

GAMECOCK SPORTS

USC tries to extend win streak

BY SHANNON ROOKE
SPORTS EDITOR

For the sixth time since the millennium started, the USC men's basketball team will play a nationally ranked team. This time, an upset is hopefully in order.

The only opponents that haven't been ranked have been Mississippi State and Alabama, both wins for the struggling USC squad.

When the Gamecocks play host to No. 15 Louisiana State tonight at 7:30 p.m., they look to win their third game in a row for the first time since November.

After an 82-61 win over Alabama Saturday night, USC is coming off their biggest margin of victory in two years.

LSU has already claimed five SEC wins against such teams as Alabama, Auburn, Kentucky, Ole Miss and Arkansas.

An advantage the Gamecocks will have over the Tigers is the number of turnovers being committed. In the roller-coaster of the past seven games, USC has recorded fewer than 11 turnovers per match.

Head coach Eddie Fogler tied his lowest number of turnovers in a single game when his players only committed five against Alabama.

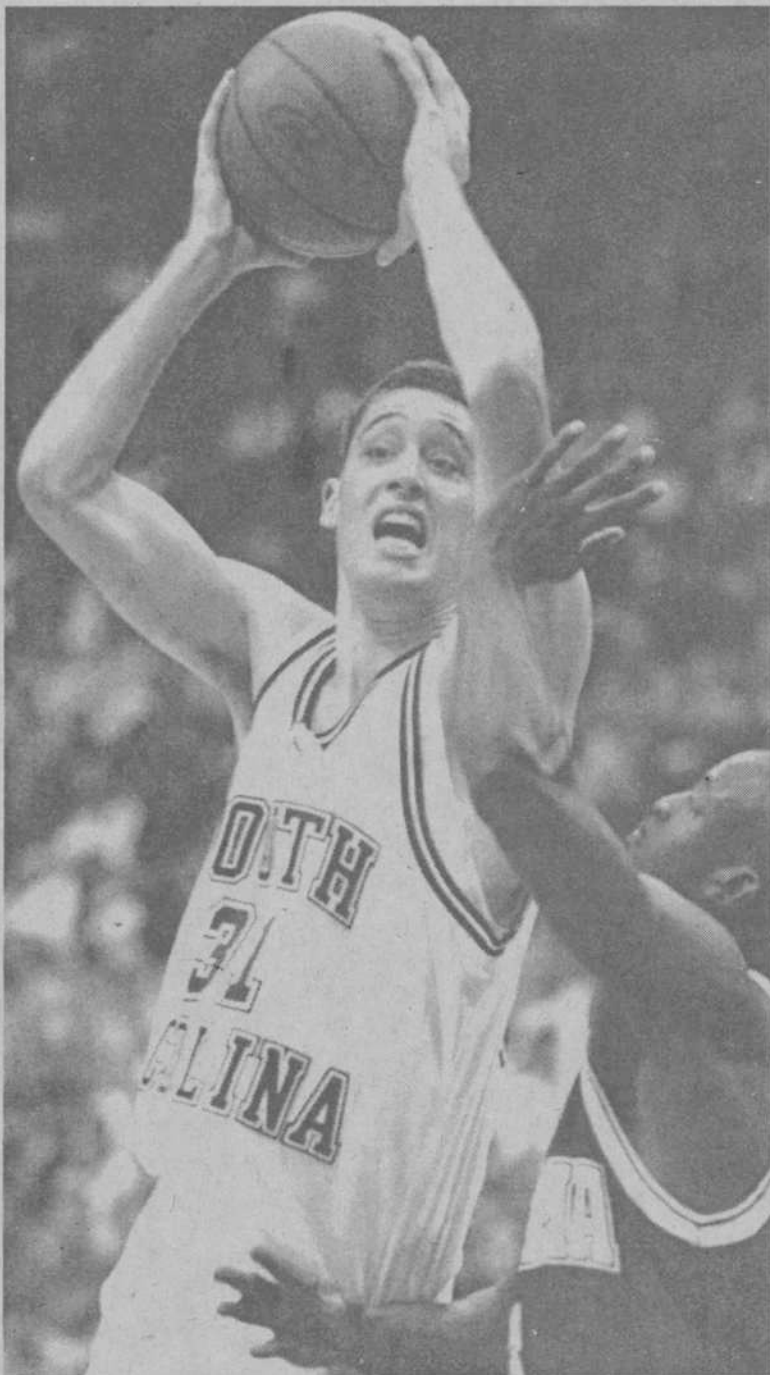
With Chuck Eidson creating quite a stir and placing himself in the top of many categories on his team, the other USC freshman are not to be overlooked.

Eidson already leads the Gamecocks in steals on a single season, averaging 3.08 per game and recording 65 over the last 19 games.

But, out of seven first-year players, four are accounting for 44.9 percent of the overall shooting, 45.7 percent of the rebounds, 40.6 percent of assists and 55.3 percent of the team's steals. Heading that group is Eidson with 9.6 points per game.

Teammate Marius Petravicius is a close second with 8.4 points and forward Tony Kitchings has recorded an average of 7.1.

Fans can listen to the "voice of the Gamecocks," Charlie McAlexander, who will be doing play-by-play. McAlexander and Casey Manning can be heard across the state.



Sean Rayford GAMECOCK SPORTS

Chuck Eidson gets pressure from an Alabama defender during USC's 82-61 win Saturday. The Gamecocks take on LSU tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Probable starters		USC (11-14, 3-9 SEC)	
LSU (21-4, 8-4 SEC)		14 Herbert Lee Davis	F
02 Brian Beshara	F	50 Tony Kitchings	F
04 Stromile Swift	F	12 Marius Petravicius	C
52 Jabari Smith	C	10 Jamal Bradley	G
03 Torris Bright	G	31 Chuck Eidson	G
43 Lamont Roland	G		

SEC Men's Basketball Standings

SEC East			SEC West		
	Conf.	Overall		Conf.	Overall
	9-3	21-4		9-3	21-4
	9-3	20-5		8-4	21-4
	9-3	19-7		5-7	13-12
	7-5	17-6		4-8	11-13
	3-9	11-14		3-9	15-10
	3-9	10-15		3-9	12-13

VOLLEYBALL

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Grand Canyon Juniors club.

"Amy is very athletic and competitive. She is a natural leader and has great intangibles," Christopher said.

Nadia Sfferovich, a high school teammate of All-SEC Gamecock middle blocker Berna Dwyer at Salpointe High School in Tucson, Ariz., is a transfer from the University of Arizona. Sfferovich is a 6-foot-1 outside hitter.

Sfferovich, the daughter of John and Sue Sefferovich, played club ball for coach Rita Johnson with the Club Zona team.

"Nadia is a great athlete with Pac-10 experience. She is a previous club

teammate of Berna Dwyer," Christopher said. "We are very excited about Nadia coming to South Carolina. She is a talented volleyball player that will greatly impact our program."

Mariana Branquinho, a 6-foot-3 outside hitter from Sao Paulo, Brazil, will come to South Carolina from the BCN Osasco Club. Branquinho, the daughter of Jon and Ida Branquinho, attended St. Lucia Philippine School in Sao Paulo where she played volleyball.

"Mariana brings size, power and ball control," Christopher said. "She has international experience and will add depth the outside and right side position."

The USC volleyball team finished with a record of 14-12, 8-6 in the SEC. They have reached postseason play in four of the past six seasons.

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The Gamecock

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