

**Briefly**

**Pep rally to feature men's basketball**

The USC men's basketball team will be the focus of a pep rally at the Colonial Center today, featuring head coach Dave Odom and team captain Mike Boynton. The pep rally will also include the band and cheerleaders and will be at the fountain in front of the Colonial Center.

Attendees are advised to arrive at 2:45 p.m. and the basketball team will show up at 3 p.m., when Odom and Boynton will speak.

After the rally, the team will head off to Owens Field to catch a flight to Kansas City, Mo., for its NCAA Tournament First Round game against Memphis.

**Women's golf takes 2nd in tournament**

Participating on their home turf at the University Club in Blythewood, the USC women's golf team took second place in this past week's Lady

Gamecock Classic.

Winning the tournament was North Carolina with a total final score of +41. The Gamecocks led the Tar Heels after the first 36 holes of the 54-hole tournament by five strokes, but UNC would battle back to claim a nine-shot victory to take home its first Lady Gamecock Classic Championship.

The Tar Heels' Ashley Prange led from start to finish in the tournament, posting a final score of +3 to squeak by USC's Adrienne Gautreaux by three strokes. This was the second consecutive runner-up finish for Gautreaux, as she took second at last week's LSU/Cleveland Classic as well.

Also posting top 20 finishes for USC was the duo of Erica Battle and Jenna Pearson. Battle tied for fifth place in the tournament with a final score of +10, while Pearson placed 15th with a score of +14. The final two golfers competing in team competition for USC, Tiffany Catafygiotu and Kory

Thompson, finished in a tie for 26th and a tie for tie for 55th respectively.

**11-year employee resigns from USC**

USC's athletics department lost a long-time employee on Tuesday when 11-year employee Clyde Wrenn resigned from his position as assistant athletics director for high school relations.

USC said that Wrenn resigned to pursue other business opportunities. Wrenn served as the recruiting coordinator for USC's football program before entering his most recent position. He arrived at USC in 1993 after serving under Danny Ford as the recruiting coordinator at Clemson University.

Wrenn's name was mentioned in a scandal that involved former S.C. Governor Jim Hodges and football recruits. He was no longer to schedule or arrange prospect visits following the incident.

**Softball**

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base, and an error by Arkansas catcher Shana Easley allowed Sandel to score and Crane to advance to third.

Carolina couldn't take advantage of Crane's spot on third, but continued to shut down the Lady Razorbacks' bats and took the win.

Senior Stacey Johnson pitched all seven innings to earn another victory, bumping her record up to 9-1. Johnson gave up one unearned run, five hits and one walk, which was offset by her 10 strikeouts on the game.

**USC 2, Arkansas 1**

The Gamecocks had to go down to the wire to defeat Arkansas in the second game, but were able to pull it out again, thanks to Hall's clutch performance in extra in-

nings.

Arkansas scored its only run in the second inning, with an unearned run on an error by Smith. Lady Razorback Melissa Smith reached first on a single, but was tagged out on a fielder's choice when designated player B.J. Southmayd hit a single in the next at-bat.

Pinch runner Allie Benish came on in place of Southmayd and advanced to second off of a groundout by Easley before attempting to steal third. Benish was able to steal third and scored on the following error.

Up to the seventh inning, Arkansas pitcher Sarah Topham only gave up three hits and one walk. Then USC's Smith hit a single followed by Person, who pinch-hit for Curtis and was walked. Things looked gloomy for Carolina after the Gamecocks' Hall popped out and Hughes struck out, but Sandel walked up to the plate and singled to send in

Smith and tie up the game. USC wasn't able to score the winning run, though, leaving two players on base.

Pitcher Melanie Henkes got rid of the Lady Razorbacks' first three batters in order, allowing for Carolina to go to the bottom of the eighth with a chance to win.

The Gamecocks took advantage of the opportunity, with Hall hitting a single to drive in Crane for the win.

The win was Henkes' fourth victory of the season, putting her at 4-3 for the year, and gave USC head coach Joyce Compton her 1,000th-career win.

USC plays out the last game of the three-game series with Arkansas today at 4 p.m. at Beckham Field. The Gamecocks' next series will be at home against Auburn on March 27.

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

**Florida heads to tournament despite regular season turmoil**

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**GAINESVILLE, FLA.** — One starting guard didn't think he was good enough to play this season. The only senior on the team went from starter to role player. Possibly the most versatile guy on the opening-day roster is now playing in Spain.

At Florida, it's safe to say the madness started well before March.

Yet somehow, the Gators have withstood the turmoil and actually gotten better.

By their own coach's estimate, Florida has only three players capable of performing at the high level needed in the tournament. Still, fifth-seeded Florida (20-10) heads into the Thursday's NCAA opener against Manhattan having gone 6-2 in its last eight games, with the only two losses coming to No. 2 Kentucky.

"It's a basketball team playing on emotion," coach Billy

Donovan said. "We were 14-8. Nobody knew what direction we were going. They swam to the raft, and they're trying to pull themselves in."

Donovan has used the rather apt lifeboat-raft scenario to describe his team's predicament since Feb. 18, the day swingman Christian Drejer shockingly left to play professional basketball in Europe. It's the day that coincides with the beginning of Florida's hot streak. And while Drejer's loss surely did galvanize the Gators emotionally, it also depleted them.

Lee, Anthony Roberson and Matt Walsh are Florida's Big Three. They've accounted for 62 percent of the Gators' points over the last eight games. Beyond that, there is sophomore Adrian Moss, an improving player in the post. There is senior center Bonell Colas, a starter at the beginning of the season who has since been moved to the bench.

Most of the rest are freshmen, including Lee Humphrey, a soft-spoken Tennessee kid who went to Donovan early in the season and asked him what he thought about the possibility of his sitting out the rest of the year and taking a red-shirt.

Turned out, that wasn't possible, which might have been a good thing. After Drejer left, Humphrey was inserted in the starting lineup. On Friday, he made an 18-foot shot at the buzzer to beat Alabama in the quarterfinals of the SEC tournament.

The latest mini-crisis involves Walsh's foot. He spent time at the hospital Monday having a silicone sheath attached to the bottom of his foot to help heal a nasty blister that developed during the SEC tournament.

Donovan said he's confident Walsh will play Thursday, although he doesn't know how effective his second-leading scorer will be.

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