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WOMEN'S GOLF at Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship in Knoxville, Tenn., today
WOMEN'S TENNIS at Rolex Regional Tournament in Winston Salem, N.C., Thursday

USC FOOTBALL

USC grounded by Tigers

GAME 7

 **LSU** 33
(6-1, 3-1 SEC)

 **USC** 7
(4-3, 1-3 SEC)

SOUND BITE

"I feel like an idiot right now because I don't have any answers for what happened, how it happened, why it happened. I just know where it happened and who it happened to."

LOU HOLTZ
USC HEAD COACH

BY THE NUMBERS

77

Dondrial Pinkins threw a 77-yard touchdown to Matthew Thomas in the third quarter. It was the longest touchdown catch in Thomas' career and Pinkins' second-longest scoring pass.

108

LSU running back Alley Broussard rushed for 108 yards, making him the first to gain 100-yards this season against the Gamecock defense. Justin Vincent added 77 yards as well.

41:43

The LSU offense controlled the ball for 41:43 in time of possession. USC was on offense for only 18:17. LSU punted only three times, all in the second half.

A USC defender attempts to tackle LSU's Alley Broussard in the 33-7 romping by the Tigers.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES, THE GAMECOCK

BY JIM ROCHE
THE GAMECOCK

Not even USC head coach Lou Holtz could muster up any answers for USC's disappointing 33-7 loss to No. 10 LSU in front of a season-high attendance of 82,525 at Williams-Brice Stadium on Saturday.

"I'm just disappointed in the way we tackled and in our lack of enthusiasm," Holtz said. "A lot of things can happen during a game, and the enthusiasm was not there. That's the first thing we have to address."

In a game that was highly anticipated as a defensive matchup, LSU (6-1, 3-1 SEC) held the Gamecocks (4-3, 1-3) to zero rushing yards off 17 carries, while LSU rushed for 263 yards on 52 carries. LSU played three true freshmen, including Alley Broussard, who ran for 108 yards off 19 carries, and Justin Vincent, who carried the ball 16 times for 77 yards and two touchdowns. LSU also dominated the clock, having the ball for more than 40 minutes of the game.

The Tigers took off with an early lead as LSU quarterback Matt Mauck hit Devery Henderson for a five-yard touchdown pass early in the first quarter, but Ryan Gaudet's extra point failed, making the score 6-0. In the second quarter, Mauck found Eric Edwards for a four-yard touchdown pass that took up almost 10 minutes of game clock. Later in the half, Vincent scored a touchdown to give the Tigers a 19-0 lead at the break.

Carolina only had the ball three times in the first half for 10:13, and that time resulted in three punts.

USC found some light in the third

◆ FOOTBALL, SEE PAGE 8

Lack of rushing game leaves Gamecocks dazed and confused

BY BRAD SENKIW
THE GAMECOCK

The first play from scrimmage said it all in the Gamecocks' 33-7 loss to LSU on Saturday. Demetris Summers took the handoff from Dondrial Pinkins and was hit for a five-yard loss by several Tiger defenders. It was downhill from there, as the Gamecocks totaled no rushing yards, compared to LSU's 263 yards.

"Coach had us prepared, and we just didn't come out to play how we're supposed to," offensive lineman Jeff Barnes said. "You've got to go in week-in-week-out and try to dominate the front. We weren't able to do that this week."

It was LSU who did all the dominating with its defensive line, holding a Carolina team that was second in the SEC with an average of 187.7 rushing yards per game. Summers, who came in averaging 75.5

yards on the ground per game, finished with a measly 16 yards on eight carries. Daccus Turman, who tallied three touchdowns last week against Kentucky, only took one handoff the entire game for one yard.



Barnes

Pinkins, one of the better rushing quarterbacks in the conference, lost 26 yards on the ground, taking away what little yardage the Gamecocks picked up rushing.

It was apparent that, after falling behind 13-0 early with LSU controlling the clock, the Gamecocks were going to be forced to air it out to have a chance of a

"It was a step back, and when you take a step back, you've got to come out with three or four steps forward. That's all you can go. It's the SEC; you've got to come out and play hard"

JABARI LEVEY
USC OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Another offensive lineman, Jabari Levey, said he was disappointed because the offense had seemed to be clicking after the Tennessee and Kentucky games.

"It was a step back, and when you take a step back, you've got to come out with three or four steps forward," Levey said. "That's all you can do. It's the SEC. You've got to come out and play hard."

comeback. Thus, the ground attack suffered.

"We go in every game aiming for the 200 mark, to get 200 yards rushing, and I'm shocked we weren't able to get that or get any," Barnes said. "It's just a big shock to me."

On the other side of the ball, the LSU offensive line did come to play and blew the Gamecocks off the line several times.

The Tigers' running game, which was in question with two freshmen expected to carry the load because of injuries, exploded behind solid blocking to score three rushing touchdowns. Alley Broussard's 108 yards marked the first time any running back has broke 100 yards this season.



Levey

"I didn't believe that anybody could run the football like that on us on a continuous basis," Holtz said. "They didn't do anything different than what we've seen all year. I'm talking about sweep, iso, zone, those three plays."

After seeing the discrepancy in the rushing game by the two teams, Holtz

gave no explanation for LSU's domination.

"I think right now I'm sort of numb," Holtz said. "I feel like an idiot right now because I don't have any answers for what happened, how it happened, why it happened. I just know where it happened and who it happened to."

A game like this couldn't have come at a worse time for the Gamecocks, who were making strides with the offensive production and stopping the run and third-down plays on defense. After last season's loss at LSU, the Gamecocks dropped their last five games. This season, Carolina must find a way to regroup and learn from the situation.

"They just beat us, and we got to live with it and move on to next week and start thinking about Vanderbilt," Barnes said.

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