

■ SCRIMMAGE

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"Our receivers are good," he said. "They are fearless and they have heart. (Junior) Syvelle Newton caught a lot of passes today and that is encouraging. It was an encouraging day."

Junior Noah Whiteside finished the day with two catches for 23 yards and Newton finished with four catches for 89 yards. One of the day's highlights came when Mitchell eluded a pass rush, scrambled to his right and, while on the run, found a streaking Newton for a 42-yard pass completion.

Wednesday's scrimmage began with a quick three-and-out led by Mitchell. However, on the next drive, Mitchell led the first team on a 14-play drive that drove down the field to the 4-yard line. The offense was unable to score on third down when Mitchell threw a fade pass to redshirt freshman wide receiver Sidney Rice who caught the ball but was ruled out of bounds. Rice looked to have another touchdown catch later in the scrimmage before senior cornerback Tremaine Tyler ripped the ball from his hands in the end zone for an interception.

The offensive line played considerably better than in Saturday's scrimmage, allowing five sacks Wednesday versus 13 Saturday.

"The tackles, guards and the center need to improve, but when they do, we have a very good chance of having a pretty decent offense in the fall," Spurrier said.

Carolina's defense has looked solid all year long, and Wednesday's scrimmage was no exception. Carolina's D combined for 11 tackles for losses from 11 different players. The biggest surprise this spring on the defense has to be sophomore defensive lineman Stanley Doughty. Doughty has come out to play, and he is extremely vocal. "Nobody can block Stanley Doughty," Spurrier said. "He is all over the place making tackles."

The secondary also played well Wednesday, coming away with two interceptions — one by Tyler and the other by sophomore linebacker Dustin Lindsay, who returned it for a 43-yard touchdown.

On the injury front, Whiteside is fully recovered from his sprained wrist. Junior running back Cory Boyd, sophomore offensive lineman James Thompson and senior defensive end Charles Silas will not return for spring practice.

"None of the guys who are listed on the injury list will play this spring," Spurrier said. "They will have to learn how to play in the summer. But it hasn't been that bad of a spring, injury wise."

The Gamecocks will practice again at 4:15 p.m. Friday at the Bluff Road practice fields, and practice will be open to the public. Next week Carolina will practice Monday and Wednesday before taking off two days for the Garnet and Black game, which will be held Saturday, April 16 at 1 p.m. at Williams-Brice Stadium.

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■ SOFTBALL

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repeats itself and that they are able to defend Beckham Field as well as they did in 2003. With both teams desperate to wipe the bad taste of SEC defeats out of their mouths, this midseason matchup is guaranteed to be all the more exciting.

The Gators are one of the SEC's best-hitting squads, with a lineup that includes three players batting well above .300 for the season. Junior outfielder Lindsey Cameron, batting in the cleanup spot, is leading the way for Florida with an impressive .378 mark. Cameron is followed by Gator sophomores Shelley Stevens (.353) and Melissa Zick (.333). In the Georgia series, Zick extended her career-long hit streak to 11 games to set a new Florida sophomore record, and she is riding the third-longest streak in school history.

The Gamecocks will also have to keep a close eye on junior infielder Stacie Pestrak, who leads the Florida squad with 17 stolen bases. USC can expect some heavy heat from Florida senior pitcher Mandy Schuerman (9-3), who leads the team with a 1.55 ERA. Sophomore Stacey Stevens has been the workhorse for the

Gators, logging 140.0 innings pitched and 140 strikeouts on the season.

Florida started this season with an 11-game winning streak, broken by Notre Dame Feb. 13. The Gators, third in the SEC Eastern division, have a 6-4 record, with all losses coming at the hands (or gloves) of SEC opponents. Florida will be in action Thursday night against in-state rival Florida State before heading north to Columbia.

Before their matchup with the Georgia Bulldogs, USC went 4-0 last week with a pair of doubleheader sweeps against North Carolina and SEC opponent Kentucky. The win against UK snapped USC's four-game conference-losing streak. Freshman Jessica Josker led the Gamecocks in hitting with a .615 average, while senior Aleca Johnson went 2-0 and recorded her fourth save of the year. Johnson has 17 career saves and is USC's all-time leader in this category, surpassing Megan Matthews' record of 16.

USC will need its sluggers to connect at the plate. Josker has been one of the most consistent players at the plate, recording hits in two of the three Georgia games. Junior catcher Ashley Smith

surgery, but (junior Ian) Paxton has stepped up. We've been missing Winn, and Mark Stanley has stepped in to do a good job. If you're going to be a good program, you've got to find a way to win."

LSU will greet the Gamecocks with three left-handed pitchers, beginning with senior Lane Mestepey (5-3, 2.93 ERA). Saturday's starter will be undefeated sophomore Clay Dirks (7-0, 3.02 ERA), with junior Greg Smith (4-1, 2.98 ERA) taking the mound Sunday. Mestepey has been LSU's No. 1 pitcher in rotation since arriving in Baton Rouge in his All-American 2001 season.

"He's been at LSU longer than I've been at Carolina," Tanner joked. "It seems like we've faced him 10 times. He's a quality pitcher."

The series begins at 7:30 p.m.

■ TIGERS

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increased his streak to 12 games. Both have taken the pressure off senior Steve Pearce (eight home runs, 26 RBIs) and junior Steven Tolleson (28 RBIs) to lead the offensive attack. Other players have also taken on increased roles after injuries to senior Brendan Winn and junior Cory Vanderhook — namely junior Mark Stanley, who has started four of the past five games at right field. Each player has performed well and will continue to vie for playing time when everyone returns healthy.

"I'm proud of these guys," Tanner said. "No one has made excuses. Vanderhook went down, and (sophomore Ryan) Mahoney is only 10 months removed from

USC also swept the discus event. Sophomore Joseph Schroeder finished first with a throw of 157 feet. Trout finished second with a throw of 151-3, and Jason Cook was third at 137-10. Schroeder was also first in the javelin throw with a toss of 192-9. Cook finished third in men's shot put with a distance of 43-3.

Freshman Derek Pressly was second in the triple jump and finished fifth in the long jump with a distance of 21-9. Sophomore Trey Bell finished second in pole vault with a regional-qualifying height of 16-7.



AMY SANCETTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defending Masters champion Phil Mickelson tees off on the 9th hole during first-round play of the 2005 Masters at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. Mickelson finished at 2-under-par.

■ MASTERS

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out of whack before players even arrived at Augusta National — tee times were pushed back five times as more than an inch of rain fell, leading to a 5 1/2-hour delay and players starting from both tees.

Along with picking up three birdies on the front nine, Singh twice saved par with 10-foot putts. His only bogey came on the 11th hole, the last one he played before the round was suspended, leaving him at 2 under.

Mickelson was all smiles when he stepped to the first tee, looking not much differently from when he left the Masters last year wearing a green jacket. He opened with a bogey, but kept himself out of trouble most of the day and gave himself ample birdie chances.

Goosen, the forgotten figure in all the hype over the "Big Four," made a rare birdie on the par-3 12th, then recovered from a tee shot into the azaleas on the par-5 13th to escape with par.

It wasn't the fast, fiery course most players wanted to see, conditions that have not been around since the course was super-sized three years ago.

Even with the greens soft and holding approach shots, only 10 of the 92 players were under par, and already there were five scores at 80 or higher among those who finished.

Woods hasn't broken par in the first round of the Masters since he won in 2002, and that's where he was headed this year — some of that because of bad shots and bad judgment, some from sheer bad luck.

He reached the par-5 13th in

two with a risky shot out of the pines, leaving him a 70-foot eagle putt. But he misjudged the speed so badly that the ball raced by the hole, tumbled down the bank and went into Rae's Creek. He looked as though he might get that shot back when his approach into No. 1 descended on the flag, but Woods turned away in shock when it hit the bottom of pin and spun off to the side into a bunker, turning birdie into bogey.

He wasn't alone in his misery.

Paul Casey, who tied for sixth last year in his Masters debut, took a 10 on the 13th hole and shot 79. David Toms stood over a 20-foot putt on the 14th hole until a gust blew his ball down the slope and into the fairway. He made a double bogey, and shot 41 on his outward nine.

Still, nothing quite compared with Casper.

A 51-time winner on the PGA Tour who got overlooked in the Big Three era of the 1960s, the 73-year-old got plenty of attention in his return to Augusta National.

He hit five balls into the water on the par-3 16th and took 14, the highest score on any hole in the Masters. By the time he finished 12 holes, he already shot his age. His score of 106 would also go down in the record books, except that Casper declined to turn in his card.

"That's going in the scrapbook," Casper said.

First- and second-round coverage (all times EDT)										Third-round coverage										
April 7-8, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. (replay), USA Network										April 9, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., CBS										
YARDAGE AND PAR (7,290 yds. • par 72)										Fourth-round coverage										
April 10, 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., CBS																				
HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	HOLE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	OUT
YARDS	435	575	350	205	455	180	410	570	460	YARDS	495	490	155	510	440	500	170	425	465	3,640
PAR	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	PAR	4	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	4	36
																				IN
																				3,650
																				36

SOURCE: Augusta National Golf Course

AP

displayed her hitting prowess in the third game against Georgia, batting in both runs in the Gamecocks' 9-2 loss.

USC also needs to do a better job of bringing Gamecocks around the horn, having left 18 players stranded on the bases in the Georgia series.

This weekend's series is crucial for both teams with the SEC Tournament only five weeks away. The first pitch of Saturday's doubleheader is set for 1 p.m. Sunday's game is set for a 2 p.m. start.

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Friday at Alex Box Stadium in Louisiana and continues 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

"There's not too many teams that go out to The Box and survive," Tanner said. "It's a great environment for college baseball and our guys are looking forward to it."

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2005 Faculty/Staff and Student Baseball Ticket Distribution

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
April 11, 12, 13

Pick-up w/ ID @ the USC Box Office
8:30am-5:00pm

Clemson Baseball Game

April 20, 2005

@Sarge Frye Field

Briefly

Track teams succeed at USATF title meet

USC track and field competed in the USATF State Championship Wednesday, finishing with an impressive performance that included top finishes in both track and field events.

The Gamecocks swept men's hammer. Freshmen Tyler Trout, Jacob Minskey and Anthony Faulkner finished first, second and third, respectively, in the event.

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