

Georgia coach Donnan tells team to be wary of Gamecocks Saturday

BY PETE IACOBELLI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If Georgia's past doesn't matter, neither does South Carolina's to Georgia coach Jim Donnan.

"All people talk about to us is how many times we've lost to Tennessee and Florida and what's happened in the past. But that's immaterial," said Donnan, whose ninth-ranked Bulldogs face South Carolina at Williams-Brice Stadium Saturday.

So he wants his team to see the Gamecocks as 1-0, not 1-21. "They're off to a good start, got the same record as we do," he said.

The Gamecocks ended their worst in the nation, 21-game losing streak with a 31-0 victory over New Mexico State last week, their first since coach Lou Holtz arrived in December 1998.

The win has given them a jolt of confidence as they try and break an 18-game Southeastern Conference losing streak that dates to 1997.

Georgia, however, is favored by oddsmakers, with the spread ranging from 10 points to two touchdowns. Bulldog supporters are talking national title and a South Carolina struggle is not in their plans.

Among the Bulldog faithful who consider this the strongest Georgia team since Herschel Walker ran through the hedges at Sanford Stadium two decades ago, the Dawgs are expected to roll until October, then defeat Tennessee on Oct. 7 and settle the SEC East division with a win against Florida three weeks later.

And that's what worries Donnan about South Carolina.

Donnan "has made it well known to us that anything can happen," linebacker Will Witherspoon said.

Tight end Randy McMichael says the players got the message. "Anytime it is an SEC game it counts more ... because we are trying to go undefeated in the SEC East," he said. "We are going to play them just like we were playing Florida or Tennessee."

Sometimes, that's not enough for Georgia in this series.

In 1993, South Carolina quarterback Steve Taneyhill led a last-second drive for a 23-21 victory. Gamecock fans still treasure Georgia broadcaster Larry Munson's call of tailback Brandon Bennett's TD.

In 1996, a strong Georgia team came into Williams-Brice with title hopes and left a 23-14 loser.

Two years ago Bulldogs star Quincy Carter was rattled and ineffective for the first half against the Gamecocks, throwing for 10 yards, before he and the team recovered for a 17-3 victory.

Holtz hopes the Gamecocks can keep it that close, though he has sounded at times this week like the featured speaker at a "Go Dawgs" rally.

After the win over New Mexico State, Holtz's first since retiring from Notre Dame in 1996, the coach said he knew his players and Gamecock fans were ready to take on Georgia "because you think you have an improved football team, which we are."

"But Georgia is a vastly improved football team," he said. Holtz sees in Carter a Heisman Trophy contender, and he says the Bulldogs' defense with new coordinator Gary Gibbs already has eliminated the few big plays that cost them last year.

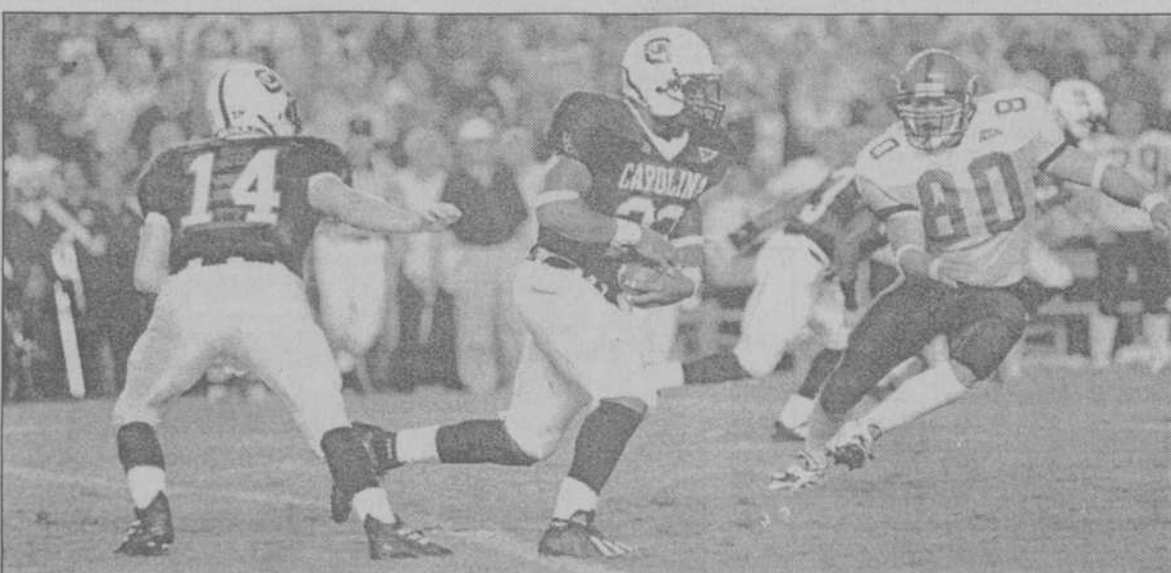
"They have unbelievable quickness and they dominated the line of scrimmage against us last year," Holtz said. "I doubt if we play a better football team."

Georgia has its problems. Linebacker Boss Bailey, a defensive leader, suffered a season-ending knee injury in the 29-7 win over Georgia Southern last week.

Reserve linebacker Tony Gilbert and tight end Robert Brannon also won't play against South Carolina. They are the last of Georgia's seven players who had to miss a game because of their unauthorized use of a university long-distance telephone code.

Associated Press Top 25

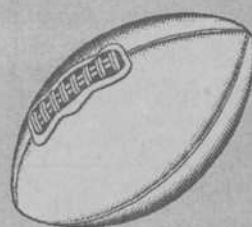
1. Nebraska
2. Florida State
3. Michigan
4. Miami (Fla.)
5. Wisconsin
6. Texas
7. Kansas State
8. Florida
9. Georgia
10. Virginia Tech
11. Southern California
12. Tennessee
13. Alabama
14. Purdue
15. Washington
16. UCLA
17. Clemson
18. Ohio State
19. Ole Miss
20. Oklahoma
21. Illinois
22. Texas Christian
23. Notre Dame
24. Michigan State
25. Southern Miss



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

USC running back Derek Watson, center, takes a handoff from quarterback Phil Petty, left, against New Mexico State last Saturday. Watson gained 114 yards on 14 carries in the game.

Gamecock Sports Challenge



	Jared Kelowitz Sports Editor (4-1)	Kyle Almond Asst. Sports Editor (3-2)	Brock Vergakis Editor in Chief (3-2)	Todd Money Defending Champion (4-1)	Guest of the Week Kevin Langston (4-1)
Georgia-USC	USC	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
Missouri-Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Auburn-Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Auburn	Ole Miss	Auburn
Miami-Washington	Miami	Miami	Miami	Washington	Washington
Nebraska-N.D.	N.D.	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska

Want to know what the talk is about?



Listen and find out.

WANTED!

Do you want a chance to roam the sidelines at Williams-Brice or sit courtside when USC takes on the Kentucky basketball team? Then join The Gamecock Sports Photography staff. Call 777-7726.

GAMECOCK SPORTS

If you are ready for a REAL Tailgate Party, then come on by!

the Second Great GAMECOCK Tailgate Party of 2000

September 9 (USC vs. GEORGIA) 1:00 - 3:00 pm
featuring the band, "WILL HOGE"

Seawell's parking lot - 1125 Rosewood Drive
across the street from "the ROCKET" at the State Fairgrounds.

The best part is that it is all FREE: Music, Lots of Great Food, Drinks and Door Prizes.
Souvenirs for the first 250 USC students in attendance.
General parking is available at Seawell's for \$5 per vehicle.

FREE Bus Shuttle to the Tailgate Party and back to campus after the Game!
12:30 & 1:30 pm: Pick ups at the Russell House, Columbia Hall & Bates House

Actual time or event may change due to funding or programmatic decisions. For additional information, please call 777-7130.

Department of Student Life

Division of Student & Alumni Services

ENTER TO WIN!

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO SEE THE GAMECOCKS PLAY THE GATORS IN THE SWAMP!!
TRIP INCLUDES:
*ROUND-TRIP ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 2 ON AMTRAK'S SILVER STAR
*2 NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 2 AT TEAM HOTEL
*2 TICKETS TO THE USC/UF GAME
*\$500 SPENDING MONEY

Schedule subject to change without notice. No purchase necessary. Open to U.S. residents over age 18 except sponsor's employees, spouses & dependents. Odds of winning depend on number of entries. Estimated trip portion of prize valued at \$1,424; all taxes responsibility of winner. Entries must be received by 11/01/00; need not be present to win—notification by phone. Winner must sign eligibility/liability waiver statement. Void where prohibited. For winners' list write to address on entry form.

PLEASE FILL IN BLANKS:

NAME: _____ OVER 18? _____
HOME PH: _____
WORK PH: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____
ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____

MAIL ENTRY FORM TO: Gamecocks Sports Marketing, P.O. Box 50306, Columbia, SC 29250 or Fax to 803.777.7176.

Intramural Golf Tournament

Tournament to be held on Friday, September 29
at the Indian River Golf Club
Tee times 12:04pm - 3:00pm

Two-Man Best Ball Tournament

Four players/team or play as an individual.

Awards for longest drive and closest to the pin.



Sign ups being accepted now thru Thursday, Sept. 14th.

\$20 per person.

Men's, Women's and Greek divisions offered.

Faculty/Staff welcome.

The Office of Campus Recreation
202 Blatt PE Center

777-5261

Department of Student Life
Division of Student and Alumni Services
USC

Read it... Live it... Be it... The Gamecock