



USC SCHEDULE

- Women's soccer vs. Charleston, 7 p.m.
- Volleyball vs. Mississippi, Friday



Charlie Wallace
Senior Writer

FUMBLES, DEFENSIVE MISTAKES LEAD TO 36-10 LOSS

Rebels fire away at Carolina

BY DAVID CLONINGER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

South Carolina football fans finally got to see a championship team Saturday after 14 weeks of losing.

However, that team was only present for a 10-minute period during halftime, when USC honored the members of its 1969 ACC champion team. For the home fans, this was perhaps the only bright spot of the evening, as USC dropped its 15th consecutive game to the Mississippi Rebels, 36-10.

The loss dropped the Gamecocks to 0-5, 0-3 in the Southeastern Conference, and added on to the longest losing streak in NCAA Division I-A. Ole Miss, meanwhile, cruised to 4-1 (2-1 SEC).

Carolina, which has made a reputation for itself this year with its lack of offense and a sterling defense, suffered several defensive lapses during the game, which allowed Ole Miss' rushing tandem of Deuce McAllister and Joe Gunn to gain 192 combined yards. Rebel quarterback Romaro Miller had a career day, passing for 129 yards and one touchdown to continue his dominance of SEC quarterbacks in passing statistics.

USC head coach Lou Holtz, sitting with a down-trodden look at his press conference, had no answers for his team's miserable performance.

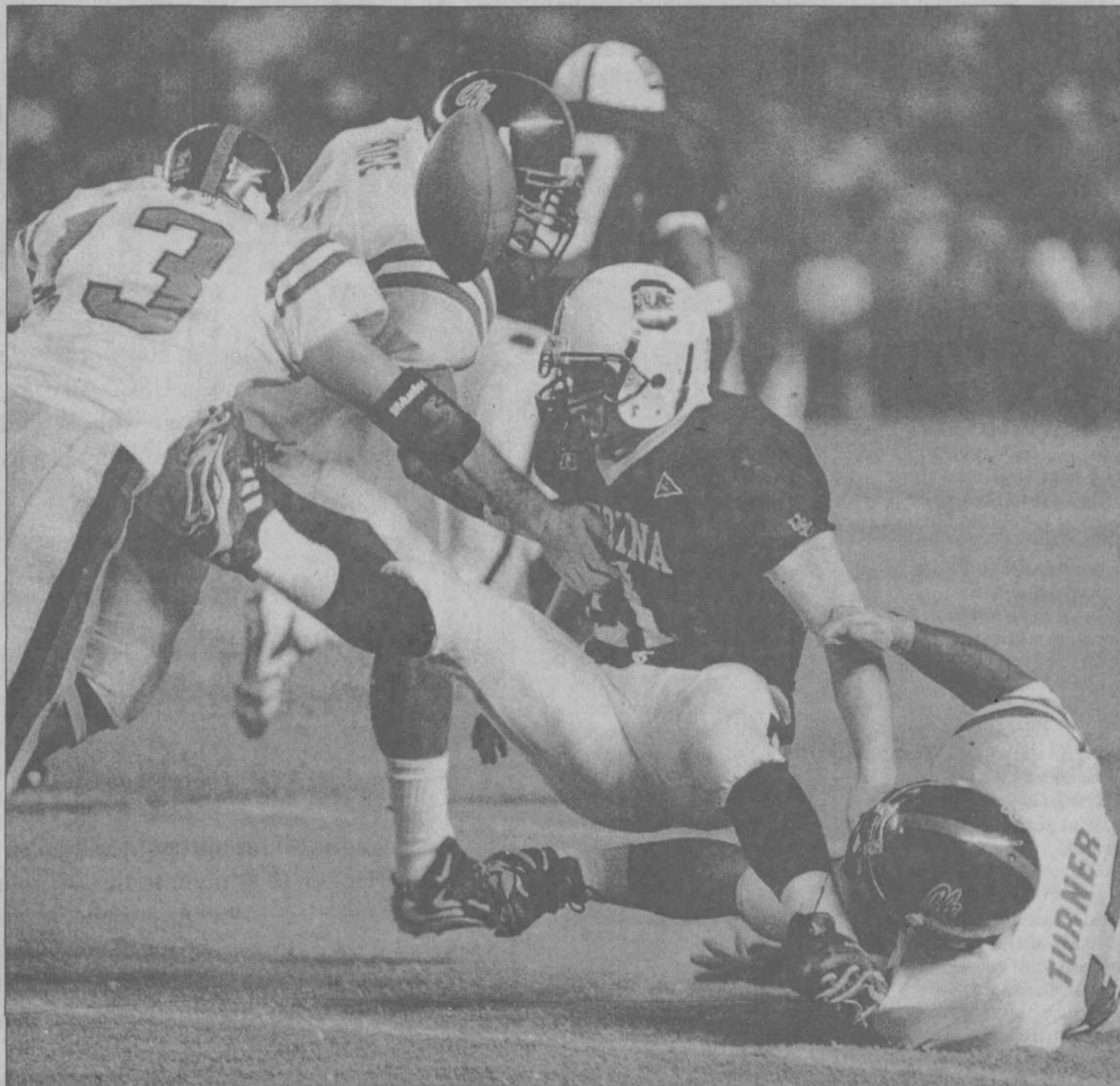
"This is the first time the defense didn't show up," Holtz said. "I'm frustrated and embarrassed, no doubt about it."

The Gamecocks began the game with promise, holding the Rebel offense to a field goal after three straight runs up the middle from the 7-yard line. True freshman quarterback Mikal Goodman, making his first collegiate start after a knee injury to starter Phil Petty, started to impress with an almost immediate 10-yard pass to wide receiver Trevon Mathews to start the game.

After another 10-yard strike to receiver Jemale Kelly, Goodman seemed poised to deliver a fine performance. However, USC's severely depleted offensive line couldn't hold up for its leader, allowing him to be sacked on two successive downs for a 17-yard loss and forcing a Courtney Leavitt punt.

After the two teams traded possessions, Miller came up with the first big play of the night, throwing a 43-yard bomb to McAllister on the goal line. McAllister dived over the pile on the next play, giving the Rebels a 10-0 lead.

USC started its next possession on the Rebel 35-yard line, but its hope of closing the gap was quickly snuffed



SEAN RAYFORD PHOTO EDITOR

Mississippi defenders Keydrick Vincent, Shane Grice and Tremaine Turner, left to right, converge on Carolina freshman punt returner Ryan Brewer, causing a fumble in the second half of the Gamecocks' 36-10 loss to the Rebels on Saturday.

REBELS SEE PAGE 10

Lady Gamecocks continue hot streak over weekend

BY SHANNON ROOKE
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Gamecock soccer team continued to improve its standing in the NCAA's Southeast Region and increased its overall record to 8-2 with exciting wins over Furman and N.C. State.

The scoreboard showed its first goal Friday when Furman midfielder Sarah Tolflick tallied her fifth goal of the season. USC's Jennie Ondo returned the favor 15 minutes later, heading the ball into the net off a cross from teammate Mindy Sanders.

Three minutes before the halfway point, Furman's Erin Sims redirected teammate Kaye Brownlee's shot into the goal. The Gamecocks jogged to the locker room down one goal, 2-1, and ready to make some adjustments.

"Coming into the game, we wanted to wait and see what they had for us in the first half, then make the needed adjustments at halftime," said Sanders, who finished the match with two assists.

With only five minutes gone from the clock in the second half, sophomore Melinda Carter received a pass from Ondo, beat two defenders and placed the ball in the

bottom right corner of the net. Three minutes later, the Gamecocks were knocked back on their heels again when Furman received a free kick right outside the Gamecock goal box. After releasing the kick and fighting for it in the box, the ball landed in the back of the goal, putting the Lady Paladins up, 3-2.

When the players walked away for another kickoff, they realized that senior Gamecock goalkeeper Carrie Warner hadn't gotten up off the ground yet. Paramedics were rushed onto the field, and after a 13-minute break, Warner was taken to the hospital for further medical attention. Warner's injury status wasn't known at press time.

"Looking back and seeing her down really got us going," Sanders said. "We knew we needed to pick it up, and that was the real turning point, I think."

Just a few minutes after the game was restarted, Ondo came up big for her team once again, shooting another pass from Sanders into the net and making the score 3-3. The teams now faced a 15-minute sudden-death overtime, where the first team to score would win.

After 11 minutes of intense play, the

game finally ended when Ondo tallied her third goal of the match and seventh on the season. She received the ball at the halfway mark, dribbled around the Paladins' scattered defense and placed it into the bottom right corner of the goal, making the final 4-3.

"We knew that they were a very tough, physical team," Ondo said. "But we knew we'd been there before, and because of that, we stayed calm and put one away."

Kelly had nothing but good things to say about USC's heart.

"All the players played so well," she said. "Coming into the game, they were ahead in the region, and our team keeps getting thinner and thinner due to injuries."

With the loss, Furman, which came into the game just ahead of USC in the Southeast Region rankings, dropped to 9-2.

On Saturday, Carolina won its fifth straight game, 2-0 over N.C. State.

In her first collegiate match, backup goalkeeper Carolyn Ortega, recorded four saves on the way to USC's fifth shutout of the season.

Ondo and Morgan McIntyre scored goals for the Lady Gamecocks.



SEAN RAYFORD PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Jennie Ondo battles a dribbling Furman player for possession. Ondo scored four goals over the weekend in USC's two wins.

THE SLATE (LATE GAMES NOT INCLUDED)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Eastern Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str
Atlanta-x	103	59	.636	-	8-2	W-1
New York	95	66	.590	7	3-7	W-2
Philadelphia	76	85	.472	26	6-4	L-2
Montreal	68	93	.422	34	5-5	W-3
Florida	64	98	.396	39	4-6	L-1
Central Division						
Houston	96	65	.596	-	7-3	L-1
Cincinnati	95	66	.590	1	4-6	W-1
Pittsburgh	78	82	.487	17.5	4-6	L-2
St. Louis	74	86	.463	21.5	3-7	L-2
Milwaukee	74	86	.463	21.5	6-4	W-2
Chicago	67	94	.416	29	7-3	W-2
West Division						
Arizona-x	99	62	.615	-	8-2	W-1
San Francisco	86	75	.534	13	4-6	W-2
Los Angeles	77	84	.478	22	6-4	L-1
San Diego	74	87	.460	25	3-7	L-1
Colorado	71	90	.441	28	3-7	L-2

Note: Cincinnati and New York are tied for the wild-card spot.
x-clinched divisional title z-clinched wild-card spot

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Eastern Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str
New York-x	98	63	.609	-	6-4	W-3
Boston-z	93	68	.578	5	5-5	W-2
Toronto	83	78	.516	15	6-4	W-2
Baltimore	78	83	.484	20	4-6	L-3
Tampa Bay	68	93	.422	30	3-7	L-4
Central Division						
Cleveland-x	97	64	.602	-	6-4	W-2
Chicago	75	86	.466	22	7-3	W-4
Detroit	69	92	.429	28	8-2	W-1
Kansas City	64	97	.398	33	4-6	L-1
Minnesota	63	97	.394	33.5	2-8	L-8
West Division						
Texas-x	95	66	.590	-	6-4	L-2
Oakland	86	75	.534	9	3-7	L-1
Seattle	79	82	.491	16	4-6	W-1
Anaheim	69	92	.429	26	7-3	W-4

WEEKEND'S TOP NEWS

- **Baseball: Astros clinch Central while Mets stand half game ahead of Reds; McGwire hits 65th HR while Sosa nails 63rd**
- **NFL: Rams go to 3-0 for first time this decade, Broncos fall to 0-4 as Terrell Davis hurts knee**
- **Clemson QB Brandon Streeter out for season with broken collarbone**
- **Mike Modano and Darryl Sydor of NHL champion Dallas both out indefinitely**
- **Jeff Gordon wins NAPA 500 without regular crew chief Ray Evernham**

'Win? Are you serious?'

Fifteen in a row. For 15 games, I have left Williams-Brice Stadium angry.

For 15 games, I have gotten into my car and driven like a madman through traffic while listening to the radio highlights and statistics of USC's latest loss. It was driving home Saturday night when I realized that I had forgotten what it was like to leave Williams-Brice with a smile.

For 15 straight football Saturdays, I've either strained while listening on the radio, watched in agony on television or suffered in the stands and the press box. In a gradual but steady period of time, I've also forgotten what it's like to win.

Carolina's 36-10 loss to Ole Miss on Saturday night, however, was different from the rest. For the first time this year, USC didn't hang around for most of the game to give fans a false sense of hope as it did in the first four contests this year. After Teddy Salter's fumble and the subsequent Rebel touchdown to make the score 17-0, the game was pretty much decided.

However, the Gamecocks showed that all-encompassing display of false hope again when Andrew Pinnock and company marched right back down the field and barreled into the end zone to cut the lead to 10.

At that point, I closed my eyes and listened: The sound of 80,000 people cheering loudly for a touchdown was a feeling I wasn't used to, but somewhere from my youth, I was able to remember what it was like. Suddenly, USC had the fans in a frenzy with a sense of confidence that it can score and because the defense is so good this year, the Gamecocks have a chance to win the game.

With 23 seconds left in the half, Rebel quarterback Romaro Miller lofted a pass into the end zone that wide receiver Jamie Armstrong somehow wrestled away from USC cornerback Sheldon Brown, much to the shock of the partisan Carolina crowd and me. Then I realized that this was USC playing, and I was welcomed back into the real world by the evil power that controls Carolina athletics. A sense of normalcy had returned.

A colleague of mine then whispered: "You didn't actually think we were going to come back, did you?" Sadly, though, I did.

Carolina football has that effect on its fans.

Before the game Saturday night, I can't count the number of friends of mine who came up to me and asked what I thought about the game after telling me that they thought that we had a shot against Ole Miss. I usually said something to the effect of "I have no clue" or "I think we might be able to do it."

One would think that after 20 years of living in this city, I would have had enough sense to have said, "Win? Are you serious?" That just goes to show that Carolina fans are either filled with overwhelming confidence no matter what the situation, or just stupid and living in our own little make-believe world.

In a state where the two major political topics are little machines that simulate poker and a 130-year-old battle flag that flies from the Statehouse, is the fact that USC fans are like this surprising? Let's face it, we live in a very stubborn state. And Carolina fans are no exception. We can't just admit to ourselves that our football team is not good.

But then again, I want someone to show me another college football program that packs 80,000 fans into one of the nicest stadiums with one of the nicest press boxes week after week for a team that is on a 15-game losing streak. One thing is for sure, though. If I'm in a foxhole, I want a Gamecock fan with me.

USC is proof that loyalty isn't taught, it's groomed.

Charlie Wallace writes a column for The Gamecock on Mondays. He can be reached at: gamecocksports@hotmail.com.