

Arkansas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

face him is a full-time job. It will be a challenge for our defense."

If USC has to go to the air, this is the team to try it against. The Razorbacks are giving up a league-high 251 passing yards a game, though they do lead the country in takeaways, averaging 1.88 turnovers a game.

"We are going to have to throw the ball, because obviously with their rush defense, it's going to be very difficult to run," Holtz said.

Last year, the Razorbacks blocked a late field goal to knock off the Gamecocks 10-7, and Holtz feels it will be another daunting task against Arkansas.

"They are just a good solid football team, and we are going to have to play very well," he said.

Kickoff for the game is scheduled for 12:30 p.m., and the game will be televised by Jefferson-Pilot Sports.

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

Who has the edge? Arkansas (5-3, 2-3 SEC) at USC (5-4, 3-3)

USC's pass against the Arkansas defense:

The passing game, if you can say there ever was one to begin with, is in shambles for USC. With only five completions against Tennessee last week, the Gamecocks have some serious adjustments to make.

USC's rush against the Arkansas defense:

Carolina hasn't had problems running the ball all season, and there's no reason to think that will change this week. The Razorbacks have a good run defense, but the Gamecocks are great at getting their ground yards.

Arkansas' pass against the USC defense:

Matt Jones isn't close to the passing threat Tennessee's Casey Clausen is. Jones is primarily a runner. That said, he can still air it out if need be. USC CB Dunta Robinson will be playing with a protective cover on his elbow.

Arkansas' rush against the USC defense:

Arkansas' offense is very similar to Carolina's in that it likes to run the ball down the opposing team's throat. Jones and TB Fred Talley usually find the space they need behind a mammoth offensive line.

Intangibles:

Both teams need a win for their postseason aspirations. Expect an intense, closely contested game between two hungry teams. USC has the home-field advantage, but Arkansas is playing better right now.

— COMPILED BY KYLE ALMOND AND MATT ROTHENBERG

ADVANTAGE:



EVEN



EVEN

BRIEFLY

USC only 1 win away from 2 milestones

The 18th-ranked USC volleyball team (19-4, 12-1 SEC) takes to the road for the remainder of the regular season, first traveling to Knoxville to face the Tennessee Lady Volunteers on Friday.

USC head coach Kim Christopher is just one win away from claiming her 200th victory at Carolina. In her 10th season, with a 199-97 record at Carolina, the Amarillo, Texas, native would become the first coach to reach this mark in Carolina volleyball history.



Christopher

The Gamecocks are also pushing for their best SEC record in school history. The most wins Carolina has in SEC play is 12, a mark set in 2000. USC has that many wins right now and still has three more matches left in the regular season.

Tennessee (17-8, 6-6 SEC) fell to the Gamecocks in five games earlier this season. The match is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Women's basketball to play exhibition

The USC women's basketball team gets their first action of the new season Friday at 7 p.m. with an exhibition contest against Athletes in Action.

The Gamecocks will host two exhibition games in the Carolina Coliseum before opening up the regular season in the new Carolina Center on Nov. 22.

With three starters and four other letterwinners from last year's Elite Eight team returning, the Gamecocks enter the season seeking a return trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Men's soccer to visit defending champs

The USC men's soccer team heads to Chapel Hill, N.C., on Friday to face No. 20 North Carolina (12-5-1) — the defending national champions.

Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. Following USC's match in Chapel Hill, the Gamecocks (10-6-1) will wrap up their regular season at home against Florida International on Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.

Clemson swim team to test Gamecocks

Carolina's swimming and diving teams are 2-0 at home this season (2-1 overall), and after defeating Kentucky this past week, they hope to continue that success Friday against rival Clemson.

The annual rivalry meet is scheduled to start at 5 p.m. in the Carolina Natatorium.

Free Gamecock T-shirts will be given out at the meet, and fans will also have a chance to meet and take pictures with Cocky, who will make an aquatic appearance. Admission is free.

Season almost over for tennis players

Six USC women's tennis players will head Friday to the 2002 SEC Coaches Tournament in Atlanta.

The tournament will feature Gamecocks Ayako Suzuki, Danielle Wiggins, Jodi Kenoyer, Catherine Brown, Audrey George and Magda Wojdylo.

The conclusion of this tournament will wrap up fall play for Carolina. The Gamecocks will resume play Jan. 29 at home against the College of Charleston.

AROUND THE SEC

Vols try to salvage season vs. Miami

U T

No. 2 Miami at Tennessee

3:30 p.m. Saturday
Neyland Stadium
TV: CBS

KNOXVILLE, TENN. (AP) — The Tennessee Volunteers aren't playing as well as coach Phillip Fulmer thinks they can. But he's seen some improvement.

That's a good thing for the Vols, who play No. 2 Miami on Saturday.

"It's not all that we wanted but much better offensively," Fulmer said Tuesday at his weekly news conference. "We're really going to have to do it again — close ranks as a team as we prepare for Miami."

Tennessee (5-3) lost to Georgia and Alabama last month and has looked so bad that not even an 18-10 victory over South Carolina 18-10 in Columbia last weekend could keep them in the Top 25.

But the offense played better even without injured receiver Kelley Washington.

Tennessee's disappointing season has dampened some of the excitement for the teams' first match-up since the Vols' 35-7 victory in the 1986 Sugar Bowl. The Hurricanes (8-0) have won 30

straight games, the nation's longest winning streak.

Many hoped Tennessee also would be undefeated going into this game to give the winner a big boost for the national title, but now only Miami has the most to lose.

"I think this team is very excited about the opportunity they have in front of them," Fulmer said. "Obviously like all of us we don't feel like we've reached our potential this year for whatever reason."

Injuries continue to plague the Vols entering Saturday's homecoming game.

Washington is listed as out for the third straight game, while offensive tackle Michael Munoz has been hospitalized with an infec-

tion in his ankle. Munoz, who already has a hurt shoulder and broken hand, is listed as questionable.

The good news was the return of tailback Cedric Houston, who helped the running game with 30 carries for 108 yards despite a cast protecting the left thumb he needed surgery for to repair torn ligaments.

Tailback Jabari Davis, who started against South Carolina, is questionable against Miami with a sternum injury.

Fulmer gave most of the credit to Houston for one of the Vols' better rushing games and to an offensive line that improved its blocking.

"I think it was a step in the right direction from the standpoint of the line doing a better job and him making them look good at times when things weren't blocked perfectly," Fulmer said. "Can we be better than we were Saturday? Yes. Him and them."

Without Washington in the lineup, some of the lesser-known receivers got a chance as they made fewer mistakes and helped ease pressure on tight end Jason Witten. Sophomore Montrell Jones had four catches for 69 yards, and freshman C.J. Fayton caught his first career touchdown pass.

"I think the receivers have been really slow to develop this season overall. They're coming right now the best they have all season," Fulmer said. "I'm anxious to see them get to the point where every play that we're out there, we're a threat."

Quarterback Casey Clausen is coming off one of his best games while enduring soreness in his shoulder, foot and ankle. He rolled his foot and ankle during the game but was still able to run for a 5-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter to put the game away.

♦ FOR MORE PREVIEWS FROM GAMES AROUND THE SEC, VISIT WWW.DAILYGAMECOCK.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	Matt Rothenberg	Chris Foy	Mary Hartney	David Stagg	Michael Marozas
2 Miami at Tennessee	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Ole Miss at 7 Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
16 LSU at Kentucky	Kentucky	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	Kentucky
21 Iowa St. at 12 Kansas St.	Iowa St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.	Kansas St.
15 Oregon at 5 Washington St.	Oregon	Wash. St.	Oregon	Oregon	Wash. St.	Wash. St.
14 N.C. State at Maryland	Maryland	N.C. State	Maryland	Maryland	N.C. State	Maryland
20 Bowling Green at N. Illinois	B. Green	B. Green	B. Green	B. Green	B. Green	N. Illinois
Louisiana Tech at San Jose St.	La. Tech	La. Tech	La. Tech	San Jose	San Jose	San Jose
Clemson at North Carolina	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	UNC
Arkansas at USC	USC	Arkansas	USC	USC	USC	USC
	21-20	23-21	20-17	21-14	24-21	14-12

LAST WEEK'S WINNER: Kyle Almond (8-2) — Don't count out the sports editor just yet. Right as it looked like he was out of the competition, he responded with a solid week aided by wins from Florida and Central Michigan.

Almond gained two games on his assistant, Rothenberg, who still leads overall after going 6-4. Hartney, Foy and staffer of the week Karen Vaught also went 6-4. Coming in second place this week with an exceptional effort was reader Jordy "The Turtle" McKeever, who went 7-3. McKeever also chose Florida to upset Georgia.

WANT TO BE READER OF THE WEEK? E-mail your selections next week to 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.



SEC Football Standings

	EASTERN	CONF.	OVERALL
Georgia	5-1		8-1
Florida	4-2		6-3
USC	3-3		5-4
Kentucky*	2-3		6-3
Tennessee	2-3		5-3
Vanderbilt	0-5		2-7
	WESTERN	CONF.	OVERALL
Alabama*	4-1		7-2
LSU	3-1		6-2
Auburn	4-2		6-3
Arkansas	2-3		5-3
Ole Miss	2-3		5-4
Mississippi St.	0-4		3-5

* - not eligible for postseason

Does that suggest we could be playing in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport? Yes, it does. But it also means USC could find itself in a more preferable position, like the Peach Bowl in Atlanta.

The last couple of seasons, the team has run off to quick starts. This time, it has stumbled early and often.

To play in the postseason, you've got to earn it. And there's no better time to start than now.

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

Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

game as well for the Gamecocks, scoring 10 points and bringing down 11 rebounds. He also blocked two shots, showing that, in spite of his weight troubles in the pre-season, he is in top form and ready for the long haul.

Team Nike, despite 18 points from Florida State graduate Terrell Baker and 10 points each from David Graves and Darrell Kelly, played sloppily on offense and defense. The team, a hodgepodge of former Division I-A players, was limited to a 34.6 percent shooting percentage in the second half. USC forced them into 14 turnovers as well, which resulted in 34 points.

The guard situation for the

Gamecock is taking shape, too. Michael Boynton received the start at point guard, while Eidson switched between the two guard positions all night. Freshmen Jarod Gerald and Tarence Kinsey also played significant minutes in the Carolina backcourt.

Odom still thinks that this is just the beginning of his team's progress, noting that it is not the team it needs to be, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

"It was a good night for us and we still have a lot to improve upon," Odom said. "Defensively, we're not where we need to be, but I think we can get there once we get Ro (Howell) back to fortify our inside game."

"But, overall, I thought we did well."

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

If you are ready for a REAL Tailgate Party, then come on by!

the final Great Gamecock

TAILGATE PARTY of 2002

November 9 (USC vs. ARKANSAS) 10:00 am -12:00 pm
featuring live music by: The Blue Dogs

Seawell's Parking Lot - 1125 Rosewood Drive
across the street from "the ROCKET" at the State Fairgrounds.

The best part is that it is all FREE: Music, Lots of Great Food, Drinks & Door Prizes.
Souvenirs for the first 200 USC students in attendance at each Tailgate Party.

THESE TAILGATE PARTIES ARE AN ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT sponsored by the Russell House Alcohol & Drug Programs.
Major funding provided by a grant received from the U.S. Department of Education Safe & Drug-Free Schools Program: The Prevention of High-Risk Drinking & Violent Behavior Among College Students Project.
Paid for, in part, with student activity fees.

Actual dates or times may change due to funding or programmatic decisions. For additional information, please call 777-7130.

Department of Student Life

Division of Student & Alumni Services