



Katie Kirkland/THE GAMECOCK

USC's women's soccer team split its matches during the weekend in the Auburn Reebok Classic. USC beat Rhode Island, 2-0.

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the game with a 2-1 record and a two-game win streak.

The Titans were the co-champions of the Big West conference in 2004 and proved why, topping the Gamecocks, 1-0.

The sole score of the game happened a mere eight minutes into the match.

A Fullerton midfielder was tripped up in the box, and the resulting penalty kick was just out of Thorstenson's reach.

For the first time in the 2005 season, the Gamecocks faced a deficit.

The team put forth its full effort, but the Titans' staunch defense proved to be too much.

To their credit, the Gamecocks out-shot the Titans 9-6, the first time Fullerton has been out-shot all year.

Junior forward Darcel Mollon, who had three shots on goal for the

game, led Carolina's offense.

Erin Sullivan followed up with two shots on goal.

The game was characterized by defense, as the teams combined for a modest three shots in the first half.

Even though Carolina attacked the Fullerton defense in frenzy during the second half, the Titans' defense stood strong and kept the Gamecocks scoreless throughout the game.

The Titans' scoring efforts were also fruitless other than the penalty kick.

The Gamecocks return to Columbia to face local rivals Clemson on Friday and Charlotte on Sunday.

The Gamecocks will be taking part in the annual four-team Carolina Cup, as the Furman Paladins round out the field.

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another serious challenge.

Even after the loss, Berson was proud of his team.

"Our team really dug in and showed a lot of courage. It was one of those games where we ran out of time more than anything else."

Clemson 2, USC 1

"It's always a battle," Sambursky said. "Clemson, of course, is the biggest rivalry we have."

Picking up right where these teams left off last year, there were more fouls, 21, in the first half than there were shots attempted, 14. The game was scoreless at the break. Sambursky scored the first goal of the game, 35 seconds into the second half.

Clemson turned the ball over, and USC junior Ayo Akinsete broke away and attempted a shot just outside the penalty box. Clemson goalkeeper Phil Marfuggi deflected the shot away, but Sambursky was there to put it in, giving USC a 1-0 lead.

It proved to be a tough task to maintain such a small lead, as the Gamecocks faltered with 22 seconds remaining in regulation as Clemson tied the match 1-1, then later netted the game-winner in the second overtime.

Trailing 1-0, Clemson moved all 11 players in the penalty box. The ball was thrown in by the Tigers and quickly cleared by USC.

Clemson's Havird Usry played the ball back into the box, and CU defender Jeff Routh was able to head in a bouncer into the corner of the goal.

After neither team scored in the first overtime, Clemson got its chance in the second extra session as the Gamecocks were called for a foul just outside the 18-yard box.

Clemson's Justin Moore took the free kick and deflected it off Gamecock defender Josh Alcalá and into the goal.

The shot was ruled an own goal, giving Clemson the 2-1 win.

"We had a miscue that led to the first goal," Berson said. "The second goal was just a fluke. It was something that probably never happens but once in your career."

USC freshman goalkeeper Mike Gustavson played all 102 minutes of the game, recording six saves — three in the second half — as he competes with three other players for the starting job made available when All-American Brad Guzan decided not to return to USC to begin a professional career.

Clemson out-shot the Gamecocks 20-13 with a 16-12 advantage in regulation time. In a physical match, 24 fouls were called on the Gamecocks, including three yellow cards given to Akinsete, Kyle Franklin and Ramon Paracat.

The Gamecocks were looking for their second-straight win against Clemson, as they defeated the Tigers last season in Columbia in a similar physical close call, beating Clemson 1-0.

Clemson leads the overall series 20-11-1, and the Gamecocks' luck was the same at Riggs Field, as their record for games played at Clemson fell to 6-12-0. The game was played in front of 4,420.

"The thing I was most proud of to take away from the Clemson game was the character we showed," Berson said. "It was a learning experience for us."

Carolina resumes play this weekend in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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TICKETS • CONTINUED FROM 13

on eBay.

prices continue their slow uphill path? So far, there have been no riots or USC flag burnings, and the popularity of the "Spurrer Era" should keep the crowds coming.

"I'm not mad about the increase in ticket prices," Houck said. "Not yet, at least."

If you're not willing to pay the money for the ticket, thousands of people out there are.

Tickets to this weekend's football game between the Gamecocks and the Georgia Bulldogs is raising quite an interest

As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, tickets to the game were being sold in increments of four (as high as \$750) and two (as high as \$500).

Tickets for USC's matchup at Tennessee in October are also hot items on the Internet auction site. One seller listed four tickets to the game with a starting price of \$999.

Legitimate or illegitimate, Gamecock football tickets will continue to be a hot item for the remainder of the season.

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In Brief

Men's basketball announces 2005 hardwood schedule

Men's basketball coach Dave Odom has announced the 2005-2006 schedule for the reigning NIT champion Gamecocks. USC will open play in the Great Alaskan Shootout Nov. 24-26, which features teams such as Southern Cal and Marquette. USC will then return home for a Nov. 30 date with UNC-Greensboro, followed by a Dec. 3 trip to Clemson. The Gamecocks will play host to NCAA Tournament teams Winthrop and Pittsburgh with a game against Temple sandwiched between the two, all before opening the SEC season with a Jan. 8 game against

Tennessee.

"The Great Alaska Shootout will provide us with an early-season opportunity that will test us," Odom said. "We will play some really good teams in Anchorage. Our non-conference schedule has a good mixture of strong home and away opponents with Clemson, Temple, Pittsburgh, Toledo and Detroit-Merc. I'm excited about the competitiveness of our schedule. I believe it offers the proper challenges our team needs."

Eleven of the Gamecocks' 16 SEC games will be televised, with two on ESPN and one on CBS from the Colonial Center. ESPN2 will broadcast the Nov. 24 game of the Great Alaskan Shootout, while Fox Sports South will air the Clemson game. — *Compiled by Alex Riley*

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Carolina Honorary Family

Student Government and the Student Life Department are in the first selecting a family to represent USC as our Honorary Family. If you nominate your family, please complete the application at www.sg.sc.edu and return it to the Student Government office by 5 p.m. Tues., Sept. 13. Winners will receive four Gamecock packages to Parents Weekend, a Carolina gift basket, and a dinner.



Contract with Carolina

Look out soon for the Executive Officers' Contract with Carolina. This our commitment to addressing the concerns that are important to

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Visit the Let's Talk page at www.sg.sc.edu/LetsTalk.htm to express your questions, or simply make a statement to SG about USC.



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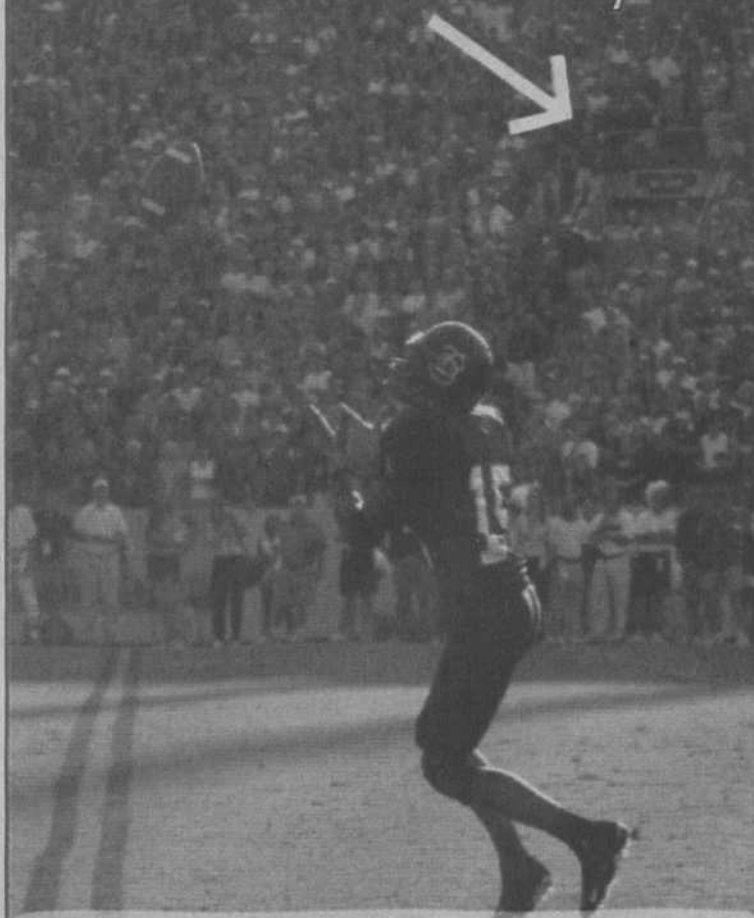
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