

• Billy brings us the week in Southeastern Conference football.
• Kelly brings us a preview of USC's attempt to not stink.

SEC Football in the AP Top 25 Poll

Tennessee	3rd
Florida	5th
Georgia	13th
Arkansas	17th
LSU	21st

SPORTS

• Men's Soccer
Sunbeam Soccer Classic
7 p.m., Saturday
vs. SW Missouri State.
6 p.m., Sunday
vs. Evansville

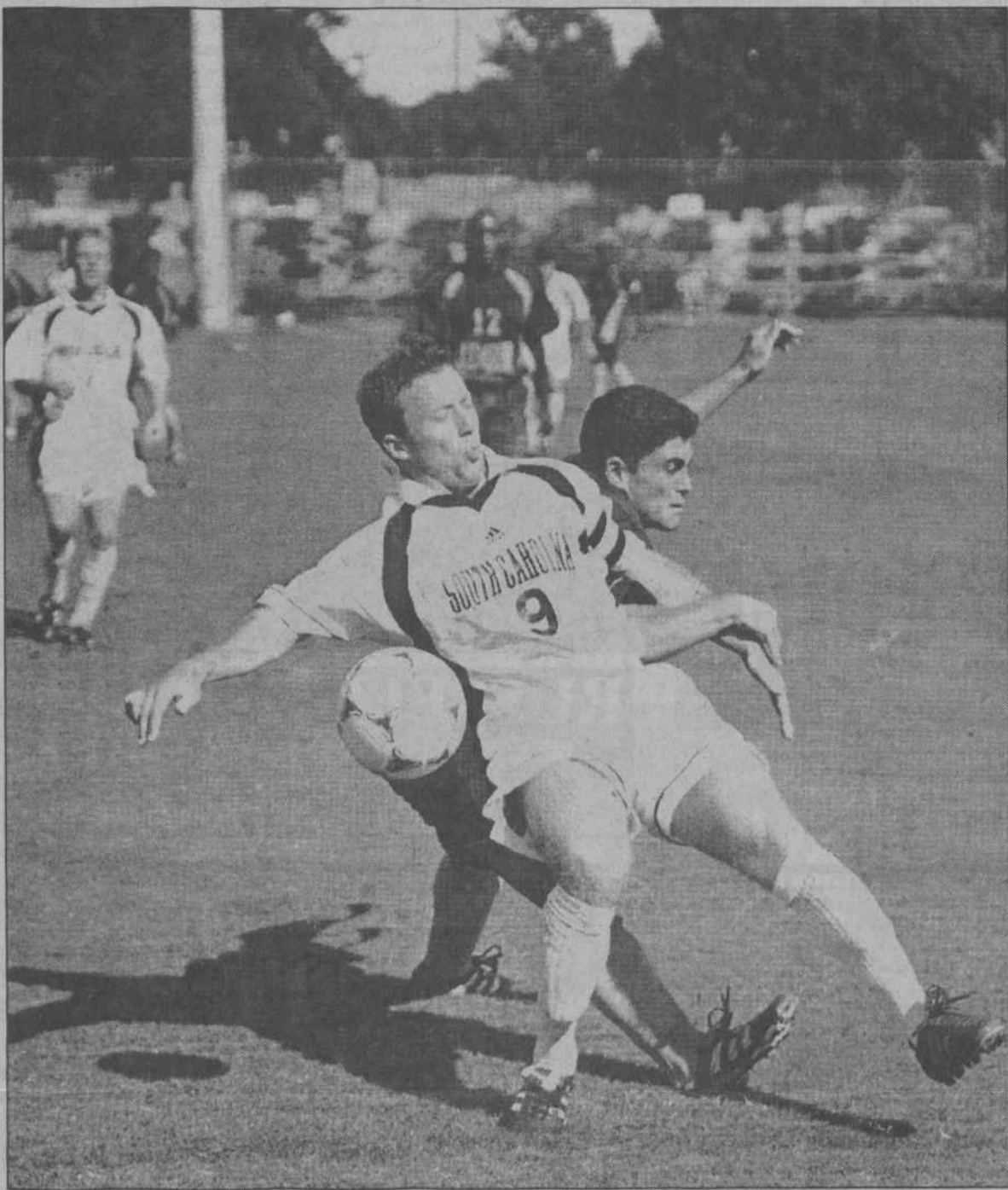
Nate says the Gamecock volleyball team received 24 votes in the latest USA Today/AVCA poll, ranking them 27th in the nation.

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

The Gamecock

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Gamecocks fall to Clemson 2-0



SEAN RAYFORD Sports Photo Editor

Senior John Harr gets tied up with a Clemson defender in Sunday's match against the Tigers. Clemson won the match 2-0, dropping the Gamecocks to 8-3 and hurting their postseason chances.

asst. sports editor JEFF ROMIG

South Carolina. Clemson. Top 10 matchup. One of the most underrated rivalries in the country. One of the most overlooked sports in the state.

Throw these elements into Stone Stadium on a Sunday afternoon for 90 minutes and watch one of the top matchups in college soccer unfold. This was the case on Sunday, and during these 90 minutes, emotion ran high, the referee handed out cautions like speeding tickets at the end of the month, and Clemson broke the hearts of the USC soccer team, 2-0.

"I think both teams played with a lot of intensity," USC head coach Mark Berson said. "We played real hard, but I don't think we played real smart in the first part of the game."

Clemson didn't wait long to get on the board, shocking USC fans. Only 58 seconds into the game, they drove down the field and scored on a John Wilson goal inside the box.

"It took the crowd out of the game right away," said Clemson head coach Trevor Adair. "They came out here with a lot of momentum, and when you get a goal like that, you'll take it."

At first, there was a question about who scored the goal. It was initially credited to Mark Lisi, but was changed after the game and credited to Wilson.

"John Wilson was on the end of it and tucked it away beautifully," Lisi said.

Lisi also scored Clemson's second goal, which came in the 69th minute of play.

"The second goal was on a throw-in from Pablo Webster," Lisi said. "The ball just came through and I happened to be standing there. I was just lucky to be there."

The offensive side for South Carolina was all about missed opportunities. The Gamecocks had few legitimate chances, due to the strong Clemson defense, and the ones they had slipped through their fingers.

"In the second half, we came out and Joey (Worthen) missed the head-



SEAN RAYFORD Sports Photo Editor

South Carolina head coach Mark Berson, right, argues with a referee after a questionable call involving Chris Lockwood. Trainers tend to Lockwood in the background while Berson asks for a card.

er and then we hit one off of the post," Berson said. "If you capitalize on those and take away the opening mistake, then it's a completely different game. Then again, you'd expect that in this rivalry, because both teams are going to have chances and it usually comes down to the team that capitalizes."

Even though missed opportunities were a factor for each team, one of the main themes of the match was yellow cards. Seven yellow cards were given out between the two teams. In some cases, the referee was commended; in others, he was criticized.

"I think the ref was good," said USC forward John Harr. "This is maybe one of the hardest college soccer games to ref because of the rivalry, and just because of the battle out there. It's very hard to keep control of the game all the time."

Indeed, the referee could not keep control of this game at all times — there were two instances that almost came to blows that weren't seen by the referee. These early instances led to what

almost became a brawl between the two teams in the second half.

"You can expect this game to be physical, but some of the cards ... I've got to look to see what they really were," Adair said. "The referee had a really tough day. He had a tough job of trying to control the two teams because of the emotion, but he eventually got it under control."

Clemson left Columbia with a huge win under their belt, and USC was left to figure out what goals need to be set for the rest of the season.

"If we had won this game, we would have been in great shape," Harr said. "Now, we have a lot of good games in front of us. We're going to play a lot of good Southern teams, so now we just have to make sure we beat them."

USC will begin picking up the pieces from the Clemson loss at the Sunbeam Soccer Classic on Oct. 17. The Gamecocks are hosting this tournament, which will include College of Charleston, Evansville and Southwest Missouri State.

Crazy final hour helps Monday NITRO

MICHAEL STRICKLAND
WRESTLING INSIDER

On a night WWF Raw, the baseball playoffs, and the NFL went up against NITRO, WCW played the trump card to entice viewers to put down the remote control and stay with TNT. For those who did, you got a crazy final hour-and-a-half of wrestling entertainment.

Sting and The Warrior reunited as a tag team to face Hulk Hogan and Bret Hart in a main event. Sting and The Warrior were NWA partners in 1986, when they began their careers as the Blade Runners. Hart and Sting fought the majority of the match in a tremendous battle. Almost as soon as The Warrior tagged in, the remainder of the nWo stormed the United Center ring to end the match in a no contest decision. The Warrior received quite a beating from the nWo, while partner Sting used a baseball bat to protect himself. This brawl sets up two intriguing matches for Halloween Havoc.

World champion Goldberg ran his professional record to 150-0 in an unlikely count-out victory over the Giant. Just as the Giant slammed Goldberg to the mat with a destructive chokeslam and covered him for the pin, DDP bolted to ringside to protect his title shot for Havoc. Page himself was a recipient of a chokeslam, but Gold-

berg was there to spear the Giant, protecting DDP. The Giant was well on his way to an upset win before Page got involved, and don't expect that to go unnoticed by the nWo next week on NITRO.

As a wild NITRO got even wilder, Eric Bischoff learned Four Horseman rule No. 1: NEVER try to crash a Horseman party. WCW president Bischoff wanted Ric Flair out of the building, but Flair was accompanied by the owner of the United Center, so there was nothing Bischoff could do. In the end, Bischoff was n.auled by security as Flair and the rest of the Horsemen partied all night long in an arena skybox. Sooner or later you'll see the "Nature Boy" get his hands around Bischoff's neck inside the ring — count on it.

On a more serious note, Kevin Nash and Scott Hall were once best friends, inside and outside the ring. However, with Hall's recent all-too-real problems, the two have grown apart. WCW has decided, amid much criticism, to use this real-life tragedy as an angle. That angle will conclude at Havoc, when Hall and Nash square off against each other. Unfortunately for Hall, the end of the angle doesn't solve his real problems outside the ring. He needs help, but the WCW decision not to give Hall the time off he needs may be pushing Hall down the road of destruction.

Two other events are worth mentioning from NITRO this week. Eddy Guerrero's LWO (Latino World Order)

is growing in number, currently at six with the addition of Psychosis Monday night. Guerrero and the rest of his Latino buddies are organizing in order to get some respect from Eric Bischoff. Oddly, even though Bischoff signs the checks for WCW, there is certainly no love lost between him and most of the wrestlers. This is another real-life battle worth following. Also, there is trouble in paradise between Buff Bagwell and Scott Steiner. Each of them think they are God's gift to pro wrestling, so look out for Buff at Havoc, as Steiner must face his brother Rick in a no-disqualification match.

News and Notes: The card for Halloween Havoc lines up like this: Rick Steiner vs. Scott Steiner, Eddy Guerrero vs. Konnan, Alex Wright v. British Bulldog, Scott Hall vs. Kevin Nash, Hogan vs. Warrior, Sting vs. Bret Hart, and Goldberg vs. DDP... Referee Brian Hildebrand's surgery last week was unsuccessful as his cancer has returned ... Look for Rey Mysterio Jr. to return to action soon ... Barry Windham, a former Horseman, is rumored to be returning to WCW in the coming weeks ... Read into that what you want, but Mongo McMichael better guard his Horseman membership very closely.

Fogler not worried about NCAA success

ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina coach Eddie Fogler is not so worried about the next step for his growing basketball program.

First, Fogler built a winning team. Then he established success in the Southeastern Conference with a 1997 league title.

"Now, do we have to win an NCAA tournament game? Yeah, it would be nice. That'll happen," Fogler said Monday.

It hasn't the past two years, despite USC coming into the NAAs as a highly regarded, highly seeded, team.

Two years ago, after a magical 15-1 march through the SEC and the

school's first league title, second-seeded South Carolina was bounced by Coppin State in the opening round.

This past March, it was upset specialist Richmond which defeated the third-seeded Gamecocks.

"I am not worried about the NCAA tournament, I am worried about getting into the NCAA tournament," Fogler said.

South Carolina had reached the tournament only once in 23 years before Fogler's back-to-back trips.

Fogler thinks he's got the components for the Gamecocks first threepeat since Frank McGuire led them to four straight berths from 1971-74.

South Carolina lost point guard Melvin Watson and forward Ryan Stack, who was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

But Fogler plans to switch All-American guard BJ McKie to Watson's spot, and will rotate experienced big men William Gallman, LeRon Williams and Bud Johnson in the frontcourt.

McKie is the team's star and probably is only half a season from supplanting Hall-of-Famer Alex English as the school's career scoring leader. With the loss of Watson and Stack and the improvement of SEC teams like Tennessee and Florida, some wonder how far McKie can carry the Gamecocks.

'Bullet' leads women's soccer

staff writer JEREMY TOUZEL

In her very first collegiate game, Melinda "Bullet" Carter scored the first goal of the season for the USC women's soccer team. Since then, she has added two goals and two assists, which is outstanding for a freshman defender in the Southeastern Conference.

When asked about her game-winning goal against Davidson, Carter said, "I wasn't even shooting—I was passing, but I'm more satisfied with an assist."

Head coach Sue Kelly occasionally uses Carter at forward to add spark to the offense, but for the most part Carter prefers playing defense.

"If I'm back there," Carter said, "I can get the forwards the ball." She did just that against No. 17 Georgia, assisting Jennie Ondo on the game-winning goal.

To see why she got the nickname "Bullet," one needs only to see Melinda's long-range, left-footed blasts and her blazing speed for explanation. In addition, Carter's aggressive style of play gives the Gamecocks an additional physical presence on the field.

After a collision with Tennessee midfielder Jennifer Laughridge, Carter was forced to leave the game with a bloody nose, but, not surprisingly, came back just moments later.

This toughness is one of the many reasons why Carter was recently se-



SEAN RAYFORD Sports Photo Editor

Melinda Carter, a defender from Plano, Texas, was recently selected to the United States National B-Team, which is second to the National Team that will play in the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1999.

lected to the United States National B-Team, which is second only to the National Team that will play in the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1999.

Originally from Plano, Texas, where she led Plano Senior High School to the state soccer championship in 1997, Carter received offers to play for Notre Dame and Connecticut.

Carter chose South Carolina because she knew Coach Kelly and was aware of the quality of the recruiting class.

"You just know where you're happy," Carter said. "When you're a soccer player, you go places and you just know where you want to stay."

Fortunately, for Gamecock fans, Carter ended up at USC.

"I've been on winning teams all my life," Carter said. So far this year, the 7-4-1 Gamecocks have continued this winning trend. After their final road game Tuesday at Furman, the ladies end the season with four straight home games.

Off the field, Carter is a physical education major.

She intends to follow the athletic training program, after which she plans to return for another year to pursue a master's degree in education.

In addition to assisting coach Kelly in whatever way possible after she graduates, Carter "would like to be a P.E. teacher or a coach."

Between the soccer team and classes, Carter's schedule is full, but she passes any idle time by sleeping, watching movies with her friends, or watching her favorite sitcom, "Friends."

Carolina is in position for a post-season berth with a strong finish.

Come to Stone Stadium on Oct. 16 and support USC women's soccer, as they look to continue their winning trend against Mississippi at 7 p.m.

The Lady Gamecocks also host Mississippi State at 1 p.m. on Sunday, followed by home contests with nationally-ranked Florida on Oct. 25 and North Carolina State on Oct. 30.



SEAN RAYFORD Sports Photo Editor

Freshman Melinda "Bullet" Carter has helped lead the Lady Gamecock soccer team to the verge of postseason play for the first time ever.