

Adkisson a key part of Carolina offense

BY GEORGE SIMPSON
THE GAMECOCK



ADKISSON

James Adkisson was almost not a Gamecock.

The USC wide receiver previously played football in junior college and had prominent Division I schools such as Arizona State, Michigan State and Missouri asking for his services.

Adkisson liked each school, but points out that they didn't have one important catch South Carolina has: Lou Holtz.

He won't let anyone believe that Coach Holtz is the reason he came to USC, but Adkisson admits he was impressed with the veteran coach.

"Coach Holtz told me what he wanted out of me," Adkisson said. "I wanted to play for a solid program and I knew that [Holtz] didn't get to where he was with luck."

Prior to his arrival at USC, Adkisson played two years of junior-college football in his home state of Missouri. There the All-American wide receiver drew interest from many Division I teams.

His breakout game came against NE Oklahoma when he caught seven passes for 256 yards and two touchdowns. He also had his most thrilling athletic moment while playing in Missouri.

In his first game, and his second week on campus, Adkisson hauled in eight passes for 175 yards and three scores, including the game winner. Adkisson ended his JUCO career with 59 catches for 1375 yards and seven touchdowns.

The man known around the locker room as "Little Moss" or "Ak-bone" has certainly been Moss-like at times this season. Like his idol Randy Moss of the Minnesota Vikings, Adkisson's 6 foot 4 inch, 210 pound frame and his 4.4 second forty-yard sprint helped him overshadow helpless cornerbacks.

Take, for example, his third down catch in Saturday's game against Mississippi State, in which quarterback Phil Petty threw a jump-ball down the sideline while being chased by Bulldog defenders.

"Little Moss" leaped over All-American cornerback Fred Smoot and picked up a crucial fourth quarter first down for the Gamecocks.

This season Adkisson has very high expectations for himself and his team.

"Personally, I am striving to become a better player than I was in Junior College," he said. "As far as the team goes, we want to get a bowl game and prove the nation wrong."

When game day approaches, Adkisson is very technical in his preparation. He has no outlandish superstitions or quotes to bring him good-luck. He said he prefers to go day by day, take care of himself and not worry about what everyone is doing.

He puts his luck aside and says, "If the Lord is with me, then I don't need luck."

Adkisson holds a certain appreciation for the SEC, commenting on its difficulty and excitement.

"It is difficult to handle the expectations, but you have to abandon all excuses and get the job done," Adkisson said. "The reward comes from the excitement of playing in front of a national audience every Saturday."

When he's not on the football field or in the classroom, Adkisson says he spends a lot of his time sleeping. He says the most relaxing thing for him to do is hang out with friends, which helps relieve stress.

Adkisson advises aspiring college athletes that the most important thing to do is be in shape. He hopes this same advice will also help him move to the next level.

He dreams of being in the NFL someday, but if that falls through, he plans to exercise his options in the field of business.

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

Women's soccer to play two at home

BY CHRIS FOY
THE GAMECOCK

The USC women's soccer team is looking to make it three wins in a row when they return to Stone Stadium this weekend to open up SEC play against the Georgia Bulldogs (5-4-1) and the Tennessee Volunteers (4-5).

USC (3-7) got their third win of the season Tuesday night as they pulled out of Wofford with a 3-2 win, handing the Terriers their first loss of the season.

South Carolina is looking to take an early lead in the SEC as they take on Georgia tonight, and historically the two teams are matched even as the series record is 2-2-1. However, the Gamecocks have a slight advantage over the Bulldogs at the "Graveyard" as they are 1-0-1. In the series, each team has scored a total of six goals.

Although Georgia boasts a better record, the two teams have each taken a turn in mid-season.

The Bulldogs started the season with a record of 5-1-0 but have dropped their past four matches for an overall record of 5-4-1. The Gamecocks, however, have won three out of their past four matches after starting the

season 0-6. Also, since being shutout in their first three games, the Gamecocks have not failed to score a goal in any of their matches.

The Bulldogs have a very strong offensive front led by junior forward Amy Berbarry. She leads the team with six goals, 19 shots and 12 points. Alongside Berbarry, sophomore forward Beth Culver leads the team in assists with five and has two game-winning goals.

Tennessee's 2000 squad also has a strong offense. The Vols have a team effort at work, and as a team they have taken 182 shots, with 55 points on 19 goals. Their offense is led by freshman Rhian Wilkinson (five goals, 13 points) and senior Laura Lauter Smith (three goals). Smith is tied for first in all-time goals for the Vols.

The goalkeeper for Sunday's matchup will be junior Ellen Dean who has put up a .736 save percentage since her freshman year.

The Vols have not lost a game to South Carolina in their four-game history. Three of those games were decided by only one goal.

The Gamecocks are led by freshman Becca Epstein, who has put up 10 points this season off four goals and two assists. Sophomore Becky Leeper scored a goal and an assist Tuesday night against the Terriers,

raising her season point total to six. Juniors Lydia Bienias and Morgan McIntyre have each put up two goals on the season.

Sophomore goalkeeper Elise Matthews has started all 10 matches for the Gamecocks this year and has registered a 2.7 GAA with 43 saves.

Although USC has a low win percentage right now, the team isn't discouraged. The SEC as a whole has been struggling through their 2000 campaigns. With Georgia and Tennessee still having low winning percentages, the Gamecocks still have a chance to make some noise in the SEC East.

Looking constructively and critically at where her team is right now, Gamecock head coach Sue Kelly still finds reason for optimism for the rest of the season, as the remainder of the schedule will be all SEC matches except one.

"As this team continues to develop and show its depth, the future certainly looks bright," Kelly said. "There's only one way we can look right now and that's forward."

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SOCCER

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opponents 21-8 and led in corner kicks, 10-1.

Twenty-one Gamecocks saw action in the game, including three different players in net. Redshirt senior Henry Ring, sophomore Michael Bachmeyer and redshirt freshman Zac Jordan saw time in goal for USC. It was Jordan's collegiate debut.

In the history of the two schools, South Carolina has won all four meetings. Last season, USC defeated Winthrop 5-0 at the Graveyard. Jukka Sundquist had a hat trick in the game, and Joey Worthen and Alex Balasco also added a goal.

Since dropping their second game of the season at home against UNC-Charlotte, the Gamecocks have been on a roll, winning six games, losing none and tying one. Along the way, USC upset previous No. 1 Virginia and No. 8 Maryland.

Quinn and Daley have been the catalysts of the Carolina attack, scor-

ing two-thirds of all of USC's goals.

The defense has allowed only 10 goals thus far, an average of 1.1 goals a game.

The Gamecocks are now 2-0-1 on their current road trip. They wrap it up with a visit to No. 2 Penn State on Sunday. The Nittany Lions squeaked past USC in their meeting last year, 2-1, in the Mt. Pleasant Invitational at Charleston. Penn State is also undefeated on the year, with a record of 6-0.

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FOOTBALL

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ly every position. Linebacker Saleem Rasheed was a pre-season Playboy All-American and was SEC Defensive Player of the Year in 1999.

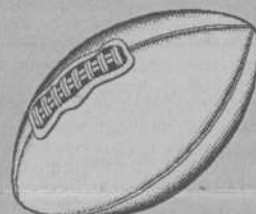
Special teams will be another battle this week. The Tide is averaging 39 yards per punt to Carolina's 33.2. The Gamecocks are six for eight on field goal attempts this year, while Alabama is two of four.

Holtz voiced concern about playing somewhere other than Williams-Brice Stadium.

"Playing on the road is a different bear," Holtz said. "I don't know if we're ready to handle it. Now we're going to find out something about ourselves."

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Gamecock Sports Challenge



Jared Kelowitz	Kyle Almond	Brock Vergakis	Todd Money	Guest of the Week
Sports Editor (12-8)	Sports Editor (11-9)	Editor in Chief (13-7)	Defending Champion (11-9)	Brandon Larrabee (14-6)
USC-Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	USC	USC
Clemson-Duke	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Georgia-Arkansas	Arkansas	Georgia	Arkansas	Arkansas
Florida-Miss. St.	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Wisconsin-Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

Student Football Ticket Lottery

For the Away
Clemson vs. USC Game
November 18, 2000

Students may have their ID cards scanned to enter the lottery on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, October 2, 3, and 4 from 9:00 am til 4:00 pm in Room 205 in the Russell House. This will be during football distribution for student tickets for the Arkansas and Tennessee Games.

A list will be posted of the students who will be eligible to buy a ticket by 9:00 am Monday, October 9 in the Student Government Office.

The list will contain 1200 primary students and 2 alternative lists of 100 each.

Schedule for Ticket Sales

Primary students - Tues. October 9 RH Rm 205 9am-4pm
First 100 alternates - Wed. October 10 RH Rm 205 9am-4pm
Second 100 alternates - Wed. October 11 RH Rm 205 Noon-4pm

Tickets will cost \$32 cash only

Students must be full time, fee paying students and present a valid ID card when signing up for a ticket and when purchasing a ticket.

Associated Press Football Top 25

1. Nebraska
2. Florida State
3. Florida
4. Virginia Tech
5. Kansas State
6. Washington
7. Clemson
8. Southern Calif.
9. Michigan
10. Miami (FL)
11. Tennessee
12. Ohio State
13. Texas
14. Oklahoma
15. UCLA
16. TCU
17. Wisconsin
18. Michigan State
19. Auburn
20. Oregon
21. Southern Miss.
22. Purdue
23. South Carolina
24. Illinois
25. Georgia

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