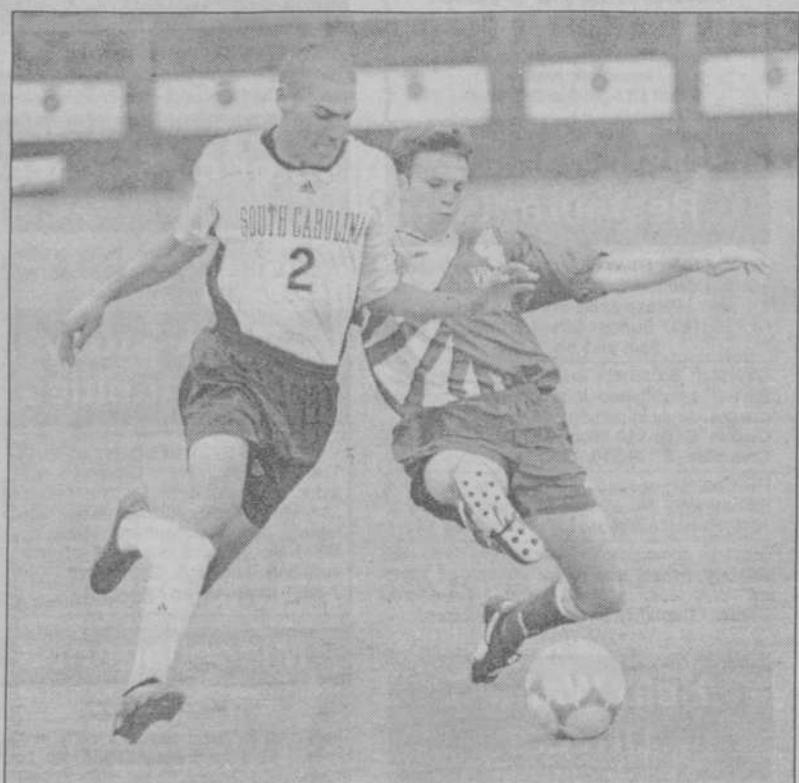


# Men's soccer wins fourth straight



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

Midfielder Robert Rosenberg (left) tries to avoid a Virginia Tech defender. The freshman notched an assist in USC's 4-2 victory.

BY KYLE ALMOND  
THE GAMECOCK

The South Carolina men's soccer team improved their record to 5-1 after defeating Virginia Tech, 4-2, in Sunday's Lorick Office Products Kick-off Classic.

Ryan Daley's two goals paced the No. 10 Gamecocks, who won their fourth straight game. Jordan Quinn added a goal and an assist.

Drew Myers scored both goals for the Hokies, who dropped to 1-5 with the loss.

The first half was dominated by Carolina, as the Gamecocks held a 3-0 lead after 45 minutes of play and didn't allow a single shot on goal by Virginia Tech.

The second half, however, was a different story, as the Hokies cut the lead to one and threatened to tie the game.

Daley started the scoring early, sliding in a cross by Quinn at the 3:31 mark to put USC ahead 1-0.

Quinn added his goal in the 12th minute of play to increase the lead to two. The sophomore forward received a through pass from midfielder Robert Rosenberg, stepped around a defender, and

unleashed a left-footed rocket of a shot that clipped the top crossbar on its way into the back of the net.

In the 34th minute, Daley scored his second goal off an assist by USC's leading scorer from 1999, Joey Worthen. Daley has scored three goals in his last two games.

"In the first half, we were really clicking," said USC head coach Mark Berson.

When the second half got underway, the Gamecocks were fielding only five of their eleven starters. Six players from the starting line-up were replaced, as well as starting goalkeeper Henry Ring, to give other players some playing time.

The substitutions almost cost the Gamecocks the lead.

In a three-minute span in the second half, Myers scored twice for the Hokies, one off of a penalty kick, to cut the lead to one.

"We made a lot of changes, and we sort of lost our rhythm and our continuity a little bit," Berson said. "And Virginia Tech was able to capitalize on that."

"Anytime you make substitutions, you can gain some things and you can possibly risk some things. But I felt like we did maintain control of the game,

and at the end we showed a lot of character by roaring back and answering," Berson said.

Midfielder David Testo added the final score with only 12 seconds remaining on the game clock.

USC out-shot Virginia Tech 18-3 for the game and held a 12-2 advantage in corner kicks. Virginia Tech was the more physical team, with 23 fouls to South Carolina's 10.

With his three points in the game, Quinn retains the team lead in points with 11. He also leads the team in assists with three, and holds the team lead in goals with four, along with Daley. Quinn also leads the Gamecocks in total shots (27) and shots on goal (11).

The Gamecocks get back on the road for their next three matches. USC will face Davidson in their next game Wednesday night, then they will travel to Wake Forest and Winthrop in the following two contests. Both Davidson and Wake Forest defeated USC last season at the "Graveyard".

The sports desk can be reached at [gamecocksports@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecocksports@hotmail.com).

## Volleyball improves to 8-3 at Gamecock Invitational

VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP  
THE GAMECOCK

The Gamecock volleyball team completed a successful week Saturday as they won three straight matches in the Gamecock Invitational. Following Wednesday's victory over Clemson, USC beat Miami of Ohio, Sam Houston State and Rutgers to improve to 8-3.

USC d. Miami of Ohio, 15-12, 15-3, 15-1

Down 10-1 in the first game, USC came alive and roared back to defeat Miami of Ohio Friday 3-0 in its first match of the Gamecock Invitational.

USC was led by redshirt sophomore Cally Plummer, who hit .647 with 12 kills. Sophomore Sam Alban had 12 kills, hitting .600 with four digs and three block assists. Senior Sara Heri led USC with nine digs.

"We served and passed again tonight," coach Kim Christopher said. "We didn't pass well the first 10 points. But I am happy with the way we maintained our composure."

"It helped to see Nadia Sefferovich step up tonight. Cally Plummer played another good match - she was a great leader tonight. Megan Hosp also continues to play with confidence."

During game one, the Redhawks could do no wrong, cruising to a 10-1 lead. But USC fought back to tie it at 12 on a kill by Berna Dwyer. Milica Perovic knocked down a kill to make it 13-12 and the Gamecocks never looked back.

USC d. Sam Houston State, 15-7, 15-6, 15-6.

Hitting over .450 for her third consecutive match, Plummer led the Gamecock volleyball team to its third straight 3-0 win Saturday.

Plummer hit .611 with 11 kills, three aces and three digs for the match, while Sefferovich hit .316 with nine kills, 11 digs and a block assist.

USC took a 9-3 lead in the first game on four Bearkat errors and two kills by Plummer. USC went up 13-5 on a kill

by Nia Mackie and won game one 15-7 on a kill by Alban.

In game two, USC also took a 9-3 lead on an ace by Hosp and Perovic. Carolina then went up 12-3 on three straight kills by Mackie and two by Sefferovich.

Sam Houston State jumped out to a 2-0 lead in game three, before the Gamecocks clawed back on kills by Hosp and Alban and two aces by Heri. USC went up 10-4 on another Sefferovich kill. Plummer knocked down an ace at match point to give the Gamecocks a 15-6 win.

USC d. Rutgers, 15-2, 15-12, 15-8

"I am proud of the way this team has come together this week. The win over Clemson got us off to a great start this weekend. I am so impressed with Cally Plummer and the way she has come back from shoulder surgery. Megan Hosp continues to improve and looks like a mature sophomore out there running the offense," Christopher said of her team's performance Saturday, as USC pounded Rutgers into submission to win its second match of the day.

Perovic had 10 kills, hitting .438 with six digs and three block assists, and Dwyer had nine kills, hitting .529 with two digs and three block assists. Plummer served five aces, with eight kills (.238), 15 digs and two block assists.

USC hit .360 in the first game, taking a quick 9-1 lead. RU scored to make it 9-2, but the Gamecocks shut down the threat quickly thereafter.

Game two was back and forth with the two teams knotting it up at 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 before USC took an 11-10 lead on a kill by Plummer. USC won game two on an error by Rutgers.

USC took a 7-1 lead in game three, but RU scrapped back to within one to make it 7-6 USC. USC went up 11-6 on a Rutgers error. Perovic knocked down a kill to make it 14-8 and on the last play of the match, Rutgers hit it out of bounds to give the game to USC 15-8.

The Gamecocks will take on Appalachian State Tuesday before starting conference play this weekend. The match is scheduled for 7 p.m.

## Woods breaks new record, signs \$100 million Nike deal

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods has been setting records on the golf course all summer. Now he is on the verge of a new benchmark — an endorsement contract with Nike worth about \$100 million, believed to be the richest in sports.

Woods and Nike agreed to a five-year extension that will pay him an average of about \$20 million a year, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The contract could be signed as early as Friday, said Mark Steinberg, his agent at IMG.

He declined to discuss specifics of the deal, only to say it was an "outstanding contract."

"It compensates Tiger not just for what he's done with Nike, but what he has done for golf and sports," Steinberg said.

In a record-smashing summer, Woods has become perhaps the biggest star in sports with one magnificent achievement after another: three straight major championships, a scoring record in each one, and, at 24, the youngest player to complete the career Grand Slam.

The source described it as the "largest contract in sports marketing history," a value that will not be fully determined until it runs its course.

"There are so many different revenue streams," the source said. "It's impossible to calculate what the end result will be."

Nike Golf president Bob Wood confirmed it was a five-year deal, but would not disclose details. He did say the contract was partly tied to sales.

"We've worked on this for 18 months," Wood said from Nike head-

quarters in Beaverton, Ore.

"It's a pretty creative contract. It has a lot of aspects to it, but the effort was worth it. It's not often you get a chance to work with somebody who's the best in the world at what they do. Working with and being associated with Tiger Woods has created an incredible amount of positive energy about Nike Golf and Nike."

Woods has represented Nike since turning professional in 1996. In just four years, he has raised his game to a level few could have imagined, and attracted a record number of TV viewers along the way.

With three tournaments to play, his nine victories this year are the most in one PGA Tour season since 1950, and he is on pace to shatter the all-time season scoring average set by Byron Nelson in 1945.

In June, he gave Nike a huge lift when he switched to the Nike Tour Accuracy ball. He went on to win the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by 15 strokes, the largest winning margin in the 140-year history of major championship golf.

Woods also became the first player to finish a U.S. Open in double digits below par, a 12-under 272. A month later, he won the British Open at St. Andrews with a 19-under 269, another major championship record.

Last month, he became the first player in the stroke-play era of the PGA Championship to win back-to-back titles, outlasting Bob May in a three-hole playoff.

The Nike Golf president said its market share for balls has increased from about 1 percent in April to nearly 4 percent.

The switch to the Nike ball didn't have a major impact on contract negotiations, Wood said. Nike also is consid-

ering a move toward golf clubs.

"If Nike Golf comes out with equipment, we definitely will be looking at one person," he said.

Woods devotes a substantial amount of time to Nike, which has used him effectively in its TV ads.

Perhaps the most famous was not even planned. During a break from a commercial of Woods hitting balls with dozens of hackers on a range, he began bouncing a ball on his wedge, behind his back and between his legs before whacking it in midair.

Such images, along with the spectacular shots he produces just about every week, has enabled Woods to transcend his sport like few others. His father, Earl Woods, said last week that Woods would do more for Nike than Michael Jordan ever did.

"He represents Nike Corp., the whole brand name," the father said. "That will increase more and more as he gets a little older."

Wood, the Nike Golf president, said that was "definitely possible."

"His professional longevity is greater than Michael's," Wood said. "Basketball players have a 15-year career if they're fortunate. Tiger has 24 more majors to play, just in the time period he is under contract with us. He has 104 majors left until he gets to the Senior Tour."

Earlier this year, Woods signed an endorsement deal with Buick worth \$30 million over five years and carries its logo on his bag. In all, Woods has endorsement contracts with 11 companies.

Earl Woods told Golfweek magazine in February that his son's net worth had reached more than \$150 million. After his U.S. Open victory in June, several financial analysts said Woods could become sports' first \$1 billion man.

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