

Marius Petravicius goes up for the dunk against Nike Elite earlier this month. PHOTO BY TRAVIS LYNN

Men's basketball to play tonight

The USC men's basketball team will hit the court tonight to play its second exhibition game this year against BC Albacomp (Hungary) following the women's game. The Gamecocks are 1-0 in pre-season play after downing Nike Elite 90-81. Albacomp is 0-4 on their pre-season tour this year.

On Friday, Carolina will hit the road to Maui. From Monday to Wednesday, the Gamecocks will compete in the Maui Invitational against top-notch programs like the Duke Blue Devils.

Game time tonight will be about 7:45 p.m.

Women's basketball takes on Austria

The USC women's basketball team will be on the

court for the first time this season as they play an exhibition game against Remus Austria Powerbasket tonight at 5:30. Admission is free.

The Lady Gamecocks will open their 2000-2001 season on Friday when they play host to the Furman Paladins. USC is 19-8 all-time in regular-season openers and have an impressive 9-1 record over the Lady Paladins. On 2 p.m. Sunday, Carolina will hit the court again to take on Louisiana-Lafayette. This is the first-ever meeting between the teams.

Equestrian rides strong over weekend

The USC equestrian team won Hunt Seat and placed second in Western for the third time in three competitions this past weekend at Georgia. In the Hunt Seat competition, Berry

College placed third and Clemson came in sixth. Auburn won the Western competition.

"I'm very pleased with the way our team performed overall, and I am especially pleased with the younger team members," USC senior Kelly Caine said.

Junior Sarah-Ki Tomasi got first place in Open Over Fences, while Lisa Boykin and Alexis Pospischil each ranked first in their respective classes of the Novice Over Fences. In addition to winning Novice Equitation, Lisa Wilson was named High Point Rider. It was the third time this semester that a USC rider has won the High Point title.

Women's tennis concludes season

At the 2001 SEC Fall Coaches' Championships in

Stone Mountain, Ga., this past weekend, the USC women's tennis team proved successful as they concluded their season. Two players claiming championships, while the team won ten matches Saturday and three of five Sunday.

Gamecock senior Katarina Markovski beat LSU's Amanda Mang 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to win the B Draw main championship. Markovski went a perfect 5-0 in singles action over the weekend.

Freshman Audrey George also came up big on Sunday, who beat Christian Kincannon of Arkansas 6-1, 6-0 to win the C Draw Round Robin Championship.

The Gamecocks return to action in January to start their team action when they open up on the 25 against BYU at home.

Almond

Flair taught us all how to cheat to win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

measures. He'd "accidentally" knock out the referee or have him distracted by one of the Four Horsemen. Then, with the referee out of the picture, Flair would take advantage and pummel his opponent with chairs, belts or whatever was close and illegal. Hey, some might call it dirty; I call it smart.

Once Flair gained control of a match, his opponent was done. Flair would break out the knife-edge chops and cut his man down to size before finishing him with the figure-four leg lock.

Most of Flair's adversaries were beat before they even got in the ring. That's because Flair could talk trash like no other. He was so funny that, even as a bad guy, he'd have the crowd in his back pocket.

And then he would "walk that aisle, stylin' and profilin'" (to

"2001," ironically), and the fans would go nuts. Then Flair, with all that blond hair, would look his opponent right in the eye and let out a "Whoooooo" that would echo through the arena because the fans loved to imitate it. No wrestler had a better gimmick than that "Whoooooo!"

For what seemed like a thousand years, Flair repeated this same formula and always came out ahead. Sometimes he'd catch a beatdown. Hell, he double-crossed just about everybody out there. But 10 times out of 10, Flair would get his revenge. Some wrestlers shined briefly and then subsided when they got old. Not Flair. Flair was in his 50s and still was the most popular.

With his class, it's no wonder Flair got all the ladies. He would come to the ring with a hottie on each arm, give them each a kiss and then proceed to stomp in Sting's face. It doesn't get much cooler than that.

Even in his last years as a wrestler, when he was wrinkly and fat, Flair attracted the most attention. He said it best himself:

"I'm Space Mountain, baby! It might be the oldest ride, but it's still got the longest line. Whoooooo!"

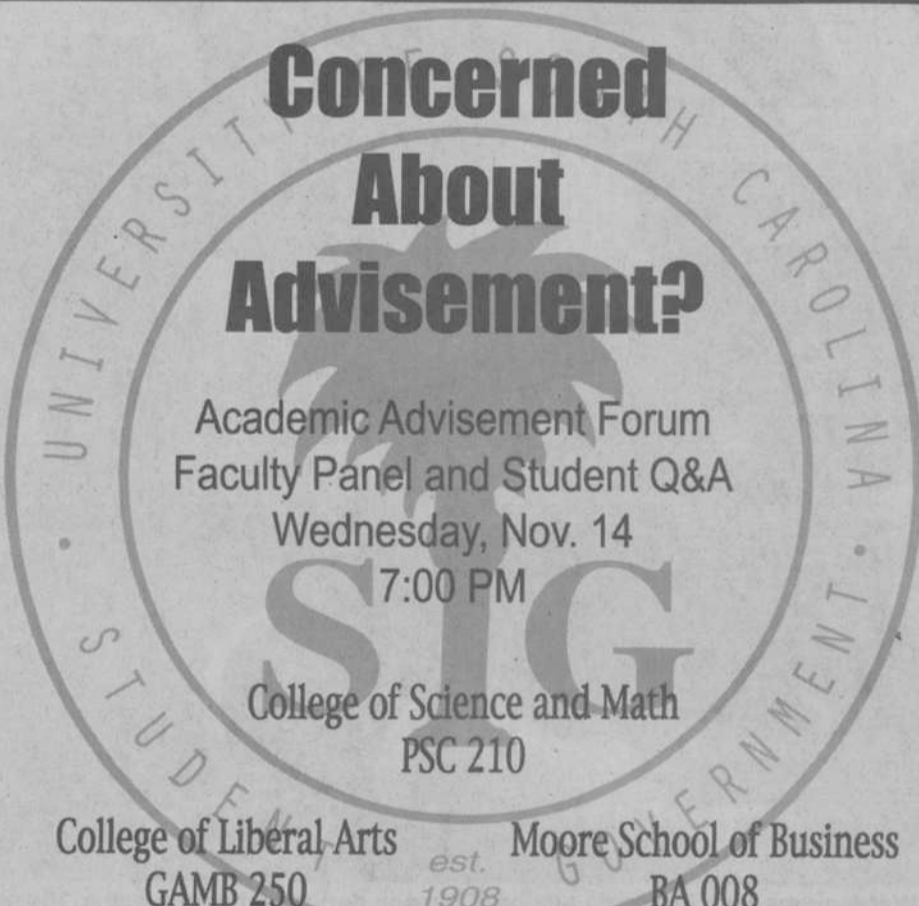
If there's any old man out there who deserves the utmost respect, it's Flair.

He made wrestling what it is today. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and The Rock should be kissing his boots.

He might need to rethink his choice of football team, but after all the man has done for sports entertainment, I can overlook that. Whoooooo!

Shoutouts

Big Mac, thanks for the memories. ... Jose Canseco, now it's your turn. ... I hate Clemson. ... Bud Selig, don't take away the Twins. Nix the Expos, but don't touch a former World Champion. ... You heard it here first: Kentucky wins the national championship in men's basketball. ... I hate Clemson. ... MJ, take a day off already. ... Coach Strong, ignore the Vanderbilt job. It's a career-killer. ... I hate Clemson.



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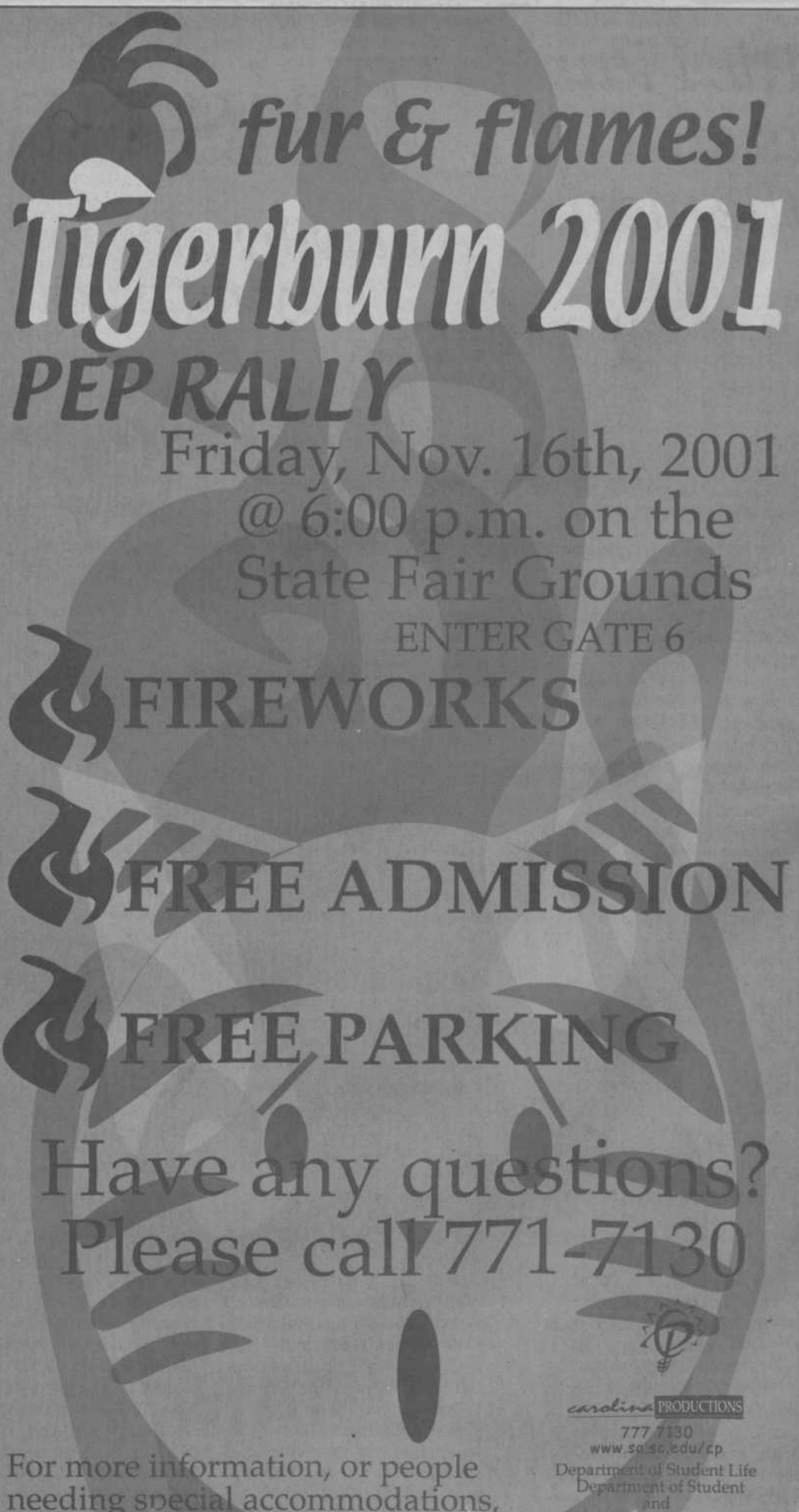
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