

146 days to kickoff

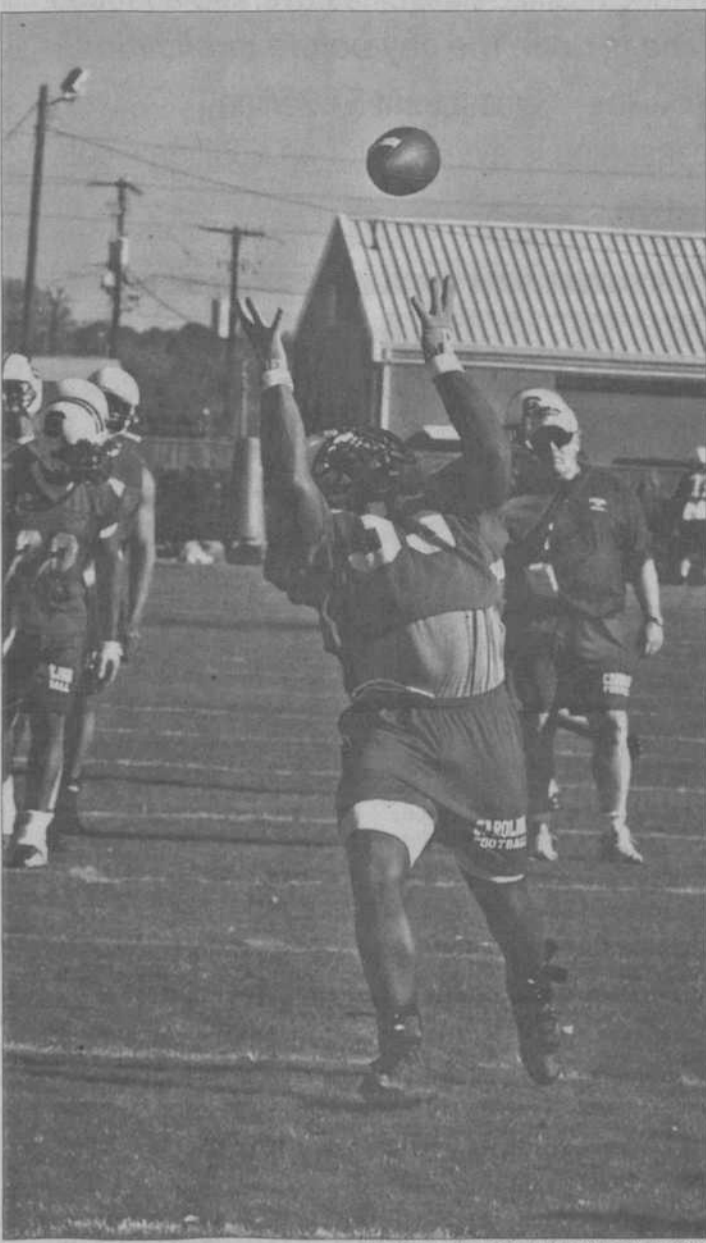


PHOTO BY MARK SCHILLING/THE GAMECOCK

Fullback Gavin Ford reaches for the football as the Gamecocks continue their spring practices. The spring season will come to a close Saturday with the annual spring game.

Baseball

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Campbell and Kevin Melillo home runs, and survived a late-game rally by the Tigers to secure the victory.

David Marchbanks (6-2) kept the LSU bats quiet with his seven and two-thirds innings, allowing three runs on ten hits, as well as striking out six. USC handed LSU starter Bob Petit (5-1) his first loss of the year, as he allowed six runs on seven hits in five innings pitched.

Carolina took an early lead in the first innings when a Brian Buscher double scored Jon Coutlangus. LSU got the run back in the third with Aaron Hill's RBI double, but Carolina took control of the game in the fourth.

After a McDaniel walk and a Harris single, Campbell took a pitch over the left field wall to make it a 4-0 game. Melillo, who went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI, added his home run two batters later to keep USC up for good.

Carolina scored a run in each of the next three innings as McDaniel, Powell and Tim Seaton all picked up RBIs.

LSU added a run in the eighth inning and threatened once again in the ninth. Down 8-3, Jon Zeringue led off the inning with a solo home run and Hill tripled to score another run with one out remaining and a runner at third base. Chris Hernandez then struck out Ivan Naccarata, giving the Gamecocks a much-needed road win as they tied the series.

Game 3: LSU 12 — USC 4

The Gamecocks found themselves down seven runs after two innings; they were never able to rebound and lost the contest 12-4. The Tigers scored 11 of their 12 runs in the first four innings to win the series.

Matt Campbell (1-3) lasted only two-thirds of an inning, allowing three runs on three hits. Zach Reeves relieved him to give up five runs on six hits in two-thirds of an inning, as well.

Steve Tolleson went 3-for-4 with two RBIs for the Gamecocks, and Buscher and Coutlangus each added an RBI on the day.

Carolina got going in the first inning when a Buscher single scored Melillo, but trouble was to come in the bottom half of the inning. Naccarata hit a no-out bases-loaded single that brought in two runs and Hill scored a batter later on a double-play ball.

LSU added five more runs in the second inning behind Hill's three-run triple, along with an RBI single and an RBI double. The Tigers also chipped in three more runs in the fourth inning and one in the seventh.

Tolleson's two-run double helped the Gamecocks add three runs in the ninth inning.

The Gamecocks will meet the Clemson Tigers on Wednesday evening at 7:15 in Clemson, when the rivals will play the final game of their four-game series. Clemson holds a 2-1 lead after winning 4-2 this past week in Columbia.

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BRIEFLY

Track teams finish second at SEC meet

The USC men's and women's track teams both finished second and had ten first-place finishes each at the SEC Quad Meet at the Weems Baskin Track and Field. The men's team lost the first-place finish by one point to Tennessee, while Florida took first in the women's competition.

Aleen Bailey won the 100-meter and 200 dash races, while Miki Barber took first in the 400. Antoinette Wilks won both the long and triple jump competitions.

Lashinda Demus won two hurdle titles in the 400 hurdles and Tawana Watkins won the 800.

For the men, Otukile Lekote won the 800 run, while teammate William Emase placed second in the event. Emase did win in the 1500 run in his best time of the outdoor season.

Kenneth Ferguson won both the 110 and 400 hurdles races. The freshman ran a time of 13.82 in the 110, just two-hundredths of a second off his nation-leading time of 13.80, run at last week-end's Florida Relays.

In the men's field event, Chris Steddum won the pole vault competition, Tony Allmond took the long jump title, Greig Cryer won the triple jump and Adam Bishop finished first in the shot put.

The men won the 4x400 relay and the women had first-place finishes in both the 4x100 and the 4x400.

USC's next meet is April 9 at home for the South Carolina State Championships.

Men's golf seventh after first round

The USC men's golf team shot nine under par and was tied for seventh after the first day of the Cleveland Golf-ASU Invitational in Augusta, Ga. In the first round, Carolina shot 284 and 283 in the second day for a total of 567.

Clemson led the 18-team field with a total score of 552, while Augusta State is second and Wake Forest third.

Eirik Johansen shot a 137 and tied for fifth-place after making 12 birdies on Saturday. He entered the second round two strokes off the leader.

Martin Rominger shot even par in the first round and a 67 in the second round to tie for 11th.

Nash Elliot's total score of 147 is third on the team, and Alex Hamilton is tied for 48th with a score of 145. Michael Maness, the last of the five-member squad, shot 152.

Women's golf earns 10th at tournament

The 14th-ranked USC women's golf team finished in 10th place this past weekend at the Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic in Athens, Ga. Carolina shot 306 on Sunday, a 305 Saturday and a 299 Friday.

Tiffany Catafygiotu was tied for third place Saturday with a 73 that put her even for the tournament after shooting her career-low 71 on Friday. She finished tied for fourth place, the best finish of her career, after shooting 75 Sunday.

Softball

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the side in the sixth and seventh innings to put the Wildcats away.

USC 6 — Kentucky 0

The Gamecocks pounded out 12 hits on Sunday to complete the sweep of the Wildcats with a 6-0 win. Stacey Johnson and Aleca

Johnson combined on the shutout for Carolina, with Aleca Johnson (3-3) earning the victory. Stacey Johnson started the game, going four innings while allowing three hits and striking out three.

Cornett led the way at the plate with a 3-for-4 performance, but Jennings, who went 2-for-4, drove in two runs. Her first RBI came in the second inning as USC jumped out to an early 1-0 lead. The Gamecocks added another run when Troesh scored on an error.

Quinones and Troesh crossed home plate in the fifth inning. USC notched two more runs to finish off the sweep of the Kentucky Wildcats.

USC will return to the road Wednesday with a doubleheader against the Georgia Bulldogs in Athens, Ga. Carolina returns home with a weekend series against the Florida Gators.

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Senkiw

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himself anymore or didn't take care of himself correctly when he was younger. No matter the difference, this is not the same man as before. He doesn't seem to have that glowing confidence the way he used to, and that is my point.

Another thing that perplexes

me deals with college players not making it in the pros. I've seen several guys who dominate the football field or basketball court on the collegiate level but can't find a way to get it done in the big leagues. I understand some guys can't compete athletically, but there are such players as Sam Bowie, who was drafted over Michael Jordan, who never panned out.

In a time when everyone asks, "What have you done for me late-

ly?" it's hard to not feel sorry for someone who achieved so much and now can hardly push themselves to get out of the bed. For all the times people have come from a rough childhood, car crashes and severe injuries while playing, how come some athletes can't get to greatness and keep it? Maybe staying on top is much more difficult than getting there.

Senkiw is a third-year print journalism student.

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