

# Volleyball begins league play

BY RICK JOHNSTON  
THE GAMECOCK

The word around Carolina Volleyball this year is "ring."

The Gamecocks have set their sights on winning a ring, or more specifically, a SEC Championship ring. They are out to win the SEC title for the first time in school history. They remind themselves of this goal every time a huddle is broken with a chant of "ring."

The Gamecocks set out on their quest for the ring this weekend as they open SEC play with road games against LSU and Arkansas.

Carolina (9-3) is coming off a win over Appalachian State. The Gamecocks won 15-4, 15-7, and 15-9.

SEC play begins in Baton Rouge, La. as the Gamecocks take on the 4-5 Louisiana State University Tigers. Coming off a 17-15 (7-8 SEC) season last year, the Tigers return four starters, including senior setter Lauren O'Connell, who finished in the SEC top 10 in assists. Also returning is junior middle blocker Meagan Davis, who was named to the All-SEC first team last year after finishing in the top 10 in the conference in blocks.

In last year's game, also at LSu, the Gamecocks won 3-1 by scores of 15-5, 15-12, 6-15 and 15-10.

A tougher test will come on Sunday when the Gamecocks face traditional SEC power Arkansas.

The Lady Razorbacks are 3-6, which is disappointing considering they are coming off a season that saw them

achieve a 29-6 (14-1 SEC) mark, enough for second overall in the SEC and a berth in the NCAA tournament.

The Razorbacks return two all-SEC performers in senior outside hitter Yarleen Santiago and sophomore middle blocker Libby Wendell, who were named to the first and second all-SEC teams, respectively.

Santiago was fourth in the SEC in kills and second in digs, while Wendell led the conference in blocks as a freshman.

To come away with victories in these two key SEC matches, Carolina will need big games from sophomore middle-blocker Sam Alban, who tallied 11 kills against Arkansas last year and sophomore setter Megan Hosp, who was the digs leader in both games, combining a total of 18 for the two-game series.

Another key player will be sophomore Cally Plummer, who was named the September 18th SEC Player of the Week after she hit .503 in four matches against Clemson, Miami (OH), Rutgers and Sam Houston State. Plummer also leads the Gamecocks in aces.

Sunday's game at Arkansas will be taped for a delayed broadcast on College Sports Southeast.

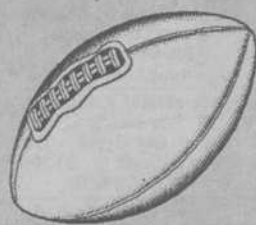
The sports desk can be reached at [gamecocksports@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecocksports@hotmail.com).

# SEC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

East	SEC	Overall
South Carolina	1-0	3-0
Florida	1-0	3-0
Kentucky	0-0	2-1
Georgia	0-1	1-1
Tennessee	0-1	1-1
Vanderbilt	0-2	0-3

West	SEC	Overall
Auburn	2-0	3-0
Alabama	1-0	1-2
Mississippi	1-1	2-1
Arkansas	0-0	2-0
Mississippi St.	0-0	2-0
LSU	0-1	2-1

## Gamecock Sports Challenge

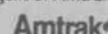


Jared Kelowitz	Kyle Almond	Brock Vergakis	Todd Money	Guest of the Week
Sports Editor (10-5)	Sports Editor (8-7)	Editor in Chief (10-5)	Defending Champion (9-6)	Jerry Brewer (11-4)
Miss. State-USC	Miss. State USC	Miss. State USC	Miss. State USC	Miss. State USC
Clemson-UVA	Clemson USC	Clemson USC	Clemson USC	Clemson USC
Alabama-Arkansas	Arkansas Alabama	Arkansas Alabama	Arkansas Alabama	Arkansas Alabama
Marshall-UNC	Marshall UNC	UNC Marshall	UNC Marshall	UNC Marshall
Notre Dame-MSU	Notre Dame MSU	Notre Dame MSU	Notre Dame MSU	Notre Dame MSU



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