

Carolina beats Old Dominion, James Madison at Shootout

BY SHAWN ROURK
THE GAMECOCK

Before the Berkeley Co-op Shootout, USC head baseball coach Ray Tanner said he wanted sophomore sensation Kevin Melillo in the lineup every game for the Gamecocks. There's a good reason for that. Melillo showed that he was rested and healed at the tournament, blowing up with five hits and two RBIs in two games, including a 3-for-5 performance against Old Dominion.

The Gamecocks finished the Shootout perfect with a 2-0 record and improved their overall record to 4-1 on the season.

USC 7 — JMU 6

It took ten innings for the Gamecocks to put away James Madison. Reserve catcher Jared Greenwood hit a double down the right field line that drove in Brian Buscher from first base for the game-winning run Friday.

Justin Harris led off the tenth with a base hit, but was thrown out at second when Buscher got

with a single.

Carolina sent the game into extra innings in the bottom of the ninth when designated hitter Hank Parks hit a solo homer to tie the game.

Melillo was the only Gamecock with more than one hit in the game. His two doubles led the team to a 14-hit afternoon. Melillo was walked in the second inning after he hit his first double in Carolina's three-run first inning.

James Madison answered in the fourth inning with a three-run home run by Matt Deucher. They took the lead in the fifth off two singles and a sacrifice fly.

Carolina's fielding hit a speed bump as they committed a season-high five errors on the afternoon.

Aaron Rawl pitched the final 5 1/3 innings of the game to pick up his second win of the season. Starter Steven Bondurant was taken out of the game in the fifth inning after the Dukes took the lead.

USC 10 — ODU 3

USC had no problem putting away Old Dominion University,

the team's second opponent in the Shootout on Saturday, as Carolina's hitting continued to roll over their opponents.

The Gamecocks had 16 hits on the afternoon and Melillo and Jon Coutlangus both had three hits in the game. Melillo also earned three more RBIs.

Sophomore Landon Powell recorded his first home run of the season, along with two RBIs.

David Marchbanks pitched seven innings and struck out three batters en-route to his second win of the season. He only allowed three runs in the first three innings, while reliever Forrest Beverly pitched seven shutout innings. Two of the Monarchs' runs were unearned, which leaves Marchbanks' ERA at 2.45 for the season.

Carolina had two errors on the afternoon, bouncing back after their five-error effort on Friday.

The final game for USC, against The Citadel, was postponed because of inclement weather.

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Basketball

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the Gamecocks from a loss.

The two who Odom called the "backcourt of the future for the SEC," Ferguson and Modica, finished with 20 and 17 points, respectively, to lead the Razorbacks. Ferguson kept it close, as his three second-half 3-pointers tightened Carolina's lead. More often than not, though, Warren bailed the Gamecocks out.

Arkansas even retook a brief 57-56 lead in the second half.

But minutes later, with USC back on top, Warren's 3-pointer made the score 69-62, closing the door on the Razorbacks' hopes of winning.

Despite being victorious in its third game in a row, Carolina

was lacking in the rebound department, grabbing only 27 and allowing Arkansas to get 13 second-chance points.

Nevertheless, USC shot 49 percent from the field for the game and, thanks to Warren, 41.2 percent from behind the arc.

Eidson finished with 14 points and four assists for the Gamecocks, while Kitchings had seven boards and three blocked shots.

Now, the focus shifts to Wednesday's game against Tennessee, which upset the Florida Gators on Saturday.

Odom knows how he is going to proceed in preparing for that contest; he says, "Our assignment right now is to get back to practice, correct mistakes, get better and hopefully play well on Wednesday night."

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Senkiw

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While I'm on the topic of golf, what is up with the decision to let Annika Sorenstam compete in the Colonial in May? I hope the PGA is making this an exhibition-type event and not considering this a permanent change in the future.

I'm not against letting women compete against men in pro sports, but I do not agree with letting a woman play a PGA Tour event without letting men play on the LPGA Tour. I think it should be equal on both sides. If women can compete against a field of men, then let a man compete against a field of women.

Senkiw is a third-year print journalism student.

BRIEFLY

Tigers improved to 5-1.

Clemson took all three double matches easily, while taking five of the six single matches.

In singles, Danielle Wiggins won the lone singles match for the Gamecocks. USC had previously won 11 of its past 14 against the Tigers, including six in a row. The Gamecocks return home to face N.C. State on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Track succeeds at Meet of Champions

On the final day of the Meet of Champions at the Armory in New York City, the USC track and field teams won seven events and set four meet records. The Gamecocks recorded six NCAA automatic and seven NCAA provisional qualifying times.

The women's 4x400-meter relay team recorded an automatic qualifying time as it won the race with a time of 3:34.13, its fastest time recorded this year.

USC's 200-meter-dash runners were just as impressive; Aleen Bailey won the race with an automatic qualifying time of 23.28 seconds, her fastest mark of the year. Miki Barber came in a

close second with another automatic qualifying time of 23.47. Bailey also finished second in the 60-meter dash with a provisional mark of 7.36 seconds.

Demetria Washington recorded an impressive automatic qualifying time of 52.60 seconds in the 400-meter dash, finishing second. Jenny Lake represented the Gamecock distance runners with a third-place finish in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 9:44.36.

On the men's side, Otukile Lekote won the 800-meter dash with a time of 1:48.90. Lekote set, not only a provisional qualifying mark, but also a meet record with that time. Meanwhile, Corey Taylor recorded an automatic qualifying time of 7.74 in the 60-meter hurdles, winning that race.

The men's 4x400-meter relay team recorded its fastest time of the season, winning with a provisional mark of 3:07.82. That is also a meet record.

Jonathan Fortenberry ran an impressive 46.56 in the 400 dash, winning the race. Chris Steddum also set a meet record with his provisional qualifying mark of 17 feet, 8.5 inches in the pole vault. Greig Cryer finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 50 feet, 1.25 inches.

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