

INSIDE:

USC women's golf and men's tennis see action, Cloninger writes on the baseball team's success

Sports

SCHEDULE

- Baseball vs. Wofford, 7 p.m.
- Men's tennis vs. Tennessee, Fri.
- Softball vs. Mississippi State (DH), Fri.
- Baseball at Louisiana State, Fri.
- Women's tennis vs. Florida, Sat.

Carolina looks to start new streak

Second-ranked Gamecock baseball squad tries for 23rd victory against Wofford tonight

BASEBALL ROUNDUP
GAMECOCK SPORTS

The South Carolina baseball team will try to begin a new winning streak at 7 p.m. as they take on in-state rival Wofford at Sarge Frye Field.

The Gamecocks (22-1, 5-1 SEC) are currently ranked No. 2 while the Terriers (10-14, 3-6 Southern Conference) come in on the heels of three consecutive losses to The Citadel.

Both teams lost their previous game, South Carolina dropping a 17-8 decision to Florida and Wofford losing 15-3 to the Bulldogs.

The last time the two teams met was in Columbia last season.

South Carolina won 13-3 and also leads the all-time series, 47-21-1.

The Terriers will start junior righthander B.J. Turner at pitcher. Turner is 0-2 on the year with a 4.74 ERA and 20 strikeouts. The Irmo native will try to get

his first win of the season, but opponents are batting an average .290 against him for the year.

The Gamecocks will counter with sophomore Brett Price on the mound. Price, usually a reliever, has a 2-0 record with a perfect ERA of 0.00. The southpaw has 12 strikeouts for the season.

If the starting pitchers get into trouble, they each have excellent setup men in the bullpen. Wofford coach Steve Traylor's pen is anchored by sophomore Tate Osterman, one of the top closers in the SEC. Osterman has compiled a 2-0 record with a 3.34 ERA and 25 strikeouts. Also, opponents are hitting just .222 against him.

Gamecock head coach Ray Tanner has junior Scott Barber to bolster his bullpen, which was shelled in USC's only loss of the season. Barber has been called on five times this season to save games and has converted every opportunity. The righthander

from Belton, has a 3-0 record, a 1.61 ERA and 33 strikeouts.

The Terrier offense is led by senior catcher Jeremy Vigna, who is batting .319 with a .426 slugging percentage. Also, senior outfielder Aaron Price is hitting .298 and is the Terriers' most reliable baserunner. Junior Chad Livingston leads the team with 26 hits and two home runs, along with a .289 average.

The Gamecocks are led by catcher Brandon Pack, who is batting .368 with seven homers. The junior catcher will also receive help from nine other Gamecocks hitting above .300. First baseman Tripp Kelly leads the team with nine home runs.

Both teams have excellent fielding percentages, with Livingston leading the way for Wofford and the Gamecock trio of Pack, second baseman John McHenry and shortstop Drew Meyer. The triple threat carries fielding tallies of .995, .936 and .920, respectively.



Gamecocks Shane Nelson (29) Chris Spigner (25) Brennan Dees (12) and Steve Thomas (15) congratulate Tripp Kelly after a home run earlier this season. USC takes on Wofford tonight at 7 p.m. at Sarge Frye Field.

National polls recognize South Carolina

BASEBALL ROUNDUP
GAMECOCK SPORTS

The 22-1 South Carolina baseball team was recognized Monday when three national polls ranked them among the top three collegiate baseball teams in the nation.

The Gamecocks, who stormed to a school and SEC record 22 straight wins before being beaten by Florida on Sunday, jumped two spots in the *Baseball America* poll, moving from No. 5 to No. 2, two spots in the *USA Today/ESPN* poll, moving from No. 4 to No. 2; and the biggest improvement, three spots in the Collegiate Baseball poll, from No. 10 to No. 2.

The Collegiate Baseball poll, recog-

nized as the most official of the three, placed the Gamecocks at their highest national ranking since 1977, when USC reached the championship game of the College World Series. South Carolina also was ranked No. 2 in 1975.

Another South Carolina baseball team, the Clemson Tigers, was ranked No. 1 in the Collegiate Baseball poll.

This is believed to be the first time ever the two in-state rivals have been ranked first and second over the rest of the nation.

In the *USA Today* poll, the Gamecocks received 11 first place votes from college baseball coaches around the nation, while Clemson received one. The poll ranks Clemson No. 5 after the Tigers swept their weekend series with Mary-

land, improving their record to 19-3, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference.

The two teams will play each other twice this season on a home-and-home basis. South Carolina will travel to Clemson's Doug Kingsmore Stadium on April 12, while the Tigers travel to Sarge Frye Field on April 19.

Collegiate Baseball said Clemson's pitching staff was the main reason for its No. 1 status.

The Tigers' trio of Scott Berney, Ryan Mottl and Jarrod Schmidt boast a combined record of 13-0, an ERA of 1.13 in almost 112 innings and a cumulative opponent batting average of below .200.

The other top-ranked teams in the polls are Stanford in *Baseball America* and Florida State in *USA Today*.

Collegiate Baseball Rankings

1. Clemson (19-3)
2. South Carolina (22-1)
3. Florida State (25-4)

Baseball America Rankings

1. Stanford (16-6)
2. Florida State (25-4)
3. South Carolina (22-1)
4. Texas (22-5)
5. Houston (19-7)
6. Arizona State (24-6)
7. Clemson (19-3)

USA Today/ESPN Rankings

1. Florida State (25-4)
2. South Carolina (22-1)
3. Stanford (16-6)
4. Texas (22-5)
5. Clemson (19-3)

2000 USC Baseball Statistics (through 23 games)

	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Avg.
9 Marcos Rios	9	8	2	4	2	0	0	3	0	.500
21 Brandon Pack	23	76	20	28	8	1	7	29	1	.368
7 Drew Meyer	23	91	25	31	3	2	5	24	11	.341
12 Brennan Dees	23	97	25	33	5	2	4	17	8	.340
15 Steve Thomas	7	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	.333
2 Nate Jannowicz	23	86	25	28	4	3	4	18	11	.326
43 Tripp Kelly	23	80	22	26	5	0	9	27	1	.325
27 John McHenry	23	66	18	21	6	1	3	14	1	.318
17 Trey Dyson	11	19	6	6	1	0	1	6	1	.316
1 Chris Phammer	19	65	13	19	3	0	3	14	2	.292
10 Clint Collins	4	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	.286
3 Matt Riddle	6	7	3	2	0	0	1	3	0	.286
41 Bo Mobley	9	23	6	6	0	0	2	6	0	.261
8 Marcus McBeth	23	81	21	20	3	3	3	15	3	.247
29 Shane Nelson	13	49	8	11	2	0	2	6	3	.224
18 Bryon Jeffcoat	23	32	7	6	1	0	1	3	1	.188
26 Tim Whitaker	14	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143
19 Rico Bravo	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000

	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W	L	Sv
4 Brett Price	0.00	11.0	5	3	0	6	12	2	0	0
38 Peter Bauer	1.50	36.0	25	12	6	12	32	4	0	0
36 Scott Barber	1.61	28.0	23	7	5	4	33	3	0	5
14 Kip Bonknight	2.05	52.2	35	13	12	5	57	7	0	0
23 Lee Gronkiewicz	2.25	12.0	5	4	3	3	13	1	0	1
46 Matt Wilson	2.53	10.2	9	3	3	5	5	0	0	0
25 Chris Spigner	2.84	6.1	6	2	2	5	5	0	0	0
34 Steven Whetstone	3.12	8.2	8	4	3	3	4	0	0	0
6 Jamie Poston	3.86	14.0	18	9	6	2	16	2	0	0
32 Ernie Bascuas	4.11	15.1	10	8	7	13	18	2	0	2
10 Clint Collins	5.87	7.2	7	5	5	5	10	1	1	0
22 Jeremy Plexico	9.00	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
20 John Wesley	11.57	2.1	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	0
13 Steven Bondarant	13.50	1.1	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	0

McGee extends Fogler's contract

MEN'S BASKETBALL
ROUNDUP
GAMECOCK SPORTS

Despite the USC men's basketball team's recent losing season, head coach Eddie Fogler has received a one-year contract extension from USC Athletics Director Mike McGee.

Along with the new contract running an extra year, salary was also discussed. A four percent raise will be added to Fogler's base earnings of \$155,000. This will bring his total paycheck

to \$672,000 a year.

Fogler just completed his seventh season at South Carolina and has compiled a total record of 108-102 during his tenure.

His past two teams at South Carolina have earned a 23-28 overall record and an 8-24 record in the Southeastern Conference.

The 1999-2000 Gamecocks finished on a positive note, winning six of their last nine games and advancing to the semifinals of the SEC Tournament for the third time in the past four years.

USC will return four starters and lose just one senior off this season's team. The Gamecocks are bringing in a recruiting class that has been nationally ranked.

"The improvement showed by this year's team was encouraging, and the prospects for future success under Coach Fogler's leadership are promising," McGee said.

Although McGee had decided not to extend Fogler's contract before post-season play, the two met a week ago to discuss the next few years. In past years, McGee has relied on

wins and losses as his information for deciding the future of coaches at USC.

A winning record is usually a pretty good gauge, McGee said. But sometimes you must look at other factors that may present themselves during a season.

"With rare exception, this year's team, despite having only one senior, was highly competitive in the SEC," McGee said. "The hope and enthusiasm of Gamecocks fans was sparked by the performance of the team at the SEC Tournament and reinforced our beliefs that successful seasons lie ahead. Additionally, we are encouraged by the academic progress that the team made this past academic year.

"It is in the best interests of our basketball program and for future recruiting to extend Coach Fogler's contract at this time," McGee continued. "Our standards and expectations will continue to be high, as we focus on competing successfully in the Southeastern Conference on a consistent basis and participating in the NCAA Tournament."

High standards are an understatement, but not out of reach.

McGee and the university set four different areas where the young South Carolina team must continue to improve for the upcoming seasons with Fogler at the helm.

The Gamecocks will be expected to finish in the top half of the SEC, beat the Clemson Tigers, make it to the NCAA Tournament and continue the progress in the classroom.

In his years with the Gamecocks, Fogler has led South Carolina to two

NCAA Tournament appearances but has only beaten the rival Tigers once in seven attempts. The win came in his first year at USC.

The 1999-2000 Gamecocks finished 5-11 in the SEC and 15-17 overall, up from a 3-13 SEC mark and a 8-21 overall record two years ago.

Seeded fifth in the SEC Eastern Division at this year's conference tournament, the Gamecocks knocked off Alabama in the first round before upsetting No. 8 Tennessee in the second round. USC's season came to an end with a 77-72 overtime loss to Auburn in the tournament semifinals.

"I'm appreciative of the support and confidence the administration has shown in our basketball program," Fogler said. "I really believe this year's team showed significant improvement and was competitive against a strength of schedule that ranked 20th in the RPI ratings."

The nationally ranked incoming class will be added to an already strong group of young returning players, four of whom held starting positions.

Included in the 2000-2001 season newcomers is signee Rolando Howell, who was named a McDonald's All-American high school player.

Fogler also will hold high expectations for his next season with the Gamecocks.

"With the nucleus of our team returning, along with what we believe is a strong incoming recruiting class, we look forward to having future success at both the SEC and national levels with our men's basketball program," Fogler said.

Spring football sees changes

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP
GAMECOCK SPORTS

South Carolina began spring football drills Saturday with a three-hour workout in shorts at the USC practice facility off Bluff Road.

There are several position moves to report, including: Antione Nesmith and Nate Gary from running back to defensive back; Ryan Brewer from tailback to slot receiver; Kevin Sides from quarterback to slot receiver; Langston Moore from offensive line to defensive line and C.J. Frye from defensive line to offensive line.

The Gamecocks are going to a 3-3-5 look on defense, which means they have three down linemen, three linebackers and five defensive backs.

Coordinator Charlie Strong said USC faces teams that run mostly a one-back offense, with a few exceptions.

Running with the first team Saturday were tackles Cleveland Pinkney, Cecil Caldwell and John Stamper; linebackers Kalimba Edwards, Marco Hutchinson and Shannon Wadley and defensive backs Willie Offord and freshman All-American Rashad Faison.

Offord and Faison proved to be two of USC's best tacklers and hardest hitters. In the 1998 season, Offord started as a linebacker.

Running back Andrew Pinnock has shifted his weight during the off-season. Pinnock, who weighed 261 pounds

following the semester break, is down to 240 pounds.

Outside linebacker Kalimba Edwards has added 18 pounds of muscle since last season and is up to 258 pounds.

"We got some things accomplished today," head coach Lou Holtz said after the workout. "We were very anxious to get started. We had a lot of positive carry over from our winter workouts. Spring practice is essential for us to establish some playmakers."

Holtz is also counting on Gary and sophomore Jonathan Martin for some more big plays.

Martin has made the move from running back to strong safety for the Gamecocks.

With the 1999 defense built mainly around one of its star senior players, NFL hopefuls John Abraham and Corey Atkins, the old 5-2 defense lineup was expected by many to be rearranged. In the fall 2000 season, the Gamecocks will hope to be more defensively balanced.

"We lost five starters on defense and four of them might get drafted by the NFL," Holtz said. "Shannon Wadley is coming on at linebacker. Offensively, Jermale Kelly, James Adkisson and Brian Scott caught my eye at receiver."

Spring practice continues Thursday with a 3:40 p.m. workout scheduled.



Special to Gamecock Sports
Head coach Eddie Fogler can look one year further down the road and expect a winning season.