

Briefly

Opener against Wofford postponed

It was announced yesterday that the baseball team's supposed opener against Wofford on Feb. 7 has been postponed until Tuesday, March 23rd at 7 p.m. The reasons for the rescheduling are unknown. The game will still be the dedication game for Wofford's new baseball stadium, Russell C. King Field at Switzer Stadium. However, the Gamecocks were also scheduled to play Wofford on Wednesday, March 24, but the game has been cancelled. USC's opener will now be Friday, Feb. 13 at 3p.m. against Charleston Southern at Sarge Frye Field. The Gamecocks will enter the season ranked 7th in the Baseball America poll and will unveil the nation's top recruiting class.

Ciocan nominated for senior honor

Senior guard Cristina Ciocan was nominated on

Wednesday as one of the 31 finalists to receive the Senior CLASS award. The award is designed to award student athletes that complete their athletic eligibility rather than leave school early for the pro ranks or other reasons. CLASS is an acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School. One man and woman receive the award annually and the women's winner is announced during the women's Final Four. Ciocan is averaging 15.5 points per game and 8.8 rebounds per game. The award was originally suggested by CBS broadcaster Dick Enberg while watching the 2001 national championship in which senior Shane Battier led his Duke Blue Devils to victory.

Track teams travel to Lexington, Ky

Both the men's and women's track teams are in Lexington, Ky. this weekend

to compete in the Kentucky Invitational. The meet will begin today and last until tomorrow Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004. Along with the Gamecocks and the University of Kentucky Wildcats, teams in the competition include Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Appalachian State, Clemson, Eastern Kentucky, Georgia Tech, Marshall, Middle Tennessee State, Ohio State and Wake Forest.

The event will begin tonight with the pole vault, high jump, weight throw and 4x800-meter relay. USC dominated the pole vault at last week's Carolina Big 12 by finishing first, second, and fourth in the event with a former Gamecock finishing third. The meet will resume on Saturday with the high jump and other track events throughout the day. Keep an eye on newcomer Rodney Martin Jr., who in his first event as a Gamecock last week finished first in the 200-meter and fourth in the 60-meter.

MEN'S BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE: Every week, The Gamecock's readers and staff test their sports knowledge with game predictions.	Wes Wolfe Sports Editor (0-0)	Jonathan Hillyard Asst. Sports Editor (0-0)	Adam Beam Editor in Chief (0-0)	Shawn Rourke Design Director (0-0)	Steven Van Haren Copy Editor (0-0)	Dimitri Najim Reader of the week (0-0)
1 Connecticut at 9 N. Carolina	UConn	UConn	UNC	UConn	UNC	UNC
4 Wake at 2 Duke	Wake	Duke	Duke	Duke	Wake	Duke
15 Florida at 23 Vanderbilt	Florida	Florida	Vandy	Florida	Vandy	Vandy
Georgia at 5 Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
20 Miss. St. at LSU	Miss. St.	LSU	Miss. St.	Miss. St.	LSU	LSU
Ole Miss at Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Ole Miss	Arkansas	Arkansas
UAB at DePaul	UAB	UAB	DePaul	DePaul	UAB	DePaul
Auburn at Alabama	Alabama	Auburn	Alabama	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Clemson at N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State
Tennessee at USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
WANT TO BE READER OF THE WEEK? E-mail selections for next week's games to gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu						

Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

about Tennessee's chances of having a successful season after the shellacking, which was Tennessee's worst-ever loss to the rival Gators.

"It's been an interesting three or four days for this team and at the Peterson household after what happened in Gainesville," said Tennessee head coach Buzz

Peterson. "I had some fear coming out of there, but the great thing about basketball is it gives you a chance to improve and come back."

The Gamecocks and Volunteers will each look to keep their momentum rolling in Saturday's game. Tennessee will also be looking for its first win at the Colonial Center, where they have lost in each of their first two visits.

The Gamecocks will have to slow down Tennessee's scorers,

especially 6-foot-10-inch Crump. Look for another solid defensive performance from center Rolando Howell, who has played well since missing the first half of the season. If Howell can maintain his inside presence against Crump, then the Gamecocks should match up well with the mostly undersized Volunteer squad.

Tip-off is set for 5 p.m. Saturday at the Colonial Center.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

Championship game blessing or curse for Philadelphia Eagles

BY BARRY WILNER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles are all too familiar with the road they are traveling. They make it to the NFC championship game, and then get detoured.

Columbia's Adult Soccer League is now registering teams or individuals for the Spring '04 season.

Registration deadline is February 3rd.

Call 781-6468 or email columbiasoccer@aol.com.

Two years ago, the St. Louis Rams got in the way. Last year, it was the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

On Sunday, the Eagles play the Carolina Panthers for a spot in the Super Bowl, a place the Eagles haven't been in since 1980.

To take advantage this time, the Eagles (13-4) know they must block out the hype surrounding this game in a city desperate for a sports championship after a drought of more than two decades. Carolina has been one loose team throughout the playoffs.

The Panthers (13-5) routed Dallas, then ended St. Louis' 14-game home winning streak in double overtime — the first postseason win by a visitor at the Edward Jones Dome.

"What we were able to accomplish last week was a big feat,"

coach John Fox said. "That gives our team a lot of confidence as we go into a hostile environment."

It's an environment that can get downright hostile for the Eagles, too. Should they stumble the way they did early in last Sunday's overtime victory against Green Bay, the memories of two previous title game losses could come flooding in.

If that happens, no matter how loudly Dawkins instructs his teammates, they're bound to get tight. That would make them even more vulnerable to an opponent with little to lose.

Eagles Pro Bowl defensive tackle Corey Simon says that won't happen.

"Everybody's really focused," Simon said. "I think we are definitely enjoying it a little bit more."

Defense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ing quick points off turnovers. The stats from the Georgia game are simply amazing. The Gamecocks had 14 more points in the paint, 8 more points off turnovers, 11 more fast break points and killed the shallow Bulldog bench by outscoring UGA by 25 in bench points.

Even more astounding than the stats was that USC shot 66

percent from the field in the first half, which led to 56 percent shooting for the game, which is a major achievement for a team that usually misses more shots than it hits.

However, the last-second overtime win at Auburn is the highlight of the Carolina season thus far. It takes a lot for a young team like USC to keep its composure on the road and come up with crucial game-winning plays.

Also, the Gamecock defensive play was of championship cal-

iber. Holding Auburn to just 2 percent from the field is undoubtedly the best defensive performance in quite some time, considering that Auburn was picked to win the SEC West this season.

This stretch of early SEC games proves that if Carolina's defense stays as good as it is now, the Gamecocks only need to hit their high-percentage inside shots to win.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

Mathis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

strikers on the team.

In Newcastle, England's The Journal, Mathis' agent Dave Baldwin said earlier this week, that "Clint is at Sunderland for the next three days. He will be there until Wednesday and it gives Mick a chance to have a look at him.

Clint went over to Germany and has really impressed Hannover and they really want him. However, Mick contacted us and said he would really like to see Clint after hearing very good things about him. Mick wants a top-class striker to help them get back into the Premiership."

Still, the fact that Mathis is now back training with Hannover lends credence to the

argument that he will sign with the team soon.

"Clint had a good time here," Hannover coach Ralf Rangnick said in Darlington, England's The Northern Echo. "I'm sure he'll be back with us in Turkey on Thursday at the latest, assuming Sunderland don't make him an offer he can't refuse."

The former Gamecock also practiced with Leicester City and the Glasgow Rangers. Of course, some of the teams Mathis has tried out for are better than others. The Rangers are in second place in the Scottish Premierleague, Sunderland is fourth in the English first division, Hannover finished 11 out of 18 in the Bundesliga and Leicester City is currently 18th out of the 20 teams in the English Premier League. Currently, only Leicester City and Glasgow have decided not to sign Mathis.

While at USC, Mathis set the Carolina men's soccer record of most points in a year with 53, the record in goals in one year with 25 and the record in game-winning goals in one year with 12, all in 1995. Over his career, Mathis is third in Gamecock soccer history in goals and third in points.

In four years with the MetroStars, Mathis has scored 33 goals, and scored 11 goals in 34 games for the U.S. national team. Mathis is one of two Carolina soccer players to ever play in the World Cup soccer tournament and notched one goal and one assist in the 2002 World Cup.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

LSAT
GMAT
GRE
MCAT
DAT
OAT

higher test scores guaranteed or your money back

Attend all required classes or make-up sessions, complete all scheduled tests, and do your homework. If your score doesn't improve on test day from your Kaplan diagnostic or a prior official test score, you can choose to repeat our program for free or get a full refund of your tuition. It's that simple.

What are you waiting for?
Classes are filling fast...call now to reserve your seat!

World Leader in Test Prep and Admissions

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com

*Test names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.
**To be eligible for this offer, you must be enrolled in Kaplan's full classroom, tutoring, or online courses. In addition, you must present a copy of your official score report and your course materials within 90 days.

CASH FOR YOUR NOTES

Visit LeConte 117 for more info.
or call 777-6142
Office of Student Disability Services
- a university sponsored service -

THAI LOTUS RESTAURANT

Authentic Japanese & Thai Cuisine with Large Sushi Bar

\$1 Sushi
7 days a week
Lunch & Dinner

Lunch Buffett
Sunday-Friday
11am-2pm
*includes iced tea

Best Thai Restaurant

\$5 OFF
Order of \$15 or more
Valid on Sushi & Menu Items. Expires 10/02/04
Not valid for buffet. One coupon per order.
Restrictions apply

612 ST. ANDREWS RD • ASHLAND PARK
561-0009 • 561-0006

Sun - Tue 10:30am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10:30am-11pm

Mother Nature Needs Your Help...

Become An Egg Donor!

Southeastern Fertility Center has helped many couples achieve pregnancy since 1983. We are in need of Egg Donors to continue to help infertile women.

- We need young, healthy women between 21 - 31
- Procedures are done in Mt. Pleasant, SC
- Requires only six weeks of your time
- Donors will be compensated \$2000 for their time

Egg Donation Program
843-856-1035 www.sefertility.com