

Charleston Southern Buccaneers

Series Dates: Feb. 4-5
 1999 record: 26-32
 Notes: The Bucs are led by sophomore Ryan Smith, who went 6-1 with a 3.95 ERA in 1999. Second baseman Jay Corrigan hit .330 in 1999 as a junior.

Delaware State Hornets

Series Dates: Feb. 18-20
 1999 record: 20-23
 Notes: Senior outfielder Mark Mercaldo led the team in batting at .343 and senior pitcher Gorman Johnson led the MEAC with six saves in 1999. Tripp Keister, former USC assistant coach, is in his second season as Delaware State's head coach.

Campbell Fightin' Camels

Series Dates: Feb. 22
 1999 record: 24-32
 Notes: Look for senior catcher and outfielder Jeff Davis to make a big impact. Davis reached base safely in 11 of the Camels' last 13 games, batting .417 during his stretch.

College of Charleston Cougars

Series Dates: Feb. 25-27
 1999 record: 31-24
 Notes: The Cougars will be led by pitcher Brett Davey, catcher Ronny Marmol and pitcher Lucas Hocker, who are Charleston's returning All-Southern Conference players.

Radford Buccaneers

Series Dates: March 3-5
 1999 record: 22-30
 Notes: Outfielder Bill McCarthy and infielder Sean Walsh, who both hit .337 in 1999, return to lead the Highlanders' offense.

Furman Paladins

Series Dates: March 8
 1999 record: 23-35
 Notes: Tommy John III, son of the former major-league pitcher, hit .314 and led the Paladins in home runs (9) in 1999. John is one of eight starters returning for Furman.

Auburn Tigers

Series Dates: March 10-12
 1999 record: 46-19
 Notes: Look for sophomore Gabe Cross, who was a freshman All-American in 1999, to come up big in the series.

UNC Asheville Bulldogs

Series Dates: March 14, April 26
 1999 record: 20-39
 Notes: Mike Roberts, former North Carolina head coach, is in his first season as coach of the Bulldogs. Roberts is the father of former USC shortstop Brian Roberts.

Florida Gators

Series Dates: March 17-19
 1999 record: 31-25
 Notes: Florida's recruiting class ranked second in the nation and should help fill gaps left by the draft and graduation.

Wofford Terriers

Series Dates: March 22
 1999 record: 14-36
 Outlook: Eight of the Terriers 14 wins came in the last 18 games of 1999.

Louisiana State Tigers

Series Dates: March 24-26
 1999 record: 41-24-1
 Outlook: Blair Barbier hit .293 with 13 homers and 51 RBIs in 1999. He brings the experience of two College World Series and a national championship to the Tigers' clubhouse.

Elon Fightin' Christians

Series Dates: March 29
 1999 record: 20-35
 Outlook: The Fightin' Christians upset No. 1 Miami in Coral Gables, Fla. last season, 13-6.

Alabama Crimson Tide

Series Dates: March 31-April 2
 1999 record: 53-16
 Outlook: Juniors Sam Bozanic (2B) and Kelley Gullledge (C) lead a Crimson Tide team that finished fourth in the 1999 College World Series.

The Citadel Bulldogs

Series Dates: April 5
 1999 record: 41-20
 Outlook: Dallas McPherson was picked to win Southern Conference player of the year by *Baseball America*.

Mississippi State Bulldogs

Series Dates: April 7-12
 1999 record: 42-21
 Outlook: The Bulldogs took two of three in 1999 at Starkville, Miss.

Clemson Tigers

Series Dates: April 12, 19
 1999 record: 42-27
 Outlook: Freshman shortstop Jeff Baker leads a recruiting class that was ranked No. 1 in the nation by *Baseball America*. Henri Stanley and Thomas Boozer are both Columbia natives.

Vanderbilt Commodores

Series Dates: April 14-16
 1999 record: 22-33
 Outlook: The Gamecocks swept last year's series against the Commodores. This year should be no different.

Davidson Wildcats

Series Dates: April 18
 1999 record: 11-37-1
 Outlook: The Gamecocks won both games last season with a combined score of 29-1.

Kentucky Wildcats

Series Dates: April 21-23
 1999 record: 25-32
 Outlook: Catcher John Wilson is a pre-season All-American for the second consecutive year, the first ever for Kentucky.

Georgia Bulldogs

Series Dates: April 28-30
 1999 record: 25-30-1
 Outlook: In 1999, the Bulldogs took two of three from the Gamecocks in Athens. Seniors Brian Rainwater and Josh Hudson lead Georgia.

Arkansas Razorbacks

Series Dates: May 5-7
 1999 record: 42-23
 Outlook: Razorback sophomore pitcher Charlie Isaacson has been named a pre-season All-American.

Duke Blue Devils

Series Dates: May 10
 1999 record: 25-29
 Outlook: The Gamecocks won last year's meeting 11-6 in Columbia.

Tennessee Volunteers

Series Dates: May 12-14
 1999 record: 28-28
 Outlook: Second baseman Chris Burke was named freshman All-American in 1999 after leading the Vols with a .372 average. He broke UT marks for average, hits and doubles.

Geographical Roster

South Carolina (17)

- Bamberg - Clint Collins
- Batesburg - Brett Price
- Belton - Scott Barber
- Belvedere - Matt Wilson
- Chapin - Jeremy Plexico
- Charleston - Drew Meyer
- Columbia - Trey Dyson, Chris Spigner
- Conway - Tim Whittaker
- Enoree - Marcus McBeth
- Florence - Tripp Kelly
- Gaston - Kip Bouknight
- Lancaster - Lee Gronkiewicz
- Lugoff - Jamie Poston
- West Columbia - Bryon Jeffcoat, Matt Riddle, Steven Whetstone

Alabama (1)

- Montgomery - Brennan Dees

California (2)

- Atascadero - Nate Janowicz
- Hayward - Marcos Rios

Florida (3)

- Ft. Walton Beach - Chris Plummer
- Miami - Ernie Bascuas
- Tampa - Steve Thomas

Georgia (3)

- Evans - Rico Bravo
- McIntyre - Shane Nelson
- Waverly Hall - Bo Mobley



Special to Gamecock Sports
 Junior college transfer Ernie Bascuas is from Miami. The 2000 Gamecocks represent 10 states in the U.S.

Maryland (1)

- Silver Spring - Peter Bauer

Nevada (1)

- Sparks - John McHenry

New York (1)

- Westbury - John Wesley

North Carolina (1)

- Matthews - Steven Bondurant

Utah (1)

- Salt Lake City - Brandon Pack

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USC baseball signs top recruiting class

**BASEBALL ROUNDUP
 GAMECOCK SPORTS**

The USC baseball program announced the signing of 13 student-athletes to national letters of intent.

Highlighting the early signing period class are three in-state players: Outfielder Jason Ross of Sumter, the No. 1 outfielder in South Carolina, and the two top pitchers in the state from Mauldin High School, LHP David Marchbanks and RHP Chris Carter.

Ross, who has started for the varsity team since eighth grade, is the No. 1 ranked outfielder by the S.C. Sports Report.

He was named MVP of the 1999 America Legion State Tournament, where he batted .529 with 4 HR and 12 RBIs. In the championship game, he had one double, one triple, 2 homers and 8 RBIs. He was named an Honorable Mention All-American by *USA Today* last spring.

"This is a talented group," said head baseball coach Ray Tanner. "We felt we needed to sign a relatively large class because we will lose five seniors and possibly four or five juniors to the professional draft. We were able to bolster our pitching staff, strengthen our infield, make our outfield better and add a front-line catcher."

2000 USC Baseball Recruiting Class

Name	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Wt.	High School/Junior College
Gary Bell	LHP/OF	L/L	6-0	190	Daytona Beach Community College (FL)
Chris Bono	OF/1B	L/R	6-3	210	Brevard Junior College (FL)
Chris Carter	RHP	R/R	6-1	175	Mauldin High School (SC)
Garris Gonce	C	R/R	5-11	210	Florida Community College-Jacksonville
Justin Hileman	INF	R/R	6-0	175	Palmyra High School (PA)
Joey Lamb	RHP	R/R	6-0	190	Young Harris Junior College (GA)
Tommy McLane	LHP	L/L	6-0	170	St. Petersburg Junior College (FL)
David Marchbanks	LHP	L/L	6-2	180	Mauldin High School (SC)
Kevin Melillo	INF	L/R	5-11	175	Lake Brantley High School (FL)
Jason Ross	OF	R/L	5-11	190	Sumter High School (SC)
Josh Shortleif	LHP	L/L	6-4	205	Hannibal High School (NY)
Blake Taylor	RHP	R/R	6-0	160	Chipola Junior College (FL)
Scott Thorman	3B/RHP	L/R	6-3	215	Preston High School (Ontario, Canada)