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SPORTS

WOMEN'S SOCCER vs. Birmingham Southern, 4:30 p.m. Friday
MEN'S SOCCER vs. Charleston Southern, 7 p.m. Friday
CROSS COUNTRY at Charleston Southern, Friday
VOLLEYBALL at Michigan State tournament, Friday-Saturday
FOOTBALL vs. New Mexico State, 7 p.m. Saturday

Odom frustrated by scheduling process

Temple matchup highlights weak home schedule

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

Forget about beating Kentucky or making it to the NCAA Tournament. Just putting together a schedule for this season was hard enough for Dave Odom, head coach of the USC men's basketball team.

"If you were to go back and tally up the time that I've spent putting schedules together in my other years as head coach, I don't

think it would come up to one-half the amount of time that I've spent trying to get this schedule finished," Odom said Friday at a news conference in the Carolina Coliseum.

The second-year coach cited several reasons why working out a schedule was especially hard this year. One was the uncertain completion date of the Carolina Center, the 18,000-seat arena scheduled to open in November.

"My guess is that we're going to be painting the floors going out the back doors while the spectators are coming in the front," Odom said. "It's going to come down that close."

"But I do think that it's realis-

tic that the arena will be ready for our first game against East Tennessee State (Nov. 24) and for the women's game just prior to that (versus Clemson on Nov. 22)."

Exempted tournaments, such as the preseason NIT and the Great Alaska Shootout, also made it hard for Odom to get teams to play in Columbia early in the season.

"It's been a really hard, long, difficult road," he said. "And while I'm very pleased with the schedule that we have — the quality of

the opponents that we have — I hope that I never have to go through another year like we went through this year in terms of scheduling."

USC will open with a pair of exhibition games in the old Carolina Coliseum before it starts the regular season in its new home against the Buccaneers. The Gamecocks will follow that up with home games against South Carolina State and Appalachian State before their first big test of the season: a home matchup with national power Temple on Dec. 2.

Odom said he called many of the nation's best college basketball teams to get them to come to

Columbia, but only Temple, coached by John Chaney, was willing to make the trip.

"All I want to do right now is say how appreciative I am and how thankful I am that there's a John Chaney in college basketball," Odom said. "He fears no one. He's willing to play anyone any time, any place. He's a Hall of Fame coach — nobody can question that."

After Temple, the Gamecocks will play two more tough nonconference opponents, on the road at Georgetown and North Carolina State.

Odom said his ideal schedule, not counting Clemson, would have featured at least four national-cal-

"It's been a really hard, long, difficult road. ... I hope that I never have to go through another year like we went through this year in terms of scheduling."

DAVE ODOM
USC MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

iber nonconference opponents, with two at home and two on the road. But he was unable to accomplish that goal this season. USC's other nonconference games will

♦ SCHEDULE, SEE PAGE 9

FOOTBALL 2002

Jenkins jolts life into new-look offense

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

In 1999, the year it went 0-11, USC's football team had the worst offense in Division I-A. The Gamecocks scored a measly 87 points all season.

As the offense improved during the next two seasons, so did the team's record. But still, no one confused the Gamecocks with a scoring machine.

That could change this season. Despite losing his starting quarterback, tailback and go-to wide receiver, head coach Lou Holtz is more pumped than ever about the potential of his offensive unit.

"Offensively, for the first time, we have talent in place that we would like to have in our offense," Holtz said.

For most teams, losing a starting quarterback would be a major blow to their championship hopes. But because of talented new starter Corey Jenkins, Holtz is thinking improvement.

"He's a bit of a question mark, but I'm anxious to see him," Holtz said of Jenkins, a senior who came to Carolina last season after two years in junior college and four years in minor league baseball. "Corey not only has maturity, but he has a love for the game. He has an enthusiasm."

And Jenkins also has more physical talent than Phil Petty, who was an efficient leader in his three years as starter but not exactly a dominating force. At 6-2, 220 pounds, Jenkins is a powerful runner with a cannon for an arm.

"He's a great leader — toughest young man I've ever coached," Holtz said. "He was on kickoff teams when I allowed him last year. I

Countdown to Kickoff 2002

Leading up to USC's season opener Aug. 31 against New Mexico State, The Gamecock will keep you up to date on how the team is shaping up.

Every issue, you'll have the latest news out of practice, in addition to these special features:

LAST THURSDAY: An overview of the Gamecocks and their expectations for the upcoming season.

TODAY: An in-depth look at quarterback Corey Jenkins and the USC offense.

WEDNESDAY: A glance at the rebuilding Carolina defense along with our annual "Opponents" pull-out section detailing all the Gamecocks' 12 foes in 2002.

FRIDAY: A preview of the game and a look at the special teams unit.

Past stories can be read on The Gamecock's Web site, www.dailygamecock.com.

don't think he'll play in the NFL as a quarterback, but he will as a free safety. He has a strong arm. He's quicker than I thought. He has a lot of the qualities that Tony Rice had."

Tony Rice was the quarterback on Holtz's Notre Dame team that won the national championship in 1988.

Jenkins, who turned 26 yesterday, was mainly used last season as a change of pace from Petty. He rushed for 313 yards and three touchdowns, the last of which was the game-winner against Clemson.

While his mobility and strength as a runner are unquestioned, Jenkins will need to show that he can be a reliable passer if the of-

fense is to flourish.

Offensive coordinator Skip Holtz said this past week, however, that Jenkins has made progress in that area.

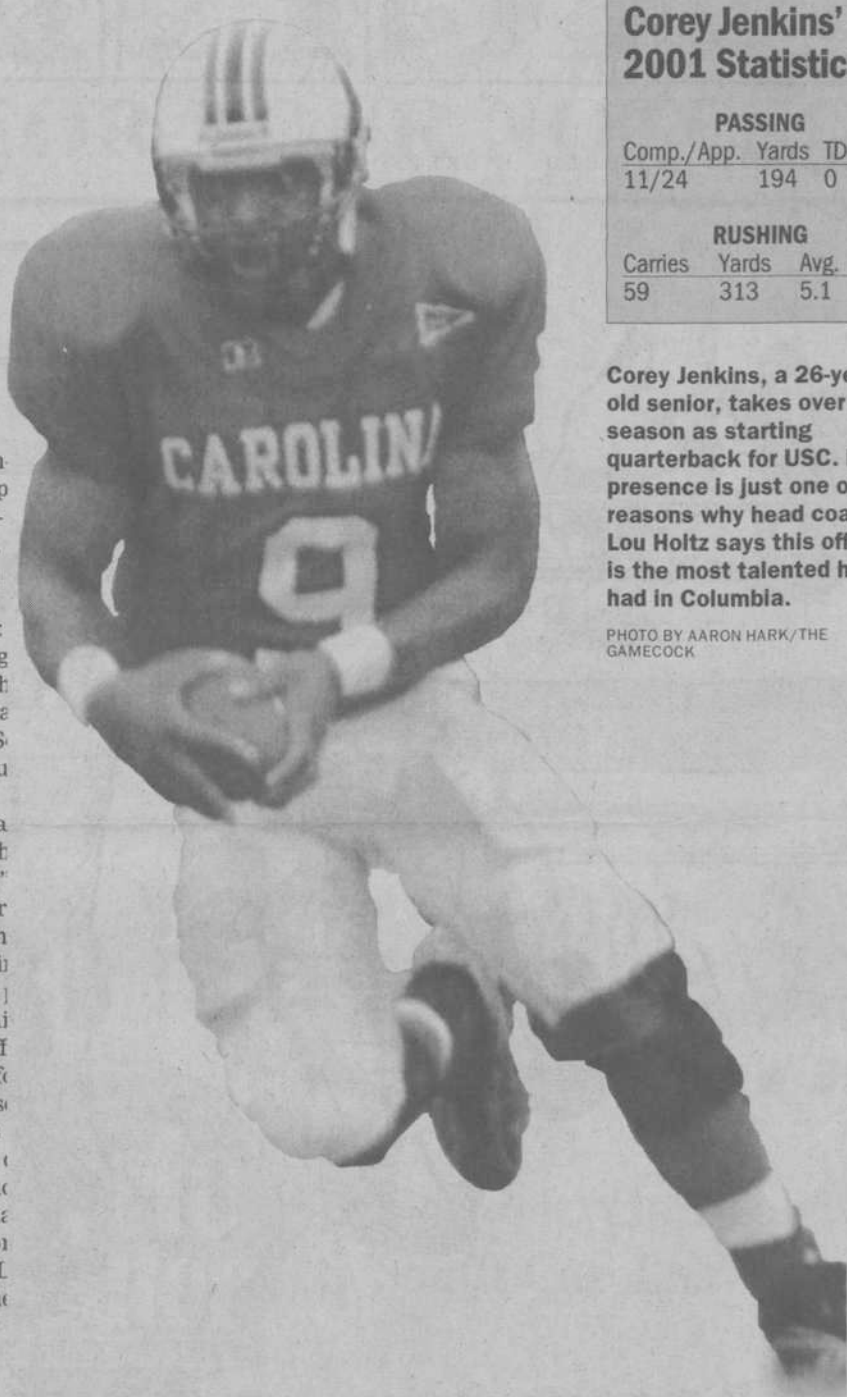
"Corey has really improved mentally," Skip Holtz said. "He's throwing the ball consistently, and his arm is a weapon for us."

One thing is for sure: Jenkins isn't thinking like a first-year starter. The Columbia native, who graduated from Dreher High S has high expectations on self and his team.

"If we win nine, 10 games, that's a huge disappointment," Jenkins said. "That's why we came here. We're not the on coaching staff is expect out of the offense. The Jenkins, including runni Pinnock and a talented off be solid, dependable per

Pinnock, a 255-pound s get most of the carries Derek Watson has been team. With 20 career tou 12 last season, Pinnock h zone and a penchant fo tacklers. Like Jenkins, I Pinnock to another form Jerome Bettis.

♦ OFFENSE, SEE PAGE 9



Corey Jenkins' 2001 Statistics

PASSING				
Comp./App.	Yards	TD	INT	
11/24	194	0	1	

RUSHING				
Carries	Yards	Avg.	TD	
59	313	5.1	3	

Corey Jenkins, a 26-year-old senior, takes over this season as starting quarterback for USC. His presence is just one of the reasons why head coach Lou Holtz says this offense is the most talented he has had in Columbia.

PHOTO BY AARON HARK/THE GAMECOCK

Men's soccer team to rely on youth

USC introduces 9 new players in scrimmage win

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

The USC men's soccer team scored three second-half goals Friday night to defeat Appalachian State in a scrimmage at The Graveyard.

For many of the Gamecocks, it was their first taste of Division I soccer. Nine newcomers, five of whom started the game, received playing time in the 3-0 Carolina win, and head coach Mark Berson was encouraged at the debuts.

"It was a good start," said Berson, who will coach the Gamecocks for the 25th season this year. "I thought that we played well defensively. I think that we put some pretty good pressure on the ball. Our movements in the final third of the field were not as sharp as we would like, but, to be fair, we hadn't really focused a lot on that in preseason."

With all the new faces — the Gamecocks have 11 in all — Berson isn't expecting fast results.

"With this team, it will be one step at a time because it's a group we have a lot of ground to cover with," he said.

The Gamecocks, ranked No. 16 in the preseason NSCAA/Adidas poll, took a successful first step Friday night. Senior Jordan Quinn opened the scoring with a header in the 53rd minute, and junior Robert Rosenberg added a second

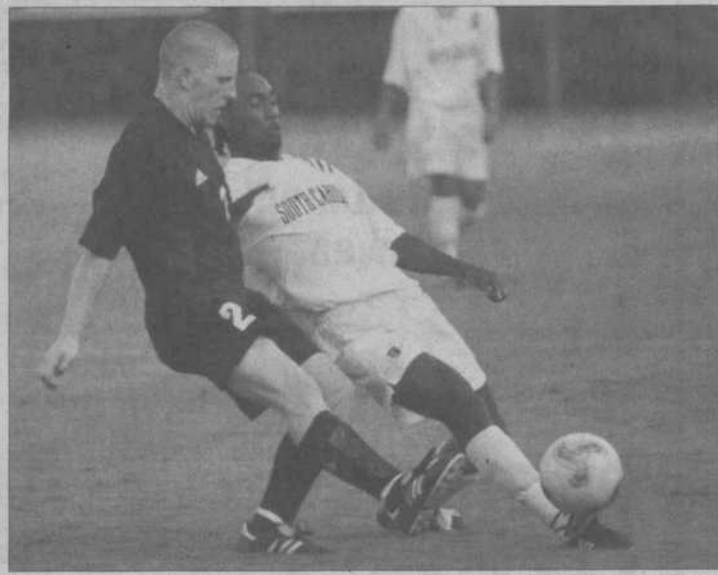


PHOTO BY TRAVIS LYNN/THE GAMECOCK

Ricky Quest, one of USC's new players, reaches for the ball Friday night during Carolina's 3-0 scrimmage win over Appalachian State. Quest is a junior college transfer.

in the 70th minute with a header off a corner kick. Senior Dave Moore assisted on both goals.

Ryan Deter was the first USC newcomer to get on the scoring sheet. At the 83:31 mark, the freshman forward from Raleigh, N.C., stuck his foot out and deflected the ASU goalkeeper's clearance to increase the lead to 3-0.

"Now, it's just a matter of everyone getting comfortable with each other, knowing how each other plays," Berson said. "And it's kind of a crash course in preseason trying to get ready."

Despite the inexperienced roster, the goals still remain the same for a team that has been seeded the last two seasons in the NCAA

Tournament. "Our goals are to finish as the No. 1 team in the South Region, to have an opportunity to go to the NCAA Tournament, and to advance and win the tournament," Berson said.

Until the newcomers get settled, there is plenty of veteran talent to lead the way for USC, which finished 12-5-2 last season.

Up front, Quinn will be the offensive focal point. The forward from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has led the Gamecocks in scoring the past two seasons. Last season, he had 13 goals, five of which were game-winners, and five assists.

"Jordan is a senior who has experience in so many big games

Men's Soccer Vital Statistics

HEAD COACH: Mark Berson
STARTERS RETURNING: 7
PRESEASON RANKING: No. 16 in the NSCAA/Adidas poll
FINAL RANKING IN 2001: No. 20 in the NSCAA/Adidas poll
RECORD IN 2001: 12-5-2
STADIUM: Eugene E. Stone III Stadium, aka "The Graveyard" (capacity 5,700)
KEY PLAYERS: F Jordan Quinn, D Tim Glowienka, GK Michael Bachmeyer, MF David Moore

that he has to be counted on to be the guy to lead us right from the start," Berson said.

Sophomore Anthony Stovall will compete with newcomers Ricky Quest, Ben Link, Deter and J.C. Desriac for a spot next to Quinn. Quest, a two-time Junior College Player of the Year, comes to Carolina from Brooklyn, N.Y.

In the midfield, Moore joins fellow junior Jack Cummings as returning starters.

Moore "is a tireless worker who has the ability to score as well as doing a lot of the defensive dirty work in the middle of the field," Berson said. "He is a tenacious player for us."

The defense looks to be the most

♦ MEN, SEE PAGE 9

Women's soccer looking to build on last season

BY J. KEITH ALLEN
THE GAMECOCK

With the USC women's soccer team finishing above .500 (8-7-3) last season for the first time since 1999, head coach Shelley Smith is poised to take her squad to the next level in 2002. Carolina finished the season ranked No. 10 in the Southeast Region, its highest ranking since 1999.

Smith's team can look back to positive experiences from 2001 and use them to

mount a successful campaign this year. Smith is renowned for turning around the moribund women's soccer program at Rhode Island. Her abilities

were already visible in 2001 during her first year as head coach at Carolina.

The Gamecocks return to The Graveyard this Friday in their season opener against Birmingham Southern. The early portion of this year's schedule is also highlighted with a visit from in-state rival Clemson on Sept. 11. The Tigers finished the season ranked 11th in the country and won last year's meeting 3-0.

Women's Soccer Vital Statistics

HEAD COACH: Shelley Smith
STARTERS RETURNING: 9
PRESEASON RANKING: Not ranked
FINAL RANKING IN 2001: Not ranked
RECORD IN 2001: 8-7-3 (2-6-1 SEC)
STADIUM: Eugene E. Stone III Stadium, aka "The Graveyard" (capacity 5,700)
KEY PLAYERS: F Morgan McIntyre, MF Jessica Julin, MF Melinda Carter, D Becky Leeper

The Gamecocks open SEC play against a tough Florida squad Sept. 29. The Gators won 1-0 in a thrilling game last season in Gainesville. The loss was especially tough to take for USC, because it snapped a program-best winning streak of seven games.

Carolina wraps up its regular season slate with a home game against Wofford on Oct. 29. The next week, the SEC Tournament

♦ WOMEN, SEE PAGE 9