

# SPORTS

## GAME SCHEDULE

**MEN'S TENNIS** in S.C. Fall Invitational (Columbia), Friday-Saturday  
**SWIMMING** at College of Charleston, 5 p.m. Friday  
**WOMEN'S SOCCER** vs. Georgia, 7 p.m. Friday  
**VOLLEYBALL** at Alabama, 7 p.m. Friday

## CONTACT US

Story ideas? Questions? Comments?  
 E-mail us at [gamecocksports@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecocksports@hotmail.com)

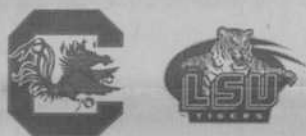
### BAYOU BOUND



PHOTO BY TRAVIS LYNN/THE GAMECOCK

Corey Jenkins, left, will have his work cut out for him Saturday. USC's senior quarterback will have to deal with a talented LSU defense that ranks No. 1 in the nation in total defense and No. 2 in scoring defense.

# Surging Gamecocks face tough road test



## USC at No. 14 LSU

7:45 p.m. Saturday  
 Tiger Stadium  
 TV: ESPN2

BY KYLE ALMOND  
 THE GAMECOCK

The USC football team is red-hot, winning its past four games since starting out 1-2. But the Gamecocks will face an even hotter team Saturday.

The LSU Tigers, ranked No. 12 in the Coaches' Poll and No. 14 in the Associated Press Poll, have won five straight games — their latest being a 36-7 shocker at Florida. The Tigers went into the Swamp, a traditionally tough place to play, and dominated the Gators last weekend in every facet of the game.

That win improved LSU to 5-1 on the year, 2-0 in the SEC, and grabbed the attention of USC head coach Lou Holtz.

"The question I ask is, why are they only No. 12 in the country?" Holtz said. "They go down and beat Florida 36-7, and it was 36-7 with 12 minutes to go in the

fourth quarter. It's not like they scored at the end.

"They are just an intimidating football team. Fundamentally, they are excellent. It's their athleticism, their size and fundamentals that really impress you."

Lucky for Holtz, the Gamecocks (5-2, 3-1 SEC) have hit their stride just in time for such a pivotal conference game. Carolina rallied from a 10-0 deficit last weekend to defeat Kentucky 16-12 in Lexington.

"Last week, I was really proud of how we kept our poise and the way we competed and came back and executed in the second half," Holtz said.

The Gamecocks will also get two important players back Saturday. Linebacker Lance Laury and center C.J. Frye return after missing several weeks because of injuries.

The teams will do battle at 7:45 p.m. in LSU's Tiger Stadium. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN2.

While Carolina gets players back from injuries, LSU might be without one of its most important players. Starting quarterback Matt Mauck is questionable with a foot injury, and sophomore Marcus Randall will receive the start instead. It will be Randall's first career start.

"I think Marcus has done a

good job in practice this week," LSU head coach Nick Saban said. "Marcus has to go out there and manage the game. He is a young quarterback, and we need to support him in what he does. He is capable of making some big plays because he is a good athlete."

Randall has played in four games this year, completing 4-of-8 passes for 33 yards. Randall has also rushed for 13 yards on five carries.

"Me and Matt basically have almost the same style of play," Randall said. "So the game plan's not really going to change that much. We're still going to run the ball, do our quarterback draws, bootlegs and play-action passes. The offense is going to still stay the same."

Holtz and the Gamecocks will have to exploit Randall's inexperience on offense, because the Tigers defense is stacked. LSU is No. 1 in the country in total defense, No. 2 in scoring defense, and the Tigers have only allowed 10.5 points per game.

"They're as well-coached and

**"They are just an intimidating football team. Fundamentally, they are excellent."**

LOU HOLTZ  
 USC FOOTBALL HEAD COACH, ON LSU

fundamentally sound as any defense as you will ever see," Holtz said.

USC will try to counter that defensive power with its usual hard-nosed rushing attack, led by quarterback Corey Jenkins. Jenkins leads the team in both passing yards (1,145) and rushing yards (609). The senior also has a team-high 10 touchdowns.

"South Carolina is an excellent football team," Saban said. "They are only giving up about 12 points a game (in SEC games), and they move the ball effectively on offense."

Saban is confident his team can extend its winning streak, however. "We have practiced and prepared well all week, and I am pleased with the attitude that we have come back with," he said. "We seem to have good focus on what we need to do against South Carolina."

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# USC snaps losing skid

## Glowienka goal finishes Charlotte at Graveyard

	<b>Charlotte</b> (7-4-1)	<b>1</b>
	<b>USC</b> (8-3-1)	<b>2</b>

BY NICK YOUNG  
 THE GAMECOCK

After three heartbreaking losses to Davidson, Clemson and Wake Forest, the USC men's soccer team came into Wednesday's match against Charlotte determined to get back on track.

Carolina's Tim Glowienka scored his first goal of the season in the 74th minute, and it could not have come at a better time. After a 49ers foul, Glowienka took a direct kick right outside of the box and stuffed it in the back-right corner of the net. His score broke a 1-1 tie, and 13th-ranked Carolina (8-3-1) held on for a 2-1 victory at the Graveyard.

In the beginning of the match, it appeared as if the game was going to be a blowout. The Gamecocks possessed the ball and camped out in the 49ers' half for the majority of the game's first seven minutes.

After defending yet another Carolina attack, Charlotte (7-4-1) quickly cleared the ball and raced up the field in an attempt to counter. USC was caught off guard and scrambled to get back, but the Gamecocks couldn't make it in time. Tim Flavin connected on a pass to Mira Mupier, who did the rest by spinning past Carolina defenders and toe-poking the ball past Michael Bachmeyer.

USC answered just four minutes later, however, on a goal by senior Jordan Quinn.



Glowienka

"Somehow, the ball ricocheted out to me, and I was concentrating on keeping it on target," Quinn said of his sixth goal of the season.

USC head coach Mark Berson was proud of how his team came back and scored so quickly.

"I was very proud of the team tonight, especially the way we answered their goal," he said. "I thought we came out and played very well early, and then all of a sudden — bang — they scored. For us to get our composure and to come back and answer was very big. It speaks of the character, the determination and the fighting power of this team."

For the rest of the first half, the score remained deadlocked, but USC continued to dominate play and hold the advantage in every statistical category. The Gamecocks outshot the 49ers 7-3 and held a 3-0 lead in corner kicks.

The teams came out for the second half, and Charlotte was fired up, desperately wanting to pull off the upset. The 49ers played with aggression. They battled for every loose ball and didn't give up possession without a fight.

But USC's defense played yet another strong game and thwarted most 49ers attacks. The Gamecocks allowed only three shots, two of which were on goal.

"All of the back four did great tonight," Berson said. "Tim Glowienka, Willis Forko, Jordan Smith and Robert Rosenberg were simply outstanding."

According to Berson, the win was important for several reasons.

"It was a must-win, a good win in the South Region," he said. "We haven't won a game in the South Region yet, and that's what we need to do to get to the (NCAA) Tournament."

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## BRIEFLY

### 2 home SEC games left for USC women

The USC women's soccer team (10-4, 3-2 SEC) will play its last two home SEC matches of the season this weekend.

The Gamecocks play host to Georgia (6-7-1, 2-2) on Friday, and they conclude the weekend Sunday against No. 14 Tennessee (10-4, 3-1).

### USC starts season against Charleston

USC's swimming and diving teams kick off their seasons Friday against the College of Charleston at 5 p.m. in the Carolina Natatorium.

In last year's NCAA Championships, USC's men finished 26th and the women finished 35th.

### Volleyball two wins away from milestone

The 24th-ranked USC volleyball team is just two wins away from tying the program's best start in SEC play, and the Gamecocks head to Alabama this weekend looking to reach that mark.

Friday, the Gamecocks (14-3, 7-0 SEC) take on Alabama (13-7, 4-2), and Sunday, Carolina will face Auburn (1-17, 0-6).

USC, which defeated both teams already in Columbia, has won eight straight matches.

### Who has the edge?

**USC (5-2, 3-1 SEC) at No. 14 LSU (5-1, 2-0)**

#### ADVANTAGE:

USC's pass against the LSU defense:

LSU's pass defense, ranked third in the country, made Florida QB Rex Grossman look like a novice last weekend in Gainesville. USC QB Corey Jenkins probably will only throw when absolutely necessary.

USC's rush against the LSU defense:

The Tigers rushing defense is their weak link, but only because their pass D is so good. LSU is seventh in the nation in rushing defense. But USC is tough to stop on the ground, with Jenkins and FB Andrew Pinnoch.

LSU's pass against the USC defense:

QB Marcus Randall makes his first start of his career, and it comes at a bad time for LSU. The Gamecocks' secondary is starting to come together, and CB Matthew Thomas is establishing himself after moving from the offense.

LSU's rush against the USC defense:

TB LaBrandon Toefield is out with a broken arm for LSU, but backup Dominick Davis is just as good and maybe more explosive. The Gamecocks gave up more than 100 yards last week to Kentucky's Artose Pinner.

Intangibles:

Both teams are playing with confidence, and they won't budge an inch Saturday. But Tiger Stadium, one of the most hostile environments in college football, could create problems for USC.



## 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.)

<b>Kyle Almond</b> Sports Editor (42-28)	<b>Matt Rothenberg</b> Asst. Sports Editor (45-25)	<b>Chris Foy</b> Defending Champion (42-28)	<b>Mary Hartney</b> Editor in Chief (45-25)	<b>Emma Ritche</b> Asst. News Editor (38-22)	<b>Jason Stewart</b> Reader of the Week (41-29)
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21 Ole Miss at 24 Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Ole Miss	Alabama	Ole Miss	Ole Miss
Auburn at Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Kentucky at Arkansas	Arkansas	Kentucky	Kentucky	Arkansas	Kentucky	Kentucky
9 Iowa St. at 2 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
7 Notre Dame at 18 Air Force	N. Dame	N. Dame	N. Dame	Air Force	N. Dame	N. Dame
22 Washington at 19 So. Cal	Washington	So. Cal	So. Cal	Washington	Washington	So. Cal
Minnesota at Michigan St.	Minnesota	Mich. St.	Mich. St.	Mich. St.	Minnesota	Mich. St.
TCU at Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville
Wake Forest at Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
USC at 14 LSU	USC	USC	USC	LSU	USC	USC
	17-14	24-17	13-10	21-17	24-18	24-21

**LAST WEEK'S WINNER:** Charles Tomlinson (8-2) — After starting the season terribly, the Gamecock's staff has rebounded with back-to-back victories. Copy desk chief Jill Martin went 8-2 two weeks ago. Tomlinson, co-editor of The Mix, won last week because he was the only one to pick LSU and Virginia to win.

Overall leader Rothenberg went a trifling 3-7, and he now shares the lead with Hartney, who went 6-4. Three games behind the leaders are Almond (4-6) and Foy (5-5). Reader of the week Rich Wofford went 4-6.

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