

MCKIE'S MARCH

Senior BJ McKie ranks as Carolina's all-time leading scorer with 1,976 points.

McKie now sets his sights on becoming the Gamecocks' first 2,000-point scorer.

WOMEN'S B-BALL

The Lady Gamecocks lost to Ole Miss 68-56 Sunday, dropping their record to 10-10 and 0-9 in the SEC. Annie Lester paced Carolina with 21 points, while her sister, Jocelyn Penn, contributed 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Gamecock Sports

SCHEDULE

- Women's basketball vs. Georgia, 5 p.m. Wednesday, Frank McGuire Arena.
- Men's basketball vs. No. 7 Auburn, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Frank McGuire Arena.

NATE SAYS...

Nate says Ryan Harrison is now the man-to-beat with the 35-lb. weight, shattering both the American collegiate record and the school record with a winning toss of 73 feet, 6 inches at the SEC-ACC Challenge Saturday.

Monday, February 1, 1999

The Gamecock

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Mural gone but legacy remains



When I was 5 years old, my dad decided my little brother and I were finally old enough to start attending USC football games regularly.

The year was 1980, and the Gamecocks would win all seven home games that season, earning a Gator Bowl berth against Dan Marino and the fourth-ranked Pitt Panthers.

At the time, USC was a football independent, playing its home games in a single upper-decked version of Williams-Brice Stadium that seated just under 55,000.

What I saw that year I have yet to see since. George Rogers, the university's first and only Heisman Trophy winner, began his award-winning, All-American senior season by rushing for 153 yards in the Gamecocks' 37-0 win over Pacific.

He only got better as the season went along, racking up 224 yards against Duke, 193 against N.C. State, 177 against Wake Forest, 168 against both Clemson and Georgia, 142 against Michigan, and 141 against Southern California.

"Big George" rushed for a school-record 1,894 yards that year, en route to a record-shattering 5,204 over the course of his Gamecock career. To put that number in perspective, no USC back before or since has even eclipsed the 4,000-yard mark (Brandon Bennett ranks second on the school's all-time list behind Rogers, with 3,055 yards).

Of the 36 games in USC history where a Gamecock back has rushed for more than 150 yards, 14 of those games belong to Rogers. Simply put, you had to see him to believe him, and Gamecock fans haven't seen anything like him since.

But as nearly all USC fans are aware, the story behind "No. 38" involves much more than just the mind-boggling numbers he put up here at USC and later in the NFL. It's also about embarrassment, tribulation, redemption and regaining respect. In 1986, Rogers was arrested for possession of narcotics.

At the peak of his success, Rogers' career, reputation, and life all appeared to be unraveling. Here was one of the world's greatest athletes, seemingly throwing all his talent and effort out the window because of fast, reckless living.

Properly vilified in the media, Rogers nevertheless remained true to form. Like the thousands of would-be tacklers he ran over on the field, he took the hit in the newspapers,

LEGACY page 6

USC sinks Commodores

by Charlie Wallace
Assistant Sports Editor

The quest took four years to become a reality. And 32 minutes into the 115th game of one man's career, the quest was finished.

BJ McKie, Columbia's favorite son, became the all-time leading scorer in South Carolina men's basketball history Saturday night by surpassing another native of the capital city, Alex English.

"It was a relief to get it over with," McKie said. "It's in the back of your head and you can't help but think about it at times."

For McKie, setting the record, which was followed during the game by a brief ceremony where he was given the game ball, was one of the few joyous occasions he has had this season.

The Gamecocks have struggled most of the year, but went on to defeat the Vanderbilt Commodores in the game, 69-57, improving their record to 7-13 this season.

The Gamecocks started off looking much the way they have all year. Vanderbilt freshman guard Sam Howard drained a 3-pointer on the first possession of the game to put the Commodores ahead early.

Carolina's first points of the game came from none other than McKie, whose driving layup cut the Vandy lead to 5-2.

McKie later gave USC their first lead of the game, on a pull-up jumper, to put the Gamecocks up 6-5. Herbert Lee Davis then came off the bench to nail a 3-pointer, increasing USC's lead to four.

Later, after two consecutive baskets by William Gallman, Davis nailed another three and Carolina found themselves leading 18-9 and playing about as good as they have all year.

"I've said time in and time out that I believe in my teammates, and

I believe that they will step up," McKie said. "They're playing with a lot of confidence right now and the main thing we have to do is build on that and keep working hard in practice and keep improving and come out focused each and every time we step out on the floor."

And Gallman and Davis weren't the only players stepping up. Recus Nix, who got a rare start, swished a 3-pointer to extend the Gamecocks' lead to 23-12 with 9:45 left in the first half.

Vanderbilt wouldn't go away that early, however. At one point, Howard and junior guard Atiba Prater made back-to-back threes to pull the Commodores to within seven.

James Strong then had a 3-pointer, and with 2:24 left in the half, Vanderbilt had closed the Carolina lead to 29-28. Another of McKie's patented driving layups followed, and the Gamecocks held a 33-32 lead at half-time.

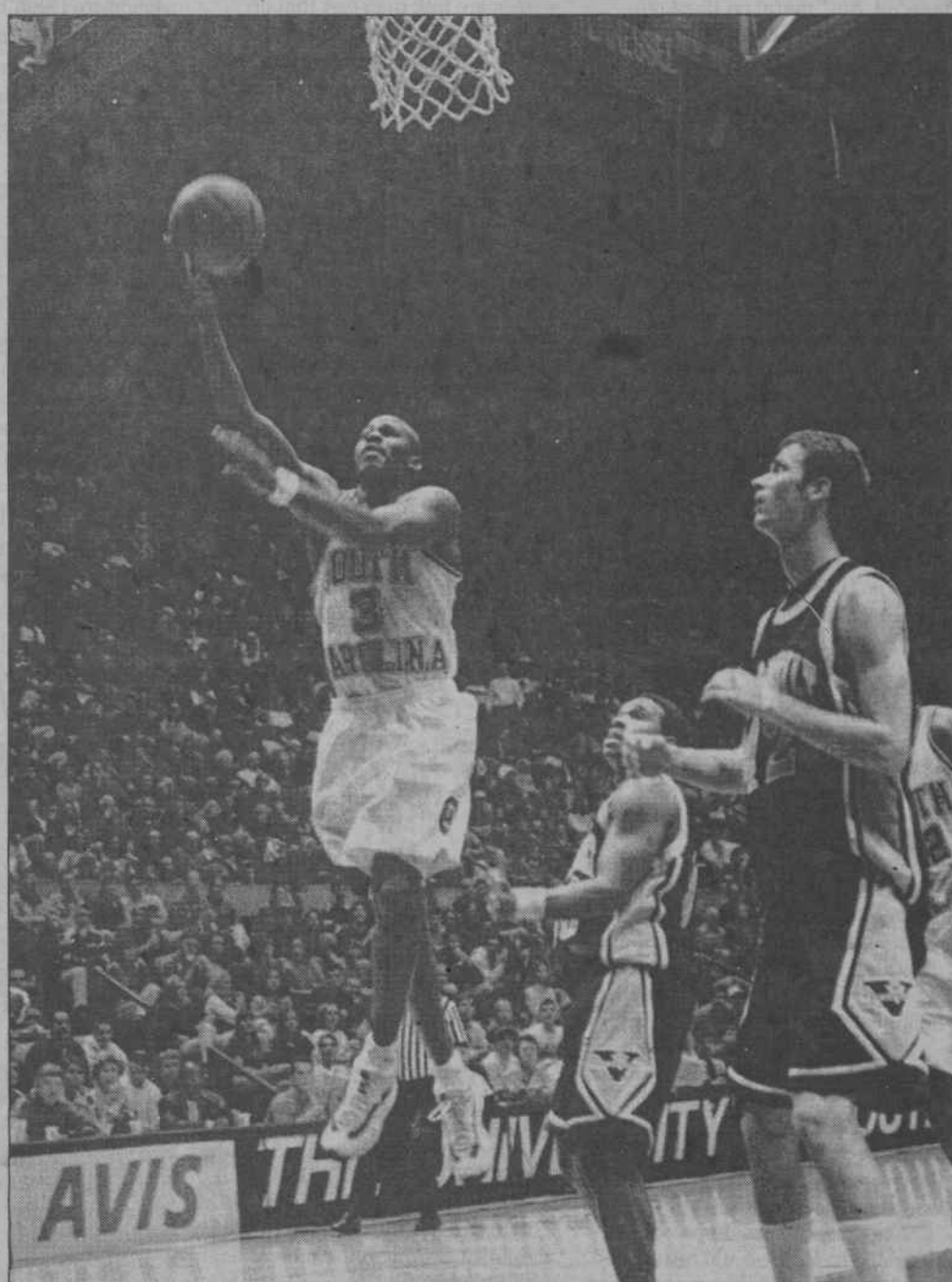
To open up the second half, Prater drove in for a layup, and VU finally retook the lead. Prater, a junior from Stone Mountain, Ga., went on to finish the game with 16 points and drew praise from Gamecock coach Eddie Fogler.

"I think Prater is one of the most underrated players in the league," Fogler said. "He's a real good guard who is great with the ball, hard to contain and control, and he is very good at spotting up and shooting threes."

After McKie answered with a three of his own, true freshman Damien Kinloch provided another spark off the bench for USC, making a steal that led to a layup.

The next trip down the floor, Kinloch made a spot-up jumper to keep the Gamecocks ahead, 46-42.

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Senior BJ McKie sails to the hoop Saturday in the Gamecocks' victory over Vanderbilt. McKie surpassed Alex English as USC's all-time leading scorer in the game.

COMING THIS MONTH

AMISTAD • Feb. 3 & 4
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RH Theater

SINGLED OUT • Feb. 19
RH Patio
8:00pm

IMANI • Feb. 25
RH Ballroom
7:00pm

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