

GAMECOCK SPORTS

# Two national heroes prove sports are still honorable



DAVID CLONINGER  
*Who Else?*

The sports world owes a debt of gratitude to Mateen Cleaves and Andres Galarraga.

In an age where the repugnant, insane actions of a few bad seeds are undermining the integrity of popular sports, these two athletes broke through Monday with a tremendous display of heart and showed a nation why sports is still a fairy-tale fantasy for people to believe in.

Right now, sports is a bad word on the lips of several million people, who are seeing negative aspects of the game take over all positive products.

The NFL has two players charged with murder.

The NBA, still trying to combat its bad-boy image stemming from a lockout and legions of classless criminals in uniforms, saw yet another in a long line of brawls Sunday when Kobe Bryant and Chris Childs squared off in the middle of a game.

The NHL, usually a champion of fairness and sportsmanship despite the daily fights, is reeling from an ugly incident where Marty McSorley viciously slashed Donald Brashear across the face with a hockey stick.

With all of the negative publicity, athletics needed a hero.

Monday, it received two. One, a flashy 22-year-old point guard for a national champion contender and two, a 38-year-old warrior who battled back from cancer and helped his team claim an Opening Day victory.

Cleaves, a senior at Michigan State, was playing for the national championship against Florida Monday when he received a lesson in Life's-a-Bitch 101.

Running down court on a fast break, Cleaves was hacked on his jump by Florida guard Teddy Dupay. As the two players came down, Dupay's foot planted Cleaves' foot onto the floor at a severe angle.

Cleaves, the Spartans' emotional leader all season, collapsed in a heap on the floor, writhing and clutching his ankle. He crawled in the direction of the MSU bench, screaming, "It's broke! It's broke!"

The Spartans, nursing an eight-point lead, held their breath with the rest of the MSU crowd in Indianapolis as Michigan State trainers scooped Cleaves up and limped to the locker room.

Then came the moment that will forever be remembered in NCAA history, not to mention give hope and fond memories to scores of future Spartans.

Cleaves walked purposefully back onto the floor, drinking in the cheers but knowing he had a job to do.

Still favoring his sprained ankle, Cleaves directed the Spartan offense into a set play.

Holding the ball on the left wing, Cleaves tried to fire a shot as Florida's Udonis Haslem, all 260 pounds of him, crashed into him, knocking Cleaves to the floor.

However, Cleaves' shot was actually a pass to teammate A.J. Granger, who nailed a 3-pointer to ice the national title.

Although he didn't score after he was injured, Cleaves played through the pain and through the worrying of his future to lead his team to the No. 1 spot.

He motivated his teammates to carry on in his absence and win their justly deserved title, one Cleaves had promised them at the beginning of the season.

Earlier Monday, another hero was set to return, but this time at Atlanta's Turner Field.

Braves first baseman Andres Galarraga finally returned to the clubhouse after a year long absence. The "Big Cat" missed all of the 1999 season after doc-

tors discovered a cancerous tumor in his back.

Although family, teammates and friends feared the worst, Galarraga rose to beat the cancer, returning to the field and saving the day for the Braves.

After throwing the first pitch to a wild ovation, Galarraga stood in for his first at-bat in the second inning.

He was beamed on the hand by a wild fastball from Rockies pitcher Pedro Astacio.

Although the Venezuelan-born hitter felt his hand could be broken and was in pain, Galarraga played on.

The Braves cleanup hitter helped his team wiggle out of a bases-loaded jam by spearing a line drive from Astacio's bat, preventing two runs.

He did it again an inning later when the Rockies threatened to score from third on a two-out hit and run play.

Galarraga leaped and caught the possible RBI shot to snuff the rally.

Then, Galarraga blasted a solo home run to left field for the Braves' first

run, sending them to a 2-0 victory.

These two athletes proved Monday that heart and real emotion still exist in the overpaid corporate world of sports.

Where talent left off, heart filled the void and won two games for two heroes.

These two athletes showed that old-fashioned values are still cherished by some athletes.

Cleaves has been playing with teammate Morris Peterson since his grade-school days. Galarraga organized a trip to Venezuela with teammates Eddie Perez and Ozzie Guillen to help with disaster relief.

These two athletes provided a welcome flashback to the days when people played sports for the love of the game, not just a big paycheck.

For that, Cleaves and Galarraga should be commended and applauded. Hopefully, they will be.

As for the sports world and its problems, there's really only one thing to say. Take a lesson. Please.

## Fullback Bush lost for season with ACL injury, Gawronski suspended indefinitely

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP  
GAMECOCK SPORTS

When the Gamecocks race out onto the field for the first game of the 2000 season, they will do so without the leadership and play of fullback Jacob Bush.

In fact, after his recent MRI, doctors say that his football career is probably over.

The 5-foot-11, 248-pound senior's left knee was injured at Friday's practice and showed a tear in his quadriceps muscle and in the anterior cruciate ligament.

Bush is scheduled for reconstructive surgery Wednesday.

Bush, a native of Jacksonville, Fla. and First Coast High School, came to USC as the No. 2-rated fullback in the nation, according to *SuperPrep* magazine. He has struggled with injuries

throughout his career at South Carolina and also sat out the 1998 season to attempt to improve his academics.

As a freshman in 1996, Bush played in 10 games and rushed for 34 yards on three carries. He also went on to rush for 95 yards on 29 carries in 1997.

Last season, Bush appeared in six games and rushed for 70 yards on 13 attempts.

**Gawronski suspended.** Head football coach Lou Holtz has announced that sophomore linebacker Daniel Gawronski has been suspended indefinitely from the team for violation of team policy.

"As head football coach, there comes the responsibility to set a moral and spiritual tone for the team," Holtz said, "and this we have attempted to do.

"Even with the most consistent spiritual leadership at the top, some players make bad decisions. We feel comfortable that our program was not the cause of this player's poor decision. We have zero tolerance for inappropriate

behavior and we will never ignore, cover up or excuse bad conduct. We are entrusted to teach and develop young people to be responsible citizens. We will have no further comment on this matter until the legal process has run its course."

Gawronski, a 6-foot-1, 240-pounder from Marshville, N.C., was a reserve linebacker who appeared in two games in 1999. He made six total tackles, five of which were solo stops.

**Spring game festivities.** During the week of April 14-16 USC will be hosting the following event in conjunction with the annual Spring Football Game.

**April 13** - Lou Holtz Scholars dinner and auction at the Stadium Center (1100 Key Road near Williams-Brice Stadium). An outstanding assortment of Gamecock memorabilia, prizes and other gift packages will be included in the auction. For more information, please contact Clyde Wrenn at the USC Football Office 777-8111.

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FOR 2000 AWAY GAMES

GAMES	DATE	COST	TIME
Alabama	Sept. 30	\$26	TBA
Kentucky	Oct. 7	\$22	TBA
Vanderbilt	Oct. 21	\$30	TBA
Florida	Nov. 11	\$22	TBA

## Clemson will be by Lottery

*Procedures will be published in the Fall*

A limited number of away football tickets will be made available to the University of South Carolina Student Body. The tickets will be limited to one (1) per student. Orders will be taken on April 11, 2000. The price is as listed above, cash only, and all tickets must be paid for on this date. Students must come to the athletic ticket office on Rosewood Drive between 8:30a.m. and 5p.m. to purchase away game tickets. The tickets may be claimed in the fall by coming to the ticket office and presenting a current Fall 2000 full-time ID card.

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