



Scrimmage shows team is improving

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

One week before their season opener against New Mexico State, the South Carolina football team went through a dress-rehearsal scrimmage at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Head Coach Lou Holtz had positive things to say after the Friday night scrimmage, but admitted that there was much work to be done.

"I didn't keep a list of all of the errors because I only had two pens," said Holtz. "We didn't kick the ball particularly well, and our return game was disappointing."

However, Holtz had good things to say about the offense, which is coming off a lackluster season in which they only scored an average of 7.9 points per game - last in the SEC.

"The longer we played, the better rhythm we showed on offense," Holtz said. "Our offense started to show some continuity."

Sophomore running backs Andrew Pinnock and Derek Watson had impressive outings for the Gamecock offense. Pinnock rushed for two touchdowns during the scrimmage, while Watson had a long run of 17 yards and made a key downfield block on a Ryan Brewer touchdown scamper.

Starting quarterback Phil Petty threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to junior college transfer James Adkisson, who Holtz says has made progress.

"James has come along nicely," he said. "He is very talented. He doesn't have a clue on how good he can really be."

Holtz was also optimistic on the rest of the receiving corps, including senior wide out Jermale Kelly.

"The receivers made some plays," he said. "They have improved since the beginning of two-a-days and are much better against the bump

and run than they were when we first started camp. Jermale Kelly has really come on. He is not the same receiver he was a year ago."

Defensive standouts on the evening included linebacker Shannon Wadley, who recorded a sack, free safety Antoine Nesmith and cornerback Andre Goodman.

Goodman, who is battling for a starting position, had an interception in the scrimmage, and Nesmith, who was converted into a safety after playing fullback his first two seasons, made a tackle for a loss.

Linebacker Kenny Hamey did not participate in the scrimmage because of a minor shoulder injury he received during pre-game warm-ups. Offensive lineman Cedric Williams and fullback Travis Lewis bruised their thumb and knee, respectively, while running back Trevin Smith strained his hip during the game.

Holtz and the coaching staff also used the scrimmage to prepare themselves for Saturday's showdown against the Aggies.

"We had our coaches in the press box and ran everything like a real game," said Holtz, who for the first time in his head-coaching career is using a cordless headset on the sidelines. "The communication was pretty good on the sidelines."

USC watched game film from the scrimmage the following Saturday morning and spent time correcting their mistakes during a light, non-contact practice.

After viewing the game film, Holtz was pleased with his team's focus.

"Their focus was pretty good," he said. "We had some missed techniques, but we worked to correct those in the morning."

Holtz was able to come up with a tentative depth chart for the much-maligned kicking

game. At present time, according to Holtz, the Gamecocks' placekicker will be punter Tyeler Dean, but Jason Corse would handle kickoff duties.

Holtz also concluded that he will make more changes defensively this season.

"Last year, our team began to tire in the fourth quarter," Holtz said. "We will rotate more people on defense than we have in the past."

Holtz had no luck deciding on a back-up for starting quarterback Phil Petty.

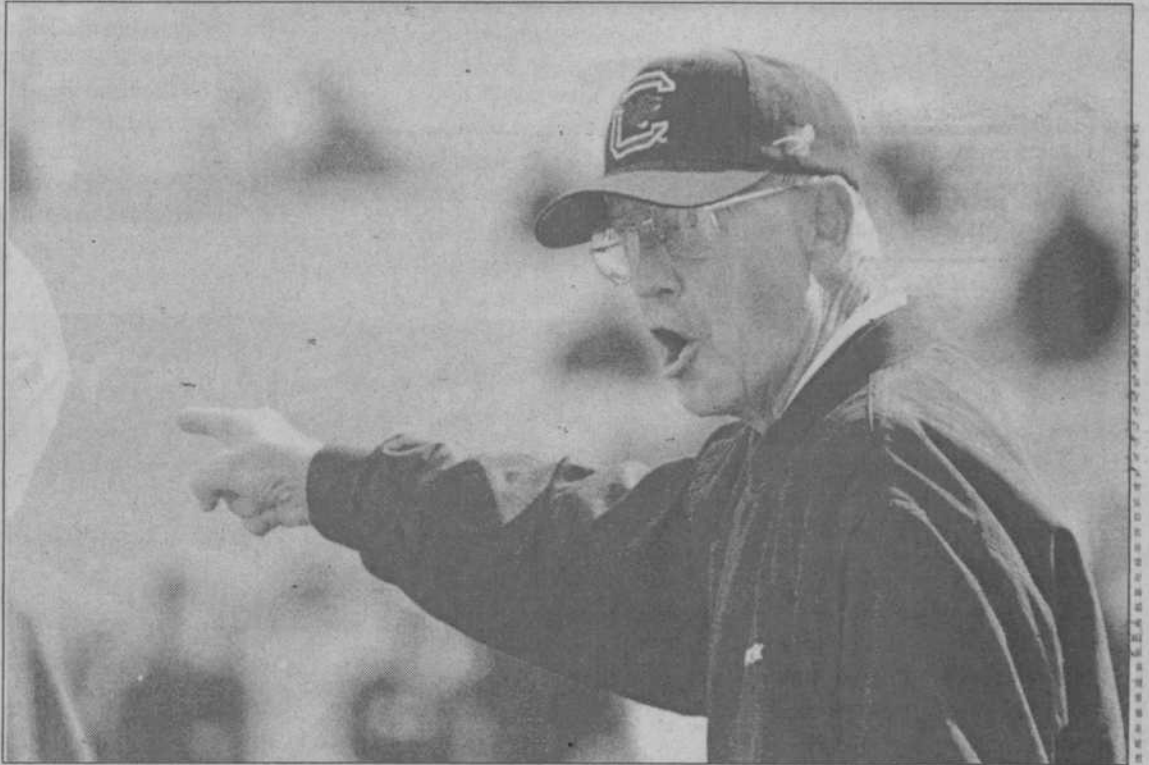
"I can't tell you much more about the back-up quarterback situation," he said. "We'll just have to take it as it comes."

Sophomores Mikal Goodman and Erik Kimrey are competing for the position, along with freshman Rodrigues Wilson.

The Gamecocks had Sunday off and will return to the practice field this afternoon in preparation for their season opener Saturday evening at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Injury Notes

Linebacker Andre Offing, who was nursing a pulled hamstring for much of the preseason, saw action in Friday night's scrimmage. Defensive tack-



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

Head Coach Lou Holtz changes his players around at practice. The Gamecocks spent their week-end tying up loose ends to prepare for Saturday evening's kickoff, set to begin at 7 p.m.

le Cecil Caldwell also played Friday night. He was sidelined with an ankle sprain. Offensive lineman Chad Walker, who was taken to the hospital after becoming ill during Thursday's practice, has been diagnosed with a condition that does not allow his body to maintain adequate blood pressure during physical exercise. It can be treated with medication, however, and coaches are optimistic that

the freshman can return to the playing field soon.

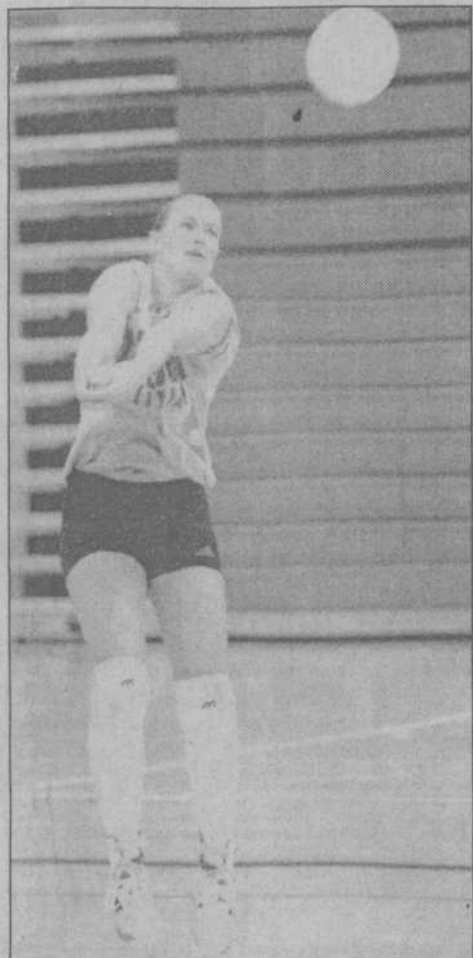
The sports desk can be reached at gamecocksports@hotmail.com.

USC coaches eager to begin seasons

BY DAVID CLONINGER
THE GAMECOCK

Although the buzz around the USC campus is mostly centered on the upcoming football Saturdays, four other fall sports started the new season Thursday with the official end of two-a-day practices and the beginning of their own quests for SEC and NCAA championships.

Coaches Andrew Alden (cross country), Mark



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

All-SEC sophomore Berna Dwyer returns to help the 2000 volleyball squad in the upcoming season which will kick off Sept. 1.

Coach confident in 2000 men's soccer lineup

BY SHANNON ROOKE
THE GAMECOCK

Most coaches would be slightly nervous if their starting lineup consisted of seven freshman and sophomores.

Not Mark Berson.

The South Carolina men's soccer head coach watched happily, as his youthful team not only took over half of the spots in his starting eleven, but also took it upon themselves to finish the job.

Berson (men's soccer), Sue Kelly (women's soccer) and Kim Christopher (volleyball) each spoke about their respective teams at Thursday's Media Day, covering questions about the past season, new faces and the tough schedules looming on the horizon.

However, one common theme was found among all the coaches - optimism.

All the coaches expressed their excitement for the new seasons but also addressed the concerns for their primarily young squads.

The Gamecock cross country team is coming off a fifth-place finish in the SEC, which is the best finish yet for a USC team. The team placed two members on the All-SEC team but also lost two members to graduation.

Despite this, Alden said his team is ready. "We had a very, very successful year last year," Alden said. "That puts the bar at a higher height."

Alden, who guided USC to the state meet championship and was named S.C. Women's Coach of the Year in 1999, lost three of his most productive players in seniors - Joyce Peebles, Karen Padula and Sarah Hadwin - but replaced them with a strong recruiting class.

"That's good and bad news," Alden said. "The good news is this is by far the strongest recruiting class we've had since I got here and possibly in the history of the program. But, we lost our No. 1 and No. 2 runners to graduation, but we return our No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 runners."

Alden is one of several USC coaches with a youthful team, with seven freshmen on his 13-member squad.

Alden says he thinks the recruits will immediately produce and become a force in the SEC.

Returning to the 2000 team are senior Sarah Davis, and juniors Katie Orr and Rachel Smith. Although bothered by an injury in 1999, Smith is healthy again and will lead the team along with Davis and Orr.

"Our schedule is by far the toughest since I've come to South Carolina," Alden said. "I think these meets will be excellent preparation for the SEC schedule and for the regionals."

Alden and the cross country team open up with a meet at Appalachian State, facing the host team, Florida State, South Florida and Navy.

The season begins Friday. Beginning his 23rd year at USC, Berson has

the men's soccer team primed for a shot at the College Cup (soccer's equivalent to the Final Four), which will be held this year in Charlotte, N.C.

As Berson pointed out, it would be an excellent opportunity to travel and hour for the NCAA title.

The squad was left on the NCAA Tournament bubble last year after a 10-7-2 record, although they had a 2-2-2 record against NCAA Tournament teams.

Also, two of the squad's most productive players, John Harr and Ryan O'Neill, are graduated. "We have a very young team," Berson said. "We have 19 freshmen or sophomores on a 24-man team."

"Our schedule doesn't help matters," Berson added. "Only three of our first 12 matches are at home, one-third of our schedule was in the NCAA Tournament last year, and three of the top eight seeds in the tournament are on the schedule, none of which are at home. We certainly have a very difficult schedule, but that's good."

With such a hard slate of games and such a young team, it would seem hard for Berson to seem so upbeat.

However, Berson has led the Gamecocks to 13 NCAA appearances, including to the championship match in 1993, and has placed dozens of his players in the professional soccer ranks or on the All-American lists, all while playing in an independent conference.

Returning to the team will be goalkeeper Henry Ring, who will go down in Carolina history as one of its greatest at that position.

Also, 1999 leading scorer Joey Worthen is back with sophomore Tim Glowienka, both leaders, as well as players, who make things happen.

"You don't know what's going to happen in terms of leadership, you don't know what's going to happen when the game's on the line," Berson said of his young team. "That's going to be an important part of this team's growth. We really will not have a starting lineup until well into the season."

The team got off to a good start this weekend, as they beat fellow 1999 bubble team Notre Dame 2-0 at the Soccer Showcase in Fort Wayne, Ind.

USC returns home Friday at 7 p.m. at Eu-

BANQUET SEE PAGE 2

USC, Clemson face off 4 times in baseball season

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

A home series versus national champions Louisiana State and four games against Clemson are just a few of the highlights in the South Carolina baseball team's schedule for 2001, which was released Friday.

The Gamecocks, SEC regular season champions in 2000, start their season February 3, when they take on the Wofford Terriers for the first of a two-game series.

Also in February, USC travels to Charleston to take part in The Citadel Tournament.

This is the first season that South Carolina and Clemson will play each other four times in the regular season. In seasons past, the archrivals competed only twice, playing once on their home field and once on the opponent's field.

The first meeting of the two teams will

2001 Baseball Schedule

FEBRUARY

3	Wofford	1:30 p.m.
4	Wofford	1:30 p.m.
6	Coastal Carolina	3:00 p.m.
9-11	at The Citadel Tournament (Charleston, S.C.)	
9	VCU	10:00 a.m.
10	Richmond	1:30 p.m.
11	Old Dominion	1:30 p.m.
16	Delaware State	3:00 p.m.
17	Delaware State	1:30 p.m.
18	Delaware State	1:30 p.m.
23	George Mason	3:00 p.m.
24	George Mason	1:30 p.m.
25	George Mason	1:30 p.m.

MARCH

3	at Clemson	2:00 p.m.
4	Clemson	1:30 p.m.
7	Furman	7:00 p.m.
9	Arkansas	7:00 p.m.
10	Arkansas	4:00 p.m.
11	Arkansas	1:30 p.m.
13	Davidson	7:00 p.m.
14	Butler	7:00 p.m.
16	at Tennessee	7:00 p.m.
17	at Tennessee	2:00 p.m.
18	at Tennessee	2:00 p.m.
21	at Wofford	7:00 p.m.
23	Vanderbilt	7:00 p.m.
24	Vanderbilt	4:00 p.m.
25	Vanderbilt	1:30 p.m.
27	at C. of Charleston	7:00 p.m.
28	Elon	7:00 p.m.
30	at Alabama	7:00 p.m.
31	at Alabama	4:00 p.m.

happen March 3, when the Gamecocks will travel to Doug Kingsmore Stadium. The next day, Clemson will visit Sarge Frye Field.

The teams will also face off in Columbia April 18 and in Clemson April 25.

Arkansas kicks off SEC competition for USC. The Razorbacks roll into Columbia March 9 for a three-game series.

LSU, who won both the SEC Tournament and the College World Series in 2000, will play the Gamecocks in Columbia April 6-8.

Carolina will also host an SEC series against Vanderbilt (March 23-25), Auburn (April 27-29), and Kentucky (May 4-6).

This year's SEC Tournament will be held in Birmingham, Ala. May 16-20.

The sports desk can be reached at gamecocksports@hotmail.com

APRIL

1	at Alabama	1:30 p.m.
3	at Furman	7:00 p.m.
6	Louisiana State	7:00 p.m.
7	Louisiana State	4:00 p.m.
8	Louisiana State	1:30 p.m.
10	at The Citadel	7:00 p.m.
11	The Citadel	7:00 p.m.
13	at Mississippi State	TBA
14	at Mississippi State	TBA
15	at Mississippi State	TBA
18	Clemson	7:00 p.m.
20	at Georgia	6:30 p.m.
21	at Georgia	2:00 p.m.
22	at Georgia	1:30 p.m.
25	at Clemson	7:15 p.m.
27	Auburn	7:00 p.m.
28	Auburn	4:00 p.m.
29	Auburn	1:30 p.m.

MAY

2	Charleston Southern	7:00 p.m.
4	Kentucky	7:00 p.m.
5	Kentucky	4:00 p.m.
6	Kentucky	1:30 p.m.
11	at Florida	TBA
12	at Florida	TBA
13	at Florida	TBA
16-20	at SEC Tournament (Birmingham, Ala.)	
25-27	NCAA Regionals	

JUNE

1-3	NCAA Super Regionals	
8-16	College World Series (Omaha, Neb.)	