

No. 15 Gamecocks rally to beat Bulldogs



NICK ESARES/THE GAMECOCK

Sophomore forward Ayo Akinsete battles a Gardner-Webb defender during Sunday's 3-2 come-from-behind victory at the Graveyard.

■ *USC scores two late goals to win third straight match*

By **BRIAN DAVIS**
THE GAMECOCK

The No. 15 South Carolina men's soccer team defeated Gardner-Webb 3-2 Sunday on two late goals by sophomore defender Josh Alcala.

Alcala tallied the game winner at the 88:57 mark on a give-and-go with junior forward Ryan Deter.

"Certainly the team had an excellent effort in the second half. We really took control. It's very difficult to come back from down 2-0," USC head coach Mark Berson said.

Gardner-Webb marked the scoreboard first on a floater shot from 18 yards out by forward Brian Wentzel into the upper left corner of the goal.

Just over three minutes later, the Bulldogs took a commanding lead into halftime on an unassisted goal by Darnell Carroll into the lower right-

hand corner of the goal.

At halftime, the Gamecocks were leading in shots 9-3, but simply had not been able to capitalize as well as the Bulldogs.

At the start of the second half, however, the Gamecocks looked determined and were attacking relentlessly as they took 10 shots in the first 15 minutes of play.

Finally, in the 72nd minute, Alcala was penetrating into the box and was fouled, allowing junior midfielder Eric Szeszycki to tally his second goal of the season.

Down 2-1, the Gamecocks continued to fight, accumulating 34 shots in the second half, 14 of which were on goal.

Continuing the pressure, the Gamecocks tied the game at 2-2 in the 88th minute of play. Szeszycki struck the ball from 18 yards out, and as Bulldog goalkeeper Tyler Kettering batted it down, it went out of his grasp and Alcala stepped up and drilled it into the back of the net from 6 yards out.

With the fans at Eugene E. Stone III

Stadium reinvigorated and the score tied with just over a minute remaining, the Gamecocks were out to win, not tie.

After some efficient passing, Deter broke free and Alcala fed the ball to him. As Deter approached the goal, he returned it to the red hot Alcala, who slipped it to the right of a diving Gardner-Webb keeper to seal the victory.

"This was a tale of two halves for [Alcala]. First half he was struggling, and in the second, he turned his game up a lot, we need him every game. He really delivered this afternoon," Berson said.

The South Carolina defense, headed by sophomore Makan Hislop, junior Greg Reece, sophomore Stephen Sprague and Alcala held the Bulldogs to six shots in the game, and none on goal for the entire second half.

With the win, the Gamecocks advance to 7-1-1 with their only blemishes of the season being a loss to the Penn Quakers and a tie against the Princeton Tigers. USC will face

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MARK BERSON
USC HEAD SOCCER COACH

Clemson on Sunday at 2 p.m. at Stone Stadium. Regarding the importance of a win heading into the annual showdown against the Gamecock's biggest rival, the Clemson Tigers, Berson spoke of the simple value of winning.

"Well, it's very important no matter when it is in the schedule. Clearly at home it's important to get this win. Going into the Clemson game, it's nice to have the momentum but also have a little humility," Berson said.

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

Carolina ties Georgia, falters to Tennessee

By **STEPHANIE PENDRYS**
THE GAMECOCK

The South Carolina women's soccer team spent the first weekend of October playing a pair of conference home matches at the Graveyard. The results were less than desired for USC, who tied Georgia 1-1 and lost to Tennessee 3-1.

The Gamecocks matched up against the Georgia Bulldogs on Friday night, and both teams were looking to earn their first SEC victory. After a scoreless opening period, Georgia struck first in the second half thanks in part to a South Carolina penalty. Senior Elizabeth Metherell connected on a direct kick beyond the 18-yard line at the 54:17 to give Georgia a one-goal lead. Minutes later, South Carolina defender Sarah Lentz was knocked to the ground as she crossed the ball, and the Gamecocks were awarded a penalty kick. Junior USC defender Jackie Welch took the kick and tied the game at 1-1 with a well-timed shot to the left corner post.

The score remained unchanged for the duration of regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods. The Gamecocks did not register a shot during the two extra frames, while Georgia fired seven but was unable to convert. Georgia finished the game with a 15-12 shot advantage, and South Carolina tallied seven corner kicks to the Bulldogs' six. Georgia left the game with a 2-5-3 overall record and 0-2-1 in league play, while USC stood at 6-5-1 with a 0-2-1 SEC mark identical to the Bulldogs.

The Sunday afternoon match pitted

The USC women's soccer team, still in search of its first SEC win, hits the road for its next two conference matches.

the Gamecocks, still hungry for their first SEC victory, against the Tennessee Volunteers, defending SEC champion and No. 19 in the country. The contest was played against a brightly colored backdrop created by the various soccer jerseys worn by the dozens of Lexington county youth soccer players in attendance. Sunday's game was free to children 13 and under, and the kids and other spectators took advantage of the balmy early autumn weather at kickoff.

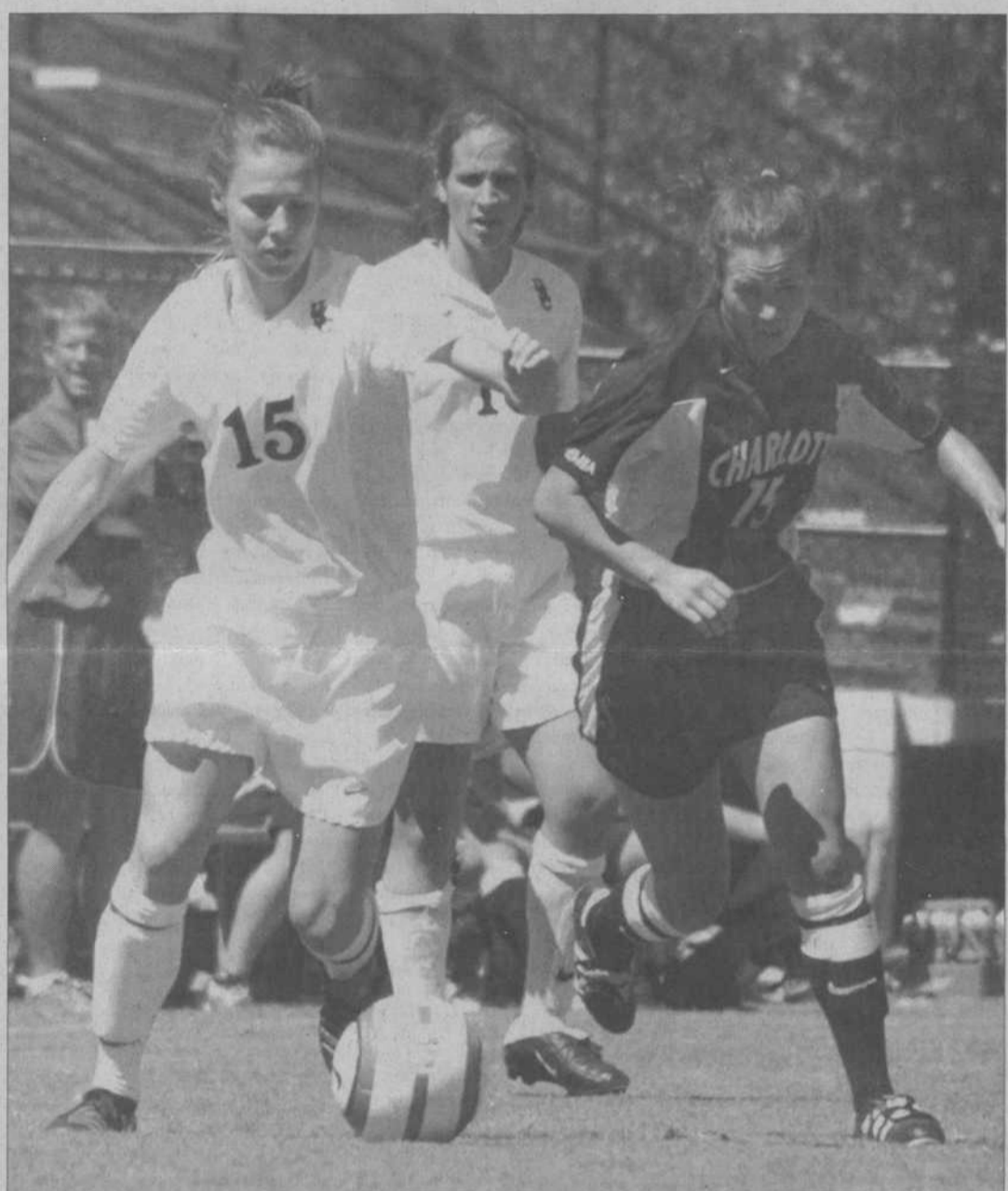
The early domination by the Volunteers set a fast tempo for the game — seemingly quicker than the Gamecocks were used to playing — and resulted in several wayward passes and lost balls on the part of the USC players. A crisp header by USC defender Sarah Lentz woke up the Gamecock offense, which followed up Lentz's sound play with tightly woven passes among the forwards and midfielders. Intensive and conscientious play by Ashley Kirk created a number of offensive opportunities for the Gamecocks, but many of these were dissolved by the swift footwork and thunderous clears by Tennessee defender and fellow freshman Erica Griffin. Tennessee got on the scoreboard first with a goal by

sophomore midfielder Ali Christoph. The shot was a line drive taken outside the 18 and appeared to move in slow motion, much to the dismay of Gamecock fans, who responded with a collective gasp as the ball sailed above and out of the reach of USC goalie Lindsay Thorstenson.

The sun vanished at the start of the second half and clouds covered the skies; the imminent thunderstorm was appropriate considering the shots that rained down on USC goalkeeper Thorstenson from the Tennessee offense. The Gamecocks fell into an ineffective and sluggish routine of spending more time settling airborne passes or kicking the ball away from the charging Tennessee offense than they did creating goal-scoring opportunities. The Volunteers took advantage of the Gamecocks' lack of control and scored two more goals in the early part of the second half and two minutes within one another. In heavy traffic, Sue Flamini launched a shot that the statuesque USC defense watched land in the back of the net, which put Tennessee on top by two at 51:19. Kristin McGrath extended the lead to three goals at 53:14 by flicking a corner kick by Genna Gorman between the posts.

South Carolina showed a flash of its grit and potential midway through the second half and strung together several goal-scoring chances in a span of 15 minutes, with their first goal coming at 66:47. USC sophomore Jessi Swaim

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KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

Freshman midfielder Annie Galloway, left, dribbles downfield in a game against Charlotte earlier this season: The Gamecocks tied Georgia on Friday and lost to Tennessee 3-1 Sunday at Stone Stadium.

Few things more unfulfilling than The Wave

■ **The one thing to sway your eyes from the game since cheerleaders**

In high school, we had a dress code. The rule generally went something like this: If the girl could put her arms straight down by her sides and still touch cloth, whatever garment she was wearing was permissible. (My hot-leg white tennis shorts were always allowed, although not because they weren't too short, but because my legs were so pale the teachers couldn't tell the difference between my blindingly bleached skin and the ridiculously hot shorts I was wearing.)

Regardless, other than chosen dress, only one other clothing item was an exception to the rule and it related specifically to a specific group: cheerleaders. Never in my life have I seen such short skirts—literally, their backsides would tumble out of their mini-uniforms, revealing their spirit-colored bloomers.

All this to say: Guys couldn't keep their eyes off them. It's like watching dogs sprint to a treat. It was probably the most brilliant thing anyone ever got away with—somehow, in one of the most conservative societies in the world, girls are allowed to wear skirts SHORTER THAN their junk in their trunk.

Fast forward to Carolina football. Directly in front of the student section, the cheerleaders reign over every guy in the audience. As if being their in their brilliantly designed uniforms wasn't enough, the dudes sky rocket them to a platform of Greek god proportions.

But still, something's wrong.



DAVID STAGG

FOURTH-YEAR
MEDIA ARTS
STUDENT



You know what I'm talking about. Occasionally, one of the girls would get flung into your personal viewing frame and your mouth would drop—not because of their unis—but because they're doing some ridiculous trick like a 360-degree triple salchow open air split back flip kick ma-bobber thingie that you only tried once when you were dared to for free drinks the rest of the night even though you were already drunk.

And if cheerleaders can't sway your view from the football game, what on earth can?

I'll tell you what, and it's not what you'd expect, except that you've already read the headline to this column and now the brilliant line I'm about to make will be very uncleverly anticlimactic: The Wave. That damned Wave. The process is long and arduous, but once it starts, it's a train wreck. You

The Wave in all its glory. You're watching the game, life is going on as usual and then it starts. And it keeps going. And next thing you know, the world has faded away, and it's just you and The Wave.

DAVID STAGG/THE GAMECOCK

don't want to see it. You don't want to admit it's going around—but you can't look away. You know the scene: At first, you hear some random drunk dude behind you start yelling...

DUDE: C'MON GUYS! LET'S DO THE WAVE!

YOU *in thought*: (Oh man, this is real awkward.)

DUDE: SERIOUSLY! THIS'LL BE GREAT!

C'MON! ONE! TWO! THREE! GOOOOO!

(No one moves. That drunk dude does, but almost tumbles over upon standing up.)

YOU: (Please let it end. Dear Lord, please let this end.)

DUDE: HAHA! THAT WAS SOOO SWEET!

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

And this continues on randomly until every single

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Volleyball falls to UK in season's fifth loss

■ **Solid effort by young Gamecocks fails to seal victory**

By **MIQUEL JACOBS**
THE GAMECOCK

It was a disappointing night for the USC volleyball team as the Gamecocks were unable to pull out a win against Kentucky despite their inspired play. The result was a heartbreaking 3-2 decision that dropped the Gamecocks to 8-5, 1-3 in the SEC.

Iris Santos and Crystal Johnson, normally supporting players in USC's system, both posted career nights in the closest match of the season for the Gamecocks. Santos, a sophomore setter, posted her career high in assists with 25 to go along with her season highs in kills (9), digs (13), and blocks (3). Likewise, Johnson, a freshman middle blocker, was named game MVP and posted her career-high in kills (5) as well as her first collegiate block as she saw her most extensive action of the season. Juniors Nicole Miller and Sarah Morgan were not to be left out as Miller's eight blocks also set a career-best to go with Morgan's fourth double-double of the season (17 kills, 15 digs).

The Wildcats seemed comfortable in game one as they enjoyed a two-point

lead for a majority of the evenly matched game. Carolina eventually gave Kentucky a scare after a Santos kill cut the score to 28-29; however, the Wildcats were able to claim the first game 28-30.

The second and third games allowed USC head coach Kim Hudson to experiment with her team as she played Santos, Johnson and freshman Andie Evans in extended minutes. The change-up provided a spark as Carolina was able to cruise to victory in game two with a score of 30-24. Following the break, the Gamecocks soon regained control as one of Shonda Cole's 16 kills gave Carolina a permanent lead en route to its second win of the night (30-25). The Wildcats were outmatched in the third game as they hit .075 percent for the match compared to Carolina's .318.

In an effort to even the match at two apiece, Kentucky again relied on a strong performance from junior Danielle Wallace to keep them within two points. After Kentucky claimed the lead 19-22, Carolina went to a smaller line-up to help with defense. This made no difference, however, as the Wildcats were able to hold off the Gamecocks 28-30 to force a decisive final game.

The fifth game began going Carolina's way as the Gamecocks enjoyed a two-point cushion going to

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