

GAMECOCK GREATS WARREN MUIR

*Fullback pounded
way into
Carolina history*

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The most talked about photo of fullback Warren Muir isn't one of a leaping touchdown grab or a dive over the pile for an upset victory. It's actually a posed shot of him in a running position wearing a cowboy hat.

"There was a fella that the different universities would hire to come and do the photos every year, and he had a bag of tricks. I guess in trying to loosen up the situation he would get the (players) to put on these gimmicks and just have a good time," Muir said. "He'd tell all the running backs to 'huck and buck.' He'd want you to pretend you were on a horse and wear this hat. I hope they never put that one in the media guide."

He never had any intention of playing football for USC. In fact, when he left high school in Fitchburg, Mass., Muir was on his way to play football in the military.

"Paul Dietzel, who later came to South Carolina, was coaching at West Point at the time," Muir said. "In the spring of my freshman year, coach Dietzel took the job at South Carolina. I finished my (freshman) year, then I transferred to South Carolina in the fall of 1966."

Muir was redshirted the following season, sitting out the 1966 campaign, which would finish 1-9. It would be 1967 before Muir

could make his debut for the Gamecocks, starting a career that would earn him the title as "the toughest inside runner I've ever coached," Dietzel said.

"I consider it a great experience to have been under (Dietzel's) coaching abilities," Muir said. "He did a lot for South Carolina, getting the stadium to where it is today. He had a lot of enthusiasm."

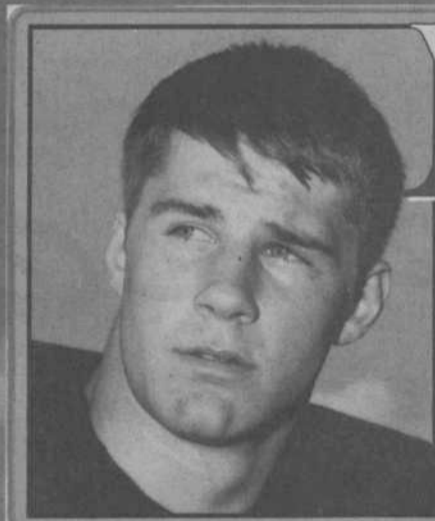
During Muir's time as USC's fullback, the Gamecocks compiled a 16-15 record, but managed a winning record in ACC play every season. In 1967 and 1968, the Gamecocks posted 5-5 and 4-6 campaigns, respectively. Those two seasons set up one of the most memorable seasons in USC history.

The Gamecocks finished the 1969 season with a 7-4 overall record and a perfect 6-0 record in the ACC, earning them the title of ACC champions, the school's first and only conference title in the history of the program.

After a season-opening win against Duke, 27-20, the Gamecocks pulled off wins against North Carolina, N.C. State, Virginia Tech, Maryland and Wake Forest. The regular season finale with rival Clemson was also a victory, as USC dominated the Tigers, 27-13. With the success, the Gamecocks earned the right to represent the ACC in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta against West Virginia.

"It was very exciting back then to set that

MUIR • B7



Warren Muir

- + First team All-America as a fullback in 1969
- + Rushed for 969 yards during the 1969 ACC Championship season
- + Finished career with 2,234 yards, 10th highest total in USC history

YOUTH • CONTINUED FROM B3

playing hard for our self-confidence and pride."

Despite appearing in only two games, he is the third leading rusher for the Wildcats and has also lined up at wide receiver.

With a bye week to rest up, Woodson is expected to start and go the distance against USC. However, after Pulley's electrifying play against Florida, it is likely he will see playing time.

Mitchell, Heffner or Newton. Woodson or Pulley. Ultimately the game will come down to which quarterback — or quarterbacks — can be most effective. The winner keeps its slim bowl chances alive, whereas the loser takes the lonely position in the cellar of the SEC East.

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"We got a lot of great, great freshmen like Kenny McKinley and also Carlos Thomas," Newton said. "And you always want those guys who you know gonna be here for the next couple years, especially when everything hasn't been goin' right in the season. You want those guys to get a chance to be on the field and get prepared, hopin' for next season."

Newton, who played wide receiver as a freshman for Carolina, was moved to quarterback early last season when Dondrial Pinkins went down with an injury. But when Spurrier took over, Newton returned to the receiver slot he once occupied. Nonetheless, he and Spurrier acknowledged he has been getting increased reps at quarterback this week in case of an "emergency."

Despite their age and inexperience, Spurrier has certainly put his faith in the freshmen receivers. As far as this week goes, the Gamecocks have cast their ballot for the young guns, hoping they can help to turn the season around.

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QUARTERBACKS • CONTINUED FROM B2

passed for 578 yards and five touchdowns. He set the school record for most passes without an interception with 153.

The streak ended against Florida two weeks ago when he threw three interceptions in the first half.

"He threw his first interceptions of the year," Brooks said. "He's a young quarterback, and he's going to look at that and learn from it."

Adding injury to insult, Woodson had to leave the game with an injury to the ribs. Pulley, a freshman, came in for UK and sparked the team with two rushing touchdowns in the second half. He finished the game with 38 yards passing and 32 yards rushing.

"Overall, we played much better in the second half," Pulley said. "We had to keep



ON THE COVER

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