Gamecocks win first national title in program history

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We’re as eager to learn the cause of this fire as anyone.”
— Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurry on the fire started by a homeless man that collapsed part of an elevated interstate in Atlanta

“At this time, we can only confirm the suspension because this is an ongoing investigation.”
— Vice president of communications William M. Plate Jr. on the Coastal Carolina University cheerleading team’s suspension following allegations including prostitution

“We’re going to confirm Judge Gorsuch this week. The way in which that occurs is in the hands of the Democratic minority.”
— Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell on the Supreme Court nomination
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The Columbia Fireflies hosted a Fan Fest on Sunday where fans were able to watch the team go through a scheduled workout at Spirit Communications Park and then afterward were able to meet the players. Fans were also able to get one item autographed per each player, as well as taking photos with the players. This included one of the newest additions to the Fireflies team, Tim Tebow.

Tebow is a former Heisman Trophy winner, who also won two BCS championships playing football for the Florida Gators. He then had a five-year stint in the NFL where he played in 35 games. Tebow is now pursuing a baseball career, after a brief period during which he was a commentator for the SEC Network.

The Fireflies begin play Thursday, as they take on the Augusta GreenJackets at 7:05 p.m. in Spirit Communications Park for their season opener.

The decision to cancel classes is always a difficult one to make. However, there are rare occasions when it is important to come together as a family and celebrate. This is one of those times,” the university said in a statement Sunday night. “Our women’s and men’s basketball teams have demonstrated to the world what it means to be champions and what it means to be Gamecocks. Let’s welcome them home.”

The Gamecock flag was raised over the State House Sunday night. Nikki Haley recognized Coastal Carolina and Clemson for their national championships in baseball last year and football this year by raising their flags as well. However, they waited until the next day to fly those flags.

“Let’s raise the flag on the Dome tonight!” Gov. Henry McMaster said on Twitter. "McMaster tweeted that 10 Gamecock flags would be flown above the Statehouse dome to be presented to the national champions. USC alumnus Darius Rucker also gave a shoutout to the women’s basketball team while on stage at the American Country Music Awards Sunday night, and it’s safe to say they’ll get another shoutout at the free concert he is performing for students Wednesday.
company, did you have any prior experience working in business or entrepreneurship?

J: This is the first trial run. When I was a kid I would buy cotton on my driveway with a lemonade stand. I thought I was an artist for a couple years so I would paint stuff and try to sell it to my neighbors, but you can hardly call that entrepreneurship. I always knew that at the beginning I wanted to try to run my own show.

TDG: Your Facebook says that your company is “transforming 70s Americas into a clothing line.” What does “70s Americas mean and how did you incorporate that when you were designing your shirts?”

J: So the flamingo was created, actually, in the late 50s, and then the 60s is when it started really becoming a big deal, so that’s where the 70s reference comes from. The reason it’s 70s Americas is I really love our country, but the 70s has this really classy, really vibrant color to it. If you look back — even the color of their cars, they were fluorescent. When you look at the 70s, at least as our generation, the colors and attitude that you see is what I want this brand to embody. So that’s why I pulled that together.

TDG: Is it difficult managing school, social life, a business and somehow getting enough sleep? How do you manage that successfully?

J: The first time that I started printing them myself, I took my orders and I was actually doing all my own print shirts for people. I started at about 7 a.m. and I don’t know when I slept that night. That was a really good representation of commercial business in college, too. The truth is, it was heavy on my relationships with other periods.

TDG: Your interview has been edited for length about starting a small business. This answer mentions how one of the goals for business development is to have it in preppy areas, it really is. You can’t just create it somewhere, and a lot of times it took an extra 10 hours a day. You have to find it and it’s a win-win for everyone. Until then we will go meet students on their time, on us and it makes it quicker and more effective than having a middleman, and it does make it easier on us to make it quicker and more convenient for students on campus.

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A major part of President Trump's campaign was his promises to provide a better alternative to an ailing America. Last week his first major legislative effort to make good on those promises was shelved, not by opposition Democrats, but by a coalition of hard-line Republicans calling themselves the Freedom Caucus.

These Republicans, while among those most opposed to Obamacare, voted against the first real chance at a replacement in more than six years. Sen. Rand Paul, who denounced the proposed healthcare plan by dubbing it “Obamacare-lite,” said the bill wasn’t conservative enough for him and didn’t go far enough in rolling back Obamacare’s overreaching governmental intrusions into the healthcare system. So he voted with the Freedom Caucus.

This bloc of Republicans, while among those most opposed to Obamacare, voted against the first real chance at a replacement in more than six years. Sen. Rand Paul, who denounced the proposed healthcare plan by dubbing it “Obamacare-lite,” said the bill wasn’t conservative enough for him and didn’t go far enough in rolling back Obamacare’s overreaching governmental intrusions into the healthcare system. So he voted with the Freedom Caucus.

Paul’s obstructionism wasn’t new. He has been a consistent purveyor of the tactic, whatever its name, that’s led to the failure of everything from policy to legislation. The Freedom Caucus is just the latest incarnation of an obstructionist playbook that has characterized American politics for years...

A great deal of the argument over Trump’s healthcare plan was about price. But perhaps a greater source of division was the argument over the people who would be left to suffer the consequences of legislative dysfunction.

The healthcare bill was ultimately defeated in Congress. But Trump has been pushing a replacement plan since last year, largely on the basis of his campaign promise to do away with Obamacare. His plan is widely seen as too conservative, even after months of negotiation. The latest incarnation of the plan, drafted in secret by a small group of Republicans, has been met with resistance from both parties. Even among Republicans, there is division over whether the plan is radical enough to win over conservative voters.

So what is the alternative to Trump’s healthcare plan? That’s the question the president and his allies have been asking loudly in recent months. The answer, of course, is that there is no easy solution to the problem of healthcare in America. The Affordable Care Act, which brought healthcare to millions of Americans, has been a failure in many ways. But it has also been a step forward in providing coverage to those who need it most.

In the end, the battle over healthcare will likely be fought in the courts and in the halls of Congress. But it’s a battle that the American people cannot afford to lose.
**Aries**
Make repairs and clean up messes. Household issues require attention now. Plan, dream and envision, especially this month with Venus in Pisces.

**Taurus**
A formidable barrier blocks the path, so take care. Stay in communication and stay calm. Work with someone who sees your blind spot. Breath.

**Gemini**
Resume the comparison to explore. Unexpected expenses could surprise you. Draw upon hidden resources. You may need to move quickly to maintain your advantage.

**Cancer**
Don’t lose yourself in a daydream. You could make a silly mistake. Disruptions and distractions abound. Don’t get talked out of what you want, either.

**Leo**
Review finances and avoid nonsensical purchases. Decrease the unknown. Keep cool with chaos and respectful with confrontation. You may be learning more than you wanted to know. Virgo

**Virgo**
You’re energized and ready for new projects. Doubt expense down and slow to avoid accidents or breakdowns. Do things before committing. Call if you’ll be late.

**Libra**
Work withinterfere with play. You can’t do everything. Proceed with caution or break something. Fact and fantasy clash. Hard words could fly. Don’t take it personally.

**Scorpio**
Review acting impulsively, especially if friends are. Don’t spend money to solve the problem. Artistic efforts work in your favor. Decrease clutter. Go for clarity.

**Sagittarius**
Avoid frivolities or expenses. You’re gaining, but slowly. You’re more domestic now. Enjoy home-cooked meals and comforts. Forgive another’s crankiness.

**Capricorn**
Contribute to a larger conversation. Distractions abound. Let hypes be overwhelmed with a partner. Listening is more powerful than speaking.

**Aquarius**
The truth is revealed, and old assumptions get challenged. Strike out in a new direction. This month could become profitable. Follow the path before you.

**Pisces**
Relax and prioritize home fun. Practice your arts. Avoid new challenges; handle old stuff first. Stay out of someone else’s argument. Patience cools a heated situation.

---

**Crossword**
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

**ACROSS**
1. System of delivery (5)
5. 4 forms over a heading section (6)
9. Casual talk (7)
13. Treats to Market (7)
14. Bluff ball into the dugout gap (11)
15. Lane at the Dollar store (5)
16. Awkward situation (11)
19. House poem (3,4)
20. Do鸟 shown at airports (9)
21. Close tight grip (11)
22. Business suit shinn (8)
24. Weakly (11)
25. Pohhok, e.g. (9)
34. Address Shih (6)
35. 30 humming (8)
36. Sheet music symbol (6)
38. Henry & Jane of “Ch Golden Fleece” (5)
40. Walker feature (9)
41. Vaque amnestias (6)
43. Gunmen, Comanche (5)
44. ... Taxi Bell (7)
46. Golf practice hotline (10)
49. Chandelier studies (9)
50. 12, as a deal (6)
53. Dinitrogen triglycol (7)
54. Bites, as a deal (6)
55. Speak without (7)
57. The truth is revealed, and old assumptions get challenged. Strike out in a new direction. This month could become profitable. Follow the path before you.

**DOWNS**
1. The answer to a riddle (8)
2. The key is a key (10)
3. Relate (8)
4. The answer to a riddle (6)
5. Take to bed (5)
6. 42, as a deal (8)
7. 32, as a deal (4, 4)

---

**Philosophers**

**Wait, What Professor’s crate: students should be like.**

**Wait, What Students high their professor’s crate?**

---

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Monday, April 3, 2017

Ty’Son Williams was a four-star recruit from Crestwood High School in Sumter, South Carolina back in 2015. He committed to UNC over the in-state Gamecocks, but last year he decided to transfer to South Carolina and play for his home state school. It was a difficult path to get here, as UNC blocked him from transferring to any school that would be on their schedule in the four years after his transfer. Williams and the Gamecock coaching staff found a creative way to get him on campus.

Williams redshirted as a walk-on last fall and paid his tuition using the G.I. Bill. Now his redshirt year is over, and he is ready to add his explosive traits to the Gamecock backfield.

There were rumblings all spring about how impressive Williams is. He lived up to all the hype during the Garnet and Black Spring Game. He has so much speed, elusiveness and awareness in space. These traits are innate abilities that all great running backs must have, and Williams possesses every single one of them.

Football has become a game of space. It is all about getting your most talented players in space so that they can use their abilities to get yards.

Williams is the new type of running back football coaches and quarterbacks are looking for. He can make plays running the ball and catching the ball. When Jake Bentley was asked about Williams’ ability, Bentley said, “He’s a very explosive runner. He runs very angry. He’s very good complement to Rico. Both of those guys are special.”

Williams is the perfect complement to Rico Dowdle, who is a great player and will be the workhorse for this team, but Williams is the perfect change of pace back that can take a screen or an outside handoff to the house at any given time.

During the Spring Game, Carolina Alert fans got a sneak preview of how they’re going to use Williams. He had 113 all-purpose yards on 14 touches. Whether it was 10 yards on a screen out of the backfield, or an 18-yard run on third-and-one where he bounced it outside, Williams looked like a star in the making.

The first question head coach Will Muschamp was asked in his postgame press conference was about Ty’Son Williams and how he feels about him as a player. Muschamp answered by saying, “Very pleased with his progress, he’s got a great work ethic, a great attitude, and [he’s] a talented player.” The entire offensive unit looked great during the game. Bentley was sharp, Edwards was catching everything coming his way, and Dowdle was running with an attitude. Williams is the X-factor that could take this group to the next level.

This could be an incredible season for Williams, and USC fans need to know this name going into the 2017 season.

Logan Zahner / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

To redeem this week’s deals simply cut out the coupon or download our app, click on Deal of the Week and show at checkout.
“There’s something powerful when you impact others.”
—Frank Martin

“I never gave up on winning a national championship, no matter how hard it was, no matter what it looked like.”
—Dawn Staley
Applications due April 7 at 4 p.m. in Russell House 112

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Apply to lead the university’s award-winning quarterly magazine, Garnet & Black, for the 2017-2018 academic year.
Allisha Gray shone on college basketball's biggest stage

Adam Orfinger

Down Stewart may call her the Gamecocks’ “silent assassin,” but Allisha Gray wasn’t too quiet during the national championship game.

The junior transfer lived up to the reputation of having ridiculous stats, using her speed to swallow up with 18 points and 10 rebounds while helping South Carolina win it all in her first year with the team. After transferring from Kennesaw State, Gray had to sit out the 2015-16 season, which ended with the Gamecocks’ Sweet 16 loss to South Carolina.

“It was definitely hard adjusting and watching the team,” Gray said Sunday.

“You do all the conditioning, but you don’t get to play in the games, and that’s the reward.”

Because of her sacrifices, Gray now gets to claim the biggest reward in women’s basketball. She’ll be the first to say that she and fellow transfer KeKe Plummer pointed out all week that this is what they came to South Carolina for.

“Last year it was tough, it was tough sitting out and watching that result, getting out in the Sweet 16,” Davis said. “We came with a lot of heart, we earned our place to want it and we did it last year, so we use that as fuel.”

With the first basket, the first point, the first double-double of her career and the first three points Sunday, Gray used that extra motivation to turn in one of her best performances of the season, and not just on the offensive end. Dedowh by Staley as South Carolina’s most consistent player, Gray put up three blocks and a steal while guarding out four and going Staley 36 minutes.

But her performance wasn’t just about a block here or a steal there, and this game wasn’t just about one player. This game was about history, about finishing this journey with a national championship.

This one was emotion, and it was for the players who helped Staley build the program. Gray and the Gamecocks weren’t just playing for themselves. This game was for South Carolina for.

But 25 years ago, she thought it was over. After losing in the 1990 and 1991 title game, when Staley’s Virginia Cavaliers walked off the court as losers in the 1992 Final Four, she thought that was her last shot.

“When I couldn’t get it done in the Final Four, I thought that it was I never wanted to be a coach. I never wanted to sit down where I’m sitting,” Staley said.

But the late Dave O’Brien talked her into it, so she took her head to the huddle at Temple while she still played. She took 17 years of coaching, but she finally got what she worked so long for.

Like they always say, good things come to those who wait.

Wilson, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament, scored 23 points Sunday, leading the Gamecocks past Mississippi State and securing the program’s first-ever national title.

As the No. 1 high school basketball prospect in 2018, Wilson chose to stay in her home state and go to school at Dawn Staley’s Gamecocks. As the country’s first-ever South Carolina prospect, she now knows how Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James and Kentucky’s Kevin Knox felt.

Staley has been a big impact on people that want to be the next LeBron James.

The Gamecocks’ deep bench was a big impact on people that want to be the next LeBron James.

There is a great deal of history behind the game’s biggest stage.

But it’s also pretty special. When you get people to travel across the country by the masses because they believe in what you do, that’s powerful stuff.

The average roundtrip out of Columbus or Charlotte to attend the Final Four in Phoenix cost between $900 to $1,450.

“This is it. These kids are great role models,” Martin said.

“We believed in Coach from day one, from the day he stepped in my house and recruited me, we all believed him,” Thornwell said. “We appreciate everybody, all the Gamecock Nation, for all the support that was with us for these four years.

“I think we made a big impact on our community, a big impact on people that never saw us,” freshman guard Rakyen Felder said.

Monday, April 3, 2017

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-MAIL NEWSLETTER
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The state of South Carolina had never produced a team that reached the Final Four.

That was before the Gamecocks upset a No. 2, a No. 3 and a No. 4 seed this March.

Long considered an afterthought in the world of college basketball, South Carolina college hoops have traditionally lingered in the shadow of the basketball-rich kingdom to the north. The "other Carolina" has sent five programs for a combined 41 trips to the Final Four.

Much has been made of South Carolina head coach Frank Martin's emotions during the Gamecocks' tournament run. Following South Carolina's 77-73 loss to Gonzaga, Martin appeared ready to shelve those often over-analyzed feelings, at least publicly. Answering questions about the final minutes and plays of the game, Martin looked down and issued monotone responses.

Frank Martin has been called a lot of things, but probably never robotic.

Then he was asked about the legacy of his players, his seniors in particular. Martin was visibly overcome with emotions. The 51-year-old coach took several seconds to formulate an answer, and it seemed like much, much longer.

He was eventually moved to tears.

When reality set in, Dawn Staley couldn't help but get emotional.

Can you blame her?

With a group of fierce competitors by her side, Staley accomplished what she'd dreamed about as a kid shooting hoops in Philadelphia.

"It's one of two opportunities that I saw women play when I was younger. National championship games and Olympics," Staley said Sunday. "Those were the things that I held dear and near to me when I was growing up, because those are the things that I wanted."

She'd been so close before, reaching the sport's biggest stage three times as a player and again as a coach in 2015, but her Gamecocks lost by a point in the Final Four, making Staley and her players even hungrier to cut down the nets.

For the last few years, Staley has been carrying a piece of a national championship net in her wallet. But it wasn't her net.

Before a broadcast a few years ago, former Purdue head coach Carolyn Peck gave Staley a piece of the net from the Boilermakers' title in 1999. Her only request?

"When you win your national championship, just return it," Staley said.

The junior forward's grandmother passed away in October, an event that caused the SEC Player of the Year to consider giving up basketball. But Wilson persevered through one of the darkest times of her life, knowing her grandmother would've been proud to see the way the Gamecocks played on the final stage.

"She probably wouldn't've told me to stop crying. She always told me to stop crying. Obviously, I'm a sensitive person," Wilson said with a laugh. "She was a big fan of mine and was just always there for me."

Carson Mason
@CarsonAMason

Impact on community transcends 2017 run

"other Carolina" has sent five programs for a combined 41 trips to the Final Four.

Much has been made of South Carolina head coach Frank Martin's emotions during the Gamecocks' tournament run.

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