

## BRIEFLY

### Swim teams finish SEC competition

The last day of SEC Championships ended on a high note for the USC men's and women's swimming and diving teams. Both the men's and women's teams met an NCAA B-qualifying standard in the final event, the 400-meter freestyle relay. The team of Tamas Szucs, Chris McCrary, Ed Murphy and Josh Parkin placed sixth overall for the men and finished with a total time of 2:59.67. The women's team, which included Ashleigh Bastak, Haley Skaggs, Carolyn McHugh and Jennifer VanAssen, was fourth overall with a total time of 3:22.76.

VanAssen qualified automatically for the NCAA's in the 100-meter freestyle. Her fourth-place time of 49.21 seconds was the fastest of her career and a USC record. VanAssen also had an automatic qualifying time in the 200-meter freestyle and is a member of the 400 freestyle relay and the 800-meter freestyle relay, both of which hit NCAA B-Standard qualifying times.

Brandon Buslepp qualified for the men's 100-meter breaststroke finals. He finished 16th and had a time of 2:04.39. Lir Derieg finished just short of qualifying in the 200-meter butterfly with an 18th-place finish and a time of 1:51.87.

Earlier in the SEC Championships, USC diver Tracey Richardson won USC's first SEC title of 2003 in the three-meter springboard competition.

Carolina's men's team finished eighth with 188.5 points. The women ended in the sixth spot with 260 points. Overall, the SEC Championship was this season's fastest in the country. Twelve SEC records, two NCAA records and two U.S. Open records were broken.

### Track performs well at USC Invitational

The USC men's and women's track teams competed well at the USC Invitational indoor meet Saturday, in preparation for the

SEC Championships next weekend in Gainesville, Fla. Seven Gamecocks won individual events and established three facility records and one school record. Carolina recorded two NCAA automatic-qualifying marks, along with seven provisional marks.

Miki Barber posted a preliminary time of 6.82 seconds, which was an indoor school record and facility record in the 55-meter dash. Aleen Bailey won the event with Erica Whipple finishing third and Alexis Joyce fourth.

Tiffany Ross' preliminary time of 7.80 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles established a new indoor-facility record and was a provisional mark and a personal best. She captured the event title with Shevon Stoddard and Antoinette Wilks finishing second and third, respectively.

For the men, Corey Taylor's time of 7.19 in the 55-meter hurdles broke his time of 7.21 that he set the previous day and was a facility record and an automatic-qualifying time. Charles Ryan, runner-up in the 55-meter hurdles final, posted an automatic qualifying mark of 7.23 in the preliminaries.

Other winners for the women included Tawana Watkins in the 400-meter dash (59.42 seconds), Monica Bozenski in the high jump (1.62 meters), Cheryl Terrio in the pole vault (3.36 meters), and Nicole Kendrick in the shot put with a provisional mark of 16.35 meters.

The Gamecocks head to the SEC Championship on Friday in Gainesville, Fla.

### USC tennis beats N.C. State women

The 23rd-ranked USC women's tennis team (3-1) defeated N.C. State (2-2) 6-1 on Saturday at the USC indoor facility. It was the Gamecocks' 11th straight win against the Wolfpack.

The Gamecocks swept the doubles matches as Kathy Boyanovich and Magda Wojdylo defeated Kristen Lam and Myrna Bawono 8-1, Catherine Brown and Jodi Kenoyer beat Jennifer Jasawalla and Virginia

Romero 8-4, and Justine Walsh and Danielle Wiggins won 8-6 over Loni Worsley and Danielle Stadelmann.

In first singles, Boyanovich defeated Bawono 6-0, 6-2. At the No. 2 seed, Kenoyer defeated Romero 6-4. N.C. State's Lam would earn the Wolfpack its only win on the day, with a 6-4, 7-6 defeat over Wiggins in the No. 3 singles battle. Wojdylo, Brown and Walsh took the remaining singles matches.

### Men's tennis beats Furman, USC-Aiken

The 16th-ranked USC men's tennis team improved to 7-0 on the season with victories over 63rd-ranked Furman and USC-Aiken on Sunday. South Carolina's 5-2 victory over Furman improved the Gamecocks to 6-0 in Region II competition. With a 7-0 victory over USC-Aiken, the Gamecocks recorded their fourth shutout win on the season.

The Gamecocks won two of three doubles matches to claim the doubles point in the day's opening match against Furman. At No. 2 doubles, Carolina's Seth Rose and Carl Wermee defeated Furman's Andrew Rogers and Dasef Weems 8-6.

At No. 3 doubles, USC's Geraldo Knorr and Angelo Niculescu were victorious, 9-8, over Furman's Chris Henderson and Allen Simmons. Rose, Niculescu, Wermee and Ben Atkinson earned singles victories to clinch the Gamecock victory.

In the afternoon contest, the Gamecocks swept the doubles matches to pace the 7-0 win. After taking the early 1-0 lead, Carolina used singles victories from Niculescu, Tom Eklund, Wermee, Atkinson, Knorr and Nasir Sherazi to close out the contest.

Carolina's men's tennis team will be back in action Friday, when it travels to Starkville, Miss., to open the SEC season against Mississippi State. Carolina's next home match will be March 7, when the Gamecocks play host to LSU.

## Basketball

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Ciocan hit a jumper to tie the game up again.

After an Auburn basket and several timeouts, Carolina put the ball in Penn's hands for the game-tying shot. Her missed shot, though, opened up the door for Ujhelyi's opportunity.

"Coach (Walvius) always says that big-time players always want the ball in their hands, and Ciocan found me, so I put it up, and Petra was there to give us the

win," Penn said.

Ciocan and Ujhelyi joined Penn in scoring in double figures for USC, with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Penn had the double-double on the afternoon, though, grabbing 12 rebounds. The Gamecocks shot poorly — only 29.3 percent — in the second half, but made the right shot at the right time. Walvius cited her reserves as also having an important part in the outcome of the game.

"I was really pleased with what we got off our bench tonight; it was really critical," she said. "The defensive match-

up with Olga (Gritsaeva) worked, so I thought we stopped the bleeding to go with the adjustments to a bigger line-up."

Auburn had four scorers in double figures — Stevenson, Miller, Willingham and Brackett — while shooting far more consistently than USC.

Carolina's home schedule draws to a close on Thursday against Kentucky, as USC honors its three seniors — Penn, Ujhelyi and Linda Hoglund — before the game.

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## Baseball

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Powell singled in Melillo again and Trey McDaniel pounded a two-run home run to make it 7-0. The Gamecocks finished the scoring with an unearned run in the eighth by Steven Tollison and a wild pitch that allowed Jon Coutlangus to score.

With this series out of the way, the Gamecocks can concentrate on next weekend's series against their archrival, the Clemson Tigers.

The Gamecocks will travel to Clemson on Saturday and play host to the Tigers on Sunday afternoon at Sarge Frye Field.

The Tigers will be looking to avenge last year's losses to the Gamecocks in the College World Series. Clemson took three of four games in last year's regular-season series.

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Duquesne's Pete Maropis leaps over a sliding Bryan Triplett. USC swept the Dukes to improve to 8-1 this season.

## Senkiw

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drivers debate rule changes that seem to come weekly. I understand it is hard to make consistent rules with different tracks and cars each week, but please make decisions that will give fans the optimal competition, with driver safety as the main

focus.

NASCAR might not be everyone's idea of a great American sport, but when you watch these drivers race at such high speeds at such an incredible level, it becomes easy to enjoy their skills. I think when it



Stewart

is all said and done, Tony Stewart will be on top once again this season, with Busch following closely behind at second. No matter who wins the Winston Cup Championship, I'm looking forward to what makes NASCAR great: surprises and disappointments.

Senkiw is a third-year print journalism student

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