

VOLLEYBALL

Gamecock volleyball takes two wins in homestand against Mississippi foes

BY CHARLES TOMLINSON
THE GAMECOCK

The South Carolina volleyball team defeated Mississippi State 3-1 Sunday and Mississippi 3-0 Friday, improving its record to 18-4 overall and 9-1 in the Southeastern Conference.

USC has won 14 of its last 15 matches. The team's only loss came to SEC East-leading Florida.

The Gamecocks have a weekend off before facing Tennessee in Knoxville Nov. 3 and Kentucky in Lexington Nov. 5.

South Carolina 3, Mississippi State 1 (Sunday)

USC won its second match of the weekend against Mississippi State 3-1. The Gamecocks won the first two games 15-3 and 16-14 before dropping the third 15-13. Carolina rebounded in the fourth game, winning 15-5 to clinch the win.

The Bulldogs saw their record drop to 14-10 overall and 1-8 in the conference. They became the fourth SEC team in a row that USC has held under .100 in hitting percentage. USC is also 6-0 against SEC West teams this season.

Milica Perovic's 12 kills led the Gamecocks to victory. USC struggled in the match, hitting just .153. MSU wasn't much better, hitting .078.

The Gamecocks won 15-3 in the first game and were sparked by aces from Berna Dwyer and Cally Plummer.

Plummer hit three aces in game two to get USC out to an early 3-2 lead. Carolina began to run away with the game, but the Bulldogs rallied to tie it at 13 and then take a 14-13 lead. However, USC went on to score three straight points and win the game 16-14.

MSU went up 13-9 and then 14-10 in game three. USC tied it at 14, but the Bulldogs held off the challenge to win 15-13 and cut the Carolina lead to one.

But in game four, USC took a commanding 9-0 lead and never looked back, finishing MSU 15-5.

"Mississippi State made key adjustments and played better in games two and three. We got impatient in game two," South Carolina head coach Kim Christopher said. "We were having success offensively and they weren't stopping us in the first game. In the fourth game, we played better defensively and didn't have as many hitting errors."

South Carolina 3, Mississippi 0 (Friday)

On Friday night, the USC volleyball team swept the University of Mississippi Rebels, 3-0.

With that victory, the Gamecocks improved their record to 17-4 overall and 8-1 in SEC matches. After their loss, the Rebels fell to 11-12 and 2-7.

Friday's victory marked USC's 13th win in their last 14 matches. The game scores were 15-3, 15-2, and 15-9.

Overall, USC's attacking percentage was .375, while Ole Miss reached .058.

"Tonight, we played as a team and we played consistently," said setter Megan Hosp. "In preparation for Florida and our other matches in the SEC tournament, I think we did really well tonight."

"We had a very good match tonight. The team played well together, and we had a lot of fun," Dwyer said.

Dwyer, a middle blocker who is No. 5 in the NCAA in hitting percentage, led Carolina by hitting .409.

She also made 12 kills, eight kills and five block assists. Hosp gave an impressive performance with 35 assists, seven kills, eight digs and two block assists.

Sam Alban, who hit .889, came out during the final game to contribute eight kills. Sara Heri made two aces and had seven kills.

In game one, the momentum immediately shifted toward USC. The Gamecocks soared to a 6-0 lead before Ole Miss called time out. They returned and scored three points, but kills by Nia Mackie and Plummer turned things around for the duration of the game. Plummer made a service ace for the match point, and Dwyer contributed the match-winning kill. The Gamecocks won 15-3.

Carolina rushed to a 6-0 lead in game two. Heri had two back-to-back aces for the fourth and fifth USC points. Mackie once again made some critical kills to help the Gamecocks win 15-2.

Game three was much more tense, as Ole Miss fought to stay in the competition. They came within two points, 11-9, but after a kill by Dwyer that gained possession for USC, the Gamecocks went on an unstoppable run. One final kill by Nadia Sefferovich ended the game, 15-9, and won the match for USC.

"In game one, we were sharp offensively," said Christopher. "In game three, Mississippi played better, and I feel like we just didn't take advantage of some opportunities that we had."

"Overall, I feel very good about the way that we played," Christopher said. "We're seeing some good things going on in transition, so I think we're getting better."

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

Associated Press Football Top 25

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

Sophomore Rose emerges victorious in tennis invitational

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

Gamecock sophomore Seth Rose came out strong in the 2000 USC Tennis Fall Invitational, winning his flight with a pair of wins on Sunday.

Rose defeated William & Mary's Trevor Spracklin in straight sets, 7-5, 7-5, in the finals of flight A1 to win the tournament.

Rose had previously won a hard-fought match against Eastern Tennessee State's Marcos Pavlovich in the semi-finals. Rose took the first set 6-3 but lost the second 7-5. Rose was up 2-0 in the third set before Pavlovich had to retire due to an injured ankle.

Carolina's Nasir Sherazi also advanced to the semifinals of his flight, but came up short against Brown's Chris Wolfe.

Two doubles teams also lost semifinal match-ups. Senior Guillaume Legat and junior Rodrigo Pacheco lost 8-3 to a team from Virginia and juniors David Nelson and Marcus Singh were defeated 8-1 by a team from UNC-Greensboro.

But Rose's victory made the day a special one for USC head coach Kent DeMars.

"This was a wonderful experience for Seth," DeMars said after the win. "It has been a long weekend, and it was good to see him compete on such a high level. We're proud of all our guys making it to the semifinals of their flights in either singles or doubles."

A1 Semifinals
Seth Rose (USC) def. Marcos Pavlovich (ETSU) 6-3, 5-7, 2-0 ret.

A1 Finals
Seth Rose (USC) Trevor Spracklin (W&M) 7-5, 7-5

B1 Semifinals
Chris Wolfe (Brown) def. Nasir Sherazi (USC) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3

A1 Doubles Semifinals
Crocker/Hunter (UVa.) def. Legat/Pacheco (USC) 8-3
Mule/Torres (UNC-G) def. Nelson/Singh (USC) 8-1

B1 Consolation Semifinals
Duquette (UVa.) def. Rob Cassidy (USC) 6-0, 1-6, 7-6

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SOCCER

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mark as junior Ginger Sellick, assisted by Kristen Lindsay and Kacy Murray, beat goalkeeper Jessica Freas one-on-one on a breakaway run to take the lead.

Carolina knotted the game at one, and the score remained tied until after half-time, when Auburn forward Ginger Sellick found the goal again after an assist from Gretchen Winter at the 65:02 mark.

The Gamecocks persevered and were quickly rewarded at the 77:14 mark on

an unassisted score by Lydia Bienias from 25 yards to tie the game once again.

Both teams were unable to score again at the end of regulation play, and they began to battle through sudden death overtime.

The name Ginger Sellick continued to haunt the Gamecocks, however, as she

delivered the final blow in the second overtime at the 106:46 mark. Sellick scored on a breakaway run to complete her hat trick, handing the stunned Gamecocks a 3-2 loss.

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