

Watson's performance lifts Gamecocks to victory

BY CHRIS FOY
THE GAMECOCK

Derek Watson had a career day Saturday afternoon as he established himself as a pivotal part of USC's offense. Watson scored all three of South Carolina's touchdowns as well as making several huge plays critical to the game's outcome. Also, Watson broke out three times for 19 yards or more.

Watson's performance was one of many key components Georgia overlooked going into the game. The Bulldogs hadn't even had the opportunity to see exactly what Watson could do, as he was only able to rush for 29 yards in last year's matchup.

"I wanted to show how much will I had to be a winner and how much will this program has to be a winner," Watson said.

After Georgia quarterback Quincy Carter led a scoring drive on their opening possession, Watson was the return man for the kickoff. He returned the ball 53 yards and gave the Gamecocks opening field position on Georgia's 43-yard line.

The return was a career high for Watson. Last year he had four returns for 75 yards with a long of 25 yards. He now has 82 return yards on the season after making only two returns.

Gamecock quarterback Phil Petty led a drive full of trick plays on South Carolina's first series that was capped off with a five-yard touchdown run by Watson.

As the Bulldogs were driving to take the lead in response to the Gamecocks tying the game, Carter threw an interception to Andre Goodman who ran it 70 yards down the field. A Georgia penalty on the play put the ball on the Bulldog two-yard line. The first play on the resulting series was a hand-off to Watson which he

ran in for another touchdown that put the Gamecocks up 14-7.

After little offensive movement of the ball from either team in the second half, Watson finally capped off the game with a 21-yard cutback play for a touchdown with 4:10 left in the game. It gave the game its final score of 21-10.

The three touchdowns scored by Watson were only one shy of the school record of four set by Mike Dingle and Stanley Pritchett. Watson finished the game with 93 yards rushing. He averaged 4.7 yards a carry.

In addition, he caught four passes for 20 yards. Over the past two games, Watson has accumulated 207 yards rushing, more than half of last year's total.

Watson's rushing performance capped off a second straight week of an improved offensive scheme that has been enjoying considerably more

success than last year's offensive unit. Watson's game, along with Petty's and the offense, was due to solid play from the offensive line as well as spreading the ball out more.

Head Coach Lou Holtz certainly was impressed with Watson along with the offense. "Derek Watson had a great game. He plays well with the ball and without the ball."

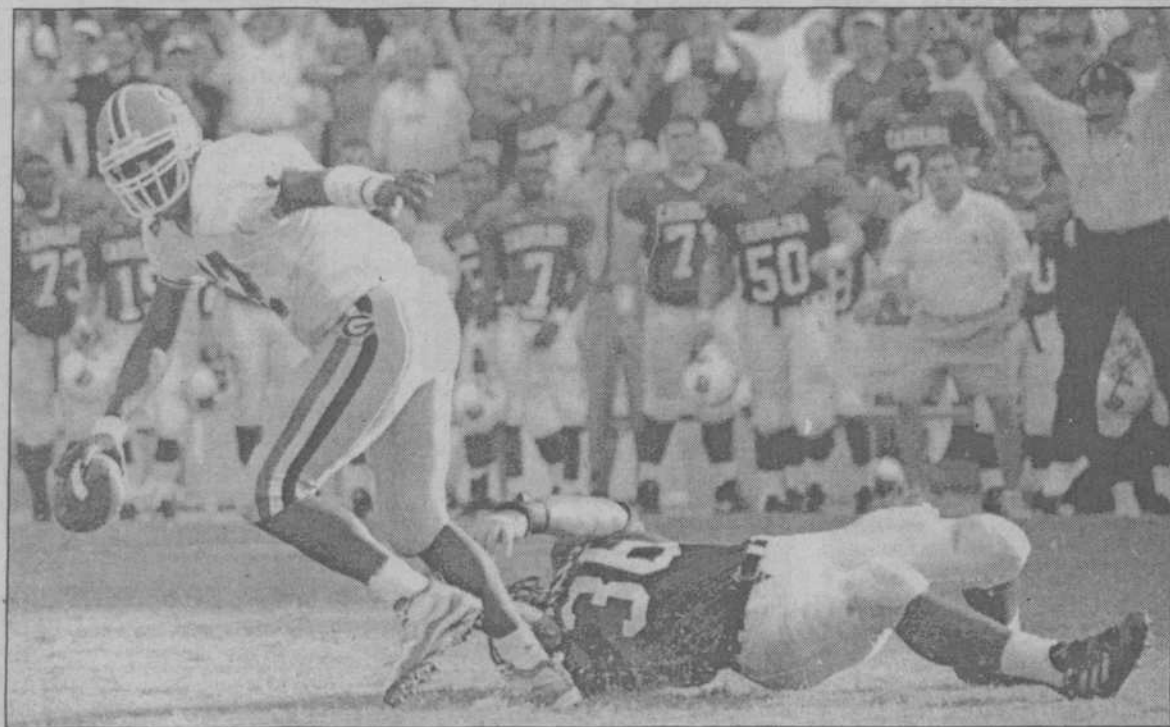
Watson was certainly pleased with the end results. "Not only are we 2-0, we beat a Top 10 team. It's a great feeling." However, Watson won't let the victory take away from the season's focus.

"We still have nine games to go. It still is a lot of confidence, though. Everyone has confidence now heading into next week's game."



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

Sophomore running back Derek Watson rushed for 166 all-purpose yards with three touchdowns in Saturday's victory.



TRAVIS LYNN THE GAMECOCK

Georgia quarterback Quincy Carter tries his best to escape the clutches of Gamecock linebacker Andre Offing. Offing was the SEC's Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against NMSU.

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it two plays later with a 21-yard gain for a first down. Watson also converted a key fourth down on the drive and scored on a 5-yard run to tie the game. On the first Gamecock possession, Watson contributed 82 all-purpose yards.

Carter had the Bulldogs moving again on the team's second drive until USC defensive back Andre Goodman picked him off. Goodman returned the interception for 70 yards to the Georgia 7-yard line, where Carter made a touchdown-saving tackle.

That tackle earned Carter a personal foul penalty, though, and put South Carolina on the Georgia 2-yard line. Watson ran it in on the first play for his second touchdown of the quarter, and the Gamecocks took a lead

that they would never relinquish.

Defense was the theme of the second half. Watson and the Carolina offense stalled on numerous drives as the Georgia defense adjusted to USC's quick-strike spread offense.

"I limited the offense - I made them play with one hand," Holtz said. "I wouldn't let us throw down the middle until we got behind. It was probably stupid in the long run, but I wanted to control the football."

Control the football they did. The Gamecock offense might have been having trouble scoring, but it couldn't compare to the difficult time that Carter and the Bulldog offense were having. The Bulldogs only had the ball for 6:13 in the second half, compared to almost 24 minutes for the Gamecocks.

Georgia's first two possessions of the second half ended in interceptions, to defensive end Dennis Quinn and cornerback Sheldon Brown. On its third possession of the half, the Bulldogs went three and out

and were forced to punt.

The fourth quarter wasn't much better. Trailing 14-10 and needing more than a field goal, Georgia failed to convert on fourth down from the South Carolina 20.

After a USC punt, Carter threw his fourth interception of the day to safety Rashad Faison, and that put the Gamecocks on the Georgia 37-yard line, where South Carolina finally took advantage. Watson put the game out of reach with his third score of the day, this one from 22 yards out. He finished with 166 all-purpose yards on the day.

Carter's attempt for a comeback was short-lived, as he threw his fifth and final interception on his second throw of the next possession.

The goalposts fell shortly after. "We got the job done," said USC quarterback Phil Petty. "This is a big step forward for us."

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Men's soccer squad beats No. 1 Virginia

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

For the second time in the last three years, the South Carolina men's soccer team knocked off the No. 1 team in the nation, this time beating Virginia 2-1 on Friday at the Maryland Soccer Classic.

Sophomore forward Jordan Quinn scored both goals for No. 22 Carolina (2-1) and, through three games this season, has already compiled three goals and two assists for eight points.

Virginia (2-1) took a 1-0 lead 17 minutes into the game when Kenny Arena's shot from 25 yards found the back of the net, but the Gamecocks didn't take long to score the equalizer.

Quinn buried a shot into the right corner of the net in the 19th minute, with assists coming from freshmen Ryan Daley and Robert Rosenberg.

The game-winning goal came at the 29:16 mark off a Quinn free kick. Virginia goalkeeper David Comfort was called for a foul after handling the ball outside the penalty box, and it cost his team a goal as Quinn drilled it into the lower left corner of the net.

USC endured a heavy offensive barrage from Virginia in the second half. UVA had 14 shots on goal in the half, compared to Carolina's three. For the game, UVA outshot the Gamecocks 23-8.

With only three more points,

Quinn will match his output from all of last season. The Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. native led USC freshmen last season with five goals.

South Carolina had never defeated Virginia prior to Friday's game. The Cavaliers held a 3-0-1 record over the Gamecocks, including a 2-0 win over USC in the 1993 NCAA Championship game.

"Virginia has a reputation of being the best in the country," Quinn said. "They are such a great dynasty. We suffered a tough loss last week (against UNC-Charlotte) and we needed to bounce back."

"I am very proud of our guys for not folding after getting down early," USC head coach Mark Berson said.

In 1998, Carolina upset the No. 1 UCLA Bruins 2-1 at the Graveyard.

Women's soccer team crushed at Tar Heel Invitational

In the opening game of the Tar Heel Invitational in Chapel Hill, N.C., the South Carolina women's soccer team lost 9-1 to No. 1 North Carolina.

UNC senior forward Meredith Florance scored a game-high four goals in the rout. South Carolina's lone goal came from freshman Jessica Julin.

The Gamecocks dropped to 0-4 on the season and the Tar Heels improved to 5-0.

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on the year already, the Gamecocks are one away from tying their total from all of last season.

"We came out ready but their defense outplayed us," said Georgia offensive lineman Kevin Breedlove, who signed with Georgia out of Daniel High School in South Carolina. "They forced a lot of turnovers and that was the key. Their defense really stepped up and played a good game."

Carter, who decided to stay in

school for his junior season rather than jump to the NFL, remained focused after the game despite the huge disappointment.

"It's a long season and we have to regroup," he said. "We have to stay together after this loss."

Holtz still had positive things to say about Carter.

"If I started a (pro) franchise, I'd draft Quincy Carter," Holtz said. "He's a great competitor and a class young man. I am a Quincy Carter fan."

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