

Rugby to start spring season at Clemson

BY MICHAEL KERR
THE GAMECOCK

The Carolina rugby team, coming off a promising fall season that showed major improvements from last year, will kick off its spring season Friday at Clemson.

The Gamecocks opened the fall 2000 season with a surprising victory against the No. 1-ranked Citadel Bulldogs.

Carolina then went on to gain victories over former North Carolina state champion Charlotte and Furman. USC also took second place in the South Carolina state tournament.

Following the season, seniors Brent Keener and Jeff Kremlick and sophomore Dan Klingshirn, were chosen to represent USC in the South All-Star Tournament. They played for the Deep

South All-Stars with players from Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. "It was a great time," Kremlick said. "It was a chance to have fun and play some rugby on a very competitive level."

Keener, the president of the USC Rugby Club, was nominated to play on the Southern All-Star team against teams from other regions of the country.

Freshman Todd Curtis was selected to play in an international under-19 tournament held in the Middle East. Curtis represented USC among the best young players in the world.

This spring will be the culmination of last semester's rebuilding season.

"We're trying to rebuild the winning tradition of the '80s," head coach Howard Hunt said. "We need as many new players as possible to come out and join the club. We're building

on last season, but we need more players."

Hunt played rugby for USC from 1980-84.

In these years, Carolina rugby was at its best, always competing for the Southeast title and almost always dominating rival Clemson. Hunt wants to bring this tradition back to the club.

"When we go out on the field it's not about whether we win or lose," Hunt said. "It's about how much fun we're going to have winning."

USC will have its work cut out for it as it prepare for a tough season with league matches scheduled against Alabama, Georgia Southern, Georgia Tech, South region favorites Georgia, and Clemson.

The Gamecocks will also play Furman, Davidson and Northern power-

house Towson.

"We're going to take this season one game at a time," Keener said. "First and foremost, we want to beat Clemson the first week. After that, we'll try to pile up victories every week and hopefully win the whole thing."

The entire starting side from last season will be returning, with seniors preparing to play their final season. And unlike other sports where one might ride the bench for three years before ever getting to play, everyone plays every week in rugby.

USC fields a "B" team for less-experienced players to learn the game. Everyone who comes out to practice will get a chance to play.

"Rugby is a hard, intense game, but it's also fun during and after," said Hunt, who is also the president of the Carolina Olde Boys, a team of USC

alumni. "It's more than just a sports club, it's also a social club."

The social aspect of rugby has helped it become the largest sports club at USC. This is another tradition Hunt and the team would like to see continue.

This season, the team is looking to get more exposure and more followers.

Practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6:45 p.m. on the band field.

Anyone is welcome and no experience is necessary.

Games are played Friday nights or Saturday afternoons on the field adjacent to the P.E. Center.

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

TRACK

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Gamecocks secured both first and second places in the 400-meter, with Gerrald Pressley and Otis Harris finishing with times of 47.39 and 47.54, respectively.

Otukile Lokute, who finished second at the Armory Collegiate Invitational, won both the 800-meter and mile events. Deandre Eiland, who also plays safety for the USC football team, won the men's 60-meter hurdles in 7.94 seconds. He was followed closely by Corey Taylor, who came in second with a time of 7.99 seconds.

The Gamecock athletes will be in action again Friday and Saturday at the ETSU Invitational in Johnson City, Tenn.

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BASKETS

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1-for-4 and Boynton missed all five of his attempts.

Saturday night's performance was USC's worst since Feb. 13, 1999, when the Gamecocks shot just 24.6 percent from the field in a 74-40 loss at Kentucky. This season's previous low was at Providence Dec. 30, where Carolina shot 31.5 percent in another losing cause.

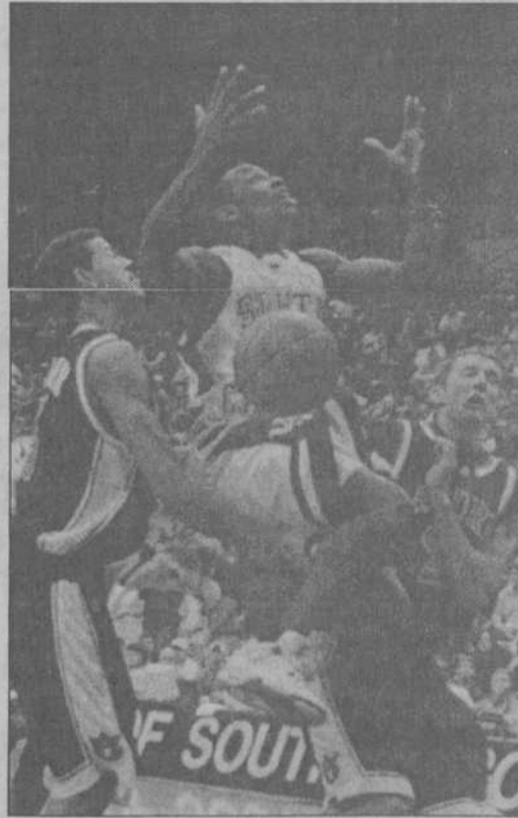
With one of USC's top offensive threats, Chuck Eidson, out for the season because of a torn ACL, the Gamecocks need someone to rise to the occasion.

"Chuck (Eidson) did a lot of special things for us," Kitchings said. "He's a great player. You miss players like that and it changes your team around."

"Someone has got to step up."

Carolina also misses perhaps their best pure shooter on the team, Travis Kraft. Kraft has been out of action the past few games with a sprained foot. The sophomore has beat the Gators once already this season with a game-winning last-second shot at Frank McGuire Arena, but it looks now as if he will be redshirted.

"It's going to be another tough game," Kitchings said of Florida. "I just hope we can get it together."



Travis Lynn/The Gamecock

USC point guard Aaron Lucas struggles to get by Auburn defenders during Saturday night's game.

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National magazine prepares edition celebrating USC football's turnaround

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

In its preseason football magazine, Street & Smith picked South Carolina to finish last in the SEC.

Page 104 of the magazine, to be exact.

Months later, after the Gamecocks had proven Street & Smith as well as other national publications wrong, page 104 was torn out, wadded up and thrown on the ground.

Street & Smith executive editor Mike Kallay tore out the page Saturday, and in its place presented a 64-page, four-color commemorative magazine devoted entirely to the Gamecocks and their outstanding 2000 season.

"The Gamecocks indeed had one of the most remarkable turnaround seasons in college football history," Kallay said in a special press conference at Williams-Brice Stadium. "They did a marvelous job this year, and we wanted to chroni-

cle this outstanding performance with a special edition of our magazine."

USC put together one of the best turnaround seasons in college football history in 2000.

A year after going winless in 11 games, the Gamecocks finished the season 8-4 and defeated Ohio State in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day. The eight-game improvement was the best ever in SEC history.

According to Kallay, this is the first time in the 60-year history of Street & Smith's publications that the magazine has produced a special edition about a college or professional team like the one recently completed on USC.

South Carolina head coach Lou Holtz said he was flattered by the publication's decision to make a special magazine especially for them.

"South Carolina is flattered and honored to have Street & Smith choose our program for their first special edition on a season," Holtz said. "I can remem-

ber when I first started out in coaching, I could hardly wait to get my copy of Street & Smith because they did such a good job of covering all of the teams prior to the season."

"I'd like to congratulate all of the writers and photographers who worked on this issue, because they have done a wonderful job of capturing our season. We're certainly pleased with our progress this past season, but our goal is to take it to another level."

Fans can pick up a copy of the magazine next week, when the issue is expected to reach newsstands. The magazine will be distributed throughout the state and southern North Carolina. It will cost \$6.99 per issue.

Additional copies can also be purchased by calling Street & Smith's circulation office at 1-800-380-7404.

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— USC's 3rd Annual —
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service



— January 27, 2001 —

The King Holiday and Service Act signed by President Clinton in 1994, designates the King Holiday to be an occasion for community service and interracial cooperation. The King Holiday serves as a powerful vehicle for transporting our good intentions into meaningful actions. USC challenges you to bring his dreams to reality by participating in the Third Annual MLK Day of Service. To register or for more information, contact the Office of Community Service Programs at 777-5780 or register online at www.usc.edu/ocsp/mlk.htm.

LIVE THE DREAM

Events for Saturday January, 27th:

- 8:00 - 9:00 am Registration at Russell House University Union, 2nd floor lobby
- 9:00 - 10:30 am March to MLK Park and Rally
- 10:30 - 11:00 am Transport to sites
- 11:00 - 4:00 pm Service
- 4:00 - 4:30 pm Reflection
- 4:30 - 5:00 pm Return to Campus

Sponsored by the Office of Community Service Programs with the Department of Student Life, Division of Student and Alumni Services and the Office of the President at the University of South Carolina.



Aerobics Instructor Training Course

WHAT: A course to train YOU how to instruct aerobics

WHEN: Fridays from 1-3PM

WHERE: The aerobics studio in the Blatt PE Center

*Classes begin Friday, January 26th and are open to any USC student.

*To register please call Jessica at 777-4687 or Laina at 777-1827