

SPORTS

# Freshmen provide solace in loss

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SPORTS EDITOR

Anyone who looked only at the box score of Saturday's football game is probably thinking that it was the same old situation for USC.

But the Gamecocks' 36-10 loss to the Rebels of Ole Miss, while disheartening, wasn't a complete letdown. USC gave its fans a glimpse into an apparently bright future when coach Lou Holtz decided to start three freshmen in the backfield.

In his first collegiate start, quarterback Mikal Goodman completed eight of 15 passes for 147 yards, including a 39-yard bomb to Jermale Kelly. That pass set up the only Gamecock touchdown of the game and the first USC touchdown at Williams-Brice Stadium this season.

"I was very pleased with the way Mikal Goodman played," Holtz said. "He did some good things, like avoiding sacks, and threw some good passes in tough

situations."

Another freshman who got his first start at this level was highly touted full-back Andrew Pinnock. Pinnock, tabbed as Mr. Football in Connecticut last season, missed the first four games of the 1999 campaign because of eligibility requirements. He didn't waste time in making his presence felt against the Rebels. On just his sixth carry of the game, he rumbled three yards for USC's first and only touchdown.

Pinnock's game statistics, although not very impressive on the whole, didn't show the key blocks or the key 2- and 3-yard gains for third-down conversions. The 6-foot, 250-pound Pinnock, who runs a 4.6 in the 40-yard dash, has drawn comparisons to the likes of Jerome Bettis.

"One thing Andrew brings to our offense is power," fellow freshman Goodman said of Pinnock's stature. "I know one thing there won't be anymore of: those one-hand tackles."

The third freshman, and the one who

has become a household name, is Derek Watson. Though his rushing statistics were also mediocre, he showcased plenty of ability in Carolina's first four games.

"Considering how our offensive line played, I think Watson and Pinnock both did a good job," Holtz said. "I mean, they were pushing us all over the line of scrimmage. Ole Miss defenders were popping all over the back field, just like those little targets when you're in military training."

Although the three freshmen and the rest of the new-look Gamecocks are taking their lumps now, there could be bright things in this team's future. One person who sees a promising future is Holtz.

"I think in a few years, these three guys could be running our division," Holtz said. "As they continuously get beat on this year, they are getting better."

"By the time they get to where they want to be, they are going to appreciate it a lot more after a season like this."

## REBELS

from page 9

on the first play. Fullback Teddy Salters plowed into the Rebel line, losing the ball in the process, which was picked up by Ole Miss linebacker Al Rice and rumbled 37 yards untouched into the end zone.

Facing a 17-0 deficit early in the second quarter, USC needed a boost. The team received excellent field position from returner Boo Williams on the 50-yard line, but then misfortune hit the Gamecocks again. Williams was hit hard on the left knee and taken off the field with a torn mediate cruciate ligament. He didn't return and is expected to miss at least two weeks.

After a three-downs-and-punt possession, safety Sheldon Brown deflected a wide-open pass to Rebel receiver and SEC Offensive Player of the Week Cory Peterson that probably would have been a touchdown. The play, USC's biggest defensive effort of the game, started to turn the tide for the Gamecocks.

Miller rolled out and threw a screen

pass to end Maurice Flournoy, which USC safety Rashad Faison read perfectly and moved in for the tackle. Faison popped the ball loose, and Kalimba Edwards piled on top for a Carolina recovery.

On first down, Goodman threw a 39-yard pass to Kelly on the 12-yard line. After three runs to the 3-yard line, USC faced fourth-and-one for the first down. Goodman handed off to freshman back Andrew Pinnock, who was playing his first game after sitting out five weeks for NCAA Clearinghouse. Pinnock bulldozed through the hole and into the end zone for Carolina's first score.

Up 17-7 on Ole Miss' next possession, Gunn escaped for a 39-yard run around the left side. Seven plays later, Miller found Jamie Armstrong in the end zone for a touchdown, breaking Carolina's backs.

USC could only get three more points on a Steve Florio field goal, but Ole Miss, behind 393 yards of total offense, put up 12. After a safety stemming from a snap over the head of Goodman and out of the end zone, the final was 36-10.

"You don't have a chance if you don't play decent on offensive line," Holtz said. "We just got beat physically."

### STAFF REPORTS THE GAMECOCK

#### MEN'S SOCCER

The men's soccer team split its matches in the Philips/adidas Soccer Classic over the weekend, losing 2-0 to No. 15 St. John's on Friday and beating host No. 19 Rutgers on Sunday, 1-0.

USC improves to 5-3-2 with the win.

#### VOLLEYBALL

USC split conference road games over the weekend, winning over LSU, 3-1, and falling to No. 23 Arkansas, 3-0.

In the LSU game, senior Crystal Moore became one of only two Gamecocks to have 1,000 digs and 1,000 kills in her career, picking up her 1,000th dig on a pass to Megan Hosp.

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS

The doubles team of Leigh Eichelberger/Lynn Yin Tan won the Flight A Title and Tamara Sutton/Catherine Brown won the Flight B title Sunday at the Lady Gamecock Fall Classic.

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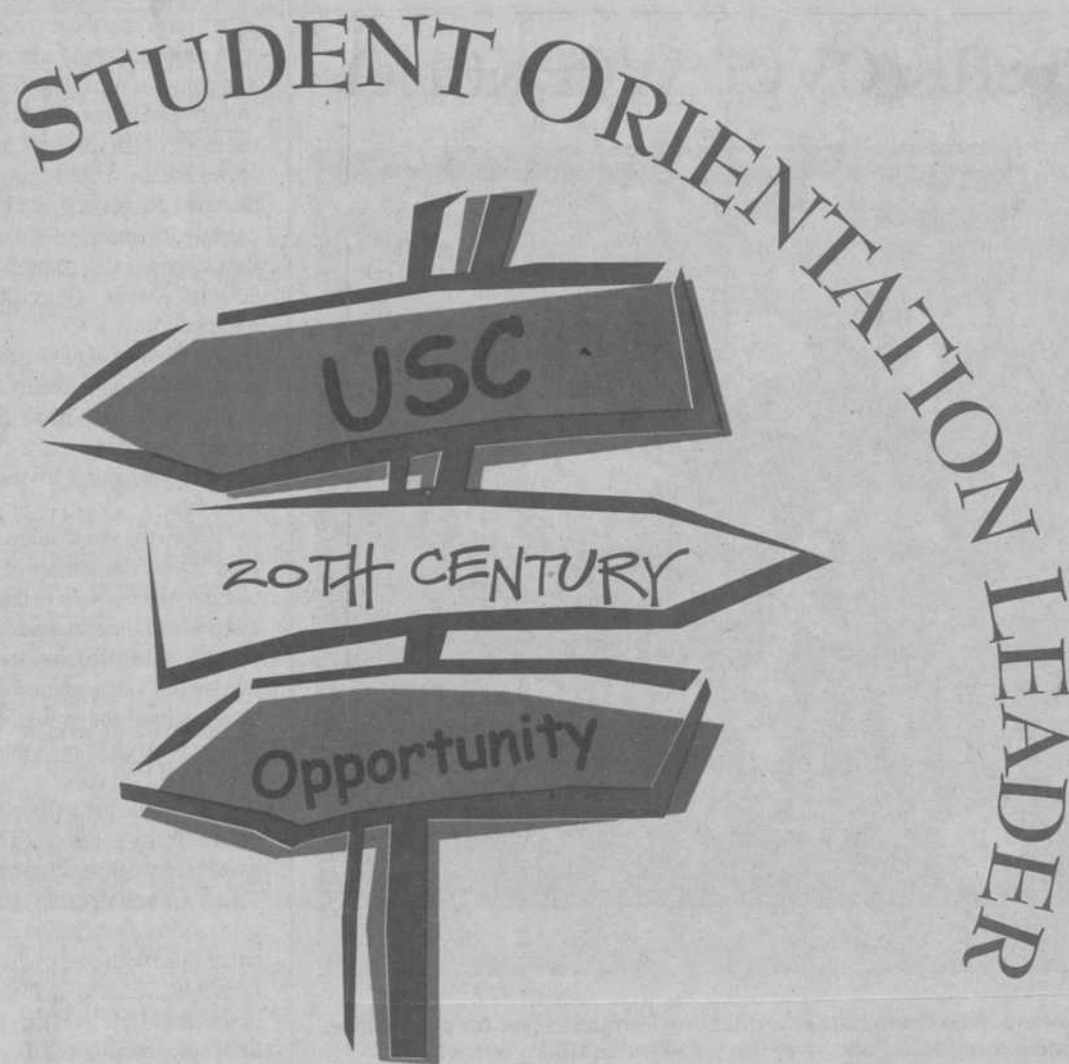
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Essays should discuss, in 500 words or less, how this quote relates to the Creed and to students at USC. All essays should be double spaced and should include a title page with the student's name and social security number as well as the submitting faculty member or instructor's name.

**The first place winner will receive \$500.**

Essays must be submitted by a faculty member and are due no later than October 18 at noon to the Office of Student Judicial Programs, 900 Assembly Street, Suite 103.

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