

KIM PIETRO

•Softball senior Kim Pietro was named to the Louisville Slugger All-America first team. Pietro led the Lady Gamecocks in batting with a .419 average.

SPORTS

SCHEDULE

•Men's golf at the NCAA championships from Wednesday to Saturday in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
•Track and field at the NCAA championships from Wednesday to Saturday in Boise, Idaho.

Wednesday, June 2, 1999

The Gamecock

Page 9

Wooden bats are needed



CHARLIE WALLACE
From the editor's desk

21-14, 38-16, 25-4, 26-5.

At first glance, these four sets of scores look like an average Saturday college football scoreboard, but they're not. The last two scores involve South Carolina teams that played just a few days ago in the NCAA Baseball Tournament.

Imagine picking up the morning paper and reading that Southern California beat Arizona State 21-14, or that Carolina beat Clemson 38-16, which was the case a few years back.

One would think, "Football in June?"

Of course not.

Two teams playing football in the summer is about as ridiculous as two teams scoring a combined 35 runs in a single baseball game. Oddly enough, it happened last summer in a contest that was far from ordinary. The final score of the 1998 College World Series championship game was 21-14, as Southern Cal. overpowered Arizona State in a game that broke all kinds of CWS records.

In the aftermath of this fiasco, the NCAA tried its best to reconsider the murdering of the great American pastime by its lifelong enemy: the aluminum bat.

After months of bickering in the off-season, the NCAA came up with a decision that would basically take speed off a ball hit with an aluminum bat.

The exact measurement formula that the NCAA used to decipher how to scale down the power of the bats is more confusing than the procedures used for USC's sorority rush.

In fact, it's so idiotic that a week into this year's NCAA tournament, scores have remained the same, and averages haven't declined at all.

The NCAA is once again involved in heated discussions about what to

WALLACE continued on page 11

Track and field headed to NCAA championships

Track Roundup

Special to The Gamecock

Carolina brought home two men's and five women's titles in 1999, including the 4x400 meter relay.

Hot off winning the SEC title, the USC women's team will send nine women to the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships Wednesday through Saturday in Boise, Idaho.

The Gamecock men will send eight participants, including Terrence Trammell and Brad Snyder, who are both No. 1 in the nation in their respective events.

The men were 11th last year, while the women finished seventh.

Indoors this year, the men were fourth, while the women finished 18th.

The USC women's team won the SEC Outdoor Track and Field Championship May 15, with the men finishing sixth.

On the men's side, Brad Snyder won his eighth SEC title, winning the shot put. Terrence Trammell shattered the SEC record to win the 110 meter hurdles.

Ellakisha Williamson won both the 100 meter and 400 meter hurdles

and ran a leg of the school record 4x400 meter relay team. Mikki Barber won her second consecutive SEC title in the 400 meter and ran the anchor leg of the relay.

Erin Narzinski won her second heptathlon in three years, and senior Michelle Fournier won South Carolina's fourth straight hammer title.

"We will be looking to finish in the top 10 this year. We finished 11th last year, and improving this year is our main goal. We would like to finish as high as we did indoors this year - fourth," head coach Curtis Frye said.

"We would like to bring home everybody as an All-American. If everyone comes back as an All-American and a personal best, we will be quite happy with where we finish."

"Stanford and Arkansas can score as much as 70 points. Auburn and SMU look to have the most points available. Southern Cal., Florida, Texas, Clemson and South Carolina - those teams are in the top 10.

Track is a sport where you either got it or you don't. You have got to



Ashton June Photo Editor

Erin Narzinski leads the women's track team into the NCAA's.

TRACK continued on page 11

Men's golf travels to Minneapolis

Golf Roundup

Special to The Gamecock

The 11th-ranked USC men's golf team, fresh off an impressive second-place showing at the NCAA East Regional, head today through Saturday to Chasta, Minn., to participate in the 1999 NCAA Men's Golf Championships at the Hazeltine National Golf Club.

The Gamecocks come into this year's event on somewhat of a roll, having finished in the top three in all but one of their eight tournaments in the spring, while racing past top-ranked Georgia and No. 3 Clemson in regional action to finish nine strokes behind Georgia Tech in the team competition.

Carolina heads to the NCAA's for the 10th time in school history and the fourth time in as many seasons under head coach Puggy

Blackmon.

The Gamecocks have been in "the show" eight times in the last 12 years, and the best finish ever for a USC team in the championships is eighth by the 1988 team in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Last year, the Gamecocks were in the top eight the first three days and seventh entering the final round, but finished in 11th place, within five strokes of tying the 1988 team for best finish ever.

Of the five players who participated for Carolina in last year's event, three (Kyle Thompson, Eric Ecker, Mark Catalano) are making a return trip to the NCAA's while two (Ecker and Catalano) are playing for the third time in as many years in the championships.

Also last year, the Gamecocks made the cut for the first time since the NCAA went to the "cut" format,

dropping the bottom 15 teams after the opening two rounds of the tournament.

Gamecock sophomore Kyle Thompson, quite possibly the nation's hottest golfer during the past six months, made an unprecedented move in the NCAA East Regionals in Barrington, R.I.

Down six strokes to Georgia Tech's Matt Kuchar with 18 holes to play, Thompson tied the course record held by PGA tour star Brad Faxon with an eight-under 63, including a six-under 30 on the back side, and captured medalist honors by one stroke over Kuchar. Thompson finished the tournament at five-under 208 to post his second win of the spring.



Special to The Gamecock

Sophomore Kyle Thompson and the men's golf team will travel Wednesday to Minneapolis, Minn.