

TRACK AND FIELD

Terrence Trammell won the 110-meter hurdles on the last day of the Penn Relays on Sunday. Brad Snyder also won the shot put event Friday.

Sports

FROM THE SIDELINES

• Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records.

—William A. Ward

Monday, April 26, 1999

The Gamecock

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Best and worst headlines



William Folks
Common Folklore

Last week, my brother and I were hanging out together when young "Slim" (as he's known by his friends) offered me a bit of unsolicited commentary regarding my column.

"You know, Bill," he told me, "your articles would be a lot better if you quit talking about that girl tennis player all the time."

Well you know, Slim, you're right. I've actually heard that more than a few times myself, to be perfectly honest.

However, as no Common Folklore installment would be complete without a token Leigh Eichelberger reference, and as I found myself in dire need of an intro for this week's piece (believe me, it's no fun encountering writer's block on the last column of your collegiate career), I figured, why not?

Also, I thought maybe if I put her name closer to the front this time, she might actually see it and immediately recognize from the handsome picture above (yeah, right) that I am indeed the proverbial "man of her dreams," a witty and well-connected GQ-type whose limitless creativity and boundless vision will one day launch a sports publishing empire that dominates the entire globe.

You know, I'd even consider building her a tennis arena in the backyard. Ah, sweet dementia.

But, forsaking my megalomaniacal delusions for just a moment, this has been an extraordinarily difficult week to write a column.

First, the Carolina community lost one of its best and brightest minds last week when Brian Ewing, managing director of USC's award-winning MIBS program, died of a sudden heart attack at the program's annual banquet.

In addition to his leadership role in MIBS, Ewing had been instrumental in planning the program's 25th anniversary celebration and securing top internships for its students. A kind, principled, honest, Christian businessman and devoted family man, his loss is enormous, not just for the Darla Moore School of Business, but for the university and the state of South Carolina as a whole.

Adding to this loss were the tragic high-school killings in Colorado, the chopper crash in Kentucky that left seven servicemen dead, and perhaps most disturbing, the escalation of the war in Kosovo, where it now appears the insertion of ground troops into the struggle is imminent.

All in all, it has been a pretty tough week.

But, as I do have a job to do, and because, in some convoluted sense, it's the collective function of the sports world to relieve the stress and strains of our burdensome "real world," Common Folklore is proud to unveil (as advertised) its best and worst headlines from the past two years of "reporting."

Best Headlines — USC Sports
Ladies and gentlemen, we have a tie. At the time, I couldn't decide whether I was happier that Lou Holtz had been hired or that Brad Scott had been fired. Certainly the *Gamecock* headline from last Nov. 30, "The Search Is On," summed up both emotions for me.

In that article, I put my journalistic credibility (Yes, I do possess a modicum of that) on the line when I wrote, "Lou Holtz will be named South Carolina's new head football coach, possibly as soon as this week."

While the knuckleheads over at *The State* feuded over their vacillating sources, my secret insider (whom I refer to fondly as "Holtz-throat") never wavered.

Sure enough, Friday of that week rolled around and Holtz was hired, though you never would have known it from reading *The State*, whose headline that Friday morning read, "Holtz says yes — maybe." Memo to numbskulls: Never run a 40-point header that includes the word "maybe." Maybe we should watch out for these

Carolina takes weekend series from Georgia

by Todd Money
Sports Copy Editor

A lot can happen in a week. Just ask Carolina's Lady Gamecock softball team, which just eight days ago found itself in the throes of a seven-game losing streak after being blanked in perhaps its most crucial series of the year.

Now, the proverbial tables have turned. After sweeping division rival Georgia (25-23, 9-11 in the SEC) in a four-game set Friday and Saturday, Joyce Compton's squad is back where it wants to be — at the top of the division.

Not that the Lady Gamecocks (43-16, 14-10 SEC) weren't tested. All four games were clinics in pitching, with USC winning 1-0 and 3-1 Friday and 2-0 and 1-0 Saturday.

Game 1 featured starters Megan Matthews for USC and Natalie Price for the Bulldogs. Price was effective, pitching six innings of six-hit ball and allowing just one run.

Matthews was even better, though, shutting out the Bulldogs and through seven innings and not walking a batter, while striking out 11.

Carolina's run came on an RBI double by left fielder Joyce McMillin in the second inning that plated catcher Adrienne Genovese.

The second game was most notable for Compton as she nailed her 600th win as USC coach. Compton got her 800th career win earlier this season.

Nikki Beers gave up one run on four hits through seven innings, while striking out nine.

Megan Donahoo had an RBI single in the second, and later scored on an error by UGA catcher Sabrina Pimentel. USC never looked back.

Matthews got her second start in Game 3 of the series. In a game that lasted just one hour and 13 minutes, Matthews and Bulldog starter Price went the distance again, but the USC freshman had the support of her offense this time.

In the fourth, McMillin lifted a triple to score senior Kim Pietro, who had reached on a triple to center field. An insurance run for USC came in the



Sean Rayford Photo Editor

USC right fielder Jamie Williams makes the last out Friday in Game 2 of Carolina's weekend series against SEC East rival Georgia. The No. 16 Lady Gamecocks won that game 3-1 and swept the four-game series to return to the top of the division standings.

sixth, when Genovese doubled to right, knocking in Kendra McCutcheon.

Price (18-12) took the loss despite allowing only five hits over six innings. Matthews notched her 23rd win of the year, striking out six, walking none and giving up three hits in seven innings.

Game 4 would be the series' second gutwrencher. The Bulldogs sent out left-hander Shana Coffelt to pitch, while the Lady Gamecocks again countered with Beers.

Coffelt gave up two singles in the first, but she soon settled down. Beers proved just as solid, and through 5 1-

2 innings, neither team managed a runner past second base.

In the bottom of the sixth, however, things got interesting. After USC's McCutcheon lined out, second baseman Kim Schultze got aboard with her second single.

Pietro followed with another single, bringing up McMillin. When a Coffelt pitch dove into the dirt and got past Pimentel, the runners advanced to second and third with only one out.

To set up the force play, Georgia put McMillin on, loading the bases. Surprisingly, the Bulldogs then brought back Price, a right-hander, to pitch to the left-handed hitting Genovese, who

suddenly had another chance to come up big.

This time, she wouldn't have to. A pitch from Price sailed away from Pimentel and got all the way to the backstop.

Carolina's Schultze scored easily, and when Matthews shut the door on the Bulldogs in the seventh, USC had pulled out another gem.

"We just seem to get hits at the right time to win," Schultze explained afterward.

"We needed a four-game sweep," Compton said. "We came in and Nikki and Megan both threw real well all weekend.

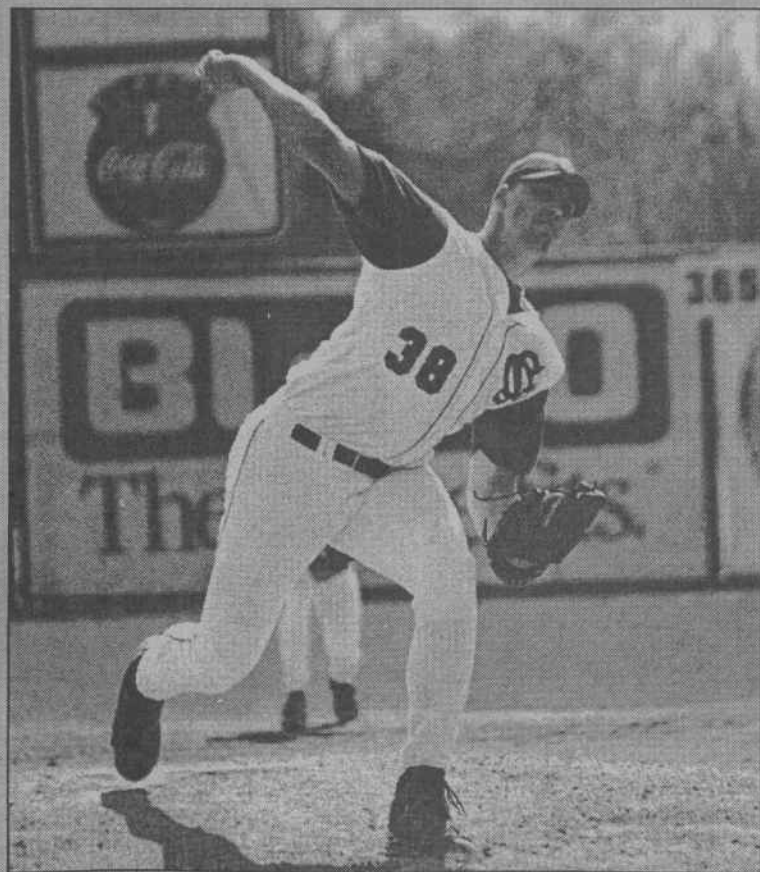
"In [Game 4], we really didn't hit the ball all that well," Compton said. "But we did put a couple together when it counted and took advantage of a mistake."

The No. 16 Gamecocks now are percentage points ahead of Tennessee (9-7 SEC) in the East, and look to at least maintain their No. 3 spot in the NCAA's South Region, whose rankings come out again this week.

"We still have to get some help down the road, and we still have to play four more good games," Compton said.

"But we're somewhat in the driver's seat, I think, right now."

Florida chomps down on USC, takes two in weekend series



Sean Rayford Photo Editor

Peter Bauer throws a strike against Florida earlier this season. USC lost two of three to the Gators on the road this weekend.

Sports Roundup

The Gamecock

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — After winning the first game 16-15, in this weekend's three game series, the Gamecocks managed to drop their next two, and end the week at an overall mark of 29-15, and at 12-9 in the SEC.

Kurt Keene singled home Mark Ellis in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Florida a 5-4 win over South Carolina Sunday.

The Gators (27-18, 9-12 Southeastern Conference) trailed 4-2 in the ninth, but tied the game with David Klebonis' ground out — which knocked in Matt Siegel — and Greg Catalanotte's bases-loaded walk.

Keene, who had been hitless for the day, then singled to right field off a pitch from Jason Pomar to end the game. The victory gave the Gators their first SEC series win since the end of March. The Gamecocks (29-15, 12-9) led 3-0 after the first inning and 4-0 after Tim Angiolini's RBI single in the fourth. Angiolini led South Carolina with two hits and a pair of RBIs.

South Carolina starter Pete Bauer took a one-hitter into the seventh, but gave up back-to-back hits before giving way to Pomar. Pomar (2-2) pitched

2 2/3 innings, allowing three runs on five hits and three walks. Florida reliever Ben Grezlovski (8-5) picked up his second win in as many days. He tossed 3 1/3 scoreless innings.

In Game 2 Greg Catalanotte blasted a three-run home run and Ben Grezlovski shut down the Gamecocks line-up to power Florida over No. 20 South Carolina 8-4 Saturday night in the second game of the three-game series at McKethan Stadium.

Florida (26-18, 8-12) trailed 4-3 in the bottom of the sixth inning when Catalanotte came to the plate after singles by Taylor Wood and Matt Heath. Catalanotte hit his second three-run homer in two days and his 15th of the season to put the Gators up for good. Ben Grezlovski (7-5) picked up the victory by pitching one-hit ball over four relief innings. He came in for starter Sergio Rodriguez with no outs in the fifth, the bases loaded, and Florida ahead 3-2.

Grezlovski got Nate Janowicz to chop to Kurt Keene at third. Keene stepped on third base to force one runner and then fired home to retire another.

USC did not blow the opportunity, though, as Adam Poe laced a double to left to score two and put the Gamecocks up 4-3. Rodriguez, mak-

ing his first start of the season, pitched well allowing only a solo home run to Bryon Jeffcoat and a first-inning single until the fifth. USC starter Kip Bouknight (6-3) struck out 10 Gators but allowed seven runs and 11 hits to earn the loss.

Florida scored their first three runs in the third to take an early 3-1 lead. Catalanotte doubled and scored on a passed ball. Mike Floyd singled home Keene, and Peter Nystrom scored the final run of the inning on a Bouknight wild pitch.

UF added two insurance runs in the bottom of the eighth, capitalizing on two USC errors. With two outs and two on, Keene chopped to USC pitcher Jamie Poston.

Poston threw wild to first allowing Heath to score. Right fielder Poe, who was backing up the play, then threw wild to the plate allowing Catalanotte to score the game's final run.

In the first game, Tim Angiolini went 3-for-5 with two home runs and seven RBIs as South Carolina edged Florida 15-14 in a Southeastern Conference game Friday night.

Angiolini hit a three-run homer in the first inning and added a grand slam — his 10th home run of the season — in the Gamecocks' six-run fourth.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



BEERS

• **NIKKI BEERS**
• Beers, a senior softball pitcher, allowed just one run over 12 innings in the team's weekend sweep of Georgia. She picked up two wins on the week, improving her record to 10-3. The Lady Gamecocks are 16-4 when Beers starts.

USC tennis teams fall in SEC tournaments

by Brock Vergakis
Sports Editor

USC's men's and women's tennis teams were both ousted Saturday from their respective SEC tournaments, with each picking up just one win in semifinal competition.

The No. 19 men lost to LSU in the men's tournament in Gainesville, Fla., ending the first trip to the conference semifinals for the men since joining the SEC in 1992.

After reaching the semifinals in the women's tournament in Baton Rouge, La., the Lady Gamecocks fell to top-seeded and defending national champion Florida.

For the men, Guillaume Legat was the only Gamecock to win in singles competition. He won handily, defeat-

ing LSU's Ed Rubin 6-0, 6-2. Jerome Jourdon, Olof Akesson and Tomasz Wawrzyniak all lost in singles matches against the Tigers.

In doubles play, the team of Legat-Akesson was the lone victor for Carolina, winning 8-4.

USC finishes up at 17-11 on the year. The Gamecocks must now wait on the NCAA to find out about post-season play.

Regionals will be held May 15-17. Should the Gamecocks win their regional, they would advance to the finals in Athens, Ga., May 22-30.

The women had just as difficult a time with the Gators as the men did with the Tigers. Leigh Eichelberger defeated M.C. White of Florida, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, in USC's lone victory.

Celine Regnier and Jennifer Radman were the only other Carolina play-

ers to force a third set with the Gators. Doubles matches were not played.

"They [Florida] played well, and I thought we played well," USC coach Arlo Elkins said.

"I think we really closed the gap on them from the first time we played them. If things would have worked well, we could have been 3-all or even up 4-2 going into doubles."

The Lady Gamecocks finish their season with a record of 16-7 (7-6 in SEC play).

With the victory, Florida is guaranteed no less than a tie for an SEC championship.

The Lady Gamecocks will find out from the NCAA on May 5, when the regional matchups are set, on whether they have made postseason play.