

USC volleyball signs four for 2000 season, swimming teams compete at SEC Championships, women's tennis begins

Sports

SCHEDULE

- Men's golf at Mercedes-Benz Intercollegiate, today-Tues.
- Women's tennis vs. UNC, Tues.
- Baseball vs. Campbell, Tues.
- Men's basketball vs. LSU, Wed.

USC sweeps Delaware State in weekend series

BY JEFF ROMIG
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

USC 9, Delaware State 1

Friday he made his first appearance. Saturday he got his first hit. Sunday he received his first start in USC's 9-1 win over Delaware State, becoming only the second freshman to start for Ray Tanner's Gamecocks in 2000. The thing is, USC catcher/designated hitter Bo Mobley was told he might not be able to play baseball again.

"I had a stress fracture of the tibia, which is of the knee joint itself," Mobley said.

Mobley found out about his injury at the beginning of his senior year at Columbus High School in Columbus, Ga., but played through the pain.

When Mobley arrived at USC, he went ahead and had surgery so he wouldn't play hurt for the rest of the year.

"The doctors here said they didn't think I'd ever play again," Mobley said.

Mobley then went back to Columbus for a second opinion.

"My doctor said, 'Well, you have a good chance of hitting again, but you probably won't ever get to catch,'" Mobley said.

His first plate appearance wasn't how he'd envisioned it would be.

"It was funny," Mobley said. "The guy was throwing real slow and I was waiting for a hanging breaking ball and he threw it. It was right there, perfectly on line and it just never broke, so I just took it."

Mobley took first after being hit by the pitcher and waited for his next chance.

It would come Saturday in the bottom of the eighth with two men on and one out.

"I just went in there looking for a good pitch," Mobley said. "It was there and I hit it hard."

Mobley's frozen rope to left was good for a 2-run single. He wouldn't have the same luck Sunday, as he went 0-for-3 in his first start at designated hitter, but Tan-

ner is excited about Mobley's potential. "He's a guy that we think has a tremendous upside as far as swinging the bat is concerned," Tanner said. "His opportunities in college baseball are going to be swinging the bat. He does have a chance to be a tremendous hitter in college baseball."

Sunday's Notes: First baseman Tripp Kelly extended his hitting streak to eight games with a solo home run in the bottom of the eighth inning. It was his sixth home run in eight games ... Brennan Dees went 3-for-4 with an RBI double ... Clint Collins made his first appearance on the mound since 1998, pitching two innings and striking out four.

USC 16, Delaware State 1

When USC opened its 2000 baseball season on Feb. 4 against Charleston Southern, Sarge Frye Field was buzzing with the arrival of freshman shortstop Drew Meyer.

After turning down the Los Angeles Dodgers six-figure offer to play professional baseball, Meyer went 1-for-17 to start his Gamecock career.

Now, Meyer seems comfortable at the plate and is finding his groove.

That comfort led his team Saturday as they defeated Delaware State 16-1 on the heels of a 4-for-5, 3 RBI game from Meyer.

"I've been seeing the ball real well," Meyer said. "I got robbed a lot in the beginning of the year, so now I'm getting some of the hits back with infield singles. I'll take what I can get, and hopefully I'll get some more of those."

USC head coach Ray Tanner had no doubt that Meyer's offense would come around.

"You've heard me say it from day one," Tanner said. "I'm not worried about him. He's going to get his hits. He's been playing hard. He's been playing with enthusiasm and I'm happy for him that he

BASEBALL SEE PAGE B2

Chastain kicks off marathon

BY ELIZABETH ROD
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

She's just like you and me, but she's world-famous - famous for kicking the game-winning goal against China in the 1999 Women's World Cup. She's famous for speaking for the creation of "a place for women in sports."

She's famous for baring her black sports bra on an international television broadcast, yet she stands for something as simple as gender equality in sports. Soccer star Brandi Chastain visited USC Thursday to endorse the U.S. Olympic Team Trials Feb. 26 in Columbia. With soccer as a backdrop, Chastain is a spokesperson for participation and leadership in female sports.

Chastain insists the attention gained by taking off her shirt at the conclusion of the World Cup final is positive publicity for her cause.

"For me it's really nice that they remember that because that means they'll identify that with women's soccer and that's ultimately what I'm after," Chastain said. "To know that women's sports is stuck somewhere in their mind is good."

Mainstream exposure in the World Cup tournament inspired the U.S. Women's Soccer team to expand its influence. Chastain sees a bright future for women's soccer as an international sport.

"To know that forty million people watched the final is overwhelming and is something that we never actually dreamed would happen or could happen," Chastain said. "Now it's really just broken ground for what the future has to offer and we're thrilled at the opportunity to build a professional women's soccer league."

Chastain has enjoyed many honors since the World Cup game last summer - she's starred in TV commercials with other world-class athletes, thrown out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium and appeared on ESPN's prestigious ESPY awards show, where she took the stage with sports greats such as Michael Jordan and Wayne Gretzky.

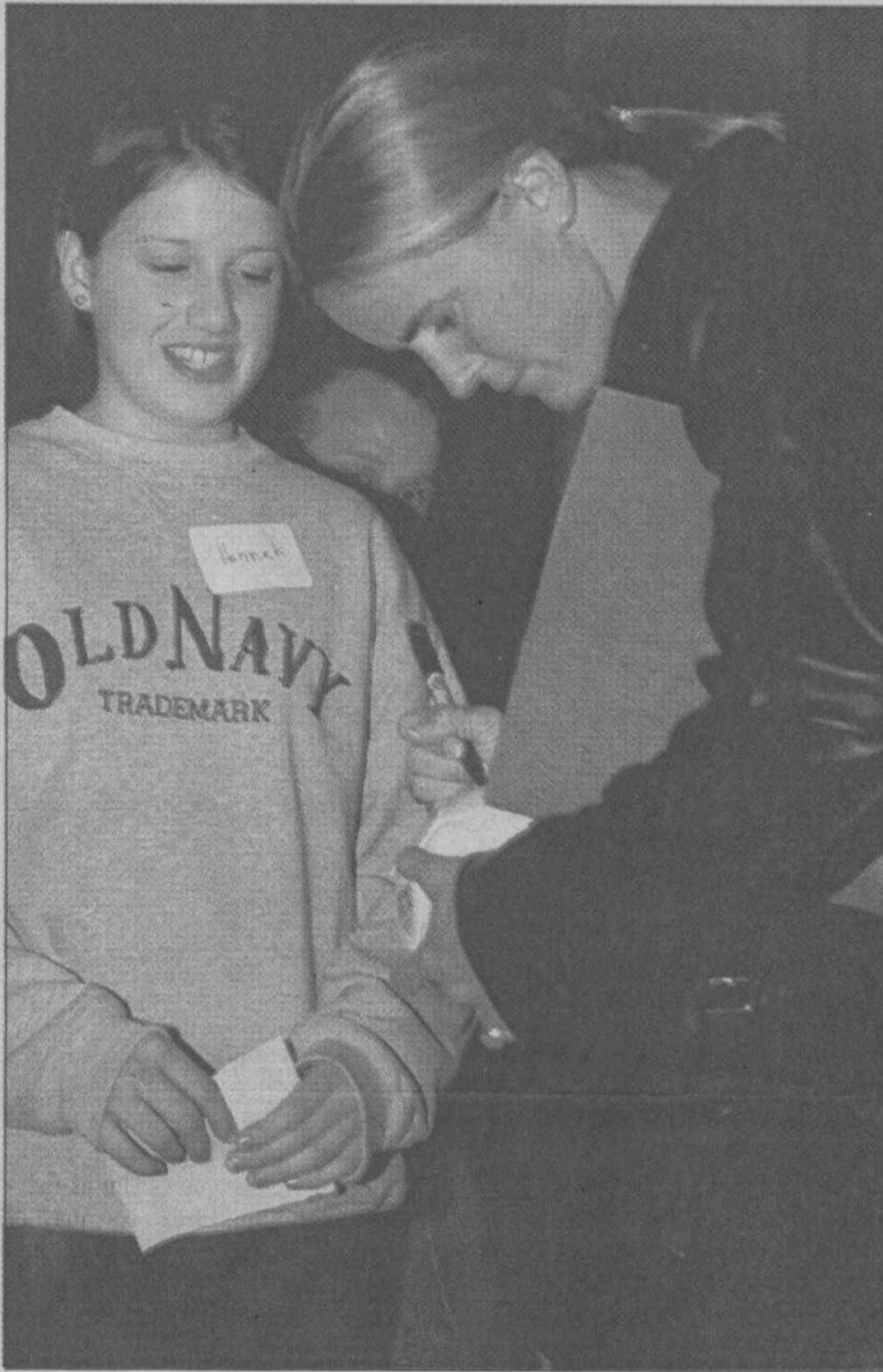
"These are the people you grow up admiring and looking to and aspiring to be like and that they turn out to be such nice people on top of it really makes you feel good about what you're doing as an athlete," Chastain said.

Chastain stresses the importance of positive role models in the everyday lives of young athletes. She hopes by winning the World Cup, more attention will be given to the value of adult examples.

"With the kick of the ball they look to you for guidance and then the responsibility is quite awesome," Chastain said. "But it's actually a responsibility we all share whether we're a student, an athlete or whatever walk of life we're in. We all have the ability to influence somebody."

"I want you all to know that we're all role models. Not because I play soccer but because I'm a human being in the human race and I want to make a difference in the community."

The Carolina Marathon Association will play host to the marathon this weekend in Columbia.



Brandi Chastain signs an autograph at the Russell House on Feb. 17. Chastain was in Columbia to promote the U.S. Olympic Team Trials marathon Saturday.

USC men's basketball rolls over Crimson Tide

BY JEFF ROMIG
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Forty minutes of solid basketball. That's what every college basketball team strives for on a given night.

Saturday, the USC basketball team was three-fourths of the way there as they crushed Alabama 82-61.

"The last 30 minutes, I thought we played pretty darn good basketball," said Eddie Fogler, USC head coach.

The most telling statistic in USC's victory was its turnover ratio - 22 assists to five turnovers.

"That's incredible for a team," Lucas said. "When you're playing at that level you have games like that, most of the time, you should win."

No team under Eddie Fogler has ever turned over the ball less than his team did on Saturday.

"I think, overall, we played extremely well tonight," Lucas said. "We took care of the ball against a team that's very athletic. You have to be very careful out there with the passes that you make and the decisions that you make."

Fogler was extremely happy with his team's play on Saturday.

"Show me a team that has 22 assists and five turnovers and I'll show you a team that is in pretty good shape offensively," Fogler said.

One wouldn't have thought so if watching the first 10 minutes of basketball.

"I thought in the first 10 minutes, we took a number of bad shots," Fogler said. "Quick, ill-advised throws that I didn't like."

As USC settled down, the threes started to fall. For the game, they hit 21-of-31 from 3-point range, 7-of-17 in the second half.

Six different Gamecocks hit 3-point shots. Herbert Lee Davis and David Ross had three, Travis Kraft and Ivan Howell had two each and Lucas and Jamel Bradley each hit one. "David Ross gave us a great lift," Fogler said. "Travis Kraft - they both shot the ball well from three."

Chuck Eidson had an all-around solid game, despite going 0-for-7 from the field.

"Eidson's line is incredible," Fogler said.

The freshman finished with nine rebounds, eight assists, three steals and no turnovers.

"You can't say enough about Chuck," Ross said. "He's just a great talent - a great find for us. Hopefully, he's going to do that for four years here."

Davis led the team in scoring with 15 points. Tony Kitchings pulled in 11 rebounds to go with his eight points.

The Gamecocks face No. 23 LSU at Frank McGuire Arena Wednesday. Fogler knows it will take more than Saturday's effort to defeat a tough Tiger team.

"Wednesday, we'll need 40 (minutes)," Fogler said.

No.	TOT-FG 3-PT			REBOUNDS			TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	B	S	MIN
	FG	FGA	FG%	FGA	FGA%	FT								
35	10	20	50	0	0	0	13	4	6	2	3	1	1	35
05	4	8	50	1	2	0	1	1	3	7	0	0	0	40
14	12	22	55	2	2	0	5	3	10	2	0	0	0	32
20	5	12	42	2	3	0	0	3	12	2	0	0	0	32
21	12	23	52	0	0	0	1	5	6	3	15	0	1	27
04	1	7	14	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	19
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
43	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	1	1	100	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	9
Team	21	53	39.6	7	21	33	6	24	30	20	61	15	2	200

No.	TOT-FG 3-PT			REBOUNDS			TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	B	S	MIN	
	FG	FGA	FG%	FGA	FGA%	FT									FTA
14	9	23	39	7	4	0	1	1	0	15	1	0	0	25	
50	12	20	60	0	0	0	4	7	11	2	8	1	2	10	
12	7	12	58	4	4	2	3	5	10	0	1	0	0	19	
10	8	17	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	25	
31	7	15	47	2	2	1	8	9	3	2	8	0	1	33	
00	5	3	167	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	9	0	0	16	
04	1	2	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	
05	4	11	36	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	16	
15	3	2	150	2	0	0	2	2	1	8	2	0	0	10	
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	
33	2	3	67	0	0	0	2	5	1	4	1	0	0	16	
35	6	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	6	1	0	0	0	16	
24	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Team	28	67	41.8	31	14	17	15	27	42	16	82	22	5	2	4

Women tame 'Cats on senior day

BY KYLE ALMOND
STAFF WRITER

The South Carolina Lady Gamecocks took revenge on Sunday when they defeated Kentucky 64-51 at Frank McGuire Arena.

USC (13-13, 3-10 SEC) lost to Kentucky in Lexington earlier this season by two but they came out on fire at home, grabbed an early lead, and never looked back.

It was Senior Day for Carolina, with three Lady Gamecock seniors, Annie Lester, Shanta Jeffcoat and Casie Key, being honored before game-time.

Jeffcoat sparked the early lead for USC, drilling two 3-pointers early in the game to give Carolina an 8-2 advantage. She added another 3-pointer in the first half, and USC shot 6-12 as a

team from beyond the arc before half-time, going in with a 30-27 lead.

"[Jeffcoat] is a very calming factor for us offensively," said USC head coach Susan Walvius. "Defensively, she got the job done."

Early in the second half, Lester took over where Jeffcoat left off, getting the tough inside points and extending the Carolina lead to seven. Lester, a two-time All-SEC honoree, scored in double figures for the 72nd time in her career, and she will graduate this season as only the eighth Lady Gamecock to score 1,000 points and pull down more than 700 rebounds.

In each of the last two games, Lester has scored an SEC season-high 32 points. "Obviously, I have a great deal of respect for Annie Lester," added coach

Walvius. "She's been a go-to player for us for three years and she's carried our basketball team in many situations."

Lester and younger sister Jocelyn Penn put the dagger through the Lady Wildcats' collective hearts late in the second half, leading a 11-0 run that put the game out of Kentucky's reach. Penn ended up as the game's high scorer, scoring 16 points while grabbing seven rebounds.

Walvius was pleased with the way the team followed the game plan. "We were poised offensively, and defensively, our game plan was to contain their penetration," said Walvius. "We were able to do a better job at keeping them away from the basket, and that's what we were looking to defend."

WOMEN'S SEE PAGE B2

Matthews, McMillin each throw no-hitters Saturday

BY PAUL MASHACK
STAFF WRITER

The USC softball team accomplished a rare feat Saturday at Beckham Field. In a doubleheader against Georgia State, the Gamecocks threw consecutive no-hitters en route to a 6-0, 8-0 sweep.

It marked the 33rd time in USC's 27 years of softball that the team has registered a no-hitter.

"I felt strong out there," sophomore pitcher Megan Matthews said. "I felt good after coming back from an injured ankle." The win improved her record to 2-3 on the year.

The Gamecocks were led offensively by centerfielder Megan Donohoo, junior shortstop Kendra McCutcheon and second baseman Kim Schultze.

McCutcheon went a perfect 2-for-2 at the plate with a pair of runs batted in. Seniors Schultze and Donohoo combined to go 4-for-6 with three RBIs and a run scored.

In the second game of the twin bill, junior Joyce McMillin continued the USC pitching dominance with her second no-hitter as a Gamecock. Last year, the junior threw a no-hitter against Iona.

Saturday, she pitched five innings while striking out seven and walking two batters to complete 12 hitless innings.

"We threw a great game," said McMillin, who evened her record to 1-1 for the season. "The catchers caught a great game and the defense did a great job behind me."

"We were able to keep our focus and play great in the second game," Compton said.

Offensively, McMillin and freshmen Jodi Fittro were key contributors to the Gamecocks 8-0 route. Fittro went 2-for-2 with an RBI and scored once.

McMillin contributed with her second home run of the year in the fourth inning. She finished the game with two runs batted in and two runs.