

SEC News & Notes

Harris, Mullins earn conference honors

LSU second baseman Clay Harris was named SEC Player of the Week for his efforts against Ole Miss last week. Harris batted .625 for the week, launching six home runs and seven RBIs in the Tigers' series win against the No. 20 Rebels.

The senior from Slidell, La., won Saturday's game with a ninth-inning walk-off solo home run. Harris unloaded a grand slam in Friday's contest against the Rebels, aiding his 1.333 slugging percentage for the week. On the year, Harris is batting .392 with 13 doubles, one triple and seven home

runs, contributing to 38 RBIs.

Vanderbilt junior Ryan Mullins was named SEC Pitcher of the Week after pitching a near-complete game in a series-clinching 2-1 victory against USC. It was the first series win for the Commodores in Columbia and only the second in school history. Before Friday's win, Vandy had lost 12 consecutive contests to the Gamecocks and had won just one matchup in its last 25 against USC.

Bama junior infielder awarded for streak

Alabama infielder Staci Ramsey was

named SEC Player of the Week for extending her hitting streak to five games. The junior also finished a triple away from hitting for the cycle against USC.

The Houston native totaled six hits, including a double and two home runs, while driving in four runs and batting .462. Ramsey is eighth on the Crimson Tide all-time home run list.

LSU sophomore Emily Turner was recognized as SEC Pitcher of the Week. Turner went 3-0 in three complete game showings against Ole Miss last week, giving up just one earned run in 21 innings.

■ CLEMSON

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up team in 2002 went 1-3 against Clemson in the regular season but made up for it by defeating the Tigers on national television twice in three days (12-4, 10-2) to face Texas for the title. The 2000 and 2001 seasons have gone down as the only two in which Tanner won the series, with the Gamecocks claiming a 3-1 victory in 2001 and sweeping the Tigers 2-0 in 2000.

On the other side of the rivalry sits Clemson coach Jack Leggett in his 12th season. Taking over the Tiger program before Tanner's arrival at Carolina, Leggett enters tonight's game with a 23-19 record against the Gamecocks. A two-time ACC Coach of the Year, Leggett has taken each of his Clemson teams to postseason appearances. His Clemson program has been the sixth-winningest program in collegiate baseball since his arrival in 1994.

Under Tanner, the Gamecocks lead the nation in wins since the 2000 season (289). The Tigers have also been one of the nation's

elite but have slumped the past two seasons, falling short of 40 wins both times. The 39-win seasons in 2003 and 2004 are the only ones in which Leggett's teams have failed to reach 40 wins.

HITS AND MISSES

A redshirt sophomore second baseman, Leggett's son shares the names of both coaches — Tanner Jackson Leggett.

Many Gamecocks and Tigers will not only recognize each other from the college diamond but also from high school, where many played against each other or were teammates. Lexington and Riverside high schools yield the most players on the rosters, each with three players split between Clemson and USC. All three Lexington players pitch for the Gamecocks: senior Aaron Rawl, and freshmen Josh McDonald and Craig Thomas. Riverside is split with two players in Columbia, freshmen Andrew Crisp and Brad Hocking, and one in Clemson, freshman Brad Chalk.

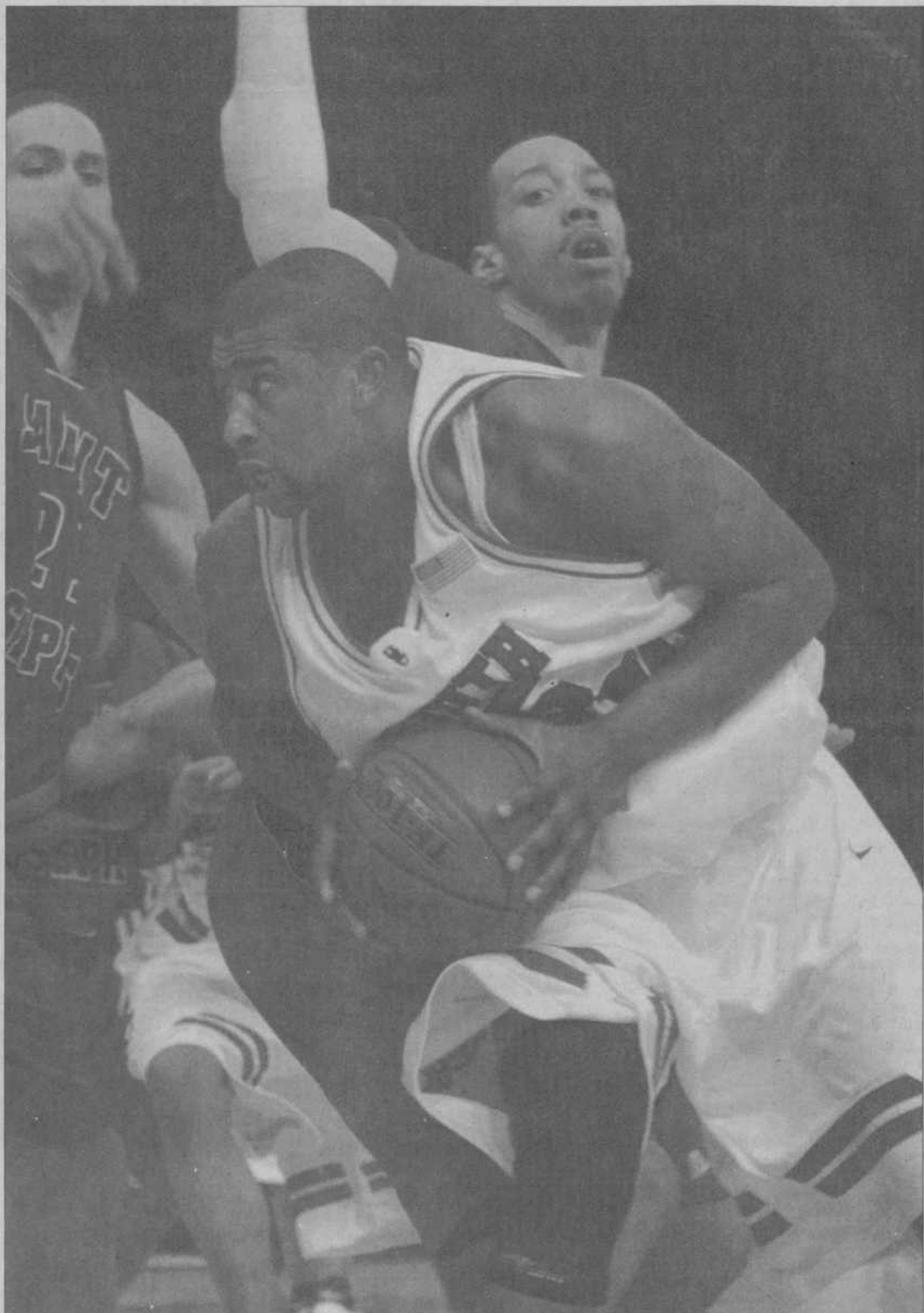
The senior classes for both schools will be playing for

Carolina supremacy. The four-year senior classes enter tonight even at 8-8 against each other. Rawl leads Carolina's class, while the Tigers, who have no fourth-year seniors on scholarship, are led by redshirt junior and four-year player pitcher Josh Cribb.

Players on both sides of the field should be familiar with each other from camps and AAU competition given the demographics of the rosters. Despite being located in South Carolina, both schools have more out-of-state than in-state players on scholarship. Clemson fields only nine players of 34 coming from the Palmetto State. The Gamecocks hold a more respectable number with 19 of 40 players from the state. The Tigers recruit nationwide, holding players from 12 states. Florida (5) and North Carolina (4) are second and third in the number of players, respectively. Carolina is represented by 10 states, with nine players from Florida. Georgia, with three players at Clemson, has no players on the Carolina roster.

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

POWELL NAMED TEAM MVP



KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

Senior forward Carlos Powell was given the Frank McGuire Most Valuable Player Award at the USC basketball banquet Tuesday night. He was also named the team's Most Outstanding Rebounder.

■ BROOM

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time leaving the game than I actually spent watching the game. At one point, we didn't move one foot in a solid 30 minutes. At this time some guy came up to our car asking if we had "any spare beer." Spare beer? Like, backup? We didn't even have beer, let alone "spare beer." His sidekick, we'll call him Goober, was wearing a garnet

hat with some sort of Asian symbol on the front. I'm not 100 percent positive, but I believe the symbol meant "man whose neck is red."

Right before we started to move, a guy walked by the car that looked familiar. Turned out it was Jayson Williams, formerly of the Duke Blue Devils and the Chicago Bulls. I still have no idea why he was at the game, but he mumbled something about wanting to fight somebody. Seriously. Maybe it was the

traffic, or maybe he is still upset about that whole career-ending motorcycle accident that is costing him millions and millions of dollars thing. Either way, why was he here?

Overall, I'd say Steve Spurrier's first ever spring has been pretty successful. I've seen enough to know that next fall cannot get here soon enough for me. It's going to be awesome to watch, and even better to write about. See you next fall, coach.

■ GOLF

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national rankings had us," Blackmon said. "Kentucky and Auburn are senior-led teams, and

we're not quite there yet."

The Gamecocks' next tournament will take place May 9-10 in Lexington, Ky., for the UK Derby Invitational. The Wildcats will play host.

After the Derby Invitational

comes the NCAA East Regionals, May 19-21 in Nashville Tenn. The field for the Regionals will be announced May 9 at 7 p.m.

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