

BRIEFLY

Johnson a two-time SEC award honoree

USC pitcher Stacey Johnson was named SEC pitcher of the week last week. This is Johnson's second player-of-the-week honor this season. She went 3-0 in four games she pitched, recording 10 strikeouts and earning a 0.34 ERA during the week.

Johnson, a Newtown, Pa., native, won a game over Arkansas and two over Auburn. One of the wins over Auburn was a 4-0 shutout, her third shutout of the season. Johnson also tossed three complete games. She is the first Carolina pitcher to be named SEC pitcher of the week twice in one season since Megan Matthews in 2001.



Johnson

Elliott leads golf team in Charleston

Nash Elliott's four-round total score of 286 led the Gamecock golf team this weekend at the Azalea Amateur, held at the Country Club of Charleston.

Elliott landed in a tie for eighth place, which was the best finish for all of the Gamecocks competing at the event.

Martin Rominger tied for 17th place, with a total score of 289. In the last round, Rominger shot an 81 after three under-par scores in the previous three rounds.

USC's Matt Robinson also competed, but missed the cut by one stroke. Robinson shot a three-day total of 224.

Carolina returns to action at the ASU-Cleveland Golf Collegiate in Augusta, Ga., next weekend.

Link scores six in two USC victories

The USC men's soccer team continued to tune up for the 2003 season with a pair of games this past weekend at the Graveyard. Carolina beat Winthrop on Friday 5-1, and downed Hampden Sydney 5-2 on Sunday.

The star of the weekend for USC was striker Ben Link, who had six goals — a hat trick in both games.

Carolina was down 1-0 to Winthrop on Friday before receiving the three goals from Link along with tallies from J.C. Desriac and Jordan Quinn to earn the win.

Link scored three times again on Sunday, and the Gamecocks got two goals from Jack Cummings to defeat Hampden Sydney.

Zac Jordan and Geoffrey Anatole split time in goal for the Gamecocks.

Football

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cluding a 53-yard pass to Troy Williamson. Some problems came up with the rushing attack; there

was only one run of more than eight yards. The cornerbacks, especially Dunta Robinson, played rather well. Defensive linemen Eric Stroman and Chris Tucker are out for the rest of the spring season with injuries.

The football team will resume practice today, and its spring-practice-ending scrimmage is set for April 12.

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

Rothenberg

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Posada

Lopez, when healthy, can match up decently with Jorge Posada. Posada, though, will probably have considerably more opportunities to drive in runs than Lopez might.

In terms of baseball minds, Bobby Cox and his crew far outweigh mine — I definitely can acknowledge that, no question about it.

As far as television coverage goes, the Braves have their Turner superstation, TBS, which will show 90 of Atlanta's games this season. TBS's new television tandem of Don Sutton and Joe Simpson will replace Skip Caray and Pete Van Wieren in the broadcast booth in 2003, thus ensuring that Braves fans will actually get past the second inning without falling asleep. Naturally, a lot of Atlanta fans aren't pleased with the move, but they enjoy far better coverage than my fantasy team.

I've considered creating my team on a computer game and then having it play the other teams while I videotape those

games, complete with play-by-play and color commentary. Then I'd try to sell it to WRHA, which doesn't quite have the same-sized viewer base.

Besides, there's rarely, if ever, any sports programming on WRHA, anyway. I don't have a radio deal, either, but I'm willing to talk about it to anyone who will listen.

But at least no matter how badly my fantasy team stinks this season, it would still have a much better shot of making the playoffs than the Braves have this year.

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

The Gamecock's NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Pool

Here are the standings in The Gamecock's NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament pool after the first two rounds. The top five readers will receive a prize from The Gamecock.

The Gamecock Staff

1. Brad Senkiw — 87 points
2. Katie Smith — 78 points
3. Adam Beam — 67 points
4. Matt Rothenberg — 62 points
5. Justin Bajaj — 58 points
6. Chris Foy — 56 points
7. David Stagg — 52 points



Readers

1. Josh Corbett — 71 points
- T2. Jake Corbett — 69 points
- T2. Stephen Wayne — 69 points
4. Peter Farr — 66 points
5. Aisha Haynes — 65 points
6. Paitra Pinkney — 64 points
7. Ernest Stroman — 61 points
8. Brandon Simmons — 60 points
9. Larcey Simpson — 59 points

Brad Senkiw, the assistant sports editor, still remains on top, but Head Page Designer Katie Smith overtook News Editor Adam Beam for second place. Smith went 6-for-8 in the regional semifinals. Reader Josh Corbett made a big push to land himself in first place, picking two correct Final Four teams. Former leader Stephen Wayne dropped to second.

Hockey tournament in China canceled because of virus

GENEVA (AP) — The women's world hockey championships in China were called off Sunday because of the mysterious disease that has killed at least 57 people and sickened 1,600 worldwide.

The tournament was to have started Thursday and end April 9. The International Ice Hockey Federation in Zurich said it could no longer assure the health of the teams and has yet to decide whether this year's event will be rescheduled.

The IIHF advised teams in the eight-nation tournament to return home as soon as possible.

Switzerland, Sweden, Russia and Germany already were in Beijing with the host Chinese team. Squads from the United States, Canada and Finland were about to leave.

"Obviously our team, players and staff wanted to play," said Doug Palazzari, executive director of USA Hockey. "It is a huge part of our program. At this point we think the IIHF made the right decision under the circumstances. It is a very, very difficult situation obviously."

"But we have to consider first and foremost the safety of our players and staff. I think they made the right decision."

The federation consulted with

chief medical officer Mark Aubry and other medical experts before calling off play, the IIHF said.

The federation said it initially decided to proceed with the tournament because Beijing did not appear to be hit by the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

However, the IIHF said the "situation took a drastic turn to the worse in the last few days." China is the most severely affected country with 800 cases and 34 deaths.

"We decided that canceling or postponing the championship was the only responsible thing," IIHF president Rene Fasel said. "Now, the present situation gives us reasons to be extraordinarily concerned."

The U.S. and Canadian teams originally were scheduled to leave Thursday but delayed their departures.

"The health of the athletes must always be our prime concern, and with the new reports regarding the spread of the pneumonia and the strong medical advice we received, this was really the only decision we could take," Fasel said. "We were no longer in a position to guarantee the health of the athletes and team staff."

Canada and the United States

are the top two teams. Canada has won all seven world championships and has never lost a game in the tournament. Canada won the 2001 title, beating the United States. There were no worlds in 2002, an Olympic year.

"We've won the gold medal seven times and we want to be able to go back and defend it and not just have it handed to somebody else or give it away," Canadian defenseman Becky Kellar said.

Canadian Hockey Association president Bob Nicholson had said if Canada could not go, Fasel should call off the tournament.

"Every day it was up and down so you kind of started to expect the worst," Canadian player Cassie Campbell said.

"It would be really hard to live with, if the event went on, say players got sick," Team Canada coach Karen Hughes said. "I don't think anyone would want to live with that situation, not on our team or other teams."

World Health Organization officials who went to China to investigate, said Beijing has promised to improve monitoring of the illness, with daily updates from every province.

The 2004 women's hockey championships are scheduled for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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(Seriously, we can't tell you.)

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