

AROUND USC ATHLETICS

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Cross Country team takes second place

The USC Cross Country team fell short of defending its title at the Gamecock Classic this weekend. Coastal Carolina won the race, held at Ft. Jackson's Hilton Field, while the Gamecocks came in second. Freshman Jenny Lake did well in only her second collegiate race, taking second place individually

in the race and first for USC with a time of 17:49, 29 seconds behind overall winner Heather Lee of Campbell University. "The first girl was an exceptional runner. I was really happy with my time," Lake said. Although the Gamecocks didn't win the race, no one was disappointed. "I feel everyone ran well. It would have been nice to win, but we did the best we could, and Coastal is a good team," senior captain Rachel Smith said. Other individual times for USC include Smith's fifth-place finish at 18:25 and freshman Nikki

Campbell's ninth-place time of 19:06. "The team did very well, though we have to improve," USC head coach Stan Rosenthal said. "Some of the girls need to learn patience for the start of the race, and that will help how they finish." The young team, which includes six freshmen and three sophomores, remains optimistic. "I think once the other freshmen come back from injuries, it will add a lot of depth, and we can push each other and run more as a group," Campbell said.

Volleyball grabs three wins over weekend

Competing in the Miami Classic this past weekend, the No. 21 Gamecocks beat all three of their opponents to improve to 6-0. "Each time we go out we get a little bit better. Winning this tournament is important because it gives us confidence as we go into the next two weeks," said USC Head Coach Kim Christopher. The Lady Gamecocks took the first game away from Purdue Friday night by a 3-0 decision. They defeated Miami and Illinois State in both of their matches on Saturday by the same score. In the tournament, junior Cally Plummer took home MVP honors. Setter Megan Hosp and middle blocker Niece Curry were also named to the All-Tournament team.

Women's soccer team beats Aztecs, ties UNLV

The South Carolina women's soccer team headed out to California last weekend in hopes of continuing their recent success. USC downed host San Diego State Friday 2-1. After dropping behind 1-0 to the Aztecs, USC rallied back with goals by Meredith McPartlands and Ashley Gosnell to pick up the win. On Sunday, Becca Epstein avoided the loss by scoring late in the first half to tie the game and make the final 1-1. "I think we gained respect this weekend and battled hard in both games," head coach Shelley Smith said.

Scott Receiver catches winning TD pass
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knocked home the try to make the score 7-6 at the half. The Gamecocks had to feel fortunate, considering the Bulldogs outgained them 183-45, with Greene throwing for 144 yards on 17-25 completions. Both teams came out of the locker room having made adjustments. UGA's Decory Bryant fielded the kickoff and took it to the Georgia 37, where the team decided to run right at Carolina. Eight straight runs by Smith and Jasper Sanks took the team down to the USC 20. Greene then attempted his first pass of the drive, but threw high and incomplete. Bennett was called upon to attempt another field goal but had the 37-yard try blocked by senior Langston Moore. The field-goal block was the second in as many weeks by Moore.

From that point forward, the offenses stalled until Brewer took a screen pass on a second-and-20 play from the USC 10 and rambled up the field, fighting off tacklers, for 43 yards. This play switched the field position for the game until 5:36 remained and Watson took a Petty pass in the backfield and fumbled. Thornton recovered and took the ball 29 yards to inside the USC 10. "I looked at the (Watson) replay. That didn't look like a fumble," head coach Lou Holtz later said. Smith took it down to the USC 1-yard line, but UGA started making some costly penalties. The Bulldogs committed a false start and didn't get the play off in time on second down, backing them up to the 11. Phillips took a shotgun snap and kept the ball in the middle of the field to set up a successful field-goal try for Bennett. The Gamecocks' game-winning drive was set up by a "pooch" kickoff to senior Corey Alexander. Alexander gave USC good field position at their own 34 to set up the winning drive.

Want to participate in the Gamecock Sports challenge?

Each week, *The Gamecock* will pick the winners of several games around the country, and we will have a slot for a selected reader. Give us your picks by calling 777-7182, e-mailing us at gamecocksports@hotmail.com or coming by the newsroom, Russell House Room 333. Be sure to include name, major, year and a phone number or e-mail.

This week's games are:

BOWLING GREEN (2-0) AT NO. 18 SOUTH CAROLINA (2-0)

NO. 23 NOTRE DAME (0-1) AT PURDUE (1-0)

NO. 2 FLORIDA (2-0) AT NO. 8 TENNESSEE (2-0)

NO. 13 WASHINGTON (1-0) AT NO. 1 MIAMI (2-0)

NO. 10 GEORGIA TECH (3-0) AT NO. 6 FLORIDA STATE (2-0)

NO. 24 BRIGHAM YOUNG (3-0) AT NO. 17 MISSISSIPPI STATE (1-0)

DUKE (0-1) AT NO. 19 CLEMSON (2-0)

Send your picks in this week and check *The Gamecock* on Friday to see the picks of the staff, as well as reader picks.

POLLS AND STANDINGS

SEC STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION

	CONF	OVERALL
South Carolina	1-0	2-0
Tennessee	1-0	2-0
Florida	0-0	2-0
Kentucky	0-0	1-1
Georgia	0-1	1-1
Vanderbilt	0-1	0-2

WESTERN DIVISION

	CONF	OVERALL
Auburn	1-0	2-0
Alabama	1-0	1-1
Miss. St.	0-0	1-0
Louisiana State	0-0	2-0
Arkansas	0-1	1-1
Ole Miss	0-1	1-1

This week's SEC schedule:

- Bowling Green (2-0) at South Carolina (2-0)**
- Florida (2-0) at Tennessee (2-0)**
- Brigham Young (3-0) at Mississippi St (1-0)**
- Houston (0-1) at Georgia (1-1)**
- Vanderbilt (0-2) at Ole Miss (1-1)**
- Southern Miss (1-0) at Alabama (1-1)**
- Kentucky (1-1) at Indiana (0-1)**
- North Texas (0-2) at Arkansas (1-1)**
- Auburn (2-0) at Louisiana State (2-0)**

Associated Press Football Top 25

1. Miami
2. Florida
3. Oklahoma
4. Nebraska
5. Texas
6. Florida State
7. Oregon
8. Tennessee
9. Virginia Tech
10. Georgia Tech
11. Fresno State
12. Kansas State
13. Washington
14. UCLA
15. LSU
16. Northwestern
17. Mississippi State
18. SOUTH CAROLINA
19. Clemson
20. Michigan
21. Ohio State
22. Oregon State
23. Notre Dame
24. BYU
25. Louisville

ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Top 25

1. Miami
2. Florida
3. Oklahoma
4. Nebraska
5. Florida State
6. Texas
7. Oregon
8. Tennessee
9. Virginia Tech
10. Kansas State
11. Georgia Tech
12. UCLA
13. Washington
14. LSU
15. Fresno State
16. Mississippi State
17. Michigan
18. Clemson
19. Northwestern
20. SOUTH CAROLINA
21. Ohio State
22. Oregon State
23. Notre Dame
24. Purdue
25. Brigham Young

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