

CONTACT US

Story ideas? Questions? Comments?
E-mail us at gamecocksports@hotmail.com



SPORTS

MEN'S SOCCER vs. New Hampshire, 7:30 p.m. Friday
VOLLEYBALL vs. San Diego in Long Beach, Calif., 7 p.m. Friday
WOMEN'S SOCCER vs. College of Charleston, 12 p.m. Saturday
FOOTBALL vs. No. 9 Georgia, 3:30 p.m. Saturday
MEN'S GOLF at The Ridges Intercollegiate in Johnson City, Tenn., Saturday-Sunday

Revenge on Georgia's mind

Carolina has won last two meetings with UGA



◆ WHO HAS THE EDGE? GO TO WWW.DAILYGAMECOCK.COM TO SEE WHICH TEAM HAS THE UPPER HAND FOR SATURDAY'S GAME.

No. 9 Georgia at USC

3:30 p.m. Saturday
Williams-Brice Stadium
TV: CBS

BY BRAD SENKIW
THE GAMECOCK

After a tough loss at Virginia, the USC football team is hoping to bounce back this weekend against the Georgia Bulldogs.

Georgia, ranked 9th by the Associated Press and 10th by the coaches, is looking for revenge as it enters Williams-Brice Stadium on Saturday after losing to the Gamecocks the past two seasons.

Carolina has never beaten the Bulldogs three times in a row, and head coach Lou Holtz knows the extent of the challenge ahead.

"Looking at the University of Georgia, this is the last thing I want to do: to go into the Georgia game with that type of performance," Holtz said, referring to USC's poor game at Virginia. "This could be embarrassing on Saturday."

The Bulldogs lead the overall series between the two teams 39-12-2, and they have won six of the last 10 meetings.

Georgia is coming off a 31-28 win over Clemson in Athens two weeks ago, when kicker Billy

Bennett nailed a 43-yard field goal with 5:19 left in the game. Georgia had a bye last week and looks healthy and ready coming into Saturday's game.

"We had the open date, which was helpful," Georgia head coach Mark Richt said. "The majority of the team is healthy."

"We have a lot to prove this week. The fact that we haven't beat South Carolina in a while is motivation."

Georgia's offense is led by two quarterbacks this year — sophomore David Greene and redshirt freshman D.J. Shockley. The two combined for 117 passing yards and three touchdowns against Clemson.

Musa Smith, who racked up 105 yards against Clemson, will be the Bulldogs' featured rusher.

"Musa Smith is a great runner," Holtz said. "He has very quick feet, and he is powerful."

Georgia's most explosive weapons come at receiver, however, with a pair of Biletnikoff Award candidates in Terrence Edwards and Fred Gibson. Edwards caught a 24-yard touchdown against the Tigers, while Gibson did his damage with a 91-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

"Georgia's receiving corps is the best in the country," Holtz said. "Gibson did not play against us last year. He is outstanding.

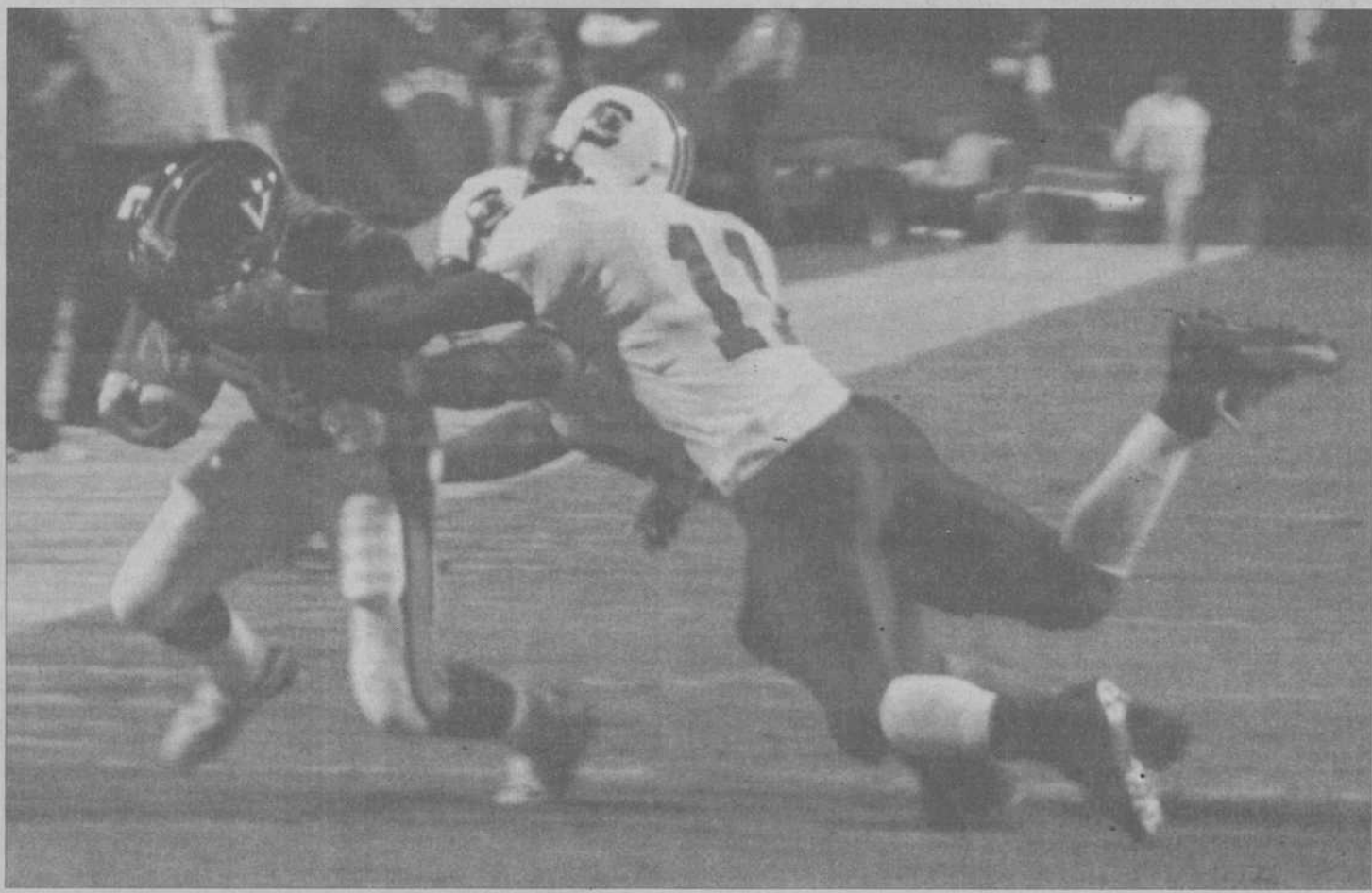


PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM/THE GAMECOCK

Rashad Faison (No. 11) played free safety last week, but he will be back at spur for Saturday's game with Georgia. Faison and the defense have a tough test against the Bulldogs' receiving corps, which USC head coach Lou Holtz calls the best in the country.

Edwards is a career-leading receiver there. Then you put in (Damien) Gary — he's the fastest guy on the team, and that's hard to believe with Gibson and Edwards."

The Bulldogs also boast one of the top offensive lines in the country, with All-American Kevin Breedlove leading the way.

Holtz is also weary of the strong and improved Georgia defense

that could cause serious problems for the USC offense.

"Defensively, I think they are better than last year, at least when we played them," Holtz said. "They are much more aggressive. They have two great linebackers. The defensive line is very big, strong, aggressive, and their secondary is physical and quick. (Linebacker) Boss Bailey is an All-American."

Despite the win over Clemson, Richt was not pleased with his team's performance two weeks ago.

"I really believe that South Carolina and Georgia are about in the same boat as far as not playing as well as we would like to early in the year, needing to get some things corrected, trying to find out what kind of a football team we have," Richt said. "We've got a lot

to prove, and I think South Carolina feels like they have a lot to prove, too. It's going to be a game of two teams that are really trying to find out their identity."

The Bulldogs and the Gamecocks are scheduled for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff. The game will be nationally televised on CBS.

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

Late goal lifts Clemson to victory over Carolina

	Clemson (3-2)	1
	USC (3-2)	0

BY NICK YOUNG
THE GAMECOCK

The USC women's soccer team lost a 1-0 heartbreaker to No. 18 Clemson on Wednesday night in front of a record crowd of 1,863 fans at The Graveyard.

Tigers midfielder Heather Beem scored in the 87th minute off a deflection that dropped right in front of her.

"It's unlucky," USC head coach Shelley Smith said. "It was a deflection, and Elise (Matthews) got down, but not as quickly as she would've liked. Then it just dribbled under her."

The loss for Carolina (3-2) was its sixth in a row to Clemson (3-2) and its seventh loss to the Tigers in the last eight years.

"It hurts, it really does," senior Morgan McIntyre said. "Everyone played so hard, and we lost because of one lucky play. But we can't think about it for too long. We have to get ready for our next game."

USC, looking to offset Clemson's tremendous speed and potent offense, came into Wednesday night's game with a defensive strategy.

"We wanted to cover each other and stay organized," Matthews said. "We executed our plan, but they had that one little bounce that went their way."

The Gamecocks' plan seemed to work, as they shut down Clemson's offense for a large portion of the first half. The Tigers had one quality chance, around the 20-minute mark when forward Deliah Arrington's shot hit the near post, but Clemson's other early shots on goal were easy saves for Matthews.

While USC's defense was suc-



PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

USC's Kanika McAlpine (No. 24) fights off Clemson's Lindsay Browne during Wednesday night's game at The Graveyard. Clemson won 1-0 when Heather Beem scored in the 87th minute. The Tigers have now defeated USC six times in a row.

cessful in implementing its game plan, its offense struggled to create quality scoring chances.

Attacking midfielder Jessica Julin was one of the Gamecocks concerned about lack of possession.

"It was frustrating to have the ball and then watch someone kick it away," Julin said.

McIntyre played most of the second half as the only forward and didn't have much help.

"I wasn't frustrated," she said. "The coaches asked me to do it, and I had no problem with it. It's what the team needed to do to win. As long as that's the case."

But it wasn't the case for Carolina, as Beem took full advantage of her opportunity and put the Tigers up with little time remaining.

Beem's goal took the life out of the crowd, but it didn't take the life out of the Gamecocks. With a mere two minutes left, USC made three late charges and

had two shots on goal.

"The team never quit," Smith said. "I'm extremely proud of them. That last-minute charge was incredible; they wanted to win. Everyone should be proud of themselves."

Smith said she was especially encouraged by Matthews' play.

"Elise Matthews played terrific in goal for us tonight," Smith said. "She proved that she's one of the best."

Smith is hoping her team can learn from this setback.

"We proved that we can play with any team in the nation," she said. "But they have to learn that that's what we're expecting from them every game."

The Gamecocks will resume play this Saturday against the College of Charleston. The match starts at noon and will be played at The Graveyard.

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

USC riding high after tourney win

BY KYLE ALMOND
THE GAMECOCK

Following what head coach Mark Berson called a "sloppy" 2-1 win over Jacksonville, there were a lot of questions about the USC men's soccer team a week ago.

But the Gamecocks had some answers this past weekend when they beat North Carolina State and Duke to win the Duke/Adidas Classic.

"It was definitely a very good performance by our team," Berson said. "We have a pretty young group, so that was a challenge to see how their focus would be on the road."

USC (4-0) defeated the Wolfpack 2-1 and finished off the Blue Devils 3-0 to take the tournament crown. With the impressive performance, the Gamecocks were moved to No. 6 in the NSCAA poll.

Leading the way for Carolina was forward Jordan Quinn, who scored the game-winner against N.C. State and was named the tournament's most valuable player.

"We played really awesome," said Quinn, who was also named to Soccer America magazine's Team of the Week. "I thought the guys pulled together."

"We didn't play as good as we thought we could against Jacksonville, so we didn't know where we stood. But I thought we stepped up and played really well this weekend."

The confident Gamecocks will look to build on their momentum Friday when their annual home tournament, the Gamecock Soccer Classic, kicks off at The Graveyard. USC welcomes the College of Charleston, New Hampshire and Washington for the event.

The Gamecocks have held the Classic since 1987, and they've won it 11 times. But since winning seven straight Classics from 1993-99, Carolina has slipped up and lost its last two. Charleston won in 2000, and Maryland won a year ago.

Quinn says the team is hungry to reclaim its own tournament.

"We've got to win this," he said. "We really want to win. There's going to be two tough tests, but I think, for the most part, we're ready."

Carolina's tests will be New Hampshire on Friday night and Washington on Sunday.

New Hampshire is undefeated at 4-0, and Washington (1-0-2) has been to the NCAA Tournament

The Gamecock Soccer Classic

All matches to be played at The Graveyard

Friday: Washington vs. College of Charleston, 5 p.m.; No. 6 USC vs. New Hampshire, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday: New Hampshire vs. Charleston, 11 a.m.; USC vs. Washington, 1:30 p.m.

the past seven seasons.

The Classic begins Friday at 5 p.m., when Washington takes on Charleston (2-1-1). After that game, USC will face New Hampshire at 7:30 p.m.

Play wraps up Sunday with New Hampshire facing Charleston at 11 a.m. and USC playing Washington at 1:30 p.m.

"Our players always point to this weekend," Berson said. "It's a big weekend for us as far as a lot of families coming in, and we always want to do well in our home tournaments. It's a major focus for us."

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

SPORTS CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE:

The Gamecock's readers and staff test their sports knowledge with predictions of the weekend's games. (Rankings are from the Associated Press.)

Kyle Almond Sports Editor (12-8)	Matt Rothenberg Asst. Sports Editor (12-8)	Chris Foy Defending Champion (11-9)	Mary Hartney Editor in Chief (13-7)	Justin Bajan Co-Editor, The Mix (6-14)	Edward Barnes Reader of the Week (12-8)
--	--	---	---	--	---

Indiana at Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Indiana	Kentucky	Kentucky
Miami (Ohio) at 25 LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	Miami (OH)	LSU	LSU
Mississippi at Texas Tech	Ole Miss	Texas Tech	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Texas Tech	Ole Miss
10 Wash. St. at 6 Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Wash. St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.
7 Michigan at 20 Notre Dame	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	N. Dame	Michigan	N. Dame
17 Southern Cal at 18 Colorado	So. Cal	So. Cal	So. Cal	So. Cal	Colorado	Colorado
Duke at Northwestern	Duke	N'western	N'western	N'western	N'western	Duke
Iowa St. at Iowa	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa St.
Georgia Tech at Clemson	Ga. Tech	Clemson	Ga. Tech	Clemson	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech
9 Georgia at USC	Georgia	USC	Georgia	USC	Georgia	USC
	27-23	31-27	27-24	35-21	35-31	25-24

LAST WEEK'S WINNER: Matt Rothenberg (6-4) — Rothenberg edged out Gerald Smith, our reader of the week, via the tiebreaker. Rothenberg was the only one to predict that Virginia would upset USC in Charlottesville. He did not, however, predict seven Carolina tumovers.

Hartney, who along with Foy and Almond went 5-5, holds on to a slim overall lead. Assistant Viewpoints Editor Erin O'Neal, the Gamecock staff member of the week, buried her co-workers' chances with a humiliating 1-9 week.

WANT TO BE READER OF THE WEEK? E-mail your selections next week to gamecocksports@hotmail.com. If you have the best record, you'll win a free Gamecock T-shirt and be able to talk all the trash you want.