

■ GREATS

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sidelines to get back to the home side, he made a quick stop at a concession stand, asking for a hot dog and a coke. When asked to pay the 35-cent cost for the snack, Fusci asked the vendor "Where'm I gonna get 35 cents?" showing his football uniform had no pockets and saying "Just chalk it up to over-subsidization of athletes."

Today, Fusci is retired from a career as an RCA distributor in the Midlands, one of the most successful distributors the corporation has ever seen. Fusci, a former president of the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame and numerous winner of the state handball championship, is still active in his pursuit of health and can be found swimming laps at the Blatt P.E. Center most mornings during the week.

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

■ BASEBALL

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Nebraska was scheduled for Tuesday at 2 p.m., with the winner needing to defeat the Gators two times in two days to advance.

The opposite side of the bracket featured No. 8 Oregon State (46-12) against Tulane (56-11) and Baylor (45-23) against Texas.

The favored Green Wave used late momentum to score in the final two innings and defeat the Oregon State Beavers 3-1. Texas, the most experienced team in the field with 32 CWS appearances, used that familiarity with Rosenblatt Stadium to defeat the Bears, the first appearance for Baylor since 1978.

In the elimination game, Baylor received a surprising hit from pinch hitter Mike Pankratz to win its first-ever game in the CWS. Batting .193 on the season, Pankratz blooped a 10th inning RBI-single to register his

first hit since April 24 and extend the Bears' season. In the winner's bracket, Texas recorded a 5-0 shutout, its first in the tournament since 1983, to advance to 2-0 in the tournament. The victory set a new record for College World Series wins, surpassing Southern California's 74 total victories.

Top-seeded Tulane was scheduled to face Baylor in an elimination game Tuesday at 7 p.m. The winner will need to defeat the Longhorns twice in two days to advance to the championship round.

The championship round is also double elimination and will be held Saturday and Sunday, with game three to be played Monday if necessary. All games will be televised by ESPN, with Saturday's time set for 7 p.m. and Sunday's game set for 2 p.m. If necessary, the game on Monday is set for 7 p.m.

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Briefs

Pearce garners spot on All-America team

After a stunning two-year career as a Gamecock, senior first baseman Steve Pearce finished as a Second Team All-American according to Baseball America. Pearce, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association District IV Player of the Year, was USC's Triple Crown winner the past two seasons. This season, Pearce batted .358 with 21 home runs and 63 RBIs. He leaves Carolina with 42 home runs and 133 career RBIs.

Pearce was selected in the eighth round of the MLB Draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates after being named to NCAA All-Tournament Team in Atlanta and a Second Team All-SEC selection.

Track teams send 12 to vie for USATF title

Four men and eight women have been selected to compete at the USA Track and Field Senior

and Junior National Championships in Carson, Calif., June 24-26. Men's team All-Americans juniors Rodney Martin Jr. and Leroy Dixon and freshman Jason Richardson, along with freshman sprinter Keith Hinnant will headline the Gamecock men traveling to Carson. The men's team finished 26th at nationals this past week.

All-Americans freshmen Natasha Hastings, Amberly Nesbitt, Stephanie Smith and Shalonda Solomon; juniors Tiffany Ross-Williams and Kemesha Whitmire; and seniors Erica Whipple and Khaliah Carpenter are the Gamecocks who will be competing on the women's side. The women's team came close to a second title but were edged out by Texas for the championship.

Softball team signs 3 for next year's roster

USC has inked three players for next season's softball squad, headlined by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American Christie Hamilton. Hamilton, a pitcher from

Acworth, Ga., was the Gatorade Player of the Year for Georgia after finishing the season with a 0.18 ERA. The Gamecocks have also signed utility player Ashton Payne and catcher Ciera Jones. Payne, an All-Metro selection from Richmond, Va., plays summer ball with the Richmond Diamondbacks. Jones, an All-Regional, All-District, All-Metro honorable mention this year, is from Vienna, Va.

Fink hired as director of media relations

Steve Fink has been named USC's director of media relations. Fink, TCU's athletics media relations director for the past five years, joins his former boss, Eric Hyman, at USC.

"I'm excited to join the South Carolina family," Fink said. "I look forward to working with the outstanding administrators, coaches and student-athletes at USC."

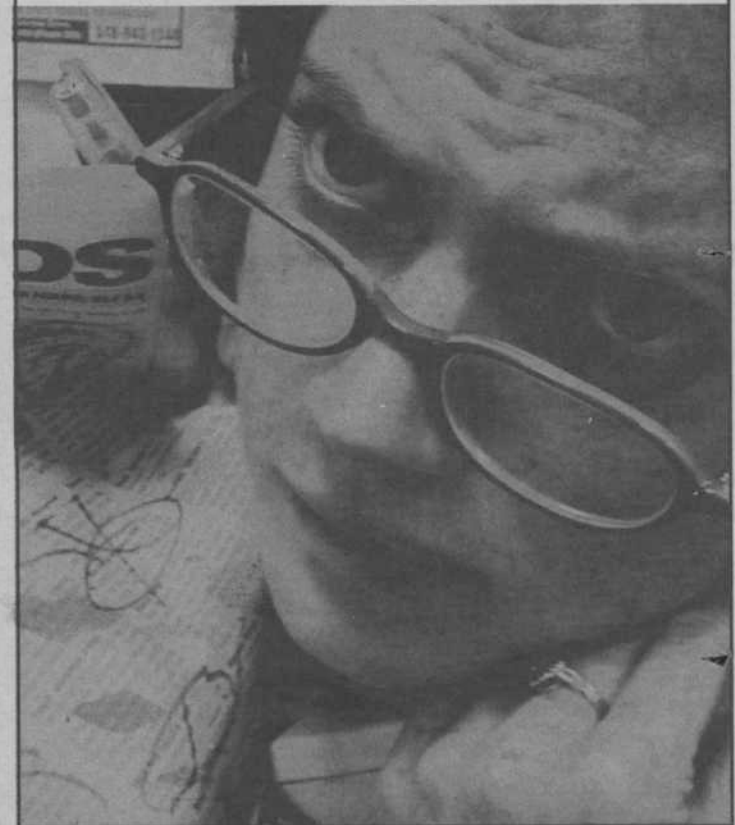
Fink, who has worked with numerous athletic organizations, including the Kansas City Royals, joins the Gamecock staff July 18.

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