

THE GAMECOCK

START SPREADING THE NEWS



PHOTO BY ROBERT GRUEN

With last night's win, the Gamecocks will travel to New York on Tuesday to face Syracuse. USC has never made it to the finals of any post season tournament.

NIT in NYC

BY CHRIS FOY
THE GAMECOCK

The USC men's basketball team made the most of its final appearance at Frank McGuire Arena last night, ripping apart Ball State 82-47 in the NIT quarterfinals.

The Gamecocks (21-14) were given a second chance at closing out the coliseum after they ended the regular season with a loss to Mississippi State. The win was the first NIT quarterfinal

victory ever for the Gamecocks, who will travel to New York City on Tuesday to face Syracuse in the tournament semifinals.

After the game, the team cut down the nets, and USC head coach Dave Odom was thrilled with the whole outcome.

"I could not be happier for our team," Odom said. "I could not be happier for our fans. And I could not be happier for our university."

For the second straight game,

the Gamecocks had five players score in double digits. The team's seniors, Aaron Lucas and Jamel Bradley, each had big nights. Bradley had a team-leading 17 points, and Lucas dished out eight assists and had two steals.

Before this season, USC has never won more than two games in the same postseason.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@hotmail.com

Watson convicted on drug charge

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

A Greenville Municipal Court jury found Derek Watson guilty Wednesday of marijuana possession.

The verdict means that it's almost certain that Watson will not be reinstated to the USC football team.

Watson, who is no longer enrolled at USC, was dismissed from the team in January.

"Derek's status with the team hasn't changed," Assistant Athletics Director Kerry Sharp said. "Really, from an Athletics Department standpoint, I don't think his status on the team was predicated on the outcome of this trial."

"The Athletics Department is hopeful he can get things moving in the right direction."



Watson

Watson was found guilty Wednesday after the jury deliberated for about 50 minutes. The charges stemmed from an arrest outside a Greenville nightclub, where detectives said they saw Watson inside a car preparing a blunt Jan. 12.

During the trial, Antwan Andre Galloway, who had been driving the car, claimed as his a bag of marijuana found near Watson.

Prosecutor Debra Gammons said Watson should not be treated differently because of his status as a football player.

"The defense is, because he plays football and because he has a promising career, he didn't pos-

sess marijuana," Gammons said.

Judge Matt Hawley sentenced Watson to 240 hours of community service after suspending a 30-day sentence. He also waived a \$200 fine because Watson said he was unemployed.

"While you may have made a serious mistake," Hawley told Watson, "you are an example for the youth of South Carolina ... and you need to refrain" from activities like those he was prosecuted for.

Watson said after the trial that he was "a little confused right now."

"I will soon sit down with people close to me and try to make a decision on my immediate future," he said.

Watson led the Gamecocks in

◆ WATSON, SEE PAGE 2

Out with the old, in with the new

Inaugurations usher in next generation of SG officers, senators

BY LOGAN BARLOW
THE GAMECOCK

Inaugurations for the newly elected Student Government officers and senators were held Wednesday in Rutledge Chapel.

Outgoing SG President Corey Ford presided over the event and introduced each of the featured speakers.

USC President John Palms congratulated the students "for participating in the government of our great university." He reminded the new officers and senators that "it is still the essential goal of this institution to foster that ideal."

"Edmund Burke, the great philosopher, said, 'Your relationship with an institution or community is a relationship with everything that came in the past, everything that's here in the present and will be in the future.' This is your time," Palms said.

Aaron Hark, chief justice of the Carolina Student Judicial Council, swore in officers and senators. The inductees pledged to abide by the SG constitution, uphold the Carolinian Creed, and represent

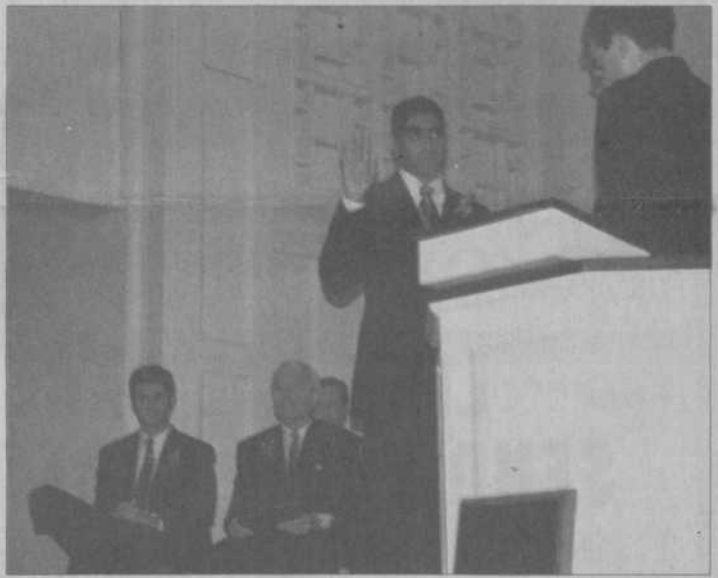


PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM

SG president Ankit Patel is sworn in at the ceremony in Rutledge Chapel.

their fellow USC students.

Treasurer Becky Floyd started the inaugural speeches. "Over the past month, I have come to realize how much I like being student body treasurer," Floyd said. "The more you spend time with it, the more you tend to like it. And the more you like it, the more time you spend with it."

Floyd also gave thanks to "those who didn't believe in me. They made me see how much I believed in myself."

Vice President Katie Dreiling spoke of her background in SG,

beginning with Freshman Council. She nodded to her predecessor Nithya Bala and said, "She's leaving a huge empty seat for me to fill, so I hope I'll be able to continue some of the things that she has started."

Addressing the incoming Student Senate, Dreiling added: "I've always believed that in order to be a good leader you have to be a good servant. That's something I hope we'll all try to be this year — good servants."

◆ INAUGURATION, SEE PAGE 3

New walkways stay on the beaten path

BY GINNY THORNTON
THE GAMECOCK

USC construction is following the students' lead.

Two new walking paths have been constructed on the green space between the Russell House and Thomas Cooper Library.

That green space was created and named Davis Field in the summer of 2000 as a part of the campus beautification project.

Why has it taken a year and a half to put in permanent walking paths? Officials at Facilities Planning and Construction decided to wait until they knew where students would walk before they put in any permanent walkways.

"You can't ever tell where students will walk," USC

"You can't ever tell where students will walk. They did this sort of like the Horseshoe was done."

RUSS MCKINNEY
USC SPOKESMAN

spokesman Russ McKinney said. "They did this sort of like the Horseshoe was done," he said, referring to the asymmetrical brick paths on the Horseshoe.

Davis Field, formerly a parking lot, is now used by students for recreation. The Student Activity Fair was held there in January.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com



PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM

New walking paths between the Russell House and Thomas Cooper Library follow tracks on the green space created by student traffic.

USC board considers new bureaucratic system

BY ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

Entering into the second phase of SDI deliberations, the USC Board of Trustees met on Wednesday to discuss Value-Centered Management, a proposal that would entirely reshape the university's bureaucratic system.

After releasing its recommendations in early January, the Strategic Directions and Initiatives Committee is now awaiting USC President John Palms' approval, a decision that could come as early as April.

"The president wants to hear what the discussions are about, and I think the president will go pretty quickly after that to the board with his recommendations

"The SDI report said there are some things we can do better, and Value-Centered Management is a tool we can use to get better. What is going to be on that list?"

ROB WILCOX
FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

and then, the board will have further discussion," Provost Jerry Odom said. "I'd love to have it done by the end of April so that we can try to plan."

The executive committee met

◆ VCM, SEE PAGE 2



TODAY'S WEATHER: Partly cloudy. High 56, Low 27.



TOMORROW'S WEATHER: Mostly sunny. High 64, Low 39.