

BRIEFLY

Men's golf finishes third at Collegiate

The USC men's golf team shot a combined 282 in the final round of the Palmetto-Cleveland Golf Collegiate to land in a third-place finish on Tuesday in Aiken.

Winning the team title in the competition was the College of Charleston, which fired a total score of 569, while USC-Aiken finished second with a score of 574. Carolina had a two-day total of 573.

Leading the way for the Gamecocks was Alex Hamilton, a native of Aiken, who finished in a tie for third place among individual competitors. Hamilton shot a two-round total of 140.

Eirik Johansen landed in fifth place for his fifth top 10 finish of the year. Johansen had a combined two-day score of 141.

Martin Rominger tied for 15th place with a two-day score of 114, while West Streib tied for 45th and Nash Elliot finished in 58th place. Matt Robinson competed as an individual and tied for 30th place.

USC returns to action at the Schenckl EZ-GO Invitational in Statesboro, Ga., Saturday and Sunday.

Men's soccer shifts spring game dates

The South Carolina men's soccer team has rescheduled two spring matches originally intended for this weekend. Constant rainfall during the past week has resulted in less than optimal field conditions.

USC's game against Winthrop, originally scheduled for Saturday, will be played March 28 at 5 p.m. The match against Hampden-Sydney will be played at noon on March 30.

Both matches will be played at the Graveyard. Admission is free.

USC ready to begin outdoor track season

The outdoor track season begins for USC as it plays host to the annual Weems Baskin Relays at the Weems Baskin Track and Field Facility in Columbia.

During the two-day event, 12 schools are slated to compete. The competition starts today at 2 p.m. and will last all day before it resumes Saturday at 11 a.m.

USC had a successful competition at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Fayetteville, Ark. Carolina's women's team finished in a second-place tie, while the men tied for fifth place. Lashinda Demus won an NCAA Championship, and both 4-by-400-meter relay teams set school records.

The Gamecock women's track team is preparing to begin the defense of its 2002 national championship.

The team was given the top-overall ranking in the Team Power Rankings by the Division I Coaches Association. The No. 1 ranking is the highest for South Carolina's women's team, and the men's team's No. 9 ranking is also its highest.

CLUB CORNER

Gamecock Dance Sport

Gamecock Dance Sport will practice Sunday in room 114 at the Blatt Physical Education Center. The practice will run from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Gamecock Dance Sport is a club that teaches students and teachers how to do ballroom dancing, such as the salsa, shag, swing, rumba, cha cha, foxrot, tango and the waltz. No experience is needed to join the club, and everyone is welcome.

Anyone with questions may contact Michelle Lueck at 544-3418 or stepntoes@hotmail.com.

Racquetball Club

Racquetball Club treasurer and club co-founder Ben Edwards recently finished third in the South Carolina state singles tournament. The club would like to congratulate him.

If you are interested in being added to the Racquetball Club Challenge ladder, please send an e-mail to racquet@gwm.sc.edu.

Basketball

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ing, but are led by Jennifer Wilson's 9.9 points per game and Miranda Warfield's 9.4 points per contest. Shanya Sermons comes off the bench to lead the team in rebounding, with 7.4 per game, as well as field-goal percentage, at 54.1 percent.

The team made 36.6 percent of its 3-pointers a contest during this past season, and that is what the Gamecocks are most wary about.

"I think out of every four shots they take, one of them is a three-pointer, so we have to get in the shooter's face and be ready for them when they penetrate," Jocelyn Penn said.

Chattanooga averages 73.6 points per game as a team and has a 13.4 point win margin. The Mocs offense isn't Walvius' only concern for Carolina.

"They are one of the most disciplined teams that we have played against," Walvius said.



Walvius

floor for 40 minutes if we are going to beat them."

Chattanooga head coach Wes Moore thinks playing USC could be to the Mocs' advantage.

"South Carolina is a team from our area, so we've had an opportunity to seem them play," Moore said. "We should have a good bit of information on them already."

As far as Penn's injury goes, she said she is healthy enough to make an impact for her team in the tournament.

"I think I am back to the same old J.P.," Penn said. "I feel my speed is back to 100 percent."

Carolina will rely once again on Penn, an All-American, and her 24.3 points and eight rebounds per game to lead the Gamecocks into the next round against the winner of the Penn State-Holy Cross contest.

Kelly Morrone said Carolina is excited to be back in the NCAA Tournament, but the team will not overlook anyone while striving for the ultimate goal.



Morrone

"We want to be in Atlanta this year," Morrone said. "Our goal is to make it to the Final Four."

The Gamecocks will tip off at 12:10 p.m. Sunday.

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Bondurant

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years to get to this position.

"He's one of the guys who did it the right way," Tanner said. "He came in as a freshman, didn't jump right in to starting and had to work his way. He was a little

frustrated, at times, early in his career. He might have thought he deserved to pitch more than he did, but he stuck it out; he persevered, and good things happened for him.

"So many kids today don't do that; they turn their backs and go somewhere else to try and get the quick fix."

Tanner knows that if he needs

Bondurant to pitch in a big game, there is no doubt what Bondurant will bring.

"He goes out there hard; he's an intense competitor," Tanner said. "I know as a coach I'm getting the best he's got when he goes out there."

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Sports

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backpacks, will remain in effect for this year's tournament on Hilton Head Island.

Last year, Sea Pines Plantation's security director George Breed Jr. said there was also a plan in case an attack came from the windy, picturesque Callibogue Sound that borders the 17th and 18th holes of Harbour Town Golf Links.

Wilмот said security issues went smoothly a year ago - its first tournament since the Twin Towers fell - and expects the same next month. He's leaving for PGA Tour meetings next week and is certain he'll get guidance from officials about running a safe tournament.

"We'll just have to wait and see," Wilмот said. "It's not that things are changing day by day. It's more like hour by hour."

Measures also have been taken for the Family Circle Cup, played on an island off the Wando River, said Michael Finley, the tournament's director of operations.

"We'll be at a full-maximum security level," Finley said.

Every bag will be checked. The grounds of the 17-court facility will be swept for bombs twice a day. Horse patrols and water patrols from the Charleston Police Department

will be visible and undercover agents will be dispersed throughout the event, Finley said.

The security likely will add \$30,000 to \$40,000 to Family Circle's operating budget, he said.

"We wanted to take very proactive precautions," he said.

What's unknown, Wilмот and Finley say, are potential withdrawals by foreign stars uncomfortable with the U.S.-led war or eager to return home in uncertain times. Both events benefit from four players being nearby.

The PGA Tour is in Florida the next two weeks, then goes to Georgia for the BellSouth Classic and The Masters before arriving on Hilton Head Island. The tournament expects South Africans Ernie Els and Retief Goosen to play.

The WTA is playing in south Florida at the Nasdaq 100 the next two weeks. Finley said many top players will take a week off before opening the clay-court season in South Carolina. The field features several foreign-born competitors, including Justine Henin-Hardin, Anna Kournikova and Iva Majoli.

Players will have security escorts throughout the grounds.

"We've been trying to communicate our safety" to the players and the tour, Finley said. "We think we're a fairly safe Southern town."

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