

GOLF

•The men's and women's golf teams placed nine individuals on the 1999 SEC Gold Academic Honor Roll. The Gamecocks and Vanderbilt each had nine - more than any other team.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

•The 16th-ranked women's tennis squad fell to No. 3 Duke, 7-2, Wednesday afternoon at Maxcy Gregg Tennis Center.

Sports

SCHEDULE

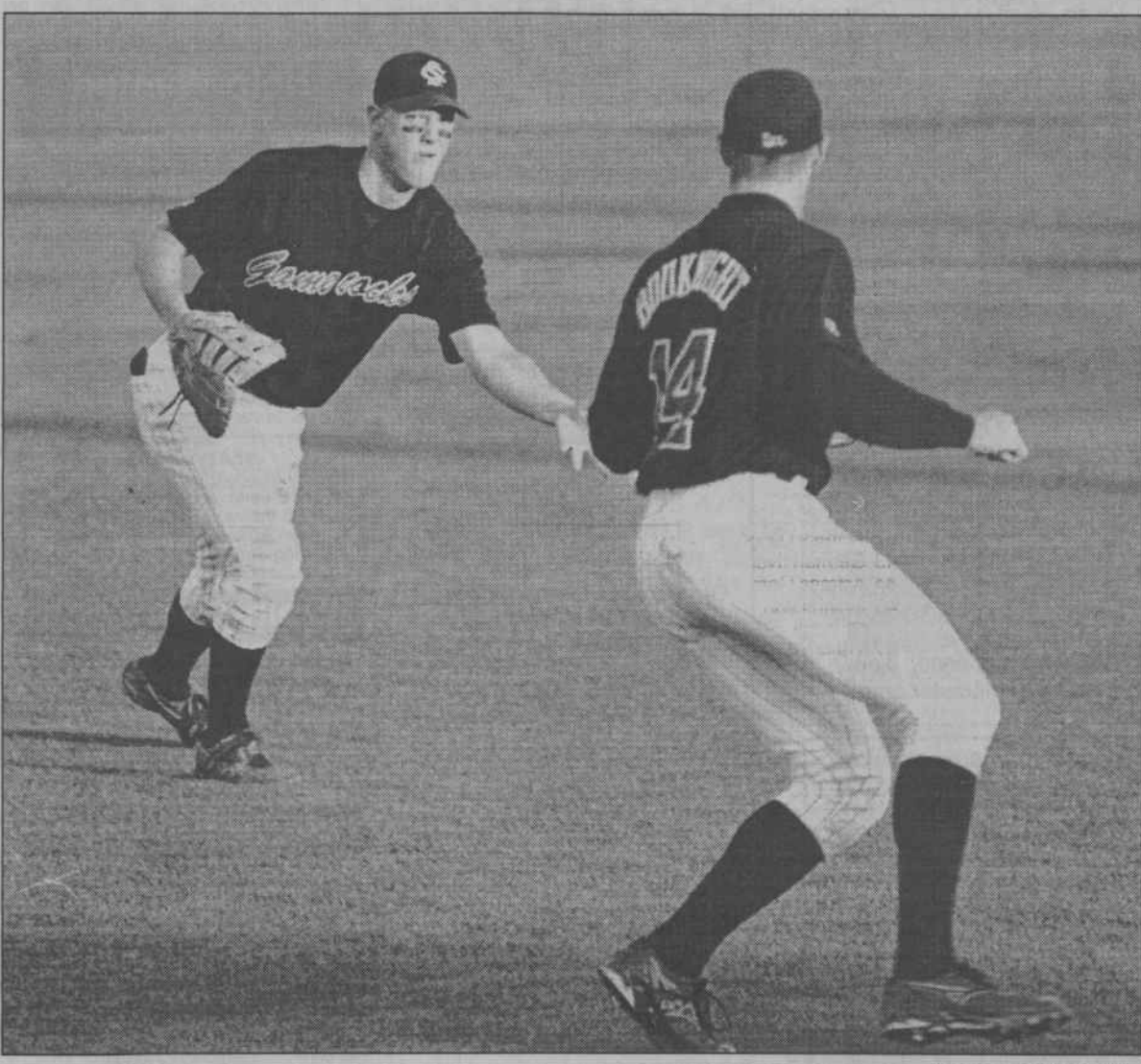
•Baseball vs. Auburn, 7 p.m. today at Sarge Frye Field.
•Football Spring Game, 1 p.m. Saturday at Williams Brice Stadium.

FROM THE SIDELINES

"Patience will need to become a virtue of mine ... but it never has been."

-Coach Lou Holz, on spring football practice

Errors, mistakes cost Carolina game, 8-7



First baseman Trey Dyson flips the ball to a running Kip Bouknight, who covers first base in the first inning of Carolina's 8-7 loss to the Clemson Tigers on Wednesday.

by Jared Kelowitz
Assistant Sports Editor

After hosting rival Clemson on Wednesday, the Gamecock baseball team left the field feeling blue, or maybe feeling purple and orange, much like every other USC sports team this year.

In Sarge Frye Field's biggest turnout of the year, 5,114, the Gamecocks were edged by the Tigers, 8-7.

Although Carolina (24-12, 8-6 in the SEC), started All-American Kip Bouknight to oppose ACC star Ryan Mottl, the game wasn't a pitchers' duel.

And, even though the two teams featured 14 batters hitting over the .300 plateau, the contest wasn't an offensive barnburner either.

No, this game came down to the little things, the fundamental aspects every high school coach in the country stresses.

Things like smarts on the basepaths, properly executing a rundown, and blocking wild pitches became major problems on this evening, especially for USC.

Three of Clemson's eight runs were courtesy of errors, including the winning score in the top of the eighth inning.

USC's problems began in the third, when it handed Clemson three runs to add to the 2-0 lead the Tigers had already mounted.

Clemson center fielder Henri Stanley started off the inning with a single, and the top Major League Baseball prospect for 2000, Pat Boyd, followed suit.

After a sacrifice bunt by Kurt Bultman and an intentional walk to slugger Jason Harris, the Tigers had loaded the bases.

Then, the first of two passed balls by USC's Marcos Rios allowed Stanley to score his team's third run.

After that, what was quite possibly the strangest play of either team's season occurred.

On a strikeout of the Tigers' Brian Ellis, Boyd inadvertently got caught in a pickle between third and home.

At that point, the Gamecocks could have used Johnny Bench's "Baseball Bunch video" on how to execute a rundown.

Instead of creating a clear path for the throw's flight, USC third baseman Bryon Jeffcoat hastily pegged Boyd with the ball, which deflected into the home dugout, allowing two more runs to score.

This left Carolina at the wrong end of a 5-0 total after three innings.

In the fourth, the Gamecocks cut the deficit to three runs when, with Adam Poe aboard, Tim Angiolini went deep for his seventh home run of the season.

Clemson built the lead back up to 7-2 when shortstop Bradley LeCroy jacked a two-run blast with two outs in the top of the sixth.

USC then got back within three in the bottom of that inning when Shane Nelson returned the favor with a two-run job of his own.

This started a Carolina rally that ended in five runs and the score knotted at 7.

That tie would last until the top of the eighth.

Ellis led off the inning with a double for Clemson, and Khalil Greene followed with a walk.

A sacrifice bunt moved both runners up one base and got the Tigers in position to break the game open.

Strangely enough, it wasn't a blistering base hit or even a Texas League pop fly that scored Ellis, it was yet another miscue.

A strikeout of CU's Jason Singleton by Lee Gronkiewicz turned into a wild pitch, and Carolina fell to the hated Tigers again.

"We haven't caught as well as I would like for us to, and it certainly led to one of their runs tonight," USC coach Ray Tanner said.

After the game, it appeared that certain calls by the umpiring crew could have had an impact on the final result.

In the bottom of the seventh, with the score tied, Nelson appeared to beat out an infield single, but the first-base umpire enraged the home crowd and Tanner by calling him out.

The next hitter, Jeffcoat, doubled and ended up at third on a passed ball, which probably would have scored Nelson and given USC the lead.

"I have a policy where I won't run across the field to argue a close call, but that one wasn't even close," Tanner said.

"I'm not going to say that the call cost us the game, it certainly didn't, but he clearly missed the call," he said.

Singleton: 'Will Cleveland buy itself a Couch?'



Shawn Singleton
Singleton 3:16

Before I start this week's air strike, I would like to address a couple of things. It still ain't my fault that some of you accept mediocrity at this university.

If you people can do any better, we would love to have you as a writer, for we really do need more sportswriters. Otherwise, people who reside in domiciles made of melted sand should not pitch granite.

Translated into my terms, the complaint department is still in the same place.

With the NFL draft just a day away, everyone wants to know who will go first.

Will Cleveland buy itself a Couch, or will they go for the dreadlocked Heisman winner with the first pick? Coach Chris Palmer doesn't like the hitch in Couch's delivery and Williams

has lost 20 pounds, making Carmen Policy's decision very difficult.

Three quarterbacks will most likely go with the first three picks for the first time since 1971, when Jim Plunkett, Archie Manning and Dan Pastorini went 1-2-3. The Browns will probably get Couch.

Philadelphia has given up on getting Ricky Williams and will most likely take Syracuse's Donovan McNabb.

Oregon's Akili Smith has the strongest arm in the draft and will probably go to the Bengals with the third pick.

Williams is definitely the most coveted runner in years.

He's so coveted, the 'Aints of Nouvelle Orleans are willing to trade their entire team for him, including all their draft picks.

With Thursday's trade of Marshall Faulk to the Rams, Williams will most likely be wearing Colt blue next year, for Indianapolis picks fourth.

The only real drama for this pick happens when the Irays meet Master P. Now that gets an "Ughh."

Does this mean that if Williams doesn't get his signing bonus, Mr. Miller will pull out his tank and call the rest of his soldiers?

Champ Bailey might be the best athlete in the draft. The Redskins love him and will most likely take him with the fifth pick.

If by some chance Bailey isn't around by then, look for the Deadskins to trade down. However, with the blockbuster trade that has been mentioned lately, that might not be the case.

They also want Miami's Edgerrin James, and might take him.

Why does Washington want another running back?

They already have two good ones in Terry Allen and Skip Hicks. If they do draft James, then what becomes of them?

This has the potential to be as idiotic as the Clemson student that mistook railroad tracks for a crosswalk.

Those Rams still have the sixth pick and will probably take Arizona's All-American cornerback Chris McAllister with it.

However, with the trade of Eddie Kennison, they might take N.C.State's Torry Holt to fill that void.

The Bears have the seventh selection this year. They really wanted McNabb, but look for them to take Central Florida's Daunte Culpepper.

However, the Patriots want to trade up into the top 10, and Chicago has had thoughts of entertaining a trade with them.

Because of the Brad Johnson trade, Minnesota might be the most dangerous team in this draft.

Look for it to be the first team to take defense in the draft, either McAllister or Florida's Jevon Kearse. Both of these players would be immediate starters and possible impact players very early.

Cade McNown might be the best quarterback left in the draft, at this point.

If he's still around by the 15th pick, Tampa Bay will take him. San Francisco loves him, but he will be well gone by then.

Bill Walsh doesn't see Jim Druckenmiller as the 49ers' future, so expect them to try to

pull off a trade to move up to get that quarterback of the future.

Syracuse's Rob Konrad is the best fullback in the draft. Look for my New York Giants to pick him with the 16th pick. However, they already have Charles Way. My apologies to Eben Banks, but Way might not be the way, and instead be excommunicated from Giant Degeneration X.

Konrad is an excellent blocker, a powerful runner and the best pass receiver of all the fullbacks available.

Don't expect too much defense to go until the second round. Many teams will get steals in the later rounds on that side of the ball.

North Carolina's Dre Bly's stock has dropped so far that most draft insiders predict him to go anywhere between the third and fifth rounds. Whoever picks him will get a quality cover corner.

Tune in next week, as Don Singleton proves why he's still one of only two USC students on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List.

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The Gamecock

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Life (R)	1:00, 1:45, 3:30, 4:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:25, 10:00
Matrix (R)	1:35, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
Forces of Nature (PG-13)	2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35
The Corrupter (R)	2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25
Twin Dragons (R)	1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30
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