



Sorensen considering 3 athletic director candidates

By **STEPHEN FASTENAU**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

USC President Andrew Sorensen has not had a shortage of applications to wade through in his search for a new athletic director.

Sorensen met with the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee on Friday and announced that he had received three dozen "unsolicited expressions of interest" for the job Mike McGee will be leaving as of June 30.

Sorensen said the majority of those who have expressed interest in the job are current athletic directors at Division I-A universities.

Sorensen also noted that there were "a number of other people prominent in intercollegiate athletics" who had expressed

interest in the position.

Internally, Sorensen named three candidates — current USC baseball coach Ray Tanner and senior associate athletic directors Chris Massaro and Brad Edwards.

Tanner and Massaro have already interviewed for the position. Edwards is scheduled to meet with Sorensen this week.

Sorensen said he would not look specifically at candidates from within USC but that he would choose whom he found the most qualified.

Tanner received a Bachelor of Arts degree in recreation resources administration from N.C. State in 1980 and his master's in public administration there in 1983. A four-year starter as a baseball player for the Wolfpack, Tanner became an assistant coach at his alma mater after

graduation. In 1988, Tanner took over as head coach and stayed nine years before coming to USC in 1996.

In the last five years, no Division I-A coach has won more games than Tanner. The Smithfield, N.C., native has compiled a 260-87 record over that time frame, including three straight trips to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Massaro received his bachelor's degree from Northern Colorado in 1983 and his master's in sports administration from Ohio University in 1986. He came to USC on a one-year internship while at Ohio, was named assistant ticket manager in 1986 and has been with the university ever since.

A member of the executive committee of the Sports Management Institute, Massaro is

also on the SEC men's basketball tournament ticket committee.

Edwards, an All-American safety at USC and a nine-year NFL veteran, is the chief financial officer for the athletics department.

Among the many who have contacted McGee, one might very well be Florida senior associate athletics director Greg McGarity, who has expressed interest in the position. Former USC quarterback and ex-NFL head coach Dan Reeves has also been mentioned as a candidate.

McGee announced his intentions to step down as AD on Jan. 18. McGee arrived at USC in 1993 after lengthy stints as AD with Southern Cal and Cincinnati.



CHARLIE DAVENPORT/THE GAMECOCK

USC baseball coach Ray Tanner has been interviewed by USC President Andrew Sorensen for the athletic director position.

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

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JASON GETZ/THE GAMECOCK

Alabama forward Chuck Davis, left, drives to the basket as USC center Antoine Tisby defends during the first half Saturday.

'Bama pummels Gamecock defense

Tide's hot shooting befuddles Carolina in blowout victory

By **WES WOLFE**
THE GAMECOCK

If it was a game of two halves for USC: The first half was a bad dream and the second half was a nightmare.

Carolina (14-9, 6-6 SEC) was taken to the woodshed by No. 16 Alabama (21-4, 10-2 SEC) Saturday, finally falling, 87-68. The Gamecocks never led in the game, with their last chance for a lead going the way of the dodo at the 3:17 mark in the first half.

"We were beaten by the best team we've played, this year, on this particular day," USC coach Dave Odom said.

Odom said Carolina didn't do a bad job on executing its game, but that Alabama did that much better. This is especially true considering the second half, when the Gamecocks shot 51.6 percent from the field — shooting better than Bama for the half.

Though Carolina was beaten by 19 points and Bama had a lead as high as 30, the Gamecocks were in the game until forward Jean Felix, the Congo connection, came into the game for the Tide. USC had cut Alabama's lead from eight points to one point on a

layup by center Antoine Tisby with five minutes left in the first half. With 3:17 left in the first, Felix hit his first 3-point basket, followed by his second trey less than a minute later. Felix put two free throws on his tally at the 45-second mark — enough to lead Bama with eight points going into halftime. Only two shots from the charity stripe from forward Carlos Powell put a dent in what was a 12-2 Alabama run to end the half.

Alabama guard Ernest Shelton, who ended the game with 16 points, credited Felix with jump-starting the team.

"We went through a period there where I think I missed a few shots and [Kennedy Winston] missed a few shots. Felix just stepped in and hit some big ones for our team."

Odom said Felix didn't catch the Gamecocks entirely off-guard.

"It's not like the guy was, you know, somebody from Mars that we've never heard of. The guy — we knew about him, and we respected him."

Odom said USC needed the right personnel to counter a threat like Felix, but did not have it.

"I think we rolled through our lineup, and we probably didn't have enough size on the court at that position at that time," Odom said.

Odom said if he could do it

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FINALLY

Gamecocks take first SEC victory of 2004-2005 season

By **MIQUEL JACOBS**
STAFF WRITER

The USC women's basketball team has only been able to beat one SEC team in the past two seasons. Led by sophomore guard Stacy Booker's 19 points and nine rebounds Sunday, the Gamecocks ended a school record nine-game losing streak and won an SEC game for the first time in 18 tries.

The last victory came Feb. 12, 2004, with a 77-51 decision over Alabama at home.

This time, the Tide played competitively but still faltered at the Colonial Center to give Carolina its first SEC win with a 66-57 victory. Carolina improves to 7-19 overall and 1-11 in conference play.

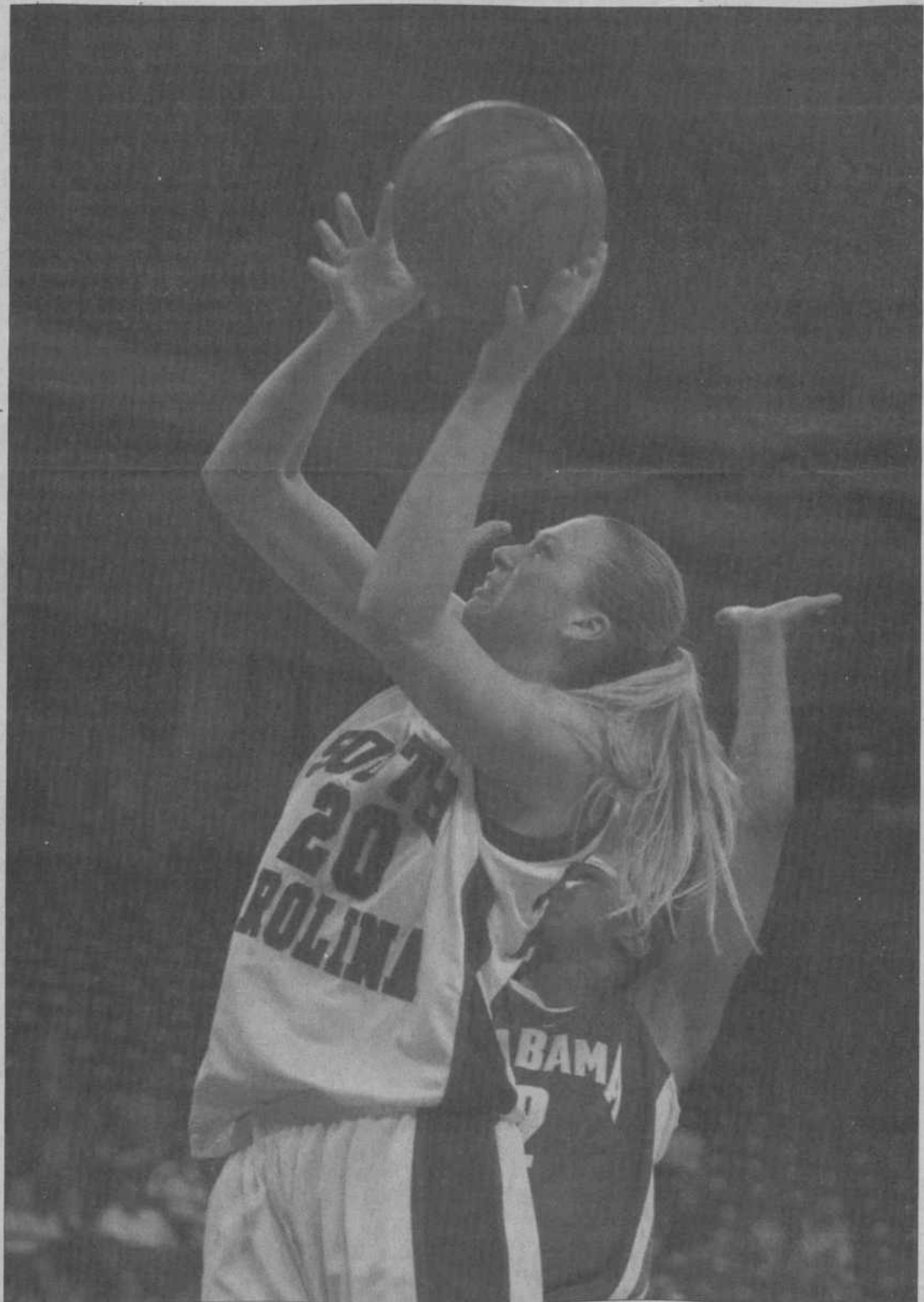
"Our team played extremely well today," USC coach Susan Walvius said. "Stacy Booker had an exceptional game. For the whole team, the execution was there, the team effort was there, the team communication was there."

Alabama struck first in the game but would not be on top for long, losing its lead when Booker put back a miss by sophomore Lauren Simms for Carolina's first time on top, 7-6. The Tide would never again lead the Gamecocks. During the next six minutes, the Gamecocks collected three steals before Booker's fast-break layup gave Carolina a 26-16 lead with 7:52 remaining in the first half. By this point, she had already collected 14 points and six rebounds.

"We're very relieved," an almost speechless Booker said. "We knew we could come out there and win it. This will give us confidence going into our game Thursday."

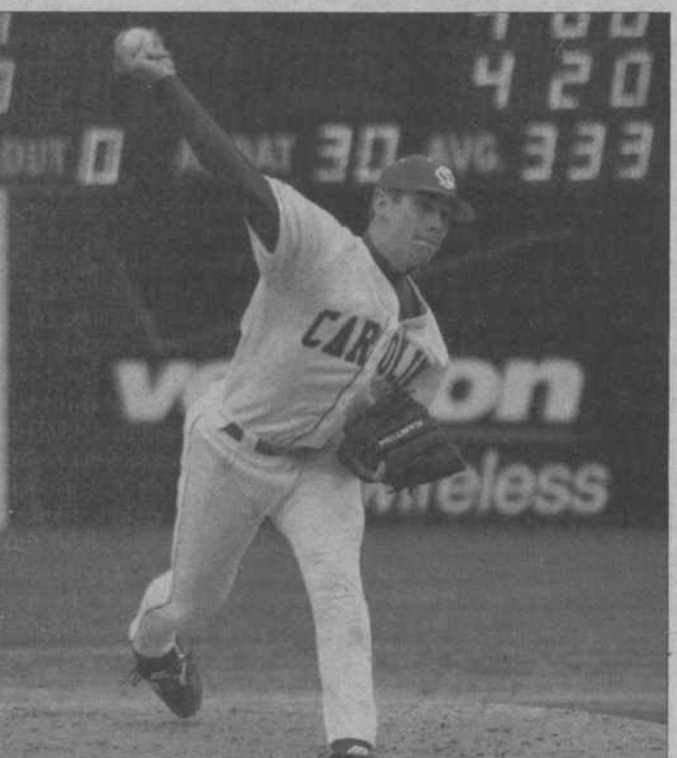
Carolina was faced with a frightening situation when team captain Simms fell to the floor in pain with 6:29 remaining in the

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CHARLIE DAVENPORT/THE GAMECOCK

Junior forward Olga Gritsaeva goes up for a layup in Sunday's game against Alabama. USC defeated the Crimson Tide to notch the first victory of the conference season for the young Gamecock team.



CHARLIE DAVENPORT/THE GAMECOCK

Pitcher Forrest Beverly hurls a strike Sunday against Radford.

Baseball sweeps overmatched Radford

By **ALEX RILEY**
STAFF WRITER

With opening-weekend jitters behind it, the No. 7 Carolina baseball squad (6-0) flexed its muscles, sweeping a Radford (1-5) team that was facing a slow start to the new season.

The series opener placed red-hot senior Aaron Rawl back on the mound for the second time this season. Rawl garnered SEC pitcher of the week honors last week after seven innings of work in the 5-1 win over Longwood in the season opener. Rawl looked every bit the ace he showed last week, going six innings, allowing six hits and recording five strikeouts.

Rawl's effort would be overshadowed by an offensive explosion, as the Gamecocks ripped everything the Lancers could throw at them. USC racked up 20 runs on 23 hits, to score an impressive 20-0 win.

The offense was clicking to say the least, as seven of Carolina's first 10 hits were doubles. Carolina finished with 10 total doubles, one short of a new team record. Junior Steven Tolleson went 3-for-5 on the day with a double and two triples, doubling his career total in triples.

With an impressive win under their belts, the Gamecocks found themselves in unfamiliar territory during the first inning of game two, as Radford jumped out to a 1-0 lead, making it the first time Carolina had trailed all season.

That lead quickly dissipated, as a Cory Vanderhook sacrifice fly and Jon Willard RBI single gave USC a 2-1 lead it would not surrender. The rest of the game Carolina laid it on the Lancers, piling up seven doubles on the game and two home runs in the fourth — one by sophomore catcher Ryan Mahoney and the other by Vanderhook.

The remainder of the game belonged to senior Zac McCamie, who pitched only five innings but yielded only one run on four hits while striking out seven. Three Carolina pitchers combined to close out a 16-4 USC win.

With the series clinched, USC headed into Sunday's matchup looking for its second series sweep of the season. Dark skies and heavy rains delayed the 1:30 p.m. start time and seemed to delay the Gamecocks' readiness to play.

Sophomore Forrest Beverly earned his second star of the season but did not stay around long enough to make an impact, as he failed to make it through the first inning. Beverly gave up three runs on four hits and was quickly pulled and replaced by freshman Andrew Cruse.

Cruse's performance in relief was nothing short of stunning, as he gave up only four hits and one run for the

entire game, while striking out two en route to the first win of his college career. Sophomore Conor Lalor picked up the first save of his career, pitching shutout baseball for three innings while striking out five.

The Gamecock offense was lacking the consistent play it showed the first two games but found a way to squeak away with a win. After struggling since the opening pitch of the season, senior outfielder Brendan Winn erupted back into the spotlight, crushing his first career grand-slam homer in the first and adding another solo shot in the sixth. The two long balls of the game gave Winn four hits on the season, three of which have gone long.

"It's about time," Winn said. "I made some adjustments this morning. We're playing pretty good. I can't complain."

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