

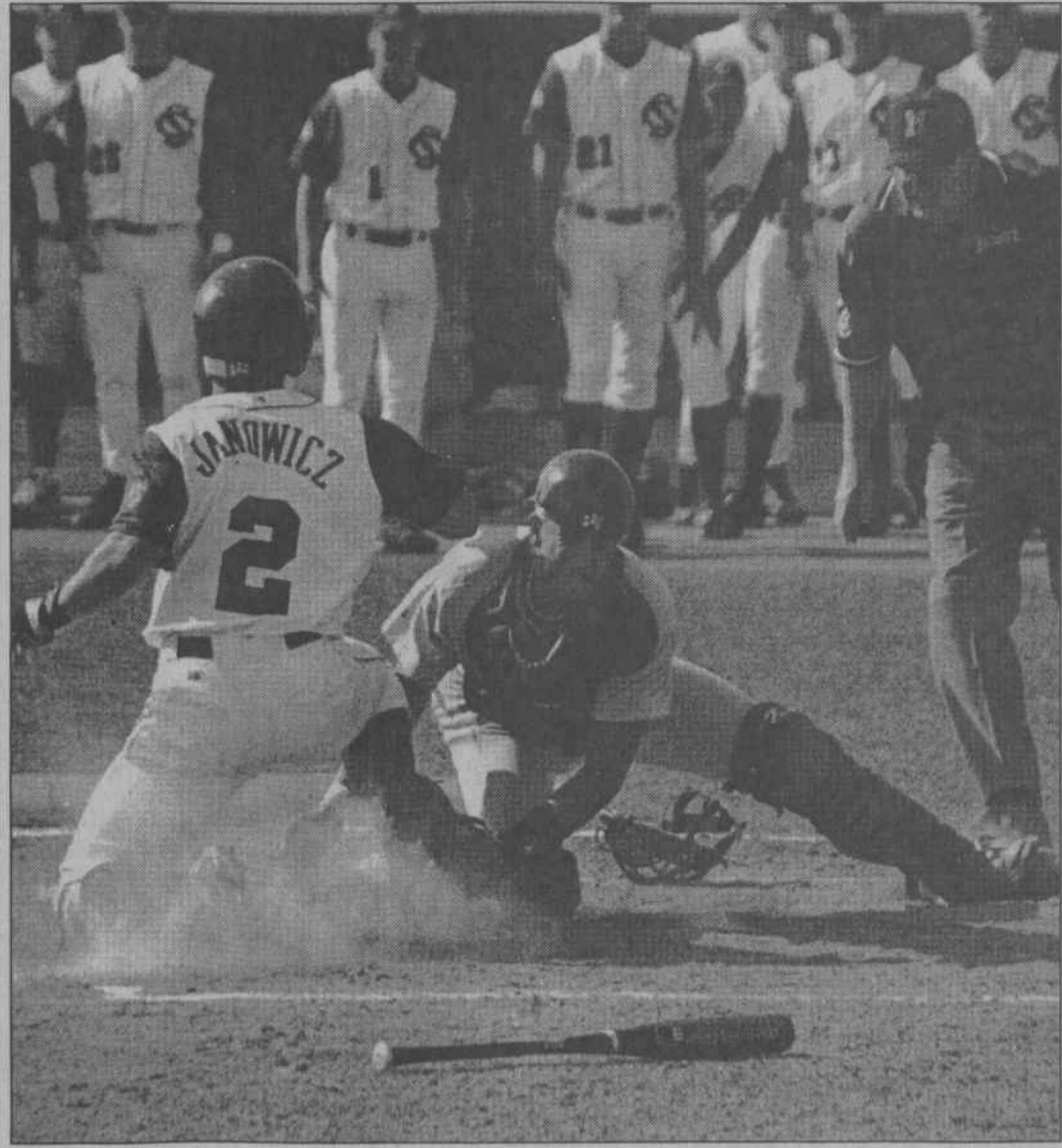
The Lady Gamecocks lost Sunday to No. 21 Alabama, 87-73. USC takes on Kentucky 7 p.m. Thursday at Frank McGuire Arena. Carolina has yet to win an SEC contest this season.

Nate says clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them would burn their houses down — hence the expression "to get fired."

Senior BJ McKie became the only Carolina men's basketball player to score more than 2,000 points in his collegiate career. With his 15 points on Saturday against Georgia, McKie now has 2,002 career points.

USC's Stanislav Olijars (60-meter hurdles), MeLisa Barber (60-meter dash), Ellikisha Williamson (60 hurdles) and Patrick Tvarkunas (pole vault) each set school records in their respective events this weekend.

Carolina sweeps Cougars



Carolina's Nate Janowicz gets thrown out at home plate in Sunday's victory over the College of Charleston. The Gamecocks went on to win the game 10-1, sweeping the weekend series.

by David Cloninger
Senior Writer

The South Carolina baseball team got its season off to a good start by sweeping the College of Charleston in a two-game series over the weekend.

Saturday's Opening Day matchup pitted sophomore All-American pitcher Kip Bouknight against Charleston's seasoned veteran, Scott Oliver. Both pitchers got into early trouble, with Carolina taking a 1-0 lead in the third inning before the Cougars' All-Southern Conference outfielder, Monte Lee, smashed a home run to centerfield to tie the score.

Carolina senior catcher Tim Angiolini regained the lead for USC in the fourth inning with a two-run homer, but the Cougars came clawing back on Lee's second homer of the day, tying the score 3-3 in the sixth. That would be the end for Bouknight, who left the game with a no-decision.

Angiolini again came up big in the seventh, hitting a two-run double off Charleston reliever Brian Hocker which scored outfielder Adam Poe and second baseman Jay Lambert. With sophomore Scott Barber pitching two scoreless innings of relief, USC seemed to have the lead for good. Later, however, Carolina senior closer Jason Pomar gave up Lee's third homer, making the score 5-4. This would become the final, as Pomar bore down and coaxed the next batter to pop up, giving USC its first victory.

Sunday's second matchup was nothing like the day before, as the Gamecocks totally dominated the Cougars and won 10-1. Once again, Angiolini was the hero of the day, collecting seven RBIs on five hits. Sophomore All-American

pitcher Peter Bauer got his first win, striking out five and allowing five hits through six shutout innings. Bauer also improved to eight straight career wins without a loss. The Cougars were roughed up for seven runs in the first six innings and never recovered.

Carolina started strong, scoring a run in the first inning off an Angiolini double and setting the day's tone for Charleston pitcher Adam Spire. The transfer from Clemson allowed eight hits and five runs in only four innings.

USC scored in each of the first four innings of the game, as the first four hitters of the lineup collected nine hits between them. The combination of junior transfer Brian Roberts, Angiolini, junior Nate Janowicz, and freshman first baseman Trey Dyson worked well for the Gamecocks.

USC continued to score through the later innings, getting two runs in each of the sixth and seventh innings before winding up with a single run in the eighth. The Gamecocks had no homers, but showed depth by still racking up 10 runs without the long ball.

Several new Gamecock players were in action this weekend, as Head Coach Ray Tanner inserted much of his bench to find a perfect combination. Besides Roberts, the games this weekend began the careers of outfielders Marcus McBeth, Shane Nelson and Matt Walker, infielders Demetric Smith and Marcos Rios, and pitchers Randy Hadden and Lee Gronkiewicz.

The Gamecocks are 2-0 with the victories. Their next game is at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Sarge Frye Field against Davidson.

Holtz puts USC on track



William Folks
Common Folklore

Call me crazy, but I'm convinced Lou Holtz would have won at least five football games last fall with USC's roster of players.

I know some of you might think that's a bit of a stretch, but I truly believe inspiring players and motivating them to succeed are the most vital things a head coach

can bring to his program. A coach must get his team to compete at or above its talent level in order to win football games, and in Carolina's case last year, the latter was clearly what the "Shamecocks" needed.

Yet, as Carolina's nightmarish 1998 season wore on, that kind of effort never materialized. It got to where you could write Brad Scott's postgame quotes with close to 90-percent accuracy before the game even ended.

"Our young men were obviously not prepared, not ready to play out there tonight," he would say. "We lacked the motivation, intensity and effort you need to win ballgames."

Going over those postgame interviews after the season, it was difficult to determine which game each tape was from, so routine and predictable the responses were.

Well, if there's one thing I've learned from the press conferences Holtz has held since taking the USC job two months ago, it's this: They're anything but routine and predictable. And last Wednesday, USC football fans saw yet another (and significantly more pleasant) departure from the Scott era: a solid class of incoming freshmen.

In all fairness, Scott wasn't that bad of a recruiter, when you sit down and think about it. He just couldn't do anything with his talented players once he got them here. After reportedly telling former USC quarterback Anthony Wright he would mold him into "the next Charlie Ward," Scott proceeded to mold him into the next Charlie Brown.

Looking at Holtz's first class, the fact that any of the state's top high school players came to Columbia is indeed a miracle. While it would've been nice if Carolina had signed Kevin Breedlove (Georgia), Albert Haynesworth (Tennessee), Brian Mance (Clemson) or Durrell Robinson (Georgia), Holtz did remarkably well, considering the situation.

The first obstacles for him were clearly those three horrific words, "one-and-10." I hate to say it, but just the sound of "1-10" sends a chill up and down my spine every time I think about it. One-and-10. I tell you, we fans should count all of our new recruits as manna from heaven.

The second major drawback was, well, Scott himself. Any time your former head coach moves immediately to an in-state rival, it's going to do at least some damage to your in-state recruiting efforts. Greg Walker, William Henry and Mance were among those in-state players Scott lured to Tigertown with him. I have to wonder, though, what Heisman Trophy winner did Scott say he would mold them into? Linus or Peppermint Patty?

Other drawbacks Holtz experienced were his relative unfamiliarity with South Carolina's high school talent and the length of time he took to assemble his coaching staff. While perfectly understandable, both of those factors set USC back in its recruiting process this season, something even Holtz has admitted. Two months is just not enough time to carefully select your coaching staff and hit the recruiting trail with all cylinders firing.

Up against considerable impediments, Holtz really had just one thing going for him: His name just happens to be Lou Holtz. The benefits of his legendary reputation were most apparent in USC's out-of-state recruiting success. Tailback Ryan Brewer (Ohio's Mr. Football), fullback Andrew Pinnock (Connecticut's Mr. Football) and 6-6, 290-pound New Jersey offensive lineman Shane Hall all became interested in South Carolina some time during the first week of December. Hmmm.

Another important signee is standout defensive lineman Cleveland Pinckney, a Sumter native who committed to USC coming out of high school but had to spend two years in junior college for academic reasons. Pinckney (6-2, 285) and C.J. Frye (the 6-3, 285-pound son of USC's track and field coach, Curtis Frye) should provide USC with some much-needed size on the defensive line.

Clearly, though, Palmetto running back Derek Watson was the coup of USC's "Class of 2002." A big (6-1, 205), bruising back with excellent speed, footwork and vision, Watson (South Carolina's Mr. Football) flip-flopped between Carolina and Tennessee before settling on the Gamecocks at the 11th hour. Last year's Shrine Bowl MVP scored 88 touchdowns in his high school career and amassed a state-record 6,766 yards.

Derek Watson sent a message to people, Hey, I could have gone anywhere in the country, and I chose to come to South Carolina," Holtz said. While USC's newest class probably won't make more than one or two "Top 25" lists, it will probably go down in history as the most talented ever to sign with a 1-10 program.

Thank you, Lou Holtz. For the first time in four years, Gamecock football is finally moving in the right direction again.

Gamecocks shot down by Bulldogs

by Jared Kelowitz
Senior Writer

After Saturday evening's 80-56 shellacking of the USC men's basketball team at the hands of Georgia, Gamecock fans have to be thinking two things.

First, "How 'bout that USC equestrian team?" The second thought would reiterate that Nike commercial with Spike Lee saying, "St. Ignatius eighth-grade girls basketball — it's fantastic!"

The loss to the Bulldogs effectively destroys USC's chances of being in a postseason tournament, barring a miracle SEC Tournament performance at season's end.

Georgia didn't waste any time getting ahead of the Gamecocks. By the

15:00 mark, the 'Dawgs had jumped out to an 11-4 lead on the strength of some solid 3-point shooting and a harassing defense. Five minutes later, D. A. Layne hit the third of his eight 3-pointers in the game to stretch the UGA lead to 16, 24-8.

After another 10 minutes of agony, the Gamecocks found themselves on the short end of a 26-9 run, leaving them with a 25-point halftime deficit (51-26) and Georgia most definitely on their minds.

The 6-foot-2 freshman sensation Layne goes by the initials often used as an abbreviation for district attorney. On this night, Layne would play the role of judge, though, as he sent USC's hopes of a winning season to death row. The point guard might have had the shooting performance

of his career Saturday, or maybe he had just never been that open before in his life. Whatever it was, Layne was 8-of-11 from long range and poured in 26 points. Even before Saturday, Layne had been having a solid season, averaging just over 12 points, two rebounds and two assists per game, but nothing like this.

"D. A. Layne is going to be a great player in a few years. Even right now he is very good," USC's BJ McKie said. "He was making shots from all over the court tonight. A few times, he was open, but even with a man in his face, he was still nailing his threes."

At halftime, USC's performance looked like it would surpass the Syracuse game for ugliness, but the Gamecocks made a dramatic improvement in the second half, capped by an 18-

4 run leading up to the three-minute mark of the game. That run was begun by Damien Kinloch, who at the 13:14 mark made a nice turnaround jumper in the paint. Ten minutes later, Kinloch ended the run with a pretty layup off the break. The freshman ultimately had one of his most impressive outputs of the season, scoring 11 points and grabbing six boards.

Another USC freshman who helping with the scoring duties was guard Jamel Bradley, who ended the first half 2-of-2 from downtown and finished the game with six points. After looking like the only Gamecock who could shoot a basketball in the first half, some might have wondered why he was taken out.

"Jamel Bradley is going to be a great player," USC coach Eddie Fogler said. "He is already a good shooter, he just needs to learn to take better care of the ball and get stronger, as well."

One player who might have been overlooked amid all the active freshman play Saturday was McKie. In the first half, he was a dismal 3-of-8 from the field, with almost as many turnovers as points. But before fans at Stegeman Coliseum began jingling the keys to their John Deere tractors chanting, "It's all over," McKie gave USC fans yet another thrill this season. He scored nine points in the second half, surpassing the 13 he needed for the game, to become Carolina's first-ever 2,000-point scorer.

Inconsistency remains a problem for Carolina

by Michael Strickland
Senior Writer

Inconsistent. If there's one word to describe this year's USC basketball team, that's it. Only a week ago, the Gamecocks were on a mini-winning streak of two games.

Modest, yes, but a winning streak nonetheless.

However, after the permanent suspension of forward LeRon Williams and a drubbing at the hands of the Auburn Tigers, USC hoped to rebound on the road Saturday against Georgia. It didn't happen.

On Saturday, nine Top 25 teams fell to defeat, officially making it Upset Weekend for this year. Apparently, Athens, Ga., got its immunization shot early.

Why else could USC not muster any semblance of a challenge to the Bulldogs? That could be attributed to Carolina's no-show of team defense in the first half.

Bulldog freshman D. A. Layne's eyes lit up when he discovered no one from USC's 2-3 zone defense could get a hand in his face, and he nailed 6-of-8 3-pointers in the first half alone. The USC zone was slow and stationary much of the night.

Georgia also utilized their team speed to out-move the Gamecocks for open shots.

The Bulldogs shot 62.5 percent (10-of-16) from long range in the first half. USC coach Eddie Fogler had preached to his players in practice not to allow Layne any flat-footed looks at the basket, but the point guard was adorned with open attempts.

Layne's running mate Jumaine Jones was equally responsible for the 25-point halftime deficit. Jones tallied 12 points on 3-of-6 shooting. From that point on, the Stegeman Coliseum crowd watched in agony

as the two teams played out the string of a terribly lopsided game.

"They shot the ball very well, and we're a team that has a hard time scoring," Fogler said. That combination of traits spelled doom for the Gamecock faithfuls, as USC tumbled to 7-15 overall and 2-8 in SEC play. With the win, Georgia climbed to 14-9, 5-6 in league play.

But you can't say the Gamecocks quit on the floor, something that would've been easy to do. With 11:34 to play, USC trailed 69-35. In the final 10 minutes, though, USC trimmed the margin to as low as 73-53. In fact, USC won the second half by a single point, 30-29.

That fact is a testament to senior BJ McKie, who became the first USC player to tally 2,000 points in a career. McKie, the school's all-time free-throw leader as well, reached the milestone with 2:18 left at the foul line.

What now for the Gamecocks? The schedule shows no mercy as the SEC beat goes on. On Wednesday, an angry Arkansas team comes to Frank McGuire Arena stinging from a four-point loss at Vanderbilt. Razorback sharpshooter Pat Bradley probably noticed the performance of Layne on Saturday.

Next weekend, USC heads to Kentucky. The Wildcats, 62-58 losers at Alabama on Saturday, will have had a full week of coach Tubby Smith without a game. Smith will have the Cats pouncing in Rupp Arena.

"We've just got to keep our heads up and stay positive," McKie said. "We're a struggling basketball team, but we've got to keep playing hard."

Bill proposed to change date of USC-Clemson game

by Todd Money
Sports Copy Editor

The old state football tradition of "Big Thursday" could be coming back, albeit with a few major changes, if one congressman has his way.

Rep. John Graham Altman, R-Charleston, has sponsored a bill in the South Carolina House that would require that the annual Carolina-Clemson game be played Thanksgiving Day every season, on a home-and-home basis, starting in 2000.

"I think it will have a good result," Altman said. "I come from the Big Thursday background ... it would be great for the state and get us some national attention."

The annual "Big Thursday" game, where South Carolina and Clemson met in Columbia on the Thursday of the week of the State Fair in October, was discontinued after 1959 and moved to a home-and-home affair on a Saturday.

The two schools have played one another on the last Saturday of the season for both teams nearly every year since then.

Altman, a former cheerleader at USC, doesn't think holding the big game on a national holiday would hurt the tradition of families coming together or the reputation of the intrastate rivalry.

If anything, he said, interest in the game could be heightened, with the contest rising to a marketable level not unlike the two NFL games traditionally played on television on Thanksgiving afternoon.

"Carolina-Clemson's going to fill any stadium, anywhere, anytime," he said. "Why not make it a showcase for the state?"

According to Kerry Tharp, USC assistant athletic director for media and public relations, the possibility is one worth looking into.

"If you're looking to move a game of that magnitude ... then you would need to be assured of some kind of national exposure," he said.

But Trey Walker, executive director of the state Republican Party, called the bill a "bad idea" and said the chances of its passing are "slim to none."

Walker warned against state government trying to manage the affairs of collegiate athletics departments.

"The [S.C.] General Assembly has better things to do," he said.

"We've got some high-quality, intelligent people in the [USC] athletics department now, and we need to leave them alone," Walker added.

On potential reaction to the bill by fans and students, Tharp said, "I'm sure there would be a faction that would be very much in favor of it, and others would take some adjustments to it."

Altman said he thinks any criticism of the bill would come from those concerned about having to change their holiday schedules to be able to watch or attend the game.

However, he said, "All the reaction I've heard has been very positive."

The congressman was adamant about leaving the decision up to those in charge at the two schools. "The [USC and Clemson] athletics directors will have to put their heads together and decide what to do," he said.

Tharp echoed Altman's statements, saying, "I'm sure it's a situation we'd have to [look into]. When you make a big adjustment like that, you have to make sure ... it's in the best interests of the university and everyone involved."

University President John Palms, USC Athletics Director Mike McGee and Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpoatlian couldn't be reached for comment.