

Almond

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Florida State this past weekend. But his performance was amazing. He single-handedly kept his overmatched team in the game, and you've got to give it up for that gutsy scramble at the end of the game that put the Cyclones within striking distance.

Florida State has a monster defense, but the senior didn't blink. He fought until the end and deserves credit for his hard work.

Toolboxes of the Week: The latest SportsCenter anchormen

Since the glory days of Dan Patrick and Keith Olbermann (and even Craig Kilborn), SportsCenter has gone downhill.

Don't get me wrong: it's still the best in the business. But the newest anchormen (I won't name names) are dragging it down with their obnoxious commentary. I realize they're just trying to be funny, and that's always been the draw of the show. But there's a fine line between funny and annoying, and these tools are crossing it.

One night this past week, I listened to the anchormen discuss how awful they think the new stripe is on Nebraska's football pants. Guys, we don't care what you think! You are not important! Just tell us about the game.

And stop stuffing your awful

catch phrases into every single highlight. You're not Kenny Mayne.

Quote of the Week:

"I do want to thank the person who came up with the seating arrangement, because I'm not sitting by Coach Morriss, so he couldn't see me eat my cake."

—Kentucky quarterback Jared Lorenzen, at UK's annual Kickoff Luncheon on Friday.



Lorenzen

Cartman is back and bigger than ever.

Almond is a fourth-year print journalism student.

Volleyball

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year. She had a team-high 339 kills and also topped the list in kills per game (3.68), service aces (50) and digs (127).

Also spending time at outside hitter are Alban, Nadia Sefferovich, Yajaira Cadet and Mariana Branquinho.

Setting up the hitters is Hosp, an experienced senior setter.

"We return Megan Hosp as our setter, and she has been an assist leader in the SEC for the last two seasons," Christopher said.

At the middle blocker position, Dwyer and Alban are All-SEC players who have experience and

different skills. They're backed up by some young players with great enthusiasm and ability.

Something new for volleyball fans to look for is the addition of a new position — the libero.

This position is specifically a back-row defensive position, and it has been used at the international level before finding its way into the collegiate game this season.

"The libero position brings a position to the floor that specializes in serve receive passing and defense," Christopher said.

Playing this new position for USC will be sophomore Bridget White and freshman Amy Bensen.

"Bridget saw considerable playing time last year and will be

instrumental in our success defensively," Christopher said. "Amy is a great addition, and she will impact us defensively as well."

With all this experience and excitement from the players and coaches, the team has high hopes of what is to come this year.

"I believe their experience will help move us to another level competitively and also provide strong leadership for our incoming freshmen," Christopher said. "We will rely on their leadership to keep us playing at a high level throughout the season, no matter what the circumstances may be."

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Girls & Sports

BY JUSTIN BORUS AND ANDREW FEINSTEIN

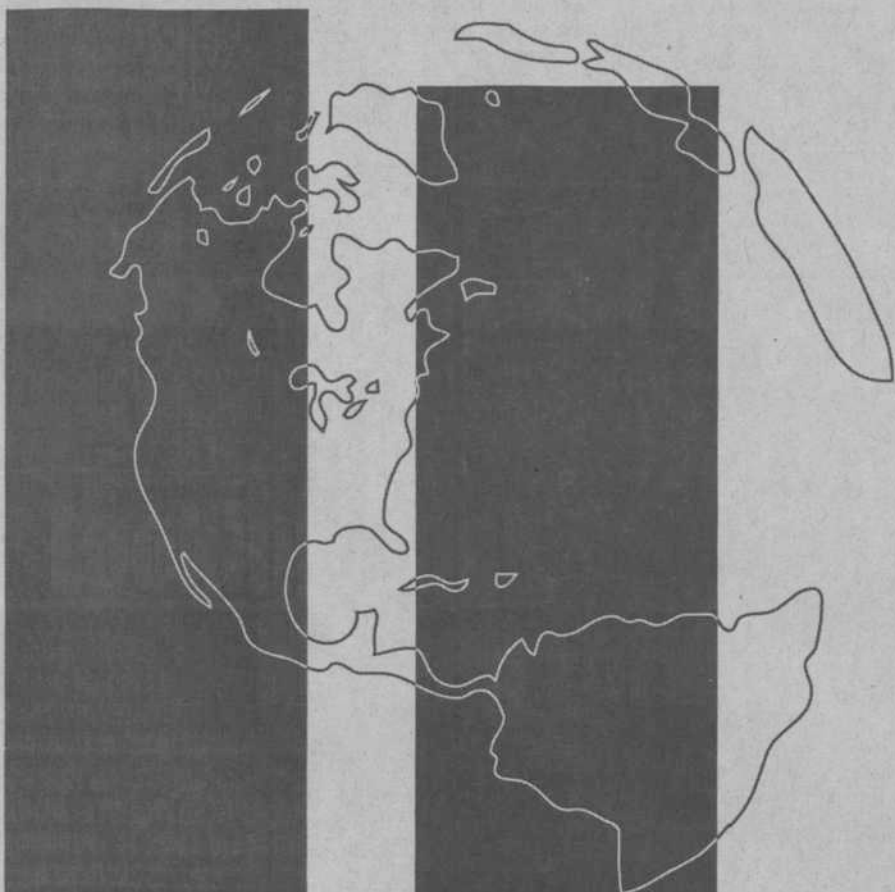


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FOOTBALL NEWS & NOTES

Injuries subside for USC

BY MATT ROTHENBERG
THE GAMECOCK

As the season opener draws near, the 22nd-ranked USC football team is starting to see some of its banged-up players getting better.

Fullback Andrew Pinnock, who missed the majority of practice last week with a bruised shoulder, returned to the practice field Monday evening and also practiced again Tuesday.

While freshman Daccus Turman could still get the starting nod, Pinnock is expected to play a key role in the game.

Tailback Ryan Brewer, who is coming off ankle surgery, was able to make it through the entire practice on Tuesday without any problems.

"Are we a tired team?" asked head coach Lou Holtz. "I don't think so. Are we in good condition? I think we are, but you walk a fine line. You don't want to take a tired team into the opener."

Defense looks strong

Holtz said the Gamecock defense has dominated during pre-

season camp.

"A lot of times, that happens, with the defense dominating during camp," Holtz said. "I think people will enjoy watching our defense play. We've developed more depth along the defensive line than I had anticipated. Many of the younger players are really coming on — like Ricardo Hurley, Darel Slay, Moe Thompson. It's an exciting group to watch and coach."

Holtz also said cornerback Taqiy Muhammad, a junior college transfer, has good quickness and is always around the football.

"It takes a different mentality to play cornerback," Holtz said. "You're out there on an island. Taqiy doesn't seem to mind that aspect of it."

"I expect our corners to step out. I don't anticipate a drop-off in play there."

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Muhammad

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Send your picks to gamecocksports@hotmail.com by 2 p.m. Thursday to be our Reader of the Week.

This week's games:
New Mexico State at USC
Clemson at Georgia
Washington at Michigan
Notre Dame at Maryland
Colorado State at Colorado
Mississippi State at Oregon
LSU at Virginia Tech
Auburn at Southern Cal
Navy at SMU
Idaho at Boise State

For tiebreaking purposes, please include your score for the New Mexico State/USC game.

Defense

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with the defense last year was giving up the big play, usually on a third-and-long situation. Despite a retooled secondary, Strong emphasized those plays should not happen this season.

"We did lose two guys (Sheldon Brown and Andre Goodman) who are playing in the NFL, but we aren't going to change our style in the secondary," Strong said. "We

do not want to allow big plays to happen, and we can't give up the home run ball."

Robinson is confident that he and his teammates in the secondary are up to the task of shutting down opposing quarterbacks and filling in the void left by their predecessors.

"It's tough, but all I can do is step in and do what I'm capable of doing," Robinson said. "It's going to be a challenge, but I think, as a whole, the guys in the back are going to be just as good as Andre and Sheldon were. So I'm not worried

about that.

"We've been working on pressing a lot and getting our eyes back when the ball is thrown. The SEC throws a lot and has a lot of deadly receivers, but if I go out and play the way I'm capable of playing, as the year progresses, not many passes will be thrown my way."

With a level of optimism and confidence higher than ever, big things could be in store for the Carolina defense in 2002.

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Club Corner

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to an 8-16 record and finished second in the Southern Divisional playoffs, defeating Clemson twice to reach the division Championship.

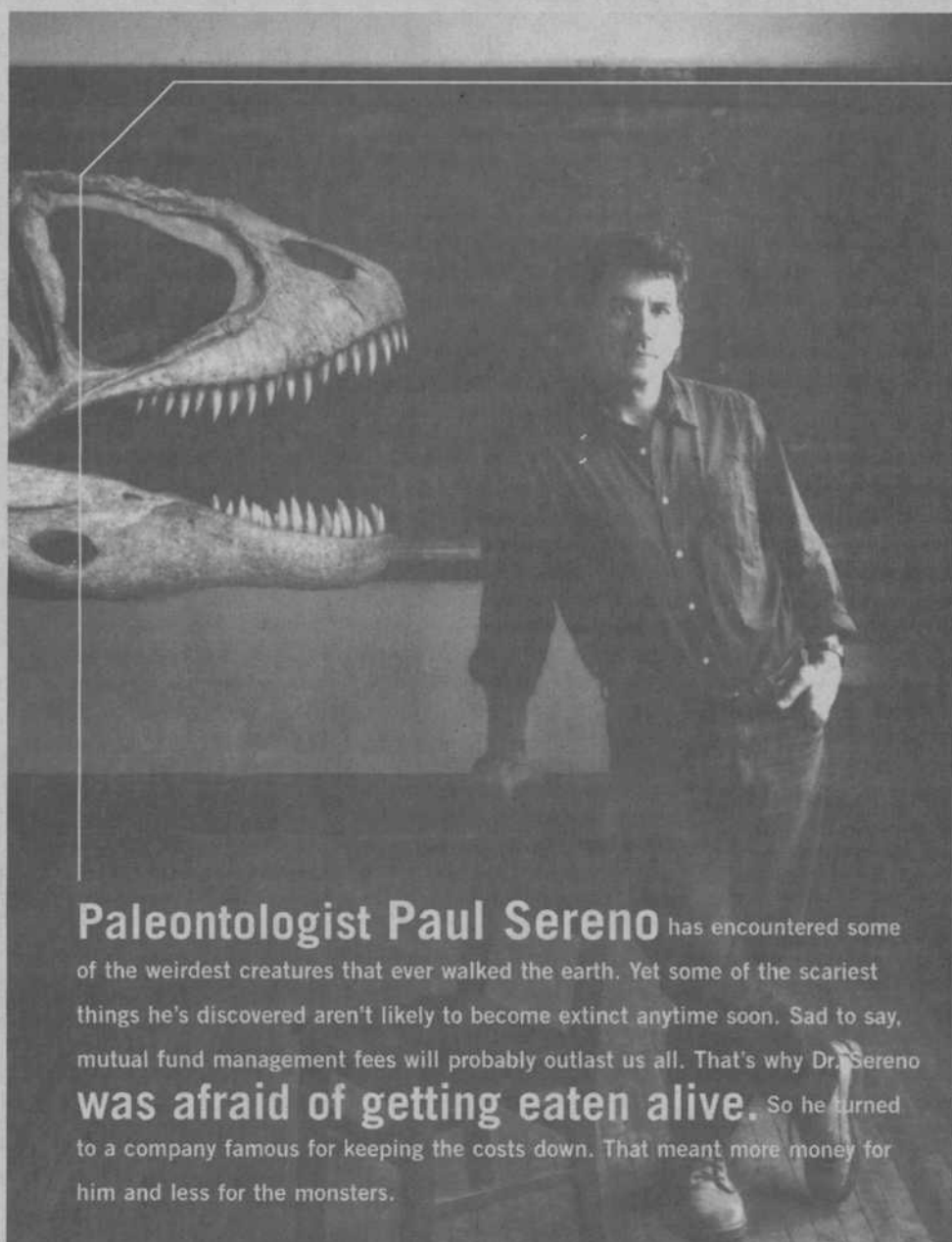
Men's Soccer

The USC Men's Soccer Club will be holding a meeting on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Bates West Social Room. Tryouts for the club will be held Sept. 8 and 10 at 7 p.m.

All prospective players must fill out a waiver at the informational

meeting in order to try out. If you have any questions, e-mail msoccer@gwm.sc.edu.

Club Corner will run every Wednesday in The Gamecock. To be included, e-mail your information, in paragraph form, to gamecocksports@hotmail.com. The deadline for each issue is Monday at 2 p.m.



Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he's discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive. So he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monsters.

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