



- Swimming vs. College of Charleston, Fri., 6:30 p.m.
- Volleyball at Alabama, Fri., 7 p.m.
- Women's soccer at Ole Miss, Fri., 7 p.m.
- Football vs. Arkansas, Sat., 1 p.m.

## Carolina returns home to face Razorbacks



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

South Carolina running back Derek Watson makes a move against the Mississippi State defense. Watson and the Gamecocks are going for their sixth win of the season Saturday when they take on the Arkansas Razorbacks.

BY MICHAEL HANEY  
THE GAMECOCK

South Carolina will look to become eligible for a bowl Saturday as they take on the Arkansas Razorbacks at Williams-Brice Stadium.

The Gamecocks (5-1, 3-1 SEC) are currently tied for first place in the SEC Eastern Division with the Florida Gators. Carolina found a way to win last Saturday against Kentucky, edging the Wildcats 20-17 in Lexington, Ky.

Arkansas (4-1, 1-1 SEC) is coming off of a 52-6 drubbing of out-manned Louisiana-Monroe.

Carolina is looking to avenge a 48-14 blowout last year against the Hogs in Fayetteville, Ark. The Razorbacks scored early and as often as they could as they cruised to the victory, one that has the players focused this week.

"I think they ran it up on us," senior linebacker Andre Offing said. "I don't know if it was something with the coaches or what. But we're going to try not to let that happen again."

"They talked a lot of smack and it was hard taking that abuse," Offing said. "We had a lot of embarrassing moments last year, and that was the worst of them all."

Carolina's defense will try to continue its momentum from last week, when the unit held the high-powered Kentucky offense scoreless in the second half. Carolina's defensive unit is ranked 12th nationally and 14th in scoring defense.

Carolina has two injured starters heading into the game Saturday.

Starting offensive left tackle Travelle Wharton and starting strong safety Rashad Faison both have shoulder injuries. Faison was injured in last Saturday's game, while Wharton was injured at Tuesday's practice. USC head coach Lou Holtz has said both should play depending on their performances in practice this week.

Arkansas hasn't been doing well on the injury

front so far this season. The Razorbacks lost their first and second string tailbacks in their game with Alabama earlier this year.

Cedric Cobbs, who was an All-America candidate as a sophomore, separated his shoulder against Alabama and had to undergo season-ending shoulder surgery. Cobbs had rushed for a team-leading 291 yards and four touchdowns in just three games this fall before getting injured.

Fred Talley broke his wrist against the Crimson Tide and is the team's third leading ground gainer on the year. Talley resumed practice this week and may see limited action this weekend.

Freshman tailback Brandon Holmes will see his first start of the year. He has led the offense in rushing the past two games.

"Brandon is going to start the game and we are going to try to get him going," Arkansas head coach Houston Nutt said. "He is a big back and I think he is just going to get better."

Offensively, Arkansas is one of the SEC's highest scoring teams, with its 32.6 per game average ranking second in the conference and 21st in the nation. The Razorbacks are also averaging 5.2 yards per offensive play.

Razorback quarterback Robby Hampton has thrown 11 touchdown passes and is completing more than 57 percent of his passes.

Arkansas also features one of the SEC's top receiving corps. Boo Williams is regarded as one of the premier receivers in the SEC. He is averaging nearly 23 yards per reception and 73.4 yards receiving per contest. Three of Williams' four touchdown receptions have been for more than 50 yards (79, 75, 54). Rachard Smith leads the team with 22 receptions for 216 yards and one touchdown.

On defense, the Hogs are very aggressive and physical. Arkansas is ranked second in the SEC and eighth in the nation in pass defense (149.8).

FOOTBALL SEE PAGE 11

## Gamecocks hoping victory over Arkansas will lead to bowl bid

### ■ Team's last bowl was '95 Carquest

BY RICK JOHNSTON  
THE GAMECOCK

With a win in tomorrow's game against the Arkansas Razorbacks, the South Carolina Gamecocks will win their sixth game of the season, giving them the number of wins needed to be eligible for a postseason bowl game.

The last time Carolina was close to going to a bowl was 1996, when the Gamecocks went 6-5. Despite a rumored invitation to the

Independence Bowl, the Gamecocks did not play in the postseason play that year.

Carolina's last bowl appearance was in the 1995 Carquest Bowl in Miami, which saw the Gamecocks win their first bowl game in nine tries with a 24-21 triumph over West Virginia.

Although there is still plenty of football to be played this season, here is a look at the bowl games that Carolina may be going to.

The Southeastern Conference has a bid in seven bowl games, including a Bowl Championship Series bid to the SEC Champion. The bowl schedule was taken off of NCAAFootball.net and the conference matchups were taken from CNN.com.

On December 29, Nashville's Adelphia

Coliseum will host the HomePoint.com Music City Bowl. This bowl will feature a team from the SEC facing the No. 4 team from the Big East Conference.

Also on December 29 will be the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. This game will feature a team from the SEC against a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference.

On December 31, the Sanford Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., will feature the No. 6 team from the Big 12 Conference and a team from the SEC. If the season were to end today, either Texas or Texas A&M would serve as the Big 12 representative.

New Year's Day, the traditional day of big college football games, has three bowl

games the Gamecocks might be able to attend.

One is the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Fla., which will feature an SEC team playing against the No. 3 team from the Big Ten Conference. If the season were to end today, either Purdue, Minnesota or Michigan would serve as the Big 10 team.

Another New Year's Day affair will be the SBC Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas. This game will showcase an SEC team competing against the No. 2 team in the Big Twelve. This will be the loser of the Big Twelve Championship game, which would currently pit Kansas State against Oklahoma.

The last New Year's Day bowl game is the Ourhouse.com Florida Citrus Bowl in Or-

lando, Fla. This will pit an SEC team against the number 2 team in the Big Ten, a spot currently held by Ohio State.

The best case scenario, however, would have the Gamecocks winning the SEC Championship game, giving them an automatic berth in the BCS.

This year, the SEC Champion will play in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, which will take place on January 2 at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. The SEC Champion, provided they are not the top two teams in America, will face a BCS at-large team.

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## Ninth-ranked men's soccer team prepares for home game against strong Furman team

BY CASEY WHITE  
THE GAMECOCK

The ninth-ranked South Carolina men's soccer team (8-1-2) will be looking to build on a successful start to the season this weekend at "The Graveyard" when they take on the Furman Paladins.

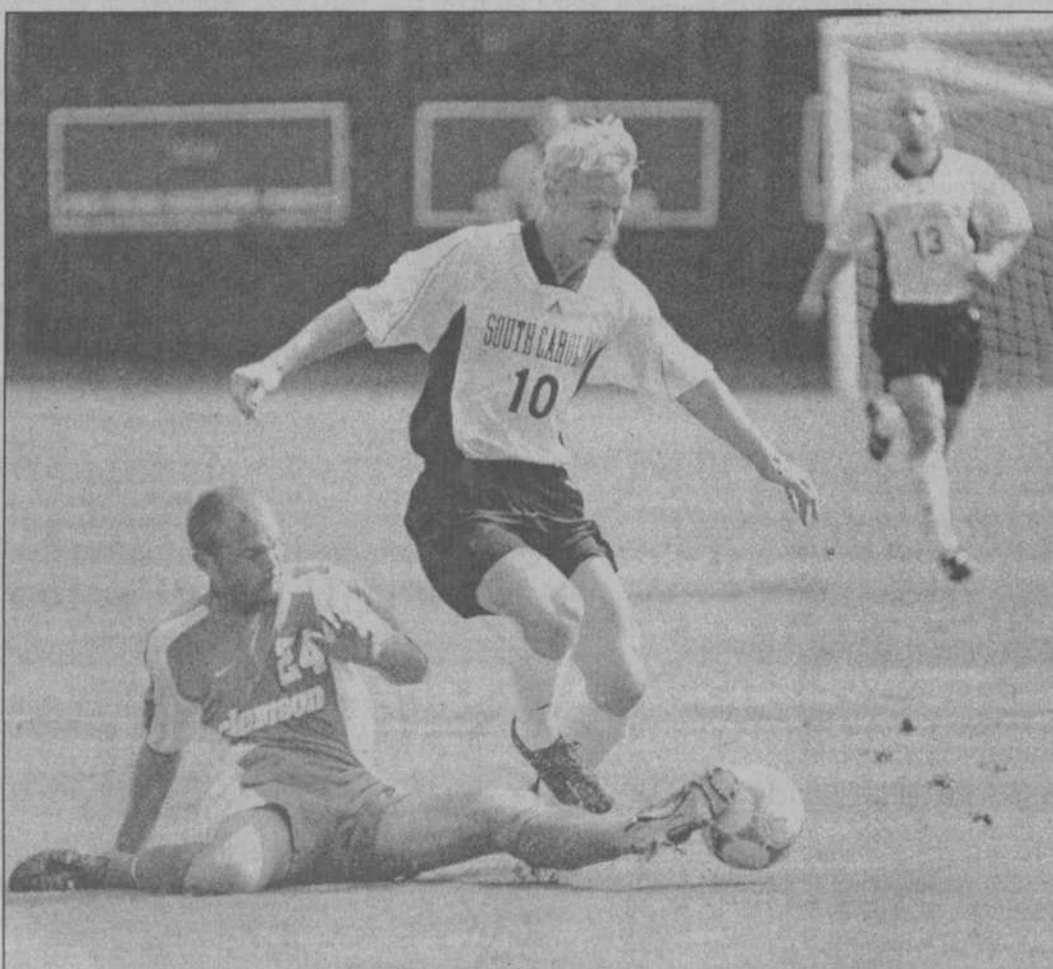
The Southern Conference team has an overall record of 11-2 and has yet to lose an away game during this season. They claimed their most recent victory over Wofford Wednesday night, defeating the Terriers 2-1.

The Paladins boast an extremely strong defense that has managed to hold their opponents to only 10 goals this season, while the offense kicked 44 into the net. The backbone of the defense is All-South goalkeeper Scott Blount, who has allowed only nine goals against his recorded 33 saves for 4 goals against average of 0.82.

The Furman offense has also posted outstanding numbers this season, as they have taken twice as many shots as their opponents with an average of 3.7 goals per game.

The stronghold of the offense is junior All-American John Barry Nusum, who is on the way to being Furman's all-time leading scorer. The forward from Bermuda leads the Paladins in points with 26, including 10 goals and six assists.

The Paladin freshmen are certainly contributing to the cause this season as well. Lead-



SEAN RAYFORD THE GAMECOCK

Gamecock midfielder David Testo tries to elude a sliding Clemson defender during the two teams' 0-0 tie on Sunday. The Gamecocks' next opponents are the Furman Paladins.

## Volleyball road trip continues with games at Auburn, Alabama

BY CHARLES TOMLINSON  
THE GAMECOCK

The Gamecock volleyball team will embark on another road trip this weekend, facing Alabama Friday and Auburn Sunday. Both matches will be televised, and the Auburn match will be the SEC Match of the Week.

Alabama is 15-4 and 5-1 in SEC play after a victory over Mississippi State Sunday. Head coach Judy Green is leading the team for her fifth year. Last year, the Crimson Tide had their first winning season in five years, finishing with a 17-15 record. All of last year's starters have returned this season.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this is by far the most talented group in my tenure," Green said. "I feel like this group has the mindset and desire to make the next step for this program."

Senior outside hitters Michelle Green and Monica Morales form the intimidating offense for Alabama. Green, a first-team All-SEC selection, led the Crimson Tide and the SEC in kills as a junior. This season, she leads the Tide with 300 kills and has also racked up 167 digs. Morales, a fifth-year senior, leads the team in digs with 188 and has contributed 219 kills this season. Sophomore middle blocker Shelly Adamcik has the

highest total of block assists for Alabama with 52.

Senior setter Allison Lange, along with sophomore setter Bridget Studnicka, have contributed solid defense to the Tide this season.

Freshman Erin Price has proven to be a new strength for Alabama. She has already contributed 73 kills and 29 block assists this season.

Alabama leads the all-time series with USC 10-7. However, USC has emerged victorious in five of the last seven meetings.

"Alabama is a real aggressive team," said USC junior defensive specialist Liz Price. "They're defensively really, really good, so our hitters have got to be on, and our passers have got to be on, and we've just got to go for the win in both games."

After defeating Georgia State Wednesday night, Auburn is 10-8 with a SEC record of 1-5. Last season, the Tigers finished second in the SEC Western Division with a 19-11 overall record and an 8-7 SEC record. This is coach Kevin Renshler's first season in charge of the squad. USC hopes to earn their fifth straight win over Auburn on Sunday.

On the outside, the big names returning for Auburn are senior Brooke

VOLLEYBALL SEE PAGE 11