



Sean Rayford/The Gamecock

Drew Meyer had a solid series against LSU, but the Tigers were too strong for USC.

LSU

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the Tigers beat USC 5-3.

Bouknight (6-2) was saddled with his second straight loss. The Gamecock ace gave up five runs, all earned, on seven hits and five walks in 5 1/3 innings. He also hit two batters and struck out seven.

The left-handed Mestepey (6-0) pitched eight strong innings, giving up seven hits and three runs in earning his sixth victory of the season.

"Bouknight had good stuff. He was running his fastball in on the batters and got a couple change-ups over," Tanner said. "His control just wasn't there. He did give us a chance to win."

Bouknight's outing began to unravel in the fourth, when LSU scored two runs on Ray Wright's one-out home run

to right field. The Tigers scored two more in the sixth on RBI singles by Raymer and Theriot, making the score 5-2. Tony Adler came in to relieve Bouknight and allowed no further damage.

The Gamecocks again loaded the bases in the eighth inning with one out, but were able to score only once. Meyer scored on a fly ball to right field by Michael Floyd, but Tripp Kelly flied out to deep center field to end the threat.

"Kelly really stayed with his ball, but it just missed the gap. If that ball drops, we tie the game," Tanner said.

USC will play a pair of games this week against The Citadel. Carolina will travel to Charleston on Tuesday and will face the Bulldogs at Sarge Frye on Wednesday. SEC play resumes on Friday at Georgia.

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

SPORTS BRIEFS

■ USC's Lekote posts school record

Running one of the fastest times in the world this year, USC freshman Otukile Lekote won the 800 meters at the Duke Invitational Saturday with a school and meet record.

Lekote posted a 1:44.76, a personal best and the nation's fastest time in the event in 2001. Lekote also broke a five-year meet record, and his time was good enough for an NCAA automatic berth.

USC's men took two other titles at the meet, and the USC women took four.

The men's 4x100-meter and 4x400-meter relays were both victorious and earned NCAA provisional times.

The women's 4x100 and 4x400 relays were also winners, putting up times that vaulted them to the No. 1 spot in their respective NCAA rankings. The 4x100 relay ran an NCAA automatic time of 43.74, setting the meet record, and the 4x400 relay ran a 3:31.91 — also an NCAA automatic time.

Miki Barber, victorious in her first 2001 outdoor 400 meters, ran the country's second-fastest time at 52.02 for USC. Antoinette Wilks won the long jump at 20-1 1/2.

USC returns home on Wednesday to host the S.C. State Championships.

■ Legat knocks off top-ranked player in straight sets

Senior Guillaume Legat racked up his tenth consecutive victory Friday, defeating the nation's No. 1-ranked player, Arkansas' Oskar Johansson, 6-4; 7-5.

His victory wasn't enough to get the Gamecocks the victory, however, as USC lost to the Razorbacks 4-3 at the UA Indoor/Outdoor Tennis Complex.

Arkansas gained the doubles point with impressive play from its number one and three teams, and that proved to be the difference.

The singles matches were split at three matches apiece with the Gamecocks winning at No. 1, 2 and 5 singles. Along with Legat's win at number one, Seth Rose defeated No. 79 Henrik Tofft in two

sets, 6-3, 7-6, and Marcus Westman defeated Aleksey Bubis, 6-2, 6-4.

The Gamecocks will return to Columbia for a match Monday, hosting Region II opponent Wake Forest in hopes of increasing their regional record to 6-2.

■ Men's golf comes in seventh at Auburn

On the final day of the Billy Hitchcock Intercollegiate, the USC's men's golf team improved to seventh place after shooting a team total of 293. USC posted a three-round team score of 880.

Host Auburn won the tournament, shooting 13-under-par (851).

Ernie Rose, who led USC throughout the tournament, had his best finish of the season. Rose and senior John Bloomfield shot 219, to tie for 21st.

Columbia native Kyle Thompson finished third for the Gamecocks after firing a 221. Johan Kok and Brent DelaHoussaye each registered a 226 to place tied for 42nd.

Georgia State's Allen Thompson won the individual title. The Panthers finished second overall after leading the first two rounds of play. The UAB Blazers placed third.

The Gamecocks will resume action April 20-22 in Sea Island, Ga., where they will battle for the SEC title.

■ Women's tennis falls to Tennessee

The 23rd-ranked USC women's tennis team dropped a 6-1 decision at sixth-ranked Tennessee on Sunday afternoon.

USC slipped to 12-7 overall and 6-4 in the SEC, while Tennessee improved to 19-2 overall and 10-1 in league play.

In singles play, Tamara Sutton scored the lone win for the Gamecocks, winning at No. 6 singles over Brooke Cordell in straight sets 7-5, 1-0 (11-9).

USC closes out its regular-season schedule Wednesday when it hosts LSU at the Maxcy Gregg Tennis Center on the Carolina campus. Start time is scheduled

WHITTAKER

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Whittaker's persistence and commitment.

"In this day in college athletics, the kids who don't play early in their career ... always think about transferring," Tanner said. "He's been committed and dedicated to this program, and great things are happening for him. And I'm excited about it."

For his outstanding performance already this season, Whittaker has been named to the Johnny Bench Award watch list for the nation's top collegiate catcher. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the College World Series in June.

Whittaker has come up big in important games this season. On March 3, while playing arch-rival Clemson at Doug Kingsmore Stadium, Whittaker

nailed a grand slam in the first inning, setting the tone for a 21-8 battering of the Tigers. Whittaker believes this is his finest moment as a Gamecock.

No matter what happens the rest of the season, Whittaker is satisfied with his achievements as a member of the USC baseball team.

"Personally, I've already achieved the goals I've set for myself," Whittaker said.

He is also pleased by the team's performance in keeping with its collective season goals.

"For the team, our goals are to win the regionals, super-regionals and to go to the (College) World Series," Whittaker explained. "We're doing very well, we're right where we wanted to be ... we're just taking it one game at a time."

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BASKETBALL

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However, Cremins is hopeful that he can be forgiven.

"The past is in the past," he said. "Everybody knows how I feel about South Carolina. I appreciate Mike officially making me a candidate, and I appreciate the courtesies I've been extended. I'm happy with that."

Storozynski signs with The General

Carolina's previous lone recruit for the 2001-02 basketball season, Pawel Storozynski, reneged on his oral commitment after Fogler's resignation but didn't rule out coming to Columbia in the fall.

You can rule it out now — Storozynski is one of Bobby Knight's new recruits at Texas Tech.

The commitment is non-binding, but with USC's delay in naming a new head coach, chances are slim that the junior-college transfer will suit up in the garnet and black next season.

Storozynski, a 6-foot-8 forward who attends Dodge City Community College in Kansas, is one of three junior college transfers who Knight has received oral commitments from since he took over the post March 23.

This leaves USC with no new recruits for next season, and there is a good possibility that it won't have any at all. Wednesday marks the first day recruits may sign letters of intent, and with many players around the country affiliating themselves with schools, Carolina will be left with little to no options for recruits when a new coach is finally put in place.

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SUSAN AUDÉ FISHER

WIS-TV News Anchor

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Earth Day Festival 2001

USC School of the Environment, S.A.G.E. & Facility Services Department

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Celebration of the Earth and the Environment
Showcase of Environmental Programs, Research & Activities at USC, as well as Community & Environmental Organizations. Listen to music by The MoonshineBand, enjoy Free Food, participate in a variety of events (Greene Street in front of Russell House)

12:00 pm

Awards ceremony in front of Russell House.
Environmental Stewardship & Environmental Essay Contest

1:00 pm - 2:30pm

Clean Carolina Earth Day Sweep. Free T-Shirts to participants! (Sign-up tables will be located on Greene Street)

Frisbee Fun! Green Space next to Longstreet Theatre

The Soul Mites, live music, on the Russell House Back Patio. (Free and open to USC Community)

Litter Awareness Blitz, Greene Street (Pickens to Main)
Trash receptacles will be placed along Greene Street all day. Do your part and help us keep it clean.

Wednesday, April 18

Mid-day Events on Greene Street by the Russell House

4:30 - 5:30pm

5:30 - 7:00pm

For more information, please contact the School of the Environment at 777-1325 or email: earthday@environ.sc.edu