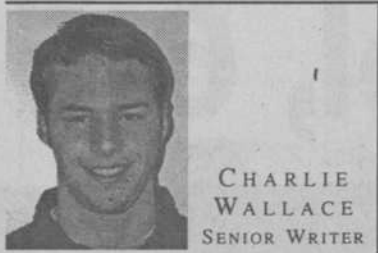


GAMECOCK SPORTS

Future is now for USC sports



CHARLIE WALLACE
SENIOR WRITER

The future is now. At the risk of sounding cliché, the future of South Carolina's athletics teams have been on display over the past couple of weeks.

And while there is a great deal of potential and excitement in the air, there are still some question marks surrounding certain teams that will be exposed sooner or later.

For starters, the football team is well into spring drills. The three-week mini-camp culminates in the spring game on April 15 at Williams-Brice Stadium. After two consecutive miserable fall campaigns, this spring is being closely followed by fans as well as the athletics department.

Coach Holtz and company have finally admitted the offense that was installed last year didn't work, and won't work this year. It took a year for the coaches to realize that USC didn't have the beef on the offensive line necessary to run over opposing teams and play good ol' fashioned smash-mouth football, just like Holtz loves to coach.

The university now realizes why Mike McGee was so intent on hiring Skip Holtz. The Holtz family has installed a version of the offense that son Skip used when he was head coach at Connecticut.

Four wide-outs and one running back lineups will be the norm for offensive sets. If you can't run over guys, then throw over them.

This seems to be the motto Holtz will live by for the upcoming season. This spring will be the first tell-tell signs of how the offense will look in August.

The defense has also decided that with the loss of five key players, they'll also need to switch things up. Forget the normal 4-3 defense played last year. This year's version will be a 3-3-5 configuration with two strong safeties with one acting as a center-fielder and linebacker prototype.

The emphasis and general strategy will be on different blitz packages, which could, in turn, produce big plays on either side of the ball. The defense closely resembles Mississippi State's

which finished first in the nation in total defense last year.

One thing is for sure, however, win or lose, the offense and defense will at least be exciting to watch. And oh yeah, Holtz said the team will wear black pants on the road next year.

Turning to the hardwood, even though the NCAA basketball season has just completed its season, talk is still plentiful about the Gamecocks and their future.

Coach Eddie Fogler commented that he feels like fans expect the team to go undefeated next year because the team won six out of its last nine games. They will be better next year and I think everyone agrees with that.

With the addition of Rolando Howell, who played with the nation's best high school all-stars last Wednesday night in the McDonald's All-American All-Star Classic, Gamecock fever has once again reared its head. The Gamecocks will finally have a shot-blocker. Howell is still a question mark however.

After missing an alley-oop dunk in the McDonald's game, and not really doing much, it's hard to tell how good Howell will be. However, he is quick and he can jump, which is something Carolina lacks right now on the frontline.

Howell, along with two other talented recruits, should also definitely add excitement and talent to an already fun-to-watch team come November.

But, the team that has shown perhaps the most realistic chance of being successful is the baseball team. After sweeping nationally-ranked Alabama last weekend and soaring to a No. 2 national ranking, the hardballers are indeed a talented squad. They should without a doubt make the NCAA tourney this year and contend for a trip to the College World Series.

The scary thing is, this team is still a year away from having its best shot at an NCAA title. They play nationally-ranked and traditional power Mississippi State at Sarge Frye Field this weekend.

Will the football team win a game next year? How good is the basketball team? Will the Gamecocks make it to Omaha this spring?

One thing is for sure. The future of Carolina athletics is on the shoulders of some very talented teenagers. The next few months will answer these questions and more. Stay tuned.

Holtz releases first spring depth chart

SPRING FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Lou Holtz and the USC football staff released the first two-man depth chart of the season Tuesday after practice. The chart is subject to change, but could be seen as a possible preview of USC's annual Spring Game on April 15.

Offense	
Pos.	Name
WR	00 James Adkisson
	89 Willis Ham
WR	84 Jermale Kelly
	8 Ted Crawford
LT	68 Travelle Wharton
	75 Watts Sanderson
LG	76 Cedric Williams
	52 Jeff Barnes
C	53 Jonathan Ragans
	64 Justin McGuire
RG	73 Larrell Johnson
	59 Dennis Thomas
RT	73 Melvin Paige
	71 Shane Hall
TE	48 Thomas Hill
	81 Rod Trafford
WR	82 Brian Scott
	10 Carlos Spikes
WR	21 Ryan Brewer

QB	3 Corey Alexander
	14 Phil Petty
RB	13 Eric Kimrey
	22 Derek Watson
	4 Andrew Pinnock

Defense	
Pos.	Name
DE	99 Anthony Overstreet
	56 Langston Moore
NG	62 Cleveland Pinkney
	97 Travis Lewis
DE	93 Dennis Quinn
	98 Willie Sams
LB	41 Shannon Wadley
	31 Darion Hutcherson
LB	51 Marco Hutchinson
	36 Andre Offing
LB	55 Kalimba Edwards
	34 Rod Thomas
	46 Lenny Williams
S	11 Rashad Faison
	39 Jonathan Martin
S	30 O'Rondai Cox
	20 Willie Offord
FS	1 Antoine Nesmith
	16 Marvin Deas
CB	29 Kevin House
	35 Andre Goodman
C	24 Sheldon Brown
	26 Tm Yam

Gamecock Sports Roundup

Spring Football

Coach Lou Holtz commented that the play of his receivers has been impressive. Senior Jermale Kelly, junior college transfer James Adkisson and sophomore Ryan Brewer have particularly caught his eye.

Also, Holtz said moving Antione Nesmith from fullback to defensive end seemed to be a "natural fit," while Dennis Quinn and Anthony Overstreet have made progress at the end position.

Volleyball

In the midst of a six-week spring practice, USC's volleyball squad will host its annual Spring Volleyball Tournament Saturday at the Volleyball Competition Center (corner of Blossom and Assembly). The tournament, which begins at 9 a.m., will feature past Final Four participants Florida and Michigan State and ACC Champion North Carolina.

"The team has been working hard this spring to improve both the technical and physical aspects of its game. This tournament will be a good test for us," Carolina head coach Kim Christopher said.

The tournament will feature the new experimental scoring method with two games played to 35 points and a third game

shoot-out format.

Time	Matchup
9 a.m.	(A) USC vs. Michigan State (B) Florida vs. UNC
10:30 a.m.	(A) USC vs. UNC (B) Florida vs. Michigan State
1:30 p.m.	(A) USC vs. Florida (B) Michigan State vs. UNC
3 p.m.	Championship match Consolation match

Track & Field

The first national *Trackwire* poll of the year has both of South Carolina's track and field teams ranked in the top 20. The women debuted at No. 4 and the Gamecock men are sitting at No. 17.

Competing at the Duke Invitational this weekend, the two teams return home to play host to the South Carolina State Collegiate Championships Wednesday. The meet will begin at 3 p.m.

SEC Softball Standings

SEC East		Conf.	Overall
	Kentucky	5-3	23-17
	USC	8-7	27-15
	Tennessee	4-7	16-17
	Florida	2-6	31-17
	Georgia	3-9	20-23
SEC West		Conf.	Overall
	LSU	9-1	33-7
	Alabama	12-2	42-7
	Mississippi State	9-3	31-11
	Arkansas	4-6	24-21
	Mississippi	4-8	17-28
	Auburn	3-11	25-19

Have a super Friday!!!

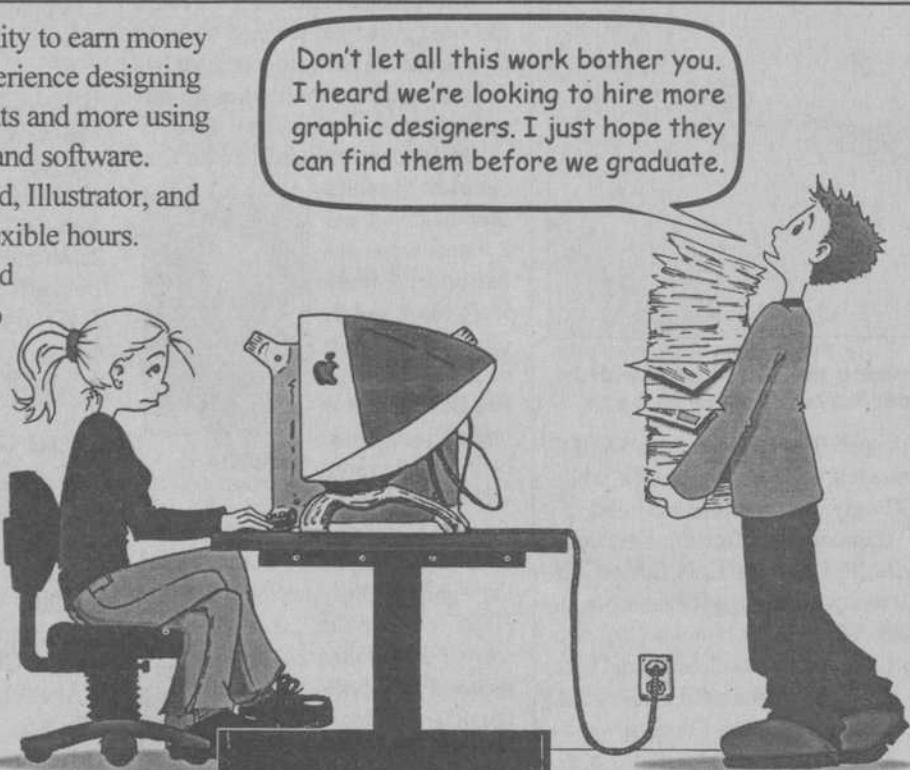


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Designers Needed

FOOTBALL tickets

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.