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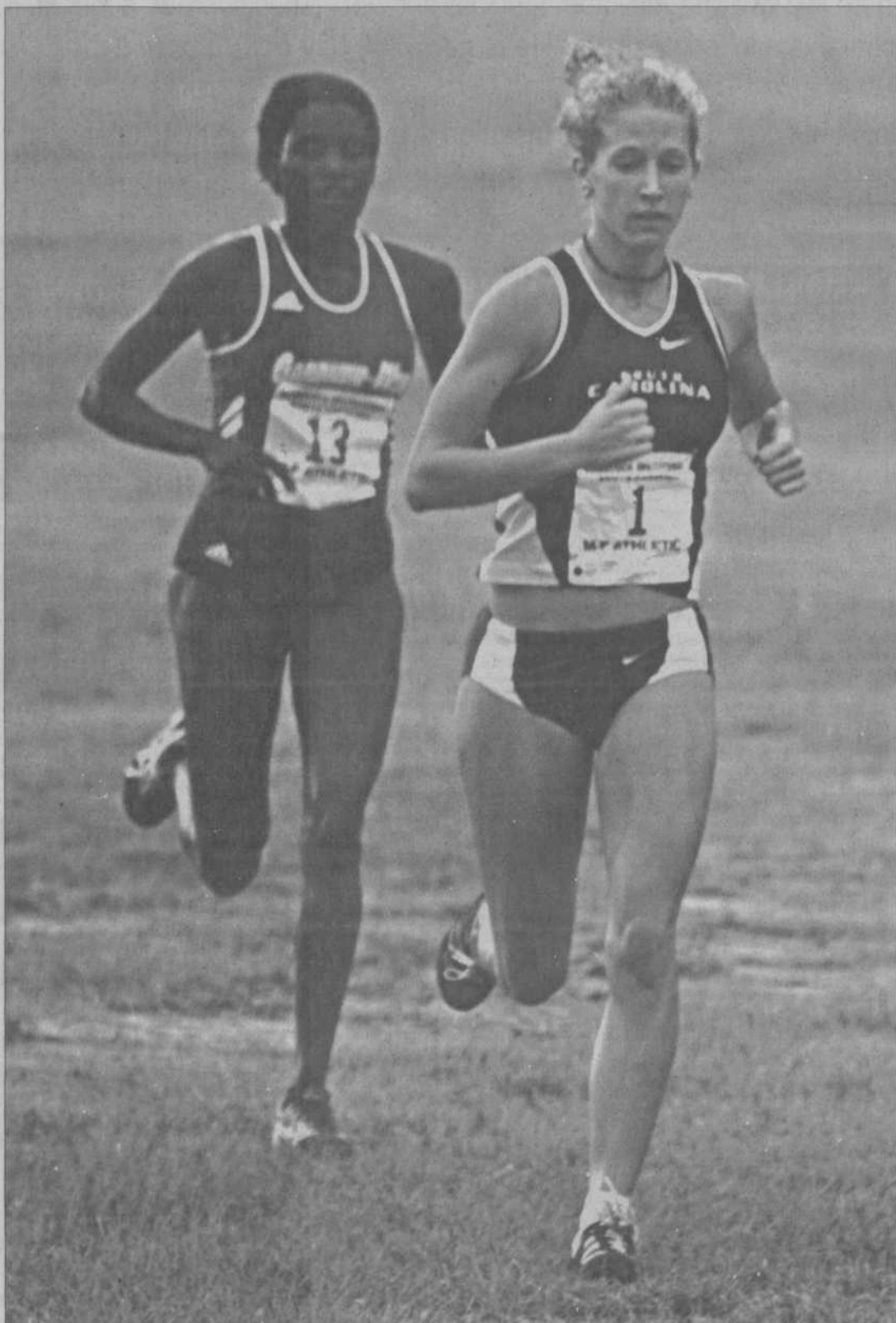


PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

USC's Jenny Lake holds off Gardner-Webb's Sylvia Chelimo to win the USC Invitational.

USC cross country wins its Invitational

The USC cross country team won the USC Invitational on Sept. 5 at Owens Field.

Junior Jenny Lake claimed the individual title as the team finished with four runners placing in the top 11.

Lake, a native of Geneseo, Ill., won by beating Gardner-Webb's Sylvia Chelimo to the finish line in the final kilometer of the 5k race. Lake led for much of the race until Chelimo passed her after reaching the four-kilometer mark.

Winthrop's Stephanie Vanogneg and Carrie Selmer finished third and fourth, respectively, while USC freshman Karen Wigal placed fifth. Mary Wright and Tristan Rackow finished in 10th and 11th place for the Gamecocks as well.

Men's golf to begin 2003-2004 season

The USC men's golf team starts its 2003-04 season on Sept. 8-9 at the Cleveland Golf Kiawah Island Collegiate in Kiawah Island at the Turtle Point Golf Club. The Gamecocks will participate in a two-day 54-hole tournament. The team will play two rounds today and the final round Tuesday.

USC's five-player squad will

Volleyball

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and passed well for us and terminated at times we needed her to terminate," Christopher said. I just thought she provided very good leadership for us."

Carolina now turns its attention to in-state rival Clemson, the Gamecocks' opponent on Tuesday night. The Tigers (2-5) enter the match after knocking off Winthrop but losing to College of Charleston and Texas Tech in the Big Orange Bash this past weekend. Clemson's other win came last Wednesday against Furman.

"The Clemson match is always about emotion, about who really wants it more," Christopher said. "It's always just a cat fight to the end."

include All-American Erik Johansen, Martin Rominger, Alex Hamilton, Robert Syensson and Nash Elliot.

The College of Charleston is hosting the event that will be attended by UAB, Charleston Southern, College of Charleston, Florida State, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Kent State, SMU, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, USC-Aiken and Virginia as well.

Women's golf team set to play in Japan

The USC women's golf team is headed to Tokyo to begin its season in The TOPY Cup. USC and Cal-Berkeley are the only two American teams in the tournament, going up against four Japanese teams. Head coach Kristi Coggins is excited about the trip.

"We are one of only two universities in the United States to be invited to participate in

The Topy Cup in Japan," Coggins said. "It is the most prestigious invitation in women's collegiate golf and is a reward for the consistency this golf team has shown over the last few years.

"We have selected five of our most experienced golfers to go on the trip: team captain Adrienne Gautreaux, Marci Robinson, Kory Thompson, Tiffany Catafygiotu and Laura McCaslin."

Men's soccer looks for new goalkeeper

The USC men's soccer team is searching for an athlete at the goalkeeper position. The ideal candidate would be a full-time student who has experience in the game of soccer.

If you are interested in joining the Gamecock men's soccer program, please call the coaching staff at 777-5199 or 777-7911.

Men's soccer stays undefeated with wins over Spiders, Wildcats

Mark Berson earns his 350th career win with victory over Richmond

BY JONATHAN HILLYARD
THE GAMECOCK

Although this weekend will largely be remembered for USC's big football victory over Virginia, it was also a very memorable weekend for the USC men's soccer team, which recorded a sweep at the Aaron Olitsky Memorial Classic in Charleston. Victories over Richmond, 3-0, and Northwestern, 3-1, improved the Gamecocks to an unblemished 4-0-0 record this season.

Just three days after entering NSCAA/adidas top-25 poll, the 22nd-ranked Gamecocks continued their early success against an undermanned Richmond Spiders team (1-2-0).

After a relatively quiet first half, freshman Michael Sambursky continued to impress with his second goal of the season in the 39th minute. Sambursky's goal was on a rebound of a Ben Link shot that deflected off the

goal post, leading Carolina into the half with a 1-0 lead.

Although it was another impressive game for Carolina freshmen, senior Jack Cummings reminded us all not to forget about the veterans, as he scored just three minutes into the second half to give the Gamecocks a 2-0 lead. The match was Cummings' first of the 2003 season after posting a solid year in 2002.

Just two minutes later, freshman standout Ayo Akinsete struck from 18 yards out for his third goal of the season in as many games. The London native put the Gamecocks up 3-0, where the team would remain for the rest of the game, marking its second-straight shutout.

Not only did the victory continue a solid start for Carolina, but it also marked head coach Mark Berson's 350th win in the Gamecock program and his 361st overall. The 2003 season marks Berson's 25th season in Columbia, 23 of which have boasted a record of .500 or better. In that time period he has coached 40 eventual pros, nine All-Americans and has led USC to two Final Fours. Berson's success at USC has also placed him 11th all-time in wins by a Division I coach.

The milestone victory did not mark the end of the weekend for

the hot Carolina team. Sunday afternoon the Gamecocks took on the Northwestern Wildcats (0-2-2). Carolina was in control most of the game, out-shooting the Wildcats 16-8, but found itself tied at one in the 50th minute of the game. The Gamecocks first goal, courtesy of sophomore Eric Szeszycki's penalty kick, came 36:03 into the game and gave Carolina a 1-0 lead going into the half. The lead was short-lived as Northwestern's Eric Brin tied the score at one with a penalty kick of his own in the 50th minute.

Szeszycki would add to a good match with an assist seven minutes later to Akinsete, who tallied his fourth goal of the year, giving the Cocks a 2-1 lead that USC would not relinquish. Carolina would go on to win 3-1 after sophomore forward Ryan Deter sealed the victory with a late goal.

The win capped off a great weekend for the Gamecock's men soccer team which will now return back to Columbia. Carolina will begin a three-game home stretch Sept. 12 against Jacksonville University at 7:30 p.m. at Eugene Stone III Stadium in the Gamecock Soccer Classic.

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

Women's soccer pulls out two close matches over weekend

BY STEPHEN DEMEDIS AND WES WOLFE
THE GAMECOCK

The USC women's soccer team (2-2) clenched its first two victories of the season by edging out Charleston Southern (1-2) by a score of 2-1 Friday and beating Dartmouth (1-1) by 3-1 Sunday afternoon at Eugene E. Stone III Stadium.

Carolina's win against the Lady Buccaneers marked USC's seventh win in seven matches between the two schools. The first half ended in a scoreless tie despite USC out-shooting CSU 9-1, including several near misses in the final 10 minutes. The team came out at the half looking for offensive production.

"We knew that we just needed some offense," sophomore defender and team captain Jackie Welch said. "We had lots of chances earlier, but just had to pick things up and finish the ball better."

The Gamecocks scored their first goal in the second half when senior midfielder Erica Bowie headed a cross by freshman defender Jenna Ball into the back of the net. It was the Gamecock's first goal in 232 minutes of soccer this season.

The lead was then doubled in the 80th minute when Welch sent

a shot into the box that was blocked originally but then put away by junior forward Ashley Gosnell.

With five minutes remaining in the game, CSU cut the lead in half when sophomore defender Lindsey Maleski wrapped a 25-yard penalty kick around the wall and into the upper part of the net.

The offense's slow start was covered by strong play from the defense, led by senior defender and team captain Alison Jarrow. The unit allowed only three shots on goal.

"We played solid defense tonight," Jarrow said. "We talked with each other well and covered well for each other. If anything, we just need to work on better anticipation."

USC head coach Shelley Smith was pleased with her team's play.

"I think we did a good job on the offensive side and had some more creative attacks. It was an improvement from the last two matches, and we have to take that and move forward."

Against Dartmouth on Sunday, the freshmen stepped up and led the Gamecocks against the Big Green. Freshman midfielder Shelly Hoddeson contributed two goals and freshman forward M.A. Foster knocked in the Carolina's other three goals.

The first goal of the game, however, was scored by Dartmouth sophomore forward Christina Farraris at the 39:58 mark off a corner kick.

Less than five minutes later, Foster received a pass from red-shirt junior defender Sarah Lentz and hit Carolina's first goal of the game for Foster's first goal of the year.

USC took the lead in the second half when Bowie found Hoddeson at the top of the box, where Hoddeson knocked in a shot to the left of the Dartmouth goalkeeper. With just over one minute left, Hoddeson put the game away after opening up for a pass from Foster and making her second goal of the game.

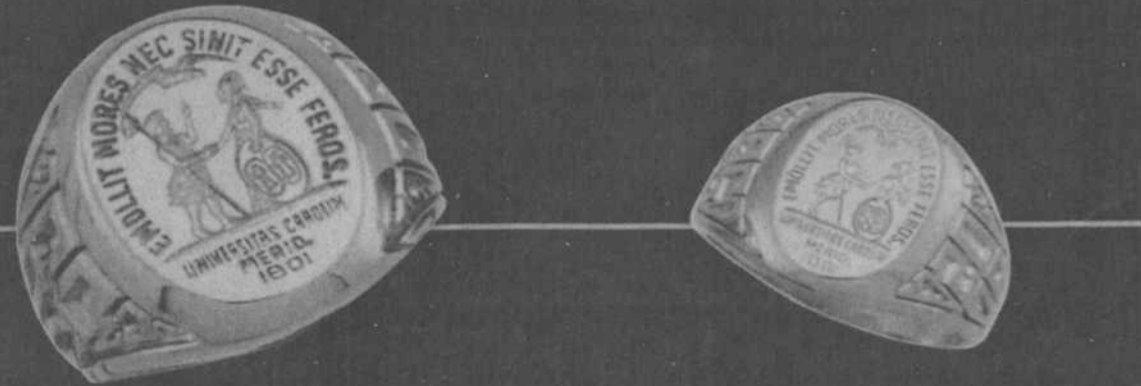
Smith was also happy with her players' performance against Dartmouth.

"We had a great team effort today and our players did a great job supporting each other in the match," Smith said. "I think our team moved forward this afternoon and has learned from some mistakes we made in the first two matches this season."

The Gamecocks take to the road Friday when the team plays Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, at 8:30 p.m.

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

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