

CLUB CORNER

Rugby Club

USC's rugby club will have its next home game Saturday at 2 p.m. against Georgia Southern at the field next to the Blatt P.E. Center. The Gamecocks defeated Georgia Southern 19-0 last weekend.

Players are encouraged to join any time, and practices are held on Field E, under the bridge between Bates House and the Blatt P.E. Center, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse

The USC men's lacrosse team lost its first game to Georgia on Saturday. The Bulldogs were able to outlast USC and won 10-4. Sophomores Daniel Kerr and Jack Hallorhan scored one goal each. Team co-captain, John Cosgrove, normally an unstoppable offensive powerhouse, played defensive midfield.

The team has a chance to move above the .500 mark again when the Gamecocks play host

to The Citadel. The game will take place Sunday at 1 p.m. on Field A next to the Blatt P.E. Center.

Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 to 11 p.m., and are held on Fields D and E.

Ice Hockey Club

The USC ice hockey club suffered a defeat against Clemson on Saturday, when it lost 6-0 at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville. The team did manage to beat

Clemson physically by winning the fights that took place. The first fight began only seven minutes into the game, when junior Brad Capps restrained an attacking Clemson Tiger and then dropped him on the ice. All players involved in fights were ejected from the game.

The team's final game is Feb. 23 against The Citadel at the Carolina Coliseum. The time has not yet been determined. For information on the game or the team, e-mail USChockeyclub@yahoo.com.

Women

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with 15.8 points per game, and Braxton, a 6-foot-6-inch forward, averages 15.6. They also average 7.6 and 6.9 rebounds per game, respectively.

The wild card in this game will be guard Sherill Baker. This past week, Baker exploded with two huge games against ranked SEC teams. She averaged 17 points, seven rebounds and five steals per game. For her efforts, she was named the SEC Player of the Week.

Game time is set for 7 p.m. at Stegeman Coliseum in Athens. Georgia leads the all-time series 20-4, and is 9-1 at home against the Gamecocks.

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Rothenberg

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have to wear some Atlanta Flames hockey jersey and not realize that the team moved to Calgary, Canada, in 1980. For that matter, I'd want to know who wore the number on the jersey, too.

I guess, for whatever reasons there might be, the retro-jersey mania will last well into the future. At least it will until the trend toward nostalgia ends. If buying these uniforms is how you want to spend your money, that's great; but I think that, when I want to get more in touch with history, I'll learn about it first.

Rothenberg is a fourth-year sports and entertainment management student.

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This week's games:

11 Marquette at 2 Louisville
10 Notre Dame at 17 Syracuse
15 Wake Forest at 3 Maryland
14 Illinois at Purdue
25 St. Joseph's at Dayton

LSU at 3 Kentucky
4 Florida at Tennessee
19 Mississippi St. at Ole Miss
North Carolina at Clemson
Arkansas at USC

Rankings are from the Associated Press

♦ FOR TIEBREAKING PURPOSES, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR SCORE FOR THE ARKANSAS-USC GAME. AND DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME.

Softball

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get to face three more top-25 teams in Cal State-Fullerton, Nebraska and Oregon State. USC will also square off against the host Rebels.

"It's definitely a tough schedule, starting off with UCLA and UNLV," Compton said. "All but UNLV are ranked, and Fullerton and Nebraska and UCLA are all in the top 10, so that's pretty much a preview right there. It won't get much better than that."

Surely, the Gamecocks will be ready for their trip out West. Everyone on the team has proven to be a major contributor in USC's success so far, but Carolina's two freshmen have shown they are more than capa-

ble of competing on the collegiate level.

Pitcher Melanie Henkes has thrown three complete-game shutouts, giving her a 0.00 earned-run average and a perfect 3-0 record. She also has 16 strikeouts on the season. Catcher Ashley Smith has given the Gamecocks a big power boost at the plate. She is hitting .333 with a pair of home runs and doubles, while sporting a slugging percentage of .867. Compton is pleased with the way they have come along thus far.

"I think they would come in and help us off the bat, and I knew both of them were capable of doing it," Compton said. "How they adjust is always a question, but they definitely have the capabilities to do what they did and continue to do that."

But some familiar faces are also providing the Gamecocks

with fine play. Shortstop Amber Curtis leads the team in hitting with a .438 batting average, while pitcher Stacey Johnson continues to have an effective season with a 2-0 record and a flawless ERA.

The Desert Classic Tournament will be the Gamecocks' only scheduled trip to the West Coast this season, barring a possible NCAA regional appearance there. The other two in-season tournaments, both later this month, are in Columbus, Ga., and Plant City, Fla. Compton said that playing nationally prominent teams such as UCLA is a factor when deciding which tournaments to participate in. Five of the 15 players on the USC roster are from the Western United States, which gives them the chance to go closer to their home towns.

"We try to get someplace

where we're going to see top competition, and we try to go west at least twice," she said. "The West Coast kids stay here, so we needed to go west this year for (seniors) Danielle (Quinones), Jodi (Fittro) and Deb (Troesh). We're giving them an opportunity to play close to home."

In the end, though, the Desert Classic Tournament provides Carolina with tests against teams on par with those that USC will face in SEC play. Compton said that because the SEC is better this year, playing teams such as UCLA and Nebraska could pay off later on in the season.

The Gamecocks play the Bruins at noon in both teams' opening game in Las Vegas, and USC will continue play through Sunday.

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