING	POWER INTERVAL		
7:00-8:00 PM	CARDIO KICKBOXING	CARDIO BLAST	CARDIO KICKBOXING	CARDIO BLAST	CARDIO KICKBOXING		
8:15-9:15 PM	BODY SCULPTING	ROCK BOTTOM	BODY SCULPTING				

**THIS SCHEDULE WILL BEGIN  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1998**

A \$10 fee and signed waiver are required before taking part in any aerobics classes. Participants need to bring a valid USC ID with a Fall, 1998 aerobic sticker to each class to show proof of registration. To register and pay, stop by the Campus Recreation office, 202 Blatt PE Center.

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR THE FALL SEMESTER,  
YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO SO AGAIN.**

Remember it's Dorm Night  
The Dorm floor with the most people in attendance wins a pizza party from Papa John's.