

Temple

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after the game, is confident, however, that his bruising back can rebound.

"Andrew will handle this like a mature adult," Holtz said. "It's a part of life. He did some good things during the game."

Because of their recent struggles, the Gamecocks are looking at giving younger players more playing time, including freshman tailback Kenny Irons, who sparked Carolina against Georgia with a couple of big runs.

"Kenny has talent and some explosiveness; he just needs some experience," offensive coordinator Skip Holtz said.

When asked if senior running back Andrew Pinnock may have a reduced role this week, Skip Holtz said: "We have to stop the turnover binge. It's the main reason we are 1-2. We're going to play the people who aren't go-



Irons

ing to turn the ball over. Andrew will play, don't get me wrong, but we are also going to look at some other people, as well. The turnovers can't be tolerated."

Until their offense can settle into a comfort zone, the Gamecocks might have to lean on their defense, which was impressive in the Georgia game. After shaky outings in its first two games, the defense responded against the Bulldogs, only giving up two field goals. Georgia's touchdown came on an interception.

"The defense played absolutely outstanding," Lou Holtz said.

The Gamecock defense will have to keep its eye on Temple star wide receiver Sean Dillard, who led the Big East last season in receptions per game, and tailback Tanardo Sharps, a breakaway threat who averaged 5.1 yards a carry last season. Mike McGann, a 6-6 sophomore, is the starting quarterback.

Saturday's game, the third home game this season for USC, is scheduled for a 7 p.m. kickoff. Last season, Carolina went 6-1 at home.

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

Who has the edge?

Temple (1-2, 0-1 Big East) at USC (1-2, 0-1 SEC)

USC's pass against the Temple defense:

Temple's secondary isn't imposing, but the Gamecocks haven't proved they can be consistent throwing the ball. USC offensive coordinator Skip Holtz said that freshmen WRs Kris Clark, Troy Williamson and Andre Hemphill will see playing time. That could be good or bad, depending on how you look at it.

USC's rush against the Temple defense:

With DT Dan Klecko leading the way, the Temple run defense is a formidable unit. And with a banged-up offensive line and questions about who's going to get most of the handoffs, USC won't dominate on the ground. But the Gamecocks still get the slight edge with QB Corey Jenkins, who is fifth in the SEC in rushing.

Temple's pass against the USC defense:

Temple QB Mike McGann is only a sophomore, and he hasn't exactly shown that he can scare any defense. CB Dunta Robinson is emerging as a star for the USC defense. Did you see Terrence Edwards last week? Neither did we. This could be a good building block for an improving Carolina secondary.

Temple's rush against the USC defense:

NT Langston Moore has been a force in the middle for the USC defense, and along with LBs Lance Laury and Jermaine Lemon, he should stuff the Temple ground game. Temple TB Tanardo Sharps is fast, but he'll have trouble finding holes to run through.

Intangibles:

Confidence is a question mark for Carolina following its last two defeats, but the Gamecocks should triumph considering the difference in talent level. Temple has been a Big East doormat for years, and it should be no match for USC. With the game at Williams-Brice Stadium, the scales tip further in USC's favor.

— COMPILED BY KYLE ALMOND AND MATT ROTHENBERG

ADVANTAGE:

EVEN



Rothenberg

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of mine at Rutgers have known it for a long time, and I genuinely feel sorry for them. With my scheme in place, they will once again see the light and the optimism of a winning season, just like Carolina fans have.

There is hope for all bad college football programs in the United States, especially those in Division I-A. However, I can't bear seeing these poor teams getting their brains beaten out every week while they occasionally steal a win or two. If these teams want the prestige of being Division I-A programs, they must prove it.

On a lower level, they can rebuild their programs and attempt to inject some hope and pride in otherwise moribund recent histories. When sufficient progress is made, then the school can request a promotion.

Temple and Rutgers have that promise. Maybe they can win more by playing Division I-AA schools, ones on their own skill level. Then I hope the next time we play either school, it will be more to play a competitive football team than just scheduling another likely win.

Rothenberg is a fourth-year sport management student. His column appears every Friday in Gamecock Sports.

SEC

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and the team is a four-point favorite in the SEC opener between these rivals.

"Outside of the team, I don't think anybody thinks we're going to do well (against Tennessee)," Gators offensive lineman Shannon Snell said.

Led by quarterback Rex Grossman, the Gators will have to solve one of the nation's top defenses. The Vols have yet to allow a point in the first three quarters of a game, lead the nation in points allowed (5 per game) and are second in yards allowed (198 per game).

The Vols, with Casey Clausen at the controls, also get a boost with the return of wide receiver Kelley Washington, who had more than 1,000 yards last season but missed the first two games with a sprained knee.

Southern Mississippi at Alabama: Alabama plays its second of six home games this Saturday when it plays host to the Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles.

Alabama is 2-1 following last week's 33-7 win over North Texas. Southern Miss



Florida quarterback Rex Grossman will try to rebound Saturday from a poor game against Miami two weeks ago. The Gators, ranked No. 10 by the Associated Press, head to Knoxville this weekend to take on the fourth-ranked Tennessee Volunteers.

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

is 3-0 after a 33-14 win over Memphis.

Northwestern State at No. 8 Georgia: The No. 8 Bulldogs (2-0) meet Division I-AA Northwestern State on Saturday at Sanford Stadium.

Georgia was initially scheduled to face Tulane this week, but the Green Wave backed out of the contract. The move prompted Georgia to file a federal lawsuit against Tulane.

Middle Tennessee State at Kentucky: Tailback Artose Pinner will go for his third consecutive 100-yard game Saturday as the resurgent Wildcats (3-0) take on Middle Tennessee State.

Vanderbilt at Ole Miss: The Ole Miss Rebels (2-1) are looking to snap a string of nine straight losses in SEC openers when they play host to the Vanderbilt Commodores (1-2) at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

BRIEFLY

Carolina dominates rescheduled game

Midfielder Jessica Julin had a goal and an assist, and the Carolina defense did not allow a shot until the last 10 seconds as the USC women's soccer team earned a 5-0 victory at Charleston Southern on Thursday afternoon.

The match was supposed to take place in Columbia on Wednesday, but it was postponed and moved because of inclement weather.

Carolina (5-2) scored three times in the first half, with Ashley Gosnell putting in the first tally for USC at the 16:03 mark. The Gamecocks increased the lead five minutes later as freshman Camille Toney scored to give USC a 2-0 lead.

Freshman Lindsay Haney finished the first-half scoring in the 32nd minute.

Julin and sophomore Ashley Williams added goals in the second half for the Gamecocks, who outshot Charleston Southern 19-1.

Carolina's next game will be Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. against N.C. State.

Track team invited to White House

The USC women's track and field team will be honored by President Bush on Tuesday at a reception in the White House.

The NCAA champion Gamecocks will be joined by nine other NCAA champions from the spring. It is the first time a USC team has visited the White House.

USC's women won the school's first NCAA title in June, crowning 20 All-Americans and three individual NCAA champions.

Men's soccer to play in another Classic

The USC men's soccer team, now ranked No. 3 by the NSCAA, heads to Evansville, Ind., this weekend for the Pro-rehab-Aces Classic looking for their third straight tournament title.

Carolina takes on Louisville on Friday before closing out the tournament against host Evansville on Sunday.

Earlier this month, USC (6-0) won the Duke/Adidas Classic and the Gamecock Soccer Classic.

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 (18-12)	Matt Rothenberg Asst. Sports Editor (21-9)	Chris Foy Defending Champion (17-13)	Mary Hartney Editor in Chief (18-12)	Candi Hauglum Photo Editor (11-19)	Brandon Simmons Reader of the Week (18-12)
10 Florida at 4 Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Southern Miss at Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Vanderbilt at Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss
7 Va. Tech at 19 Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Texas A&M	Va. Tech
11 So. Cal at 25 Kansas St.	So. Cal	So. Cal	So. Cal	So. Cal	So. Cal	So. Cal
Boston College at 1 Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Bowling Green at Kansas	B. Green	B. Green	B. Green	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas
Hawaii at UTEP	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii
Ball St. at Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Ball St.	Clemson	Clemson
Temple at USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
	31-10	34-14	35-14	26-10	27-10	45-14

LAST WEEK'S WINNER: Matt Rothenberg (9-1) — Rothenberg's dominating week gives him a three-game lead over Almond, Hartney and the readers. Rothenberg's only miss was the Michigan/Notre Dame game.

Hartney lost her top spot by going only 5-5. Almond, Foy and reader of the week Edward Barnes went 6-4. Justin Bajan, co-editor of The Mix, didn't do much to help The Gamecock's staff catch up to the rest of the pack. He went 5-5.

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.

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