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# SPORTS

**WOMEN'S SOCCER** vs. Auburn, 7 p.m. Friday  
**VOLLEYBALL** vs. Ole Miss, 7 p.m. Friday  
**EQUESTRIAN** at Georgia, Friday  
**MEN'S GOLF** at Carpet Capital Classic  
in Dalton, Ga., Friday  
**MEN'S SOCCER** at Clemson, 2 p.m. Sunday

## USC FOOTBALL

# USC loses overtime thriller to Vols

## GAME 5

**USC**  
(3-2, 0-2 SEC) 20

**Tennessee**  
(4-0, 2-0 SEC) 23

## SOUND BITE

**"We prepared hard all week and the guys came out and played well. We just didn't pull it out in the end."**

DONDRIAL PINKINS  
USC QUARTERBACK

## BY THE NUMBERS

## 217

The Tennessee defense came into the game giving up only 53.3 rushing yards per game but allowed 217, including 158 yards to Demetris Summers.

## 148

The Vols and the Gamecocks totaled 16 penalties for 148 yards. Both teams were called for crucial pass interferences, and USC was plagued with several false starts.

## 51.7

Tennessee punter Dustin Colquitt averaged 51.7 yards per punt, including a 63-yarder. He pinned USC down inside their 20 on four occasions in seven punts. He accumulated 362 total yards on the game.

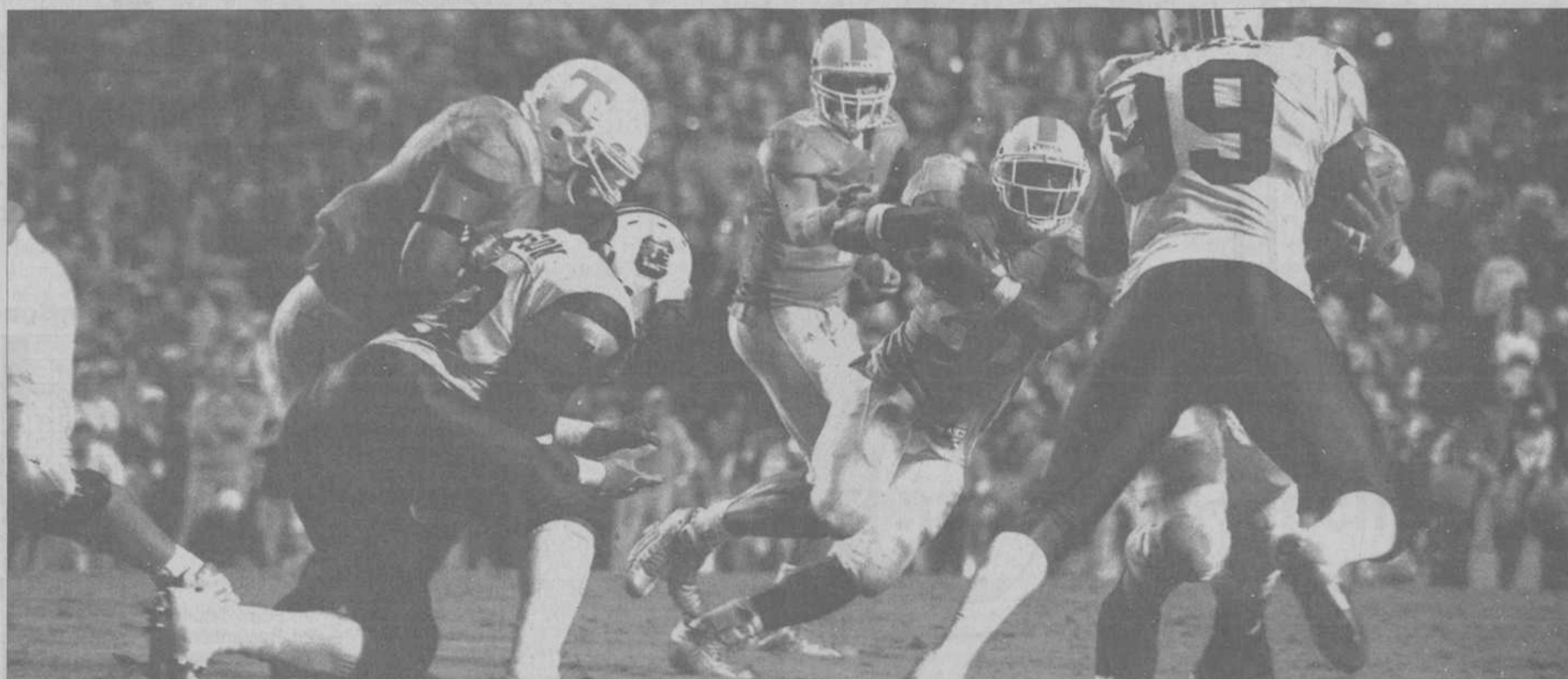


PHOTO BY JAMES DALTON/THE UT DAILY BEACON

Tennessee's Cedric Houston runs between two Gamecock defenders in USC's 23-20 loss Saturday in Knoxville. Carolina has a bye this week.

BY JIM ROCHE  
THE GAMECOCK

The USC football team (3-2, 0-2 SEC) came up three points short of earning its first-ever win at No. 8 Tennessee late Saturday night in Knoxville. The Volunteers (4-0, 2-0) beat the Gamecocks 23-20 in overtime, despite another big game from USC's freshman running back Demetris Summers, who ran for 158 yards off 27 carries.

"I was concerned going into the game about Demetris Summers," UT head coach Phillip Fulmer said. "He's a fine back. They did a good job of moving around and getting him holes."

The high point of the game was the Gamecocks' ground attack that out-rushed Tennessee 217 yards to 117 yards. Tennessee came into the game with a SEC-leading best in rush defense,

allowing only 53 rushing yards per game. Summers, who had 161 yards last week against UAB, had 115 yards at halftime, making him the first USC freshman to run for back-to-back 100-yard games since Thomas Dendy in 1982.

USC's kicking game looks to be back in sync as well after place-kicker Daniel Weaver hit two crucial field goals, a 37-yarder and a 24-yarder that gave Carolina its only lead of the game in overtime.

USC quarterback Dondrial Pinkins passed for 154 yards with one meaningless interception at the end of the first half. Tennessee quarterback Casey Clausen finished with 149 yards and two



Pinkins

touchdowns.

The Vols jumped out first when Tennessee's Marvin Mitchell blocked a South Carolina punt and Derek Tinsley recovered the ball just one minute into the first quarter. Tennessee got on the board with a 9-yard touchdown pass from Clausen to C.J. Faulsten to go up 7-0.

Carolina had an answer, driving down the field 72 yards as Daccus Turman bulled into the end zone on a 1-yard touchdown run to tie the game. The Gamecocks racked up 68 yards rushing on the drive.

In the second quarter, Carolina was stopped three-straight times on Tennessee's goal line. On fourth-and-goal, USC's Pinkins hit tight end Hart Turner on a wide-open pass to tie the game at 14.

But it was Weaver and Summers who kept the Gamecocks in the game late in the

second half. Near the end of the third quarter, Weaver kicked a 37-yard field goal to tie the game at 17. In overtime, Carolina got the ball first and moved ever so close into scoring range after a Tennessee pass interference play. But the Gamecocks, who have suffered from costly penalties all year, were penalized twice and faced a third down with 17 yards to go. Pinkins stepped up and hit Summers for a pass along the sideline but came up short of the first down marker.

It was then that Weaver was called upon to try for a possible game-winning field goal. Weaver connected from 24 yards out to put the Gamecocks up 20-17.

Tennessee gave the ball to running back Cedric Houston who ran for 21 yards on Tennessee's first couple possessions in overtime. The Vols faced third down and three when Clausen hit wide

receiver James Banks on a 4-yard touchdown pass for the winning score.

"In the second half, our defense had an excellent game, never letting them in field-goal range," USC head coach Lou Holtz said. "The TD in overtime was a disappointment."

Pinkins was also disappointed after the game and said his team must find a way to move on to prepare for upcoming games.

"We prepared hard all week and the guys came out and played well," Pinkins said. "We just couldn't pull it out in the end."

The Gamecocks now face their bye week and will not play again until Oct. 9, when the Kentucky Wildcats come to town for a Thursday-night game that will be broadcast on ESPN.

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## Men's soccer drops first two games

BY JAY POU  
THE GAMECOCK

The 11th-ranked USC men's soccer team suffered its first two losses of the season in the Husky Classic in Seattle, when it lost to Portland on Friday afternoon and to No. 22 Washington on Sunday.

USC (7-2) lost its first match of the season 2-0 to Portland (5-5) despite out-shooting the Pilots 15-14. The Gamecocks held the match scoreless through the first period, but Portland struck at 55:58 with a goal by Christopher Sanders from six yards out. Kyle Tanner and Bobak Talebi assisted on Sanders' goal, his fourth of the season.

Portland added an insurance goal 17 minutes later off a free kick. Eric Cronkite passed to Paul Robinson, who headed in the

Pilots' goal to provide the final margin.

The Gamecocks held a 5-4 advantage over the Pilots in corner kicks.

Freshman goalie Brad Guzan had six saves for Carolina, while the Pilots goalkeeper recorded three.

The Gamecocks were shut out again on Sunday, dropping a 3-0 decision to Washington (6-0-1). Despite the loss, USC again out-shot its opponent by a 14-11 margin, including 12 shots in the second half. Carolina also held the edge in corner kicks by a 6-2 margin.

The Huskies' first goal came at the 24:06 mark on a Leo Totev goal, his fourth of the season. Totev, assisted by Sean Giudice, slipped the ball past Guzan to give Washington a 1-0 lead going into the second period.

Washington quickly put the game out of reach in the second period, scoring two goals within a one minute span to put the Huskies up 3-0. Casey Armstrong headed in a Totev corner kick at the 53:33 mark. Totev netted his second goal of the match a minute later.

Guzan had three saves for the Gamecocks, compared to the Huskies' Danny Waltman who recorded six saves.

The loss to Portland gives the Gamecocks a 1-2 record in the all-time series, with all three meetings taking place in neutral sites.

USC has now gone head-to-head with Washington four times, with the Gamecocks leading the series 2-1-1.

Washington remains unbeaten this season, coming into Sunday's match riding a 2-1 victory over Kentucky on Friday afternoon.

Portland evened out its season record Sunday afternoon, handing Kentucky its second straight 2-1 loss.

USC is now 38-22-9 in road tournaments during the past 26 years, including two wins posted earlier this season in the Aaron Olitsky Memorial Classic in Charleston.

This was the second time the Gamecocks have competed in the Husky Classic; their first first trip was in 1992. Carolina posted a 1-0-1 record in that tournament, defeating Portland and tying Washington.

The Gamecocks will try to get back on the winning track Oct. 5, when they head to in-state rival Clemson for a 2 p.m. kickoff.

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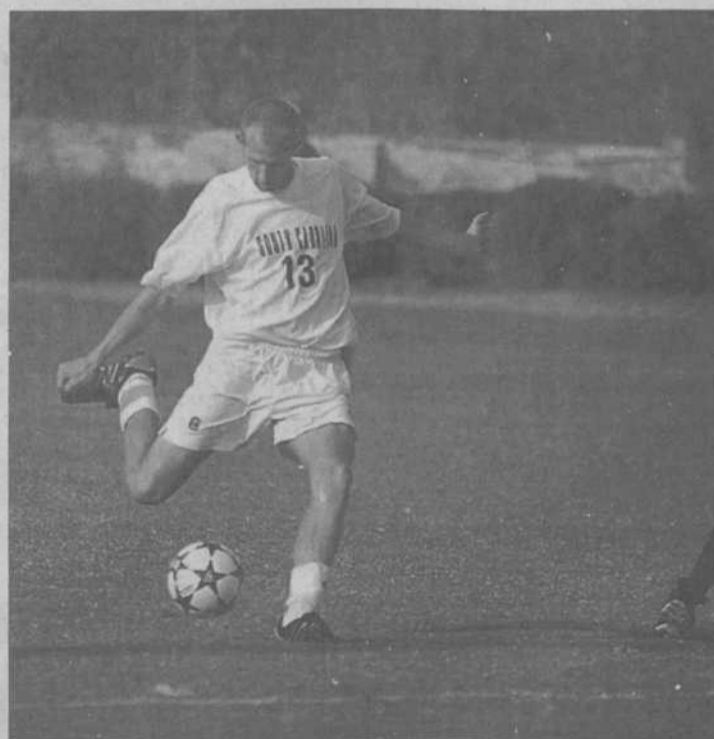


PHOTO BY MARK SCHILLING/THE GAMECOCK

Forward Ryan Deter lines up for a shot against Appalachian State. USC lost its first two games this weekend in Seattle.

## Saturday's college football games proved to be real kickers



BRAD SENKIW  
GAMECOCKSPORTS@HOTMAIL.COM

Many games came down to last-minute plays, kicks

When Friday came and it sunk in that I wouldn't be attending the USC-Tennessee game in Knoxville on Saturday, a sharp pain of disappointment struck my heart. I thought of the steak dinner for the media that I was giving up, the time I could spend with family that live in Knoxville and, most of all, the chance to see the

Gamecocks break their losing streak at Neyland Stadium.

But, as it turned out, staying at home was the right decision for me, as I witnessed what was possibly the most entertaining day of college football in recent memory.

Since I had no travel plans, watching every game possible was the only staple on my uneventful agenda. And it proved to be one crazy afternoon for any football enthusiast as I watched Florida break the hearts of Wildcat fans in Lexington, Ky., witnessed the sight of four amazing overtime games and saw the determination of the USC football team from the comfortable seat of my living room.

When I heard the Gators were kicking off the afternoon against Kentucky, instant blowout came to mind, but I knew this series has been close, and Florida was throwing a freshman quarterback into

the lion's den.

Florida's Chris Leak pulled a Brock Berlin by proving to be overmatched and confused in the first half to earning the respect of every Gator player and fan with a spectacular comeback. While this wasn't the Bluegrass miracle that LSU pulled on Kentucky last season, losing to a team you were demolishing 21-3 with 10 minutes to play in the fourth quarter isn't something to remember.

There were no moral victories for Jared Lorenzen in this one, as Leak threw two touchdowns late in the game and Kentucky's place-kicker missed an opportunity to send the game into what would have been the first of many SEC overtime games.



Leak

With the Florida-Kentucky thriller coming to a close, I was in for a couple of other surprises with Wake Forest at Virginia and Arkansas visiting Alabama.

The Virginia game proved to show what I've been thinking for several weeks now: Wake Forest really isn't that good and Virginia is better with Matt Schaub, but not great. With the two teams battling to the death, a kicker once again proved worthy of being a hero as UVA pulled out the 27-24 victory.

Alabama, like Kentucky, was a laugher as the team gave up a 31-10 lead in the second half to lose in the second overtime 34-31. This showed how tough Arkansas is and how they never abandoned their offensive-playcalling to pull off a shocking comeback. Matt Jones isn't a prototypical quarterback but is one heck of a leader. On the other hand, Alabama's

loss doesn't mean much because the team can't win an SEC title because of probation. But the Roll Tide can change its nickname to the "Roll-overs."

As the final game began in Tennessee and the Gamecocks played a tough one, it was great to see the heart and pride USC showed as a team. But, like always, they came up just short of a miracle against a Vol team that has many weaknesses.

So, what did all these incredible comebacks and late-game heroics teach me on that glorious Saturday? I learned that way too many kickers can decide outcomes, and I don't like it. With Kentucky's kicker, Alabama's kicker and the unmentioned

Southern Cal kicker being scapegoats for those team's eventual losses, it seemed that on that day, the real playmakers weren't doing their respective jobs.

It just isn't much fun when a 160-pound kid with a swinging leg has the entire fate of his team's season resting on his shoulders while the lightning-quick receivers and strong-armed quarterbacks watch helplessly. I guess that's just one of the special moments of irony that football brings us. Plus, it helps that if the kicker loses the game, he isn't too big to get lynched by fans — not that I hope that happens — but it makes it easier if you're a Wildcat, Crimson Tide or Trojan follower. I'm just glad Daniel Weaver can make it through another week.

Senkiw is a fourth-year print journalism student.