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Zero to hero: Parker White makes game-winner



Sara Yang / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Parker White was 0-for-4 on field goal attempts before making the game-winner on Saturday against Louisiana Tech.

Brandon Alter
@BRANDON_ALTER

South Carolina kicker Parker White was 0-for-4 on his first four career kicks. With seven seconds left in Saturday's game with the Gamecocks trailing by two, he had the chance to put it all behind him.

And he did just that.

White had missed two field goals in the first half, which prompted a talk with head coach Will Muschamp. Muschamp told the true freshman that the team would need him to make not just a kick, but the kick.

"You're going the distance"

Muschamp told White. "We're going to put you back in there to kick the ball, and you need to make the kick and you will probably win the game for us."

"The biggest thing as a kicker is you gotta forget about the previous kicks, just move on to the next one" White said when asked about his two missed

field goals.

Before the 31-yard attempt, Louisiana Tech used both of its timeouts to try and ice White, who said that strategy did not have an effect on him.

"It just takes another minute, minute

SEEWHITEPAGE4

Bi Visibility Week spreads awareness, acceptance



41%
of bisexuals feel a change in social acceptance of LGBTQ compared to 66% of gay men and 47% of lesbian women.



1 IN 8
bisexuals feel they are not accepted by the American LGBTQ Community



44%
of bisexual youth feel safe confiding in a family member compared to 54% of LG youth.

Mary Ramsey
@MCOLLEEN1996

When it comes to taking on responsibilities, fourth-year history student Miles Joyner likes to joke that she can "never turn off."

The IRIS logistics director, leader of Bi+ Space at the Harriet Hancock LGBT Center, GLAAD campus ambassador and writer of the popular blog "Miles the Bisexual" is perhaps never busier than during Bisexuality Visibility Week.

"It's visibility," Joyner said. "We want to be like, 'Hey, we're here, we're proud.' We want other bi people who maybe don't feel like they can go to things to have more confidence."

Joyner works to promote acceptance for the Bi+ community throughout the year, often giving "Bi101" presentations to classes at USC and at the Harriet Hancock LGBT Center. That work is kicked into high gear every September. This Bi Visibility Week, Joyner helped organize

an event at the Harriet Hancock Center and spoke to a social work class at the request of the professor.

"She wanted her students to know these are the people you're going to be helping," Joyner said. "It's important for people to just know what's going on."

And Joyner isn't just about finding acceptance in society as a whole, but also within the LGBTQ community. As highlighted in Joyner's "Bisexuality 101" presentation,

"1 in 3 bisexuals feel they are not accepted by the American LGBTQIAP+ community."

"People don't understand all of this rejection from the queer community and all the rejection that we get from even the straight community," Joyner said.

Other members of the IRIS board, such as development director and second-year broadcast journalism student Drew Hill, recognize a similar need.

"Originally, I would say no bi students didn't really

feel accepted at Carolina," Hill said, "but our board in IRIS has really tried to make sure that every identity feels accepted and sees themselves represented in our organization, in the events that we put on, in our discussions and in all of the other work that we do."

Although barriers to acceptance persist, Hill thinks things are moving in the right direction overall and at USC.

"I've even seen more of a willingness of people to accept their bisexuality as valid," she said, "especially on this campus, which it always has been valid. But because of the more culturally accepting society we live in more people feel empowered to say that they're bisexual then having to, as they say, 'pick a side.'"

And Hill believes recognizing Bisexuality Visibility events is an important part of the process.

"It's a time for people to feel accepted and loved and valid which might not be something

SEEBIPAGE4

Hurricane Maria to bring high surf to S.C. coastline

Mike Woodel
@GETTHISDOGONETO

The National Weather Service warned South Carolina beachgoers to stay out of the water Saturday as Hurricane Maria is expected to cause strong rip currents along the Atlantic coast.

At 11 a.m. Sunday, the National Hurricane Center gauged Maria's maximum sustained wind speed at 105 mph, just below the NHC's threshold for a "major" hurricane.

Despite a simultaneous position

hundreds of miles off

the coast of North

Carolina, the NHC

advised that "interests

along the Carolina and

Mid-Atlantic coasts"

keep a close watch on the

storm's progress in the

coming days.

"No one should enter the surf due to life threatening rip currents," the Charleston NWS

warned. The office's Sunday afternoon coastal hazard message said breaking waves of five to seven feet are expected.

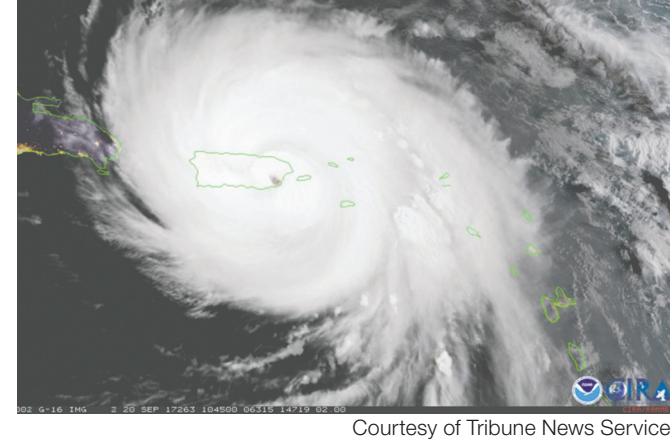
As of Sunday afternoon, the high surf advisory is in effect for beaches in southeastern Georgia and southeastern South Carolina through 8 p.m. Monday night.

Despite potential problems along the coast, the NWS forecasts mostly sunny conditions in Columbia throughout the week of Sept. 25.

Though graded as a Category 2 hurricane on Sunday morning, the storm sustained nearly Category 5 wind speeds as it ripped through the U.S. island territory of Puerto Rico on Sept. 20.

Executive director Carlos Mercader of the Puerto Rico

SEEMARIAPAGE2



Courtesy of Tribune News Service

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Courtesy of Tribune News Service

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a b---- off the field right now. Out! He's fired. He's fired!'"

— President Donald Trump at a Saturday rally in Huntsville, Alabama, addressing the trend of NFL players kneeling in protest during the playing of the national anthem.

USC named Innovation Corp site

On the heels of a multi-million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation, USC has also been named an NSF Innovation Corp site. The initiative, the first of its kind in South Carolina, is geared toward connecting researchers with entrepreneurs and investors.

According to the school, it includes a \$500,000 grant from the NSF to "stimulate" students' work. The leadership team for the project will include experts from the College of Engineering and Computing, the Darla Moore School of Business and the Office of Technology Commercialization.

— Compiled by Mary Ramsey and Mike Woodel

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MARIAPAGE1

Federal Affairs Administration told The Hill communications were still down across 95 percent of the island Saturday.

Maria's approach of the Carolinas comes only days following the 28th anniversary of another notable weather incident: the direct impact of

Hurricane Hugo.

After making landfall near Charleston on Sept. 21, 1989, Hugo directly caused 13 deaths around the state and left 60,000 residents homeless. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division estimated in 2014 that a similar Category 4 hurricane would cause \$16.6 billion in damages to the state in the present day.

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Courtesy of Charlotte Gray Cannon

Charlotte Gray Cannon witnessed this man giving his lunch to a homeless person.

WHITEPAGE1

and a half to kick the ball," White said.

After the Gamecock kickers missed three field goals in their Week 3 loss to Kentucky, there was a lot of negativity surrounding White and fellow kicker Alexander Woznick, especially on social media.

"It really just comes down to that last kick ... I think I [did] a pretty good job of flushing [the negativity] out," White said.

This was White's first career game winning kick at any level. When the clock hit zero after the

ensuing kickoff, he ran into the student section to celebrate with his peers.

"Honestly, it hadn't set in yet ... It just still felt it was practice or something," White said. "But after everyone coming up and high-fiving, and seeing the students, I took a look up at the scoreboard and saw that we were ahead by one and it just, it was a special feeling."

Quarterback Jake Bentley, who happens to be White's roommate, said White was down all week following the Kentucky loss. Bentley told White he was going to need to make one for

the team.

"He really rebounded in a big way this week at practice ... He kept his confidence, just kept battling," Bentley said.

As a quarterback, Bentley is familiar with some of the negativity on social media that White experienced.

"All that we need is our family of brothers on our team," Bentley said. "Everyone on our team believes in him ... He honestly laughed about most of it. He has a great sense of humor and doesn't let that stuff affect him, but I mean he just goes out and works every day."

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Story of student's good deed goes viral

Mary Ramsey
@MCOLLEEN1996

A random act of kindness took fourth-year hospitality management student Charlotte Gray Cannon by surprise, so much so that she took to Facebook to share her experience. Her post, recounting the story of a fellow student who gave his lunch to a homeless man, has since been shared almost 1,000 times.

Cannon doesn't know the man, but she has a high opinion of him based on what she saw. Indeed, she hopes he isn't upset by all the attention, wherever he is.

"I would probably tell him I am sorry for taking a creepy stalker picture of him and also apologize for all the attention it got because I had absolutely no idea that would happen," she said. "I don't know him personally but I would take a strong bet that he is a pretty humble guy."

Cannon didn't anticipate the reaction on social media.

"I was so stunned when I saw my Facebook post getting so popular.

I have never had that many likes or gotten that much attention on anything I have ever put up on social media," she said. "It really showed me how strong the power of social media is."

On a personal level, the experience has helped Cannon to put things like having food in perspective.

"It is something I definitely never really thought of until now," she said.

In a broader sense, she hopes the story will both inspire more kindness and help the reputation of the Palmetto State.

"I know most of society feels annoyed and nagged when a homeless person approaches them for money or asking them for something," she said. "I hope by seeing this that they will stop and be friendly and offer to buy them some food and water if possible. Learn to give in other ways than just money ... We are a great university with so much to offer and I really hope people all over the country are seeing that about South Carolina."

BIPAGE1

we, as a community, get at other times of the year," she said.

Hill knows first hand the difference a dedicated celebration can mean.

"I was very excited when I found out that there specifically is a bi month dedicated just to my sexuality," she explained. "Usually when I think pride month or pride events, I see gay men and lesbians, and people like me and asexual people and trans people and non-binary people aren't generally represented there."

Still, things aren't "perfect" by Joyner's calculations. Joyner credits university officials for allowing events like the Birdcage drag show, but she's also seen

individuals storm a stage at an IRIS meeting to make homophobic comments.

"We're not the worst, but we're not the best," Joyner said.

Both Hill and Joyner agree that visibility can teach important lessons about being a strong ally.

Hill says it's all about "listening" and "support."

"To be a good ally, you have to listen to the needs, wants and concerns of the marginalized group instead of telling people in that marginalized group what they need and taking over the conversation," Hill said. "Support the individuals that you're fighting alongside but don't be the face or the spokesperson for a community that you are not a part of."

Student band Tripping On Bricks building support, planning for future



Taylor Harrison / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC band Tripping on Bricks has started to pick up a sizable fan base after playing at New Brookland Tavern and Bonnamu.

Brad Dountz
@BRAD_DOUNTZ

One of the strongest attributes you notice about the Columbia-based band Tripping On Bricks, whether they're on stage or all sitting down for an interview, is that they have chemistry among themselves that is hard to replicate or fake.

"We were brothers before we were bandmates, so that's the important part," vocalist Ridge DeVono said.

Tripping On Bricks consists of USC students Ridge DeVono on vocals and guitar, Jonathan Bruney on guitar, Evan Tyler on bass and Evan Harper on drums. After meeting each other through Facebook and mutual friends, the group came together about a year ago and has been going strong ever since. Their name, Tripping On Bricks, draws from one of the most notorious parts of the school's campus.

"There's always a pun that when you walk across the Horseshoe the bricks are uneven because they date all the way back to 1801 when our University was founded," Bruney said. "So the pun goes that you can't walk across our campus without tripping on a brick."

The band started out by playing charity events for USC and that helped them launch an audience and experience to build upon.

"That's kinda got us spread throughout the student population, which then connects to Greek life and the city hearing about us," Bruney said.

This past week, Tripping On Bricks played at Bonnamu, a series of shows at Music Farm that raises money for one of Phi Mu's charities. They covered songs ranging from modern day classics like Kings of Leon and The Killers to another Carolina home-grown band, Rainbow Kitten Surprise.

Tripping On Bricks also have original material which they played recently at New Brookland Tavern. However, playing original music or covers doesn't change the feeling they get when they're playing together.

"The general spirit of music, man, it's crazy," Harper said. "When you're up there with three good friends it makes it all that much better. Being able to get together and just create something, there's really nothing like it honestly."

They have the drive to become an even more successful band in the future, but they still have the

same problems that every college band faces.

"Scheduling, since we're in all these different schedules now," Tyler said about the hardest part of being in a band in college.

"It's been pretty ... broken up because we've been in different places this summer, but now that we're back to school we're trying to do like two or three practices a week, gig on the weekends if we can. That's the goal and we need it, I guess," DeVono said.

They have short term goals but focus just as much on their long term goals as well.

"My particular goal and dream and I hope its with these three guys," DeVono said, "is to get an EP recorded. We have enough stuff for it, record an EP, keep playing in the area until we finish up school here and then tour, ideally."

Tripping On Bricks is a raucous band with a strong enough bond to get through the usual struggles that befall other groups. They know having a strong fan base can be the lifeblood of what keeps a band going.

"We've had fans that have been there every single gig since the beginning so we wanna thank them and just USC for the opportunities," Bruney said.

Reel Talk: Streaming services driving up prices

hulu
twitch

NETFLIX
prime

Rachel Pittman
@RACHELCPIITTMAN

Since the introduction of digital streaming, services that allow users to pick and choose both content and time of viewing have been steadily increasing in popularity.

In June, Fortune Magazine reported research showing that streaming services have in fact surpassed traditional cable television services in number of users. The Leichtman Research Group study showed that, while Netflix has around 50.85 million U.S. subscribers, the largest American cable providers can claim only around 48.61 million users nationwide.

Starting at \$7.99 per month, Netflix is one of the most popular choices for those looking to stream content. At this price, users gain access to sitcoms, a wide array of both independent

and blockbuster films, Netflix originals and a new download option for on-the-go viewing. Compare this monthly fee to the \$44.99 average starting price of America's most popular cable service provider — Comcast's Xfinity — and the choice between streaming or cable can seem like a no-brainer.

A no-brainer, that is, until a user's chosen service begins to show its limits. At first, the viewing options offered by one certain platform can seem endless, and there is no apparent reason to remain a cable customer when streaming subscriptions have so much content available for viewing. Netflix, for example, houses quite a few in-demand original series such as "House of Cards" and "Orange is the New Black." But what happens when the Netflix user wants to watch a different popular series, say "Game

of Thrones?"

For someone without cable television, viewing "Game of Thrones" requires a subscription to another platform, HBO Now. This service costs \$14.99 per month. Provided that said user decides to keep their Netflix subscription as well, their monthly streaming fee is now over \$20 per month, and this is only the beginning of the issue.

In order to have access to a wide variety of content or to check out the original content of streaming services, one must subscribe to increasing amounts of streaming platforms. Recent five-time Emmy winner "The Handmaid's Tale" can be viewed exclusively on Hulu and Amazon original content can only be seen with a pricy Amazon Prime subscription.

In addition to the big-name services currently in

SEESTREAMPAGE6



Courtesy of USC Theater and Dance

Review: USC plays deliver comedy but miss on message

Mattie Hibbs
@TDG_ARTS

Two one-act plays, "The White Liars" and "Black Comedy," are currently showing at USC's Lab Theatre as a double feature. Students Lane Christopher and Curtis Smoak each directed one show — Lane took on "The White Liars" while Smoak took the lead on "Black Comedy."

"The White Liars" plot had so many layers that it was difficult to follow. There were some points at which all four characters were doing something separate from one another on the stage, yet were all equally important for us to pay attention to.

It was not easy to take in all of these things at once as an audience member. This may have been a conscious decision in order to communicate the convoluted events that arise out of messy lies, but there were times where there was

simply too much going on to actually enjoy the play.

However, the acting was rewarding to watch. Alex Long and Nicholas Good exploded off the stage in dynamic monologues that revealed how little we as an audience knew about them — and showed us how little we ever actually know about anybody, even those we love the most.

While the show was overall well done and well received by the audience, it was not necessarily the kind of play that appeals to the masses. Some scenes had the audience rolling with laughter, but there were times at which the over-the-top comedy and the constant chaos made the play fall flat and overshadowed the poignant messages that were lying beneath the surface.

"Black Comedy" had similar threads with a plotline centered around

SEELIARSPAGE6

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STREAMPAGE5

existence, streaming platforms are becoming more and more niche specific with each passing year. Viewers who are looking for more classic content can subscribe to FilmStruck, the brainchild of Turner Classic Movies and Criterion Collection that begins at \$6.99 a month, and, in 2019, Disney will pull all content from competing streaming services to form their own, family-centered subscription option for viewers with children.

This multiplication of streaming options can only be expected to continue in the near future, leaving users with more choices, but also with a larger financial burden and increased viewing stress.

After signing up for a few subscriptions, users are shelling out monthly payments that add up to or surpass the amount paid for cable television. Furthermore, while these users do have access to a plethora of entertainment options, they are also left without basic cable programming, such as that on news and sports channels, and shuffling between various streaming platforms in order to make a viewing decision adds a new pressure to the viewing experience.

The diversification of streaming

services makes the question asked of consumers a difficult one to decide — stick to cable television, with most entertainment options in one place and covered by one price, or gain access to award-winning streaming service content and possibly skip a higher prices cable bill with multiple streaming platform subscriptions?

The answer to this entertainment debacle can seem murky, or even impossible. With users unwilling to return to cable television prices and new streaming platforms popping up on an almost daily basis, it seems inescapable that users choose the content that is most valuable to them and subscribe to the platforms that house said content.

Inescapable unless, of course, a streaming bundle comes onto the scene. With a streaming platform package, users could select a few service subscriptions, at one discounted price. With merged services, users could navigate the library of viewing options with increased ease, and no one would be limited to the content of only the service to which they subscribe. This plan sounds like it could solve the problems created by the advent of digital streaming — never mind that it sounds a lot like good, old-fashioned cable television, too.

LIARSPAGE5

elaborate lies and the consequences that come from them. The humor largely manifested itself in physical comedic acts as the show took place in an apartment with a blown fuse and the characters staggered around in the dark.

Some characters attempted to cover their lies while others attempted to uncover the truth; some tried to hide their true nature in the darkness while others tried to create light and see people for what they really were.

The actors poured themselves into the performance and the audience could feel that energy. We were wildly entertained by Brindsley Miller (Thomas Duncan) and his clumsy, somewhat uncomfortable navigation of the blacked-out apartment. Olivia

Hensley did a stellar job as the clever, no-games girlfriend, and Owen Heckman's smaller role as a lovable maintenance man brought light to a comedy set in total darkness.

The stage lighting was also particularly impressive in Black Comedy. The blackout was uniquely conveyed, fun to watch and added an underlying yet vital component to the show's entertaining nature.

Even though there were important ideas not quite breaking through, the double feature certainly made for an exciting night. "The White Liars" and "Black Comedy" were both written by Peter Shaffer, and told exaggerated stories of honesty and trust — or lack thereof — that kept the audience on its toes and filled the stage with loud humor and unhinged antics.

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Norwood inducted into Hall of Fame



Courtesy of Tribune News Service

Norwood was selected in the fourth round of the 2010 NFL Draft by the Panthers.

Carson Mason
@CARSONANNMASON

It's been less than a decade since Eric Norwood last took the field at Williams-Brice Stadium, but the defensive end turned linebacker has already gotten a chance to reflect on his accomplishments.

Norwood, who played with the Gamecocks from 2006-09, was inducted into the South Carolina Athletics Hall of Fame 2017 class on Thursday. He and seven other athletes, including Chuck Allen, Larry Davis, Jamar Nesbit, Bill Currier, Randy Martz, Tricia Popowski and Jennifer Brunelli, were honored at the Hall of Fame dinner in the Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium.

"It feels crazy," Norwood said. "I remember when I got the call ... it completely caught me off guard. It was like I got a scholarship all over again."

During his senior season, Norwood was named first-team All-American in 2009 by both the Associated Press and the Walter Camp Foundation as an outside linebacker. He holds the South Carolina record for career tackles for loss with 55 and sacks with 29.

As one of the most decorated players in SEC history, Norwood was selected in the fourth round, 124th overall of the 2010 NFL Draft playing by the Carolina Panthers. He played with the Panthers from 2010 to 2011 before moving on to play in the United Football League, Arena Football League and Canadian Football League for a combined five years.

Norwood viewed his time at USC as

a stepping stone for his career.

"From the time I got here, I got support academically from the tutors and the academic staff we had," Norwood said. "They just continued to work with us, and our coaches worked with us on and off the field, so just like being here, it's always been helpful for me. Now, every step that I've taken since I've left here, playing in the NFL, playing in Canada and various other leagues, it's prepared me to be the man I am and made me the man I am."

During his time with the Gamecocks, Norwood was not only known for his electric defense on the field, but also for his vocal leadership qualities off the field. He served as a team captain as a junior and senior in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Norwood was a celebrity starter during Saturday's football game against Louisiana Tech. He hyped up the crowd by leading the "Game! Cocks!" chant before kickoff.

While he currently resides in Georgia, Norwood said he was happy to be back.

"It's always special to me. When I drive past it, going to Charlotte or Rock Hill or something, it's home," Norwood said. "It's going to be home eventually ... I'm happy to be here. They treat me great, the fans, everybody in Gamecock nation."

What's one of the biggest things Norwood misses about being a student at USC?

"I'd probably say Chicken Finger Wednesdays at the Russell House," Norwood said. "That's always a memory for me."

Ice 'Cocks cool Clemson offense

Mike Woodel
@GETTHISDOGONETO

South Carolina achieved its second consecutive victory over Clemson and improved to 1-1-0 with a 5-1 triumph Friday in Irmo.

Scoring was bountiful and quick, as just 2:24 into the game, Carolina's Mike Borst took a pass from Sean Davis and rifled a wrist shot past Clemson goaltender Liam McHugh to get the Gamecocks on the board first. It was Borst's first goal of the season and Davis' second assist in as many games.

With four minutes left in the period, Clemson stormed the Carolina defensive zone on a two-on-one rush that was broken up when the Gamecocks' Greyson Curry laid out to intercept the centering pass. Carolina's power play made its second appearance of the period just moments later on a slashing minor from Tigers forward Jacob Rioux, but the Clemson penalty kill prevailed once again.

Tigers forward Andrew Racicot nearly tied the game just two minutes into the second when he fell behind the Gamecock defense

for a breakaway, but Bobby Lombardi managed to kick aside the Clemson leading scorer's close wrist shot.

Carolina nearly took a two-goal lead 4:46 in while Clemson's Andrew Butterfield served two minutes for hooking, but officials determined the Tiger net had been dislodged before the puck crossed the line. The Gamecocks formed a three-on-one rush into the Clemson zone just 25 seconds after Butterfield left the box, but McHugh managed to stifle the attack.

Matthew Power took a five-minute major and game misconduct after a forceful check from behind on Carolina defenseman Duncan Hickman. Hickman was shaken up on the play but returned the game soon after. Just under three minutes into the ensuing power play, Ian Schneider tallied his first goal of the game with 9:37 left to give the Gamecocks a 2-0 lead.

USC's rookie line of Ben Smith, Jack Watson and Ian Schneider came up big again just minutes later when Smith one-

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Sara Yang / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Attitude, toughness shine in fourth quarter

Ryan Lawson
@RKLAWSON25

Although they were trailing by 13 in the fourth quarter, the attitude and effort of the South Carolina football team never wavered.

The Gamecocks scored 17 points in the final 12 minutes to come back and defeat Louisiana Tech 17-16 on Saturday.

"A very gutty performance by our guys, they fought their tails off," head coach Will Muschamp said. "Down 13-nothing going into the fourth quarter and there wasn't a lot of positive things going on and our guys fought through it. Says a lot about the resiliency and the character of our football team."

The Gamecocks struggled offensively through the first three quarters of the contest. While place kicker Parker White missed two field goal attempts, the Gamecocks never threatened to find the end zone before the final quarter. After the Gamecocks grabbed a one-point lead in the fourth, Louisiana Tech responded with a drive of its own. The Bulldogs capped off the 10-play, 84-yard drive with a Jonathan Barnes field goal to re-take the lead with less than a minute remaining.

While that field goal was a setback, the Gamecocks offense was ready to be called-upon once again.

"Ever since the second touchdown, when we went up by one, we were all excited, but I just went up the [side] line and told the guys it's not over yet," quarterback Jake Bentley said. "Stay locked-in, stay ready to go and they did an unbelievable job of that. Alan Knott, Bryan Edwards ... Hayden [Hurst] really rallied the offense and kept us focused and kept us locked-in. Just go win the game. I mean, at the end of the day, it's in our hands now."

The "locked-in" Gamecock attack was sparked by a 24-yard scramble from Bentley. That gain set up a 41-yard reception to Bryan Edwards, putting the Gamecocks well within field goal range as the clock wined down. White's kick gave the Gamecocks the win they fought hard for and was the first made attempt of his career.

"I'm extremely proud of the effort of our football team," Muschamp said. "Through a week of a lot of negativity, I'm very proud of how they handled coming back and under very adverse circumstances. That says a lot about the type of young men and the character we've got in that locker-room and the leadership that we have in that locker-room."

The comeback win takes the Gamecocks to 3-1 on the season before they head to Texas A&M for the third SEC game of the campaign Saturday.

'Cocks rugby defeats 'Bama

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ALABAMA ON ROAD

Carson Mason and Mac Stiles
@TDG_SPORTS

The South Carolina men's rugby team didn't let a 90 degree heat index keep it from defeating a hard-nosed, pack-heavy Alabama squad, 34-15, on Saturday.

With an 11 a.m. kickoff, the games were off to an earlier than normal start. Alabama wasted no time slicing through the South Carolina defense to draw first blood and adding a conversion to go up, 7-0. After some phase play following the kickoff, the Gamecocks were granted a penalty in Alabama territory, leading to fly-half Jacob Powers' penalty kick to make it, 7-3.

Alabama gave the Gamecocks an opening when it earned a penalty and a yellow card on the ensuing kickoff. But, with strong defense and a handful of sloppy South Carolina possessions, including a missed penalty, the Tide were back to full

strength and unharmed.

The referees set water breaks at the 20 minute mark as a means of keeping players hydrated in the intense heat. Following the first half water break, Alabama slotted a penalty kick to push the score, 10-3. The score remained for a quiet end of the half, both teams showed signs of point potential, including South Carolina's second missed penalty.

Half time came with neither side capitalizing.

The Gamecocks shifted positions around half, bringing Mac Stiles in at fly half, international student Hugo Claraz to wing and Powers to fullback. Powers started things off with a penalty kick to slim the margin, 10-6. After repeated penalties, the Gamecocks faced a tough yellow card, bringing them to 14 men. Alabama took advantage,

scoring to stretch the lead, 15-6. An unfortunate dump tackle yielded a second yellow in as many minutes.

Down nine points and two men, and with the game leaning hard toward Alabama, South Carolina found light in outside center Sean Barnes. Barnes confidently called his own number, and found room after a Stiles pass to get in under the post. Powers converted as one of the yellows came back on, and the pendulum began to swing back South Carolina's way.

Moments later Cameron Higginbotham bowed across the goal line for his first career try. South Carolina pushed the pace, causing an eventual Alabama penalty. On an intended kick for touch from Powers, the ball stayed in play and found an Alabama wing. The wing countered with a pass, which was intercepted

by Powers' foot and resulted in a chase, try and conversion.

After multiple phases right on the goal line, Stiles poked a grubber kick through the line and recovered for his first career try, nailing his conversion as well. The quick strike left South Carolina with four tries and 34 points as Stiles kicked to touch for the final whistle.

"It was a hard fought game," junior scrum-half Daniel Callahan said. "The penalties and lack of ball security killed us, but we know where we need to focus in practice this week."

As the old saying goes, it was a tale of two halves, and nothing rang more true in this win for the Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks will face Florida in their home-opener at Bluff Road Field at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

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timed a cross-ice pass past McHugh to make it 3-0. Minutes later a skirmish involving several players on both sides broke out at the top of the Clemson zone and ultimately sent two Clemson players and Carolina's Blake Drummond to the penalty box with four minutes for roughing and 10-minute misconducts. Gamecock Brian Sohr left for the locker room with a game misconduct and five-minute major.

Finally, with just 49.5 seconds left in the period, Carolina's Jim Hatton managed to sneak a wrist shot through McHugh's pads to give the Gamecocks a commanding 4-0 lead going into the second intermission.

With 3:04 gone in the third, Bobby Van Dusen found the net for the first time this season just 17 seconds into a Gamecocks power play to stretch the lead to five. Jacob Vander Leest ended Bobby Lombardi's shutout bid with 4:26 remaining to close the scoring in a comparatively tame third period. The Gamecocks outshot the Tigers by a final margin of 29-11.

Carolina hits the road this weekend to take on UNC Wilmington in a doubleheader Friday and Saturday.

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The Ice 'Cocks defense held Clemson to just 11 shots on Friday night's win.

Lisa Falta / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

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