

USC SOCCER

Carolina conquers tournament

By BRIAN DAVIS
THE GAMECOCK

The USC men's soccer team earned its third-straight adidas-Gamecock Classic Championship with a 1-0 victory over Patriot League foe Bucknell on Sunday.

The game was tied 0-0 for the majority of regulation until a place-kick from freshman standout forward Sebastian Lindholm was sent across the goal and headed in by sophomore forward Michael Sambursky.

"On behalf of the entire team, it (the championship) is a very good accomplishment," coach Mark Berson said.

With the win, Carolina advances its undefeated record to 4-0 on the season. The game was full of intensity as the Gamecocks, coming off their physical victory over Portland, had trouble getting many scoring opportunities with only seven shots on goal.

"If you watched the whole tournament, the game versus Portland took a lot of us as you could tell it did to Portland in their noon game today," Berson said.

Additionally, the game included three yellow cards to Carolina

players while Bucknell received one yellow card and a red card to forward Eric Brunton. Bucknell was also assessed 20 fouls to the Gamecocks' 12.

Berson spoke of the value of experience and of the late goal and persistence displayed by the players.

"It was a big confidence booster and really an important lesson. Any game can turn at any second. It's good to be on the positive side of that lesson," Berson said.

In their opening game of the tournament Friday night, the Gamecocks upset No. 16 Portland 3-2. Sophomore striker Ayo Akinsete led the way with two goals, including the game-winner in the 78th minute from 12 yards out. Akinsete was substituted in about 20 minutes into each half due to an ankle injury that required him to sit out some. However, Akinsete was able to provide an excellent offensive performance.

"It's a great credit to him. He had that ankle injury, and we kept him out because of the two games we have this weekend. But, it's great to see him out there scoring goals again," Berson said.

The Gamecocks were on the

board first as Ryan Deter knocked in his first goal of the season in the 12th minute of the game. After a series of crisp passes, Deter struck the ball into the right corner of the net while being tightly defended.

Akinsete added to the lead in the 30th minute of the game, where he was able to gain control of, and tap in, his second goal off of a rebound from an Eric Szeszycki shot.

Portland quickly bounced back and scored moments later with a deep, powerful strike by Christopher Sanders. Despite the setback, the Gamecocks pressed on as they had several shots late in the half to maintain the pressure.

Akinsete extended the Gamecock lead and scored the game-winner in the 78th minute off of an impressive breakaway with some astounding passes between he and Deter.

Portland's Alejandro Salazar, a highly talented player in the West Coast Conference was held scoreless until the 85th minute of action where he tapped in a rebound goal. Nonetheless, Carolina's effort was unprecedented as it had over 10 shots in the second half and were able to pull out a victory against such a talented team.

"This is a very important one. They haven't lost this year and we lost to them last year, so this was a big win. We have lots of respect for the Portland team and program," Berson said.

The game was extremely physical as questionable officiating plagued the match. Coaches, players and fans had doubts about calls or missed calls on several headers, offsides plays, slide-tackles and other physical contact.

Berson said he felt this style of play worked in the Gamecocks' favor. He said Bucknell "came in with a game plan to shut us down, and they kept coming at us but we found a way out of it."

Four USC players, Akinsete, Sambursky, sophomore defender Makan Hislop and junior defender Josh Alcala, were named to the adidas-Gamecock Classic All-Tournament Team. Carolina will be in action this weekend in the UPenn Tournament at the University of Pennsylvania. The Gamecocks will play the host Quakers on Friday at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday at noon against Princeton.



KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

Junior defender Josh Alcala tries to hold off a William and Mary opponent. The Gamecocks remain undefeated after this weekend.

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

Gamecocks beaten twice by ACC foes

By CHARLIE WALKER
THE GAMECOCK

The USC women's soccer team saw its record fall to 4-3 after losing twice over the weekend in the Virginia Nike Soccer Classic.

Atlantic Coast Conference members and perennial powers Maryland and Virginia defeated the Gamecocks by 5-2 scores during the tournament in Charlottesville, Va.

The Gamecocks played well offensively during the matches, paced by senior forward Ashley Williams' three-goal weekend, but mental lapses and critical defensive miscues plagued the Gamecocks. Carolina surrendered nine second-half goals, five against the Terrapins and four against the Cavaliers.

In the first match against Maryland, USC got off to a strong start as Williams netted a goal in the 39th minute to put the Gamecocks up 1-0, a lead they would take into the locker room.

The second half, however, was dominated by Maryland as the Terps controlled the ball for the first 20 minutes of the half, scoring four unanswered goals; the first coming only 35 seconds into the half as Danielle Malagari's penalty kick was headed in by Mallory Mahar. Maryland forward Kelly Rozumalski added another goal in the 48th

minute giving Maryland a 2-1 advantage. Six minutes later, the Terrapins scored again off another free kick when midfielder Nataly Arias placed the free kick from Kimmy Francis into the corner of the net. Maryland added another goal from Mahar and a Francis 40-yard blast with five seconds remaining to complete the 5-2 route. USC would score again in the 87th minute on a Jenna Ball breakaway. USC failed to capitalize on many early opportunities as the Gamecocks outshot Maryland 15-11 and had a 7-1 advantage in corner kicks.

Despite the lopsided loss, Carolina head coach Shelley Smith was impressed with her team's effort for much of the game.

"We played them very well for most of the match but lost 5-2. Maryland did a good job coming out in the second half and there was a span of about 10 minutes that we fell apart. We gave up bad goals and you can't do that against teams. It was very unlike us. I thought we battled and continued to create scoring chances but couldn't get a couple more to go in," Smith said.

The final game of the weekend was much of the same, as the Gamecocks played well for a half but subsequently were bullied by No. 4 Virginia. The Gamecocks took the lead early as Williams scored from 25

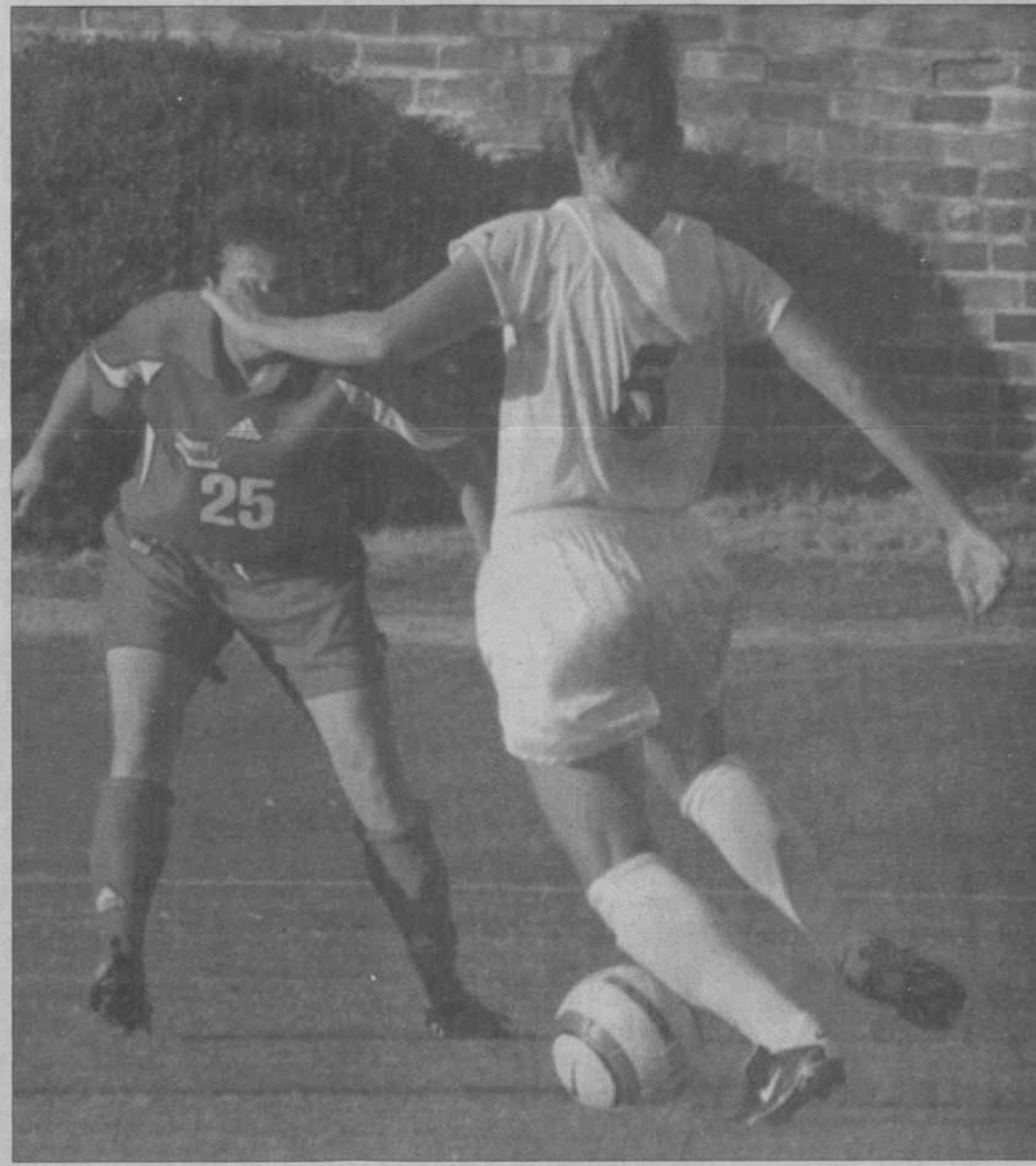
yards out, her second of the weekend and first of two on the day. Virginia answered quickly in the 35th minute on a penalty kick from Gillian Hatch. Tied 1-1 at the break, Virginia controlled the second half as four different Cavaliers scored to seemingly break the game wide open. Goals by Shannon Foley in the 53rd minute and Kelley Hammond in the 54th gave Virginia a 3-1 cushion.

The Gamecocks fought back, however, as Ashley Williams netted her second goal just three minutes after the Virginia goal. Williams came in on a breakaway and chipped the ball over Virginia keeper Christina de Vries to cut the UVA lead to 3-2 at the 57th minute mark. Virginia would add two late goals, though, as Lindsay Gusick scored in the 62nd minute and Sarah Huffman added another goal in the final minute of play.

Williams, midfielder Jessi Swaim, and defender Jackie Welch earned all-tournament honors for USC. Virginia finished the tournament in first place with a 2-0 record.

The Gamecocks return to action Wednesday in Columbia at 7 p.m. against in-state rival Clemson. USC will also host Charlotte on Sunday in the team's last non-conference match of the season.

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SARAH ZILINSKY/THE GAMECOCK

Junior defender Jackie Welch lines up a kick versus Georgia State earlier in the season. The women's soccer team dropped a pair of games this weekend against Maryland and Virginia in Charlottesville.

My heart lies on the sidelines

Reporter Jill Arrington is ESPN's very own goddess of the gridiron



STEPHEN FASTENAU

SECOND-YEAR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT

Despite the pain of a close loss to Georgia Saturday night and the embarrassment I felt after forgetting my place as an unbiased professional in the press box while celebrating an early Bulldog fumble, one bright spot helped to ease the disappointment of this weekend. It came in the form of a beautiful, 5-foot-10-inch, blue-eyed blonde I had the pleasure to meet on the set of ESPN GameDay Friday. No, it wasn't anchor Kirk Herbstreit (although he signed my hat). It was sideline reporter Jill Arrington.

Lost in the hype surrounding ESPN anchors Lee Corso, Chris



CHARLIE DAVENPORT/THE GAMECOCK

Despite a heartbreaking loss to the Georgia Bulldogs Saturday, Stephen Fastenau found solace in the form of a broadcast beauty.

Fowler and Herbstreit, Arrington was content to hang around the production trailer — safe from the catcalls of numerous drunken frat boys. The SportsCenter taping finished, the majority of the crowd either dispersed or ogled over Herbstreit and Fowler, and my friend Brandon and I spotted

Arrington talking on her cell phone off to the side of the set.

Waving my dollar bill in the air like an idiot — it was the only piece of paper I had for her to sign — I began hoping she did not get the wrong idea about my intentions. As

◆ Please see FASTENAU, page 10

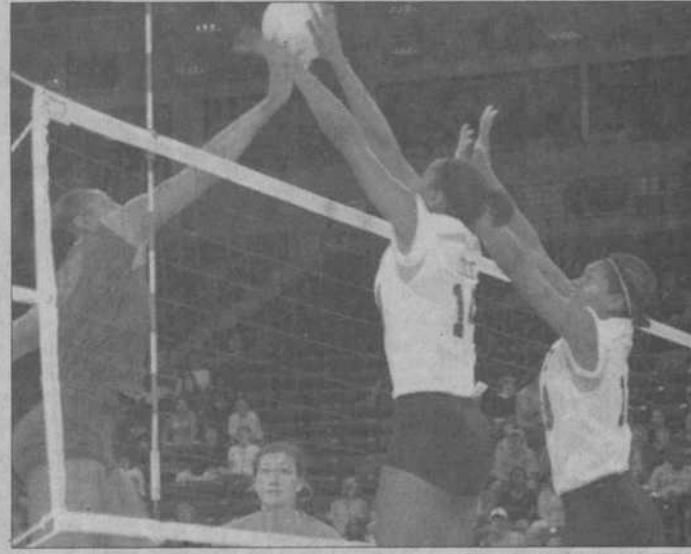
Volleyball falls to Duke in weekend invitational

By MEGAN GIBSON
THE GAMECOCK

The Gamecock women's volleyball team improved its record to 5-2 this past weekend at the Duke Invitational in Durham, N.C. The Gamecocks finished second in the tournament with wins against Towson and Northern Illinois University and a loss to home team Duke.

The first match of the tournament was against Duke Friday night. The Gamecocks lost 30-21, 30-21, 30-24 in a three-game sweep. USC had a season-low .055 kill percentage and a season-high 12 service errors. Carolina established early leads in the first two games, but was soon overthrown because of numerous unforced errors and Duke's Carrie DeMange's match high 13 kills.

In game three, USC came within two points late in the game to make the score 24-26, but the Blue Devils held them at 24 to win 30-24. The Gamecocks are now 1-



KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

Sophomore outside hitter and middle blocker Shonda Cole goes up for a block against in-state rival Clemson Tuesday.

2 against ACC teams this season. The Gamecocks then faced and defeated Northern Illinois Saturday morning 30-28, 30-27,

22-30, 30-21. Outside hitter Sarah Morgan recorded a season-high 12 kills. ◆ Please see VOLLEYBALL, page 10