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The Daily Gamecock, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

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MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

LOCAL & WORLD NEWS

LOCAL
Teen murderer able to testify

After spending close to half his life behind bars, 20-year-old Christopher Pittman finally made it into the witness chair to testify in a South Carolina courtroom.

He never took the stand at his trial more than four years ago, when a jury found him guilty of the shotgun murder of two police officers in Charleston. At a hearing a week earlier Zolothi clouded his judgment. But as the chains linking his ankles softly clinked Friday, Pittman shuffled up to take questions during a hearing over whether he should get a new trial.

The judge wouldn’t let prosecutors review the chilling confession he gave hours after authorities found Joe and Joy Pittman dead in their beds in the home their grandson burned. Instead, Pittman talked about his trial attorneys and how he would have taken a plea deal if they had given him more information.

Prosecutors during this week’s hearing have denied any formal plea offer was made, but Pittman’s lawyers have said they were considering a deal for him to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter and let the judge decide on a sentence from two to 30 years.

NATIONAL
D.C. mourns loss of Kennedy

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, laid to rest alongside his slain brothers John and Robert, was remembered as a “veritable force of nature” who worked tirelessly in the Senate for nearly five decades.

Crowds lined the streets of two cities on a day that marked the end of an American political era — nearby Kennedy’s funeral in rain-soaked Boston where he was eulogized by President Barack Obama, and later in Boston, late-summer Washington.

Kennedy, who died Tuesday at age 77, more than a year after he was diagnosed with a brain tumor, was buried Saturday on hallowed ground at Arlington National Cemetery. At a graveside engulfed in deepening darkness, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop-emeritus of Washington, offered sympathy to Kennedy relatives and “an extended family that must probably include most of America.”

Earlier, Obama delivered the eulogy in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, packed with row upon row of “probably include most of America.”

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CRIME REPORT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Sunny 74°F. 1020 Pendleton St. Hampton College

The victim reported that between the time she left work on Aug. 20 and Aug. 23, her silver Apple desktop computer and voice recorder were stolen from her office.

Total value: $2,850

Reporting Officer: Walter Mattushaus

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

TOKYO — Japan’s opposition swept to a historic victory in elections Sunday, crushing the ruling conservative party that has run the country for most of the postwar era and assuming the daunting task of pulling the economy out of its worst slump since World War II.

A grim-looking Prime Minister Taro Aso conceded defeat just a couple hours after polls had closed suggesting he would quit as president of the Liberal Democratic Party, which has ruled Japan for all but 11 years since 1955.

“The results are very severe,” Aso said. “There has been a deep dissatisfaction with our system.”

Unemployment and deflation — and an aging, shrinking population — have left families fearful of what the future holds.

Fed up with the LDP, voters turned overwhelmingly to the opposition Democratic Party of Japan, which ran a populist-leaning platform with plans for cash handouts to families with children and expanding the social safety net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1886:
General William T. Sherman launches the attack that finally secures Atlanta, Ga., for the Union, and seals the fate of Confederate General John Bell Hood’s army, which is forced to evacuate the city.

1886:
An earthquake near Charleston leaves more than 100 people dead and hundreds of buildings destroyed. This was the largest recorded earthquake in the history of the southeastern United States.

1886:
Prostitute Mary Ann Hicksy, the first victim of London serial killer “Jack the Ripper,” is found murdered and mutilated in Whitechapel’s Buck’s Row. The East End of London saw four more victims of the murderer during the next few months, but no suspect was ever found.

1897:
Thomas Edison receives a patent for his invention, the kinetograph. Edison had developed the camera and its viewer in the early 1890s and staged several demonstrations.

LOCAL & WORLD NEWS

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WEAR YOUR GARNET
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ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

COLLEGE COLORS DAY 2009
09.04.09
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
WEAR YOUR GARNET
ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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SUGARLAND SUPPORTS NCAA
SC GOP express anger over Sanford, hope for timely impeachment trial

Majority will wait for state ethics commission results

Jim Davenport
The Associated Press

Republican legislators who have been pressuring South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford to resign are holding off on impeachment proceedings now that the governor has said he intends to finish his term. Sanford said in a news release Saturday that he has decided not to resign after admissions about his extramarital affair and possible misuse of state aircraft.

Sanford has said the news reports reflect "cherry-picking" of his records and that he only followed the practices set by other lawmakers. He's also brushed aside other criticism and investigations as politically motivated.

House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, said he's been telling Sanford for weeks legislators and the public are angry. On Saturday, he urged the GOP caucus to hold off on any action involving an impeachment resolution until the state's Ethics Commission wrapped up its probe.

"Members of the caucus are disappointed in him, angry with him and in some ways disgusted by the whole thing and they want to deal with it as quickly as possible," Harrell said.

Sanford issued a statement Saturday about the caucus on whether it should proceed with an impeachment resolution; two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate would have to approve an impeachment resolution for Sanford to be removed. Sanford has said he will continue serving as governor until after the November general election.

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Whatever Works
NOW IN THEATERS

★★★★★

Out of five stars

Directed by Woody Allen
Starring: Larry David, Evan Rachel Wood
Run Time: 92 minutes

Rating: PG-13 for sexual situations including a sexual encounter

On paper, the marriage of filmmaker Woody Allen with comedian writer/actor Larry David (“Curb Your Enthusiasm”) seems like a sure thing. Both have a similar dry, at times misanthropic, sometimes baffled approach to life, and together they deliver their one liners in the same manner as Allen’s characters. Allen’s characters, in fact, are most often the source of Larry David’s material to include banter with his wife, friends and even strangers. Though he has updated the material for many clever jokes about the human race. That is, until you start looking in at the characters’ lives, giving the film plenty of sharp cracks about the film medium. Allen plays with film in a one-way conversation, as the characters of a film are able to “communicate” to an audience, while the audience is powerless to engage the characters. “Whatever Works” also marks Allen’s return to his native New York after four films abroad in Europe. Throughout his career, the director has produced some of the most loving photography of the city in any film. Here, he works for the first time with cinematographer Huszti (Zodiac), who provides beautifully shaded and toned compositions that fit in perfectly with Allen’s tendency to use long takes of characters trying to struggle through their problems at crucial moments.

Ava, “Whatever Works” remains largely impersonal and unfeigned, a glimmer of a great idea without any carrying force. It’s a helpful humanist film from a fantastic director. Woody Allen’s films are usually all met with similar enthusiasm. His detractors claim he always makes the same film, while his admirers see him as a very personal filmmaker who uses movies both as a place to stay, her ignorance tooting the limits of his patience while her sweetness slowly cracks his stone exterior.

The script for “Whatever Works” was originally written in the mid-1970s for comedian Zero Mostel, but after the actor’s death in 1977, Allen shepherded the script. Though he has updated the material to include banter about a black president and terrorism, “Whatever Works” has one foot firmly planted in Allen’s first decade of filmmaking, making it classically formulaic, lacks some creativity but after the actor’s death in 1977, Allen shepherded the script. Though he has updated the material to include banter about a black president and terrorism, “Whatever Works” has one foot firmly planted in Allen’s first decade of filmmaking, making it classically formulaic, lacks some creativity.

Larry David and Evan Rachel Wood share a scene in Woody Allen’s “Whatever Works.”

Larry David and Evan Rachel Wood share a scene in Woody Allen’s “Whatever Works.”

New Allen film reminiscent of early work
ARIES: Apikeal you've been putting together finally starts to make sense. A little more work and you'll have the mystery TAURUS: Things are setting down. Celebrate with pals and come up with more ideas. You and your friends can now work well together.

GEMINI: If you're still figuring out what to do with all those pennies, keep saving them until you find the perfect thing.

CANCER: The new structure has advantages over the old; you just have to learn how to use it. You're doing OK.

LEO: Follow through on a project, don't start a new one now. This could be your big chance! By the way, your partner's crazy scheme could actually work. It'll take faith and determination, and a little help from friends.

LIBRA: A brilliant idea, using what you already have, solves the problem. This suggestion could come from a roommate.

SCORPIO: Continue to look through your storage bins. You'll find an amazing bargain.

SAGITTARIUS: Stop shopping for the perfect thing. Exercise self-discipline. Odds are good you'll find an amazing bargain.

CAPRICORN: Know the ropes. You'll be good at this once you know the ropes.

AQUARIUS: Keep studying. You'll learn something about the regulations.

PISCES: Keep track of the budget and the rules. Play it by the book. You may find the perfect thing. Exercise self-discipline. Odds are good you'll find an amazing bargain.

TODAY

Across
1 Cryer of "Two and a Half Men" - Joey
2 Bander or Lugosi - Mork
8 "How__Your Name" - Your
12 __Gabor - Marge
13 __, a Name - Jim
15 "The__"; Robert - Alice
16 Animated primetime series - "Mad About__"
17 Role on "Bonanza" - Adam
18 __Gordon - Jack
19 "__the Sheriff" - Andy
20 "Mad About__"
21 Winfrey, Letterman - Oprah
22 Insulting remark for short - "Jerk"
23 Cone-shaped dwelling __ - Cone
25 Robert of "The Sopranos" - De Niro
27 "__Ranger" for short - "The__ Ranger"
28 Stitches - Stitches
29 Actress Remini - Kevin
30 Lioness in "Born Free" - Nala
31 Tools with teeth - Pliers
32 Hawaii's Mauna__ - Kea
34 __ Lazy River - Pigs
35 Repair - Fix
36 "How the West__" - West
37 Popular game show escape - "Whatever Works"
38 Comic strip "Steve__ & Dumber" - Garfield
39 SeaWorld attraction - "Whatever Works"
40 Title for Barry Minkoff - "Whatever Works"
41 Jakob's team - Germany
42 Judging __ - "Whatever Works"
43 Stiff-leaved City - "Whatever Works"
44 Role on "Spin City" - "Whatever Works"
45 Nighttime host - "Whatever Works"
47 "Hide and__"; De Niro movie - "Whatever Works"
48 Actress Thurman - "Whatever Works"
49 Space - "Whatever Works"
50 Caustic substance - "Whatever Works"
51 "__the Sheriff" - Andy
52 Fort Worth school, for short - "Whatever Works"
53 Occupations, abbr. - "Whatever Works"
54 De Niro movie - "Whatever Works"
55 "__ the Sheriff" - Andy
57 Sense of self-esteem - "Whatever Works"
58 Astonish - "Whatever Works"
59 Mork's planet - "Whatever Works"
60 "__in Seattle" - "Whatever Works"
61 "__on the Tongue" - "Whatever Works"
62 __ and the Tramp - "Whatever Works"
63 Stitches - "Whatever Works"
64 Role for Edward Asner - "Whatever Works"
65 "__ of the tongue" - "Whatever Works"
66 "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
67 "__ Ranger" - "The__ Ranger"
68 "__ing__" - "Whatever Works"
69 __Farrow - Dianne
70 Listener's need - "Whatever Works"
71 __ in Seattle - "Whatever Works"
72 __Name; Jim Carrey - Jim
73 __Gabor - Marge
74 __, a Name - Jim
75 "The__"; Robert - Alice
76 __, a Name - Jim
77 __Gardner - Jack
78 __Gordons - Jack
79 __the Sheriff - Andy
80 "Mad About__" - Jack
81 Winfrey, Letterman - Oprah
82 Insulting remark for short - "Jerk"
83 Cone-shaped dwelling __ - Cone
84 Role for Edward Asner - "Whatever Works"
85 __Gordon - Jack
86 __ the Sheriff - Andy
87 __Gordon - Jack
88 __ the Sheriff - Andy
89 __Gardner - Jack
90 Listener's need - "Whatever Works"
91 __ of the tongue - "Whatever Works"
92 __ and the Tramp - "Whatever Works"
93 __ing__" - "Whatever Works"
94 __Farrow - Dianne
95 __ in Seattle - "Whatever Works"
96 __, a Name - Jim
97 __Gabor - Marge
98 __, a Name - Jim
99 __Gardner - Jack
100 __, a Name - Jim

Down
1 "The__Phantom Showman" - "The__Phantom Showman"
2 Sloping hill, usually - "The__Phantom Showman"
3 Dog in "Peter Pan" - "The__Phantom Showman"
4 Joey of the "Bleed Pack" - "The__Phantom Showman"
5 Sense of self-esteem - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
6 Role for Edward Asner - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
7 Perry Mason's occupation: abbr. - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
8 Two cents' worth - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
9 __Farrow - Dianne
10 Listener's need - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
11 Disapproving click - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
12 __Gabor - Marge
13 __, a Name - Jim
14 Long and Peeples - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
15 "The__"; Robert - Alice
16 Animated primetime series - "Mad About__" - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
17 Role on "Bonanza" - Adam
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27 "The__Ranger" - "The__ Ranger"
28 Stitches - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
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50 Caustic substance - "Whatever Works" - "Whatever Works"
09.04.09
College Colors Day is September 4th
Wear your Gamecock Colors!

GARNET ON GAMEDAY

SUPPORT THE GAMECOCKS BY WEARING GARNET FOR EVERY GAME!
Baseball can’t be overlooked

Baseball can’t be overlooked. This week with the Angels’ wheeling and dealing, shown from Tampa Bay. The notion. Even though the Lee by the Phillies prove by the Cardinals and Cliff win. Trade deadline deals for forced teams to make deals to engrave with Albert Pujols’ National League MVP, with the exception of the awards in both leagues have a nice piece of hardware and in the process secure in September to secure a will have the opportunity to close to five pitchers who are as close to five as this looks to be easy to shift all of our advantage of the loose ball and take the Gamecock’s second game of the season, but second of the season as well. Much of the Gamecocks’ success on the day was attributable to outstanding midfield play. The midfield outplayed and out-hurled Western Carolina, winning by a majority of the 50-50 ball and efficiently working the ball up the field. Miller in particular stood out in midfield, taking command of the game and controlling both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball to help create scoring opportunities.

“We have to win the ball to be able to get on offense,” Smith said. “Midfield worked tremendously hard to keep the ball for us and get it into areas we don’t pressure our.”

The only real defense against the Gamecocks was from within. They had eleven shots and quoted numerous scoring chances in the first half and two offside calls early in the second half foiled two more possible scoring opportunities. “We would have loved to finish a couple more chances,” Smith said. “Some Eagles had to make decisions to play the ball when and where things can improve.”

USC blanks Catamounts

USC blanks Catamounts without single shot in dominating win

Senior midfielder Kim Miller scored an unassisted goal for a loose ball in the 20th minute.

Women’s volleyball opens up season against strong opponents at Clemson tournament

Paulina Borkovich THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC’s women’s volleyball team began its 2009 season in impressive fashion, winning its third consecutive preseason tournament dating back from last year. The Gamecocks beat in-state competitors Clemson, College of Charleston and Winthrop at the Big Orange Bash at Jervey Gymnasium in an intense weekend competition full of close matches decided by outstanding individual performances.

Friday night’s victory against Clemson took just five sets, but Carolina had the edge over its rivals in every statistical category, including kills, assists, ace hitting percentage and a .714 edge in digs.

Saturday afternoon’s contest against College of Charleston also lasted the full five sets. The Gamecocks rallied from a 2-1 deficit after three sets to take the match. Again, the Gamecocks had more assets and digs than their opponents as well as a .367 to .335 advantage in hitting percentage.

The Gamecocks secured the tournament win with a four-set victory over Winthrop, continuing in recent trend of statistical dominance. Much like its first game against the rival Tigers, USC held the statistical edge in every single category against the Eagles.

Seniors Ivana Kujundzic and Sarah Cline and junior Hannah Lawing were named to the All-Tournament Team for their decisive roles in the game and back’s victory. In the match against Lawing, Clemson, Laying contributed 20 kills and 19 digs, while Kujundzic added 13 kills. Against Winthrop, Kujundzic led the way with 15 kills and 12 digs, with Laying close behind at 14 kills and 18 digs. Kujundzic’s performance earned her the honor of Tournament MVP.

But the statistical story of the match against Charleston was Cline’s 20 digs, which made her only the seventh Gamecock to achieve 1,000 digs in her career.

Other individual performances of note came from some of the team’s younger players. Sophomore Teresa Steinkellner posted an outstanding .649 hitting percentage against the College of Charleston, along with nine kills, to help the Gamecocks to victory.

Olivia Ryder, a redshirt freshman, made the first kill of her career in the final set against Winthrop, while Lindsey Boyce, another redshirt freshman, set down four digs in her USC debut.

Senior Bridget Denon-Dorman contributed 58 assists to the match against Clemson, and 30 against Charleston.

Coach Ben Somora was satisfied with his team’s play over the weekend, citing composure and focus as two key components in his team’s success. Hopes are high for the game and black this season, with the coach stating in an interview earlier this month, “We’re as close to what we envision our team being as we ever have been.”

The volleyball season continues with the Gamecock Invitational, hosted next weekend here at USC. Eastern Kentucky, Coastal Carolina and USC Greensboro will send its teams to this year’s contest. Play will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday morning with the Gamecocks facing Eastern Kentucky.

E-mail sagcksp@mbox.sc.edu

Comments on this story? E-mail sagcksp@mbox.sc.edu

Senior Meredith Moorhead (13) and junior Megan Laughlin (10) tap to defend a spike. The duo combined for 13 blocks this weekend in three games.

Carolina Bashes in-state opponents

Carolina Opens up season with three straight victories against rivals at Clemson tournament

Women’s volleyball opens up season with three straight victories against rivals at Clemson tournament

Carolina Begins open season with three straight victories against rivals at Clemson tournament

Carolina opens up season with three straight victories against rivals at Clemson tournament

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Carolina Bashes in-state opponents
Hello, and welcome to another amazing season of Southeastern Conference football. If you’re anything like me, growing up in the South means Saturdays full of tailgating, friends, family and hard-hitting football. I can vividly remember waking up on an early fall morning, jumping in the car and heading down to Williams-Brice Stadium to watch some of the best teams and athletes the country had to offer.

While the look of the Columbia area may have drastically changed since those days some 10 years ago, the smells of Beaufort Stew, shrimp and grits and the looks on the faces of the passionate Gamecock fans remains the same. The 2009 season looks to be no different.

As South Carolina head coach Steve Spurrier continues to push his Gamecocks towards championship caliber status, we at The Daily Gamecock look to do the same with our award-winning newspaper. Thus, we’ve created what lies inside these pages: the first-ever South Carolina Football Season Preview tabloid. The words inside these pages are the thoughts and ideas of several of the University’s up-and-coming journalists, all of which take pride in both their Student Media organization and their Gamecock football team.

Inside this magazine you’ll find in-depth analysis of all 12 teams on South Carolina’s 2009 schedule. You’ll find out about each team’s offense and defense, a season outlook and record predictions. Alongside that you’ll find out how we expect the Southeastern Conference to shake out, both in the Eastern and Western Divisions.

As if that wasn’t enough, you’ll find a breakdown of what Carolina looks to have as well when they face these 12 teams.

Finally, you’ll find out what bowl games we think the 12 Southeastern Conference teams will participate in.

As print media grows and evolves every day, we at The Daily Gamecock are striving to keep up in the ultra-competitive market. Tuitions may vary and food prices in the Russell House may rise, but the devotion shown by the sports writers at The Daily Gamecock will always remain strong. We feel that seems evident by the work inside this tabloid.

So kick back, grab a soda and enjoy this tabloid. But even more, enjoy the 2009 Gamecock football season.

Thanks again,
Chris Cox
Sports Editor
The Daily Gamecock

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Wolfpack Offense: The Wolfpack may have an emerging star on their hands in redshirt sophomore Russell Wilson, who in 2008 became the first-ever quarterback to make first-team All-ACC as a freshman a season ago. A healthy and productive Wilson will be the most important piece of the offensive puzzle if coach Tom O’Brien wants to challenge for an Atlantic division championship in 2009. After being knocked out of last year’s opener against USC, Wilson went on to prove why he could be the next great dual-threat college QB. The Richmond, Va. native threw for 17 touchdowns while racking up nearly 2,000 yards through the air. With his ability to limit turnovers, escape the pocket and throw on the run, Russell Wilson will be N.C. State’s offensive MVP in 2009.

Wolfpack Defense: The Wolfpack defense was dealt a huge blow in the offseason when linebacker Nate Irving suffered a broken leg and a collapsed lung in a car accident. Arguably the Wolfpack’s best defensive player in 2008, Irving racked up 84 tackles, four interceptions and one fumble recovery last season. While a return later in the season is not out of the question, Irving will most certainly be held out in the opener against the Gamecocks. In Irving’s absence, look for All-ACC defensive end Willie Young to become the leader of the defense. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound senior recorded 6.5 sacks in 2008, along with an interception and two fumble recoveries. If Young can put pressure on opposing QBs, he can relieve some of the pressure in the secondary caused by Irving’s absence.

Why USC Will Win: The Gamecocks will beat the Wolfpack in much the same way they did in 2008. Strong play in the defensive backfield held three N.C. State quarterbacks to a total of only 49 passing yards last year. The inexperienced but talented secondary for the Gamecocks should be able to put on a repeat performance. The offense, led by Stephen Garcia and a host of running backs, keeps mistakes to a minimum and wears down the Wolfpack defense. As happened last year, the game is close early, but the Gamecocks pull away late.

Why USC Won’t Win: Russell Wilson. Looking to avenge last year’s loss and concussion he received at the hands of the USC defense, Wilson can take advantage of South Carolina’s inexperience on defense.

Season Prediction: With an improved FSU and a dangerous Clemson team in the same division, it’s hard to imagine State finishing higher than third. However, if O’Brien get’s off to a hot start, a second-place finish isn’t out of the question.

Coach’s Comment: “[Wilson’s] got a lot of work still to do, but certainly if he can build upon last year and get better than he was, we’re in a much better starting spot at quarterback today than we were last year at this time.”
– Tom O’Brien
Bulldog Offense: Following the departure of quarterback Matthew Stafford, the Bulldog offense is being questioned. That’s in addition to losing running back Knowshon Moreno. With the two catalysts of its 2008 offense gone, Georgia needs someone to step up, and coach Mark Richt is hoping the answer will come from senior quarterback Joe Cox. The veteran waited patiently for his time to come as he watched and learned from the sidelines. He’s played in just 13 college games and started in only one of those contests. If Cox can play like the quarterback Richt thinks he is, Georgia can contend for an SEC East title.

Bulldog Defense: Georgia returns six of its 11 starters from last year’s 10-3 team. The 2008 defense was mediocre enough to allow the juggernaut offense to win games. The ‘D’ didn’t rank above sixth in 2008 in any defensive category. In an effort to put forth a more disciplined defensive squad, Richt made practices more physical this past summer. This after Richt admitted last year that he had eased up defensive practices to avoid injuries, then promised that he wouldn’t make that mistake again. In the secondary, the premature loss of Asher Allen to the NFL draft will hurt, as the team no longer has an experienced playmaking defensive back. Up front, tackles Geno Atkins and Jeff Owens need to generate more pass rush than the 2008 team did, finishing eighth in the SEC in sacks.

Why USC Will Win: Unlike last year, it could be argued that South Carolina has an equally talented or even better team than the Bulldogs. All-American linebacker Eric Norwood could wreak havoc on the Georgia offense when the two teams square off in week two between the hedges. The unproven and untested Georgia offense may have its hands full with the Gamecock defense that held the powerful 2008 Bulldog offense to just 14 points a season ago. On the other side of the ball, wide out Moe Brown was the lone source of offense last season with a career high in catches and yards. He also scored the only touchdown in Carolina’s 14-7 defeat. Look for him to take advantage of a weak Bulldog secondary, particularly after Asher Allen departed for the NFL.

Why USC Won’t Win: UGA’s offense may be unproven, but so is USC’s. Carolina couldn’t generate a consistent source of points last year for all of 2008 and couldn’t score more than one touchdown against UGA. Now, playing in Athens, quarterback Stephen Garcia may not be able to control the game and the crowd, and may find it difficult to generate points, regardless of the state of the defense.

Season Prediction: No one sees Georgia doing any major damage in the SEC this year. With Stafford and Moreno gone, it seems that last year was the year. Take a look at the team’s schedule, one of the toughest in the NCAA, and it’d be hard to argue anything else. However, pundits have made these same remarks in several seasons past, only to see the Bulldogs win between eight and 10 games. Fans might see that same result in 2009.

Coach’s Comment: “There wouldn’t be a thing we would hold back from [Cox] because of his lack of experience. He is totally experienced in what to do and how to do it. We have all the confidence in him.” –Mark Richt
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Owl Offense: When it comes to Florida Atlantic, fans around college football think of one name, and it isn’t legendary coach Howard Schnellenberger. It’s actually Rusty Smith, the 6-foot-5-inch quarterback who seems destined for a place in the National Football League. Smith owns just about every FAU passing and touchdown record going into his final season, and looks to have a breakout year in order to garner looks from NFL scouts. While the Owls only averaged 25 points a contest last season, Smith got hot late as his offense racked up an average of 40 points a game in the final four contests. With his favorite wide receiver target in Cortez Gent returning, Smith looks to build upon his 3,000+ yard season from a season ago.

Owl Defense: Coming into 2008, the Owls were the trendy pick to capture the Sun Belt Conference Championship. While the offense lived up to expectations, the defense was a surprising failure averaging only a sack per game and giving up yardage in big chunks. In 2009, the defense looks to be an even bigger question mark as the Owls have to replace eight starters from last year’s lineup including the top six tacklers. For a team that finished just fifth in total defense in the mediocre Sun Belt last season, Coach Schnellenberger must be awfully concerned about the scoreboard blowing up down in Boca Raton, Fla. this season.

Why USC Will Win: They’re supposed to. A team from the lowly Sun Belt does not come into an SEC venue and pull off a stunner. Sure, teams from non-automatic qualifying conferences have gotten close in the past, but have never been able to get over the proverbial hump on more than a few occasions. If the Gamecocks come out and play sound, fundamental football like they should, Spurrier and his club should have no problem pulling out a victory against the high-octane Owls.

Why USC Won’t Win: Rusty Smith. The veteran QB of the Owls has led his team to a bowl victory in each of the last two seasons. If Smith wants to increase his hopes of getting to the next level, he’ll need to add a few upsets to his résumé. What better place to do that then at South Carolina?

Season Prediction: The Owls have a solid club for a Sun Belt team, and should find great success against its league opponents. That said, coach Schnellenberger still doesn’t have the big guns to knock down some big-time nonconference opponents. However, quarterback Rusty Smith is good enough to lead a turnaround and get FAU back into yet another bowl game.

Coach’s Comment: “We need to play with a renewed determination and we need to play with poise and confidence. We need to execute up to our abilities. If we can do that, I think we can start fast and finish strong and have a solid football team as the season progresses.” — Howard Schnellenberger
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Rebels Offense: Most college football fans are familiar with the best quarterback in the SEC not named Tim Tebow by now. Heisman Trophy candidate Jevan Snead leads a potent offense that will leave defensive coordinators short on sleep. In addition to Snead’s passing ability, head coach Houston Nutt will continue to use the “Wild Rebel” offense featuring WR/RB Dexter McCluster to keep teams off-balance. Underrated senior wide receiver Shay Hodge is the current receiving yards leader in the SEC. However, the biggest question mark that remains is the offensive line, especially at the left tackle position.

Rebel Defense: No team in the SEC was better at making plays behind the line of scrimmage last season than Ole Miss. Even though defensive end Peria Jerry has moved on to the NFL, the line is still stacked. Stud end Greg Hardy returns from a foot injury to join strong tackles Ted Laurent and Lawon Scott. The Rebels line could easily become the best in the nation by season’s end. The linebackers benefit immensely from the line play. The Rebels allowed a meager 85.5 run yards per game last season and that looks to be no different this year. However, the weakness remains the pass defense. While safety Kendrick Lewis is a strong player, there is not a lot of depth for former USC coordinator Tyrone Nix.

Why USC Will Win: Let’s make it twice. They beat the Rebels on the road last season, so why can’t they do it in Columbia? The crowd will definitely be amped when the Rebels roll into Columbia as USC will hit the field for a Thursday night showdown. The young offensive line for Mississippi could struggle in the rowdy environment. If USC’s line plays to its potential, it could be a long day for Jevan Snead. The biggest thing working in Carolina’s favor might be the advantage of playing against Coach Nix once more. Chris Smelley threw for more than 300 yards and three touchdowns against his former defensive coordinator last season. Don’t expect much difference with Stephen Garcia at the helm.

Why USC Won’t Win: Payback. Ole Miss is going to have revenge on its mind after losing last season at home a week after the Rebels amazing upset at Florida. Despite that, Ole Miss returns heaps of talent to help knock off USC. Snead can pick apart the inexperienced secondary while the USC offense won’t be able to get much started. The game has potential to be a blowout if the Rebels get going early on.

Season Prediction: There is no doubt Ole Miss is a talented team. The real question is how good could they be? Most preseason polls rank the Rebels No. 10 in the nation. With all the talent it is easy to see why. The schedule does Mississippi a whole lot of favors, too. Its non-conference schedule is, to say the least, very soft. Southeastern Louisiana and Northern Arizona are far from world-beaters and will not face UF or UGA in the regular season.

Coach’s Comment: “When you start believing, that’s when you start achieving. Our guys really played together. I was really excited about the leadership that we had.” — Houston Nutt
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### 2009 Predictions

#### SEC EAST

**12-0, 8-0**
- Florida Gators
- South Carolina Gamecocks
- Georgia Bulldogs
- Kentucky Wildcats
- Vanderbilt Commodores
- Ole Miss Rebels

**8-4, 5-3**
- Arkansas Razorbacks
- LSU Tigers
- Mississippi State Bulldogs
- Missouri Tigers
- Kentucky Wildcats

**8-4, 4-4**
- Tennessee Volunteers
- Ole Miss Rebels
- Mississippi State Bulldogs
- Missouri Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores

**7-5, 3-5**
- Georgia Bulldogs
- Auburn Tigers
- Mississippi State Bulldogs
- Vanderbilt Commodores
- Kentucky Wildcats

**6-6, 2-6**
- LSU Tigers
- Tennessee Volunteers
- Arkansas Razorbacks
- Missouri Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores

**4-8, 1-7**
- South Carolina Gamecocks
- Georgia Bulldogs
- Auburn Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores
- Kentucky Wildcats

#### SEC WEST

**10-2, 7-1**
- Texas A&M Aggies
- Texas Longhorns
- Oklahoma Sooners
- Oklahoma State Cowboys
- Texas Tech Red Raiders

**10-2, 6-2**
- Arkansas Razorbacks
- LSU Tigers
- Mississippi State Bulldogs
- Missouri Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores

**9-3, 5-3**
- Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles
- Mississippi State Bulldogs
- Missouri Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores
- Kentucky Wildcats

**6-6, 3-5**
- Louisiana State University Tigers
- Ole Miss Rebels
- Arkansas Razorbacks
- Missouri Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores

**6-6, 3-5**
- LSU Tigers
- Tennessee Volunteers
- Arkansas Razorbacks
- Missouri Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores

**3-9, 0-8**
- Ole Miss Rebels
- Georgia Bulldogs
- Auburn Tigers
- Vanderbilt Commodores
- Kentucky Wildcats

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- Toasted Cheese w/Ham, sausage or bacon 3.65
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- Whipped Butter or Soft Balance 1.65
- Jam - Grape or Strawberry 1.65
- Cinnamon, Sugar & Butter 1.90
- Honey or Honey Butter 1.90
- Peanut Butter 2.75
- Peanut Butter and Jamb 3.25

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The Daily Gamecock’s 2009 SEC Bowl Predictions

Florida vs. Texas

Alabama vs. BYU

Georgia vs. Iowa

LSU vs. Ok State

Ole Miss vs. Illinois

Tennessee vs. Clemson

USC vs. UNC

Kentucky vs. ECU

Mandatory Renewal Treasurer Workshops

Thursday, August 27, 2009........12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday, August 27, 2009........5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Monday, August 31, 2009........11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
*Tuesday, September 1, 2009..........6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Friday, September 4, 2009...........2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

All workshops are held in RHUU 322/326

*Indicates specific workshops for graduate organizations

An executive officer must attend a workshop and submit their organizations registration online by 4:00 pm on Friday, September 11, 2009!

(Sport Clubs will have alternative workshops–please see Aaron Olson or Becka Neary for more information.)
SC STATE BULLDOGS

South Carolina State University (10-3, 8-0 2008)  
Location: Orangeburg, SC  
Coach: Oliver “Buddy” Pough (57-24 at SCSU)  
Conference: Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

Bulldog Offense: South Carolina State running back Will Ford is a guy that many FBS coaches would gladly add to their offense. The 5-foot-11-inch senior from Travelers Rest, S.C. was picked as the MEAC’s preseason Offensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. In the last two years combined, Ford has rushed for 2,888 yards and 17 touchdowns, including a 112-yard effort against the Gamecocks in 2007. Ford is joined in the backfield by quarterback Malcolm Long, a 6-foot-3 senior that set two school passing records last season. Long and Ford headline an experienced offense that returns six starters from their 2008 MEAC Championship squad.

Bulldog Defense: The Bulldog defense allowed only 17 points per game last season, including a stretch of three straight shutouts against MEAC rivals Howard, Morgan State and North Carolina A&T. That defensive squad returns seven starters, headlined by linebacker Marshall McFadden and safety Marquais Hamlin, who were both preseason All-MEAC selections. The one glaring blemish on SCSU’s record last year was a 54-0 defeat at the hands of Clemson. The Tigers racked up 416 yards of total offense and seven touchdowns on the Bulldogs.

Why USC Will Win: USC has superior talent, coaching and experience. The Bulldogs were exposed to those three qualities last year against Clemson, and the Gamecocks should do the same thing this year. Add the fact that this year’s game is in Columbia, and it seems hard to believe the Bulldogs can come into Williams-Brice and deliver a shocker. Head coach Buddy Pough will have to have a fiery pregame speech prepared to convince this team that they are ready to take on the Gamecocks.

Why USC Won’t Win: Simply put, the Gamecocks have trouble beating teams they should beat. USC only beat Wofford by 10 in ’07 and UAB by 13 last year, a far cry from what should be expected from an SEC team. In the Wofford game, USC was only up by three going into the fourth quarter. Against UAB, the Gamecocks only managed two offensive touchdowns. If USC continues to let teams they should beat stay in games, one of these times they will get beaten. Could that team be SCSU? If running back Will Ford can break a few runs through a stout Gamecock defense, this game could be interesting.

Season Prediction: The Bulldogs’ opposing coaches in the MEAC know SCSU is poised for another big season. For the third consecutive year, the Bulldogs were picked to win the MEAC football title. The Bulldogs will, however, lose 18 seniors and 11 starters from their 2008 team that went undefeated in the MEAC. Among their biggest in-conference competition are Florida A&M, who placed 11 players on the preseason all-conference team, Bethune-Cookman, Hampton and Norfolk State. A bonus for the Bulldogs is they play Florida A&M in Orangeburg this season, a place where they were 5-0 last year.

Coach’s Comment: “We have a great opportunity to do well, but everything will have to fall into place. This league seems to get tougher each year.” — Buddy Pough

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Wildcat Offense: If a Wildcat fan heard that their quarterback, junior Mike Hartline, made Third Team All-SEC, they might be pretty excited. But the fact of the matter is, there is little depth under center throughout the Southeastern Conference. A season ago, Hartline threw for just under 1,700 yards with nine touchdowns and eight interceptions. Under his leadership, the Wildcats finished a dismal 106th in the nation in total offense. Despite that, Kentucky remains optimistic about its chances this season as almost the entire offense remains intact. UK will need big production out of sophomore Randall Cobb, who accumulated 1,055 total yards of offense with 11 touchdowns. The fact of the matter is, the 5-foot-11 speedster is the heart of the offense, and UK probably won’t get to the postseason without him.

Wildcat Defense: In a league as tough as the Southeastern Conference, success is measured by how well a team can keep its opponent out of the end zone. If that’s the case, head coach Rich Brooks has cause for concern in 2009. A season ago, the Wildcats finished second to last in total defense and return only four starters from that unit for 2009. Add in the fact that Big Blue lost the heart and soul of its defense in Jeremy Jarmon, an All-American defensive end who was suspended for using a banned substance, and the Kentucky faithful may be in for a long season. Cornerback Trevard Lindley might be the best lockdown back in the league, but he won’t be enough to hold down what seems to be a mediocre defense this season in Lexington.

Why USC Will Win: History. The number seems to plague both South Carolina and Kentucky fans alike. Despite fielding talent practically equal to that of the Gamecocks the last several seasons, USC has still managed to win nine consecutive contests against its conference brethren. Oh, and did we mention that head coach Steve Spurrier has never lost to the Wildcats? Couple that with Kentucky’s mediocre offense and average defense, and it looks as though Spurrier will run his career record against Big Blue 17-0.

Why USC Won’t Win: Rich Brooks. The legendary coach has turned Kentucky from the league’s laughing stock to one other teams fear to play against. That won’t change in 2009, as Brooks looks to lead the Wildcats to a fourth consecutive bowl victory. Kentucky’s players know that they haven’t played up to their abilities against the Gamecocks lately and seem determined to get the proverbial monkey off of their back in Columbia this season. All streaks must come to an end, and the Wildcats and their veteran coach feel certain that they’ll notch their first victory over Carolina this decade come October.

Season Prediction: While the Wildcats possess a few offensive weapons and some playmakers on the defensive side of the ball, it’s a question as to whether it will be enough to push Big Blue to its fourth consecutive bowl appearance. Coach Rich Brooks has done one fine job in Lexington, but the veteran coaches faces several challenges this season. Hartline will have to put together a breakout season for the Wildcats to earn what Kentucky fans would call a successful season.

Coach’s Comment: “We’ve changed some history at Kentucky; we have to change more. That would be beating some of the teams in our league that we’ve struggled to beat over a number of years. And we’re a lot more capable of having that happen now than we were three of four years ago.” – Rich Brooks

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Tide Offense: This season, Alabama will be operating without several members of last year’s impressive offense. The highly-celebrated quarterback John Parker Wilson is gone. Wilson was a three-year starter who rewrote the UA record book in most passing yards. So his absence, without a doubt, will greatly change the chemistry of the overall offense. Glen Coffee, the talented running back who racked up over 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, is also gone to the NFL. Outland Trophy winner and left tackle Andre Smith is playing in Cincinatti, not Tuscaloosa. The loss of these dominant players means definite change and that less-experienced players are going to have to work for the open positions. While three quarterbacks have a chance to play, the projected starter is junior Greg McElroy. While McElroy has only thrown for 196 yards and two touchdowns in his career, he is the most experienced quarterback on the roster. Fortunately for McElroy, All-SEC receiver Julio Jones is returning, and his skill will keep some stability for the new quarterback. Sophomore running back Mark Ingram, who has already recorded an impressive 728 yards and 12 touchdowns, is expected to fill the void left by Coffee. He may have some compe- tition though — highly touted recruit Trent Richardson will be vying for the spot, too. Such a noticeable number of people lost on the offense should cause some imbal- ance; however, if the right players step up to the job, the offense should still be as reliable as it was in 2008.

Tide Defense: In 2008, the Tide were ranked third in defense in the country and in 2009 they should be even better. Nine very accomplished start- ers are returning to the field, including 2008 All-American defensive end Terrence Cody. The 6-5, 365 pound junior recorded 24 tackles in 2008, but allowed a running back to earn more than 100 yards in a game. Safety Justin Woodall and linebackers Rolando McClain and Dont’a Hightower also look to keep the defense dominant. With a stable group of experienced starters, several spotlight-hungry recruits and tried-and-true defensive strat- egies, there is not much to say about Tide defense, other than it should instill fear into the hearts of any team they play.

Why USC Will Win: if the Gamecocks’ defense can capitalize on any of the Tide’s offensive weaknesses, head coach Steve Spurrier’s team can keep the score low. Saban’s coaching ego may also cost the Tide a win if he focuses too much on Lane Kiffin’s baiting comments. If Alabama overlooks South Carolina in preparation for its big game against Tennessee, the Gamecocks could play the underdog card to gain a victory in Tuscaloosa.

Why USC Won’t Win: As a whole, the Alabama team is stronger and more expe- rienced than the Gamecocks. Alabama’s brutal defense could shut down Spurrier’s still-green offense, and if Saban is creative with his formations, his offense could work around the Gamecock defense. Also, as with any matchup, if South Carolina sees the Alabama game as an impending beat-down, it will be just that.

Season Prediction: Alabama has a chance to become a national championship contender in 2009. Any hiccups on the offensive line should be fixed early on in the season, thanks to the coaching staff and eager recruits ready to show what they’ve got. With the bitter memories of last year’s bowl game against Utah, talented players, and a big win against Virginia Tech, the Tide could gain enough momentum to make it all the way to the top in 2009.

Coach’s Comment: “You know, its kind of human nature that when you’re satis- fied and you’re ranked high in a lot of categories that maybe you don’t challenge yourself as much. You get a little complacent, you get a little satisfied. That can’t happen.” — Nick Saban

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Commodore Offense: Gone is Chris Nickson, the mobile quarterback for the Commodores that caused the Gamecock defense fits. However, Nickson’s replacement Mackenzie Adams may be even more dangerous. Adams, while not a stellar passer, is extremely mobile, and can break tackles easily. The rest of the offense isn’t much better than last years, but the key for Vanderbilt will be experience. The ’Dores return 18 starters from last season, eight of whom come on the offensive side of the ball. Look for a solid running game from Vanderbilt due to the return of the entire offensive line.

Commodore Defense: Vandy lost playmaker and team leader D.J. Moore to the NFL, but expect the same defense that has stymied the South Carolina offense the past two years. Vanderbilt is led by their linebacking corps, which returns All-SEC weak-side backer Patrick Benoist, and freshman All-American Chris Marve. Even with the loss of Moore, the defensive backfield will be strong, returning Myron Lewis and Ryan Hamilton. While Vanderbilt’s defense wasn’t all that great statistically last year (144 yards allowed rushing), they found ways to win, earning their first winning record in nearly 30 years.

Why USC will win: Because they should. The past two years have been embarrassing against the Commodores. After the flop in 2007, when USC was No. 6 in the national polls, it seemed like the Gamecocks would be hungry to get a victory in 2008 in Nashville. But once again, the Commodores buried the Gamecocks. Simply put, USC can’t afford to lose this game, that’s why they won’t. If the past two years have been any indication, it’s that you can never overlook the opposition. Look for Carolina to come fired up, wanting to win, especially in Williams-Brice.

Why USC won’t win: The Clemson Connection. Carolina fans can wonder all day long how the lowly Commodores have pulled off consecutive upsets over the Gamecocks, but it seems obvious that it all starts with coach Bobby Johnson. Having played for the Tigers during the early ‘70s, Johnson was able to get his first taste of success against the Gamecocks as a player. Throw in the fact that he’s from Columbia, and Johnson knows all about the history of the Gamecocks and what it takes to knock them off.

Season Prediction: Bobby Johnson has this team pointed in the right direction. His record might not show it, but the Commodores have found success in the recent years. Although they aren’t on the level to beat Georgia or Florida in the SEC East, this game against Carolina would be a real boost to the morale of the team, showing that they are no longer the worst team in the SEC. With easy games against Western Michigan, Rice, Army and Kentucky, don’t be surprised to see Vandy reach their second straight bowl game.

Coach’s Comment: “We’re anxious to get started for this season. We feel good about the direction this program is going. But you never know until you get out there and start working and preparing.” — Bobby Johnson
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Volunteer Offense: An awful lot is being made of the quarterback situation. However, whomever ends up starting — sophomore Nick Stephens or senior Jonathan Crompton — is likely going to be playing second fiddle to the running game, senior Montario Hardesty and sophomore Tauren Poole in particular. The similarities to LenDale White and Reggie Bush, a running tandem Kiffin coached while at Southern Cal, can't be ignored for the twosome. Hardesty runs hard and uphill like White, while Poole can make people miss and fit the hybrid running back/wide receiver role that made Bush a Heisman Trophy winner and a collegiate legend. If the backs can produce and the quarterback, whomever that may be, can avoid throwing interceptions and other costly errors, the Vols will have a very good offensive attack on their hands.

Volunteer Defense: Caught up in the mess that was last year's 5-7 debacle was the fact that Tennessee had a pretty darn good defense – the third-ranked overall unit in the nation. Throw in new defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin – Lane's father — and defensive line coach Ed Orgeron, and that unit has the chance to be even better. The unit's undisputed leader is junior strong safety Eric Berry. Berry, who is already being projected as a top-10 pick whenever he opts to jump to the NFL, flies around the field like a bat out of hell and does everything well. His job will be made even easier with the hogs "Coach O" will have up front. Junior Chris Walker brings great speed on the edge, while senior Wes Brown moves inside from defensive end and likely will draw double teams constantly due to his size and speed. Throw in three hundred pound senior Dan Williams, and opposing lines could have a lot of trouble handling the Vols up front.

Why USC will win: Steve Spurrier's pride. One thing is certain — the man loves to beat the University of Tennessee Volunteers. Whether with Carolina or Florida, the head coach has always gone out of his way to antagonize UT, whether it is references to the many Citrus Bowl pilgrimages or his numerous victories over the years. Take Kiffin's arrival into account, and it is hard not to think that Spurrier will do everything in his power to make it two in a row against the Vols.

Why USC won't win: Lane Kiffin's pride. The new leader of Vol Nation will have to back up his now legendary talk to some extent this season. It's not going to happen against the Gators, so Kiffin's best shot to live up to his infamous offseason verbal jabs is to protect his home field and defeat the man who made trash talking an art form—Spurrier himself.

Season Prediction: With the exception of the Florida game, Tennessee should have a chance in every game this season. So, unfortunately for all the Kiffin haters out there, the good times are about to return on Rocky Top. Pencil in the Vols for an 8-4 record, a huge upset of Ole Miss in Oxford on November 14th, and a Chick-Fil-A Bowl berth.

Coach's Comment: "Like I said before, I've not loved everything that I've done, not loved everything I've had to do, but it needed to be done, in my opinion, to be able to put us where we are today and for future down the road. Because those are the kids that are going to remember that. Those ninth graders are going to remember seeing Tennessee so much. Now we need to go win some games." — Lane Kiffin

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29. West Virginia
30. Kansas
31. N.C. State
32. Missouri
33. Michigan State
34. Pittsburgh
35. Illinois
36. Tennessee
37. Miami (Fla.)
38. Cincinnati
39. East Carolina
40. South Florida
41. Arkansas
42. South Carolina
43. Southern Mississippi
44. Northwestern
45. Troy
46. Clemson
47. Nevada
48. Navy
49. Wisconsin
50. Wake Forest
51. Minnesota
52. UCLA
53. UTEP
54. Kentucky
55. Colorado
56. Arizona State
57. UNLV
58. Michigan
59. Houston
60. Ohio
61. Baylor
62. Auburn
63. Stanford
64. UConn
65. Vanderbilt
66. Maryland
67. Mississippi State
68. Air Force
69. Kansas State
70. Arizona
71. Boston College
72. Fresno State
73. Tulsa
74. Virginia
75. Ball State
76. Colorado State
77. Central Florida
78. Duke
79. Texas A&M
80. Temple
81. Louisville
82. Toledo
83. Western Michigan
84. Louisiana Tech
85. Buffalo
86. Washington
87. Purdue
88. SMU
89. Utah State
90. Iowa State
91. Akron
92. Florida Atlantic
93. Marshall
94. Syracuse
95. Arkansas State
96. Hawaii
97. Northern Illinois
98. Indiana
99. Memphis
100. Army
101. Bowling Green
102. San Jose State
103. Washington State
104. Wyoming
105. Kent State
106. Tulane
107. Rice
108. San Diego State
109. MTSU
110. New Mexico
111. UAB
112. Louisiana-Monroe
113. Miami (Ohio)
114. Eastern Michigan
115. FIU
116. Louisiana-Lafayette
117. North Texas
118. Idaho
119. New Mexico State
120. Western Kentucky
Arkansas’ running game looks to be the focus of the Razorback offense this season.

Razorback Offense: With last year’s starter Casey Dick departed due to graduation, and his brother Nathan transferring to Central Arkansas, the stage is set for Ryan Mallett. Head coach Bobby Petrino believes Mallett, a transfer from Michigan, will be one of the best quarterbacks to play in Fayetteville in quite some time. His receivers, notably Joe Adams, Lucas Miller and tight end DJ Williams, who led the team in receiving last season, will help him out. The running game is already well established with Michael Smith returning. Last season, Smith became only the ninth player in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in only 10 games.

Razorback Defense: Last season, Arkansas allowed a league high 31.2 points per game. The Razorbacks also ranked last in the conference in terms of total defense and rushing defense. They gave up an average of 170.8 yards on the ground per game. The defense was a very young group last season, and they are returning seven starters. Linebacker Jerry Franklin led the team in tackles in his freshman season. He was named to the All-American team as well as the All-SEC freshman team. He is a threat to opposing teams, and if the rest of the defense can improve their game, they could have a decent defense.

Why USC will win: Stephen Garcia and the run game. If the sophomore quarterback can get the Gamecock offense rolling, they will win the game. Arkansas’ weak spot last season was its defense. South Carolina is expected to have a good running game this season and if new back Jarvis Giles is as good as advertised, South Carolina should be able to run on last season’s worst rushing defense. This will take the pressure off of Garcia and his receivers. By going to the run and passing less, South Carolina could hopefully limit turnovers. They cannot allow the Razorbacks offense to keep the ball and wear down the defense.

Why USC won’t win: Michael Smith. Last season, Smith rushed for more than 1,000 yards, on 207 carries. If South Carolina cannot shut down the run early, expect to see Arkansas go to the run over and over again. If South Carolina can contain Smith, the Razorbacks will turn to their passing game, which is just as dangerous. Now that Petrino has the quarterback that he needs, the passing game should be more effective. Using Smith could draw USC into focusing on the run, which would then allow Mallett to throw the deep pass. The dual-threat offense will be tough for the Gamecocks to stop.

Season Prediction: Arkansas begins the season with one of the toughest schedules, and it doesn’t get any easier as the year goes on. They should beat Missouri State, and they can probably beat Georgia, helped by the home crowd. Then the Razorbacks must play Alabama and Texas A&M back-to-back. Arkansas may finish with a .500 record, but because of their hard schedule, could still make a bowl game.

Coach’s Comment: “One thing Ryan [Mallett] can really do is throw the deep ball. If we can run the ball better and run the ball more consistently, it should open up our deep passing game and our ability to get the ball down the field, something I’ve always loved to do and really believe in doing, because then you don’t have to call so many plays.” — Bobby Petrino

Cornerback Akeem Auguste defends a pass in last season’s game against Arkansas.
Gator Offense: The Gators should have no issues staying on top of their game this season as long as quarterback Tim Tebow is in charge. The loss of wide receiver Percy Harvin raises some questions as to who will be there to catch Tebow’s passes, but there’s plenty of viable candidates who are eager to fill Harvin’s role. The most hyped candidate is wide receiver Riley Cooper, who recently reached a deal with the Texas Rangers to allow him to play with the Gators for his senior season before pursuing a baseball career. The Gators will be welcoming a new offensive coordinator Steve Addazio this season, who previously worked under the last coordinator.

Gator Defense: The Gator defense has a lot of hype going into the 2009 season. Team captain Brandon Spikes returns at linebacker, coming from All-American and All-SEC titles. Spikes has full intentions on bringing his team back to the National Championship. He showed his ability against the Gamecocks last year when he cashed in his second touchdown of the season on an interception off of former USC quarterback Chris Smelley. Spikes will be back with 21 out of 22 of his two-deep defense. The talent on the defense is what really makes the Gator team the powerhouse it looks to be.

Why USC Will Win: Williams-Brice. It might just take a miracle for USC to make this upset a reality, however, the homefield will play to USC’s advantage. Carolina has only beaten Florida four times, all of which took place at home, which might give Carolina a slight advantage. UF will be coming off a home game against Vanderbilt, a game they should probably be heavily favored to win. If the Gators get complacent and forget the Gamecocks are another huge rival, USC might be able pull off a win.

Why USC Won’t Win: Talent. Unless the Gators get lazy in the middle season and let some huge mistakes happen, the Gators are going to have no problem getting a win here. This team isn’t too different from the team it was last year when it crushed the Gamecocks by 50 in Gainesville. Even with a solid defense, Carolina has shown its inability to compete against such a shoot out offense. Even if the Florida defense is half of what it was last season, the Gamecocks will still have a hard time getting around Spikes or anyone else on the defensive line.

Season Prediction: Tim Tebow doesn’t make the same mistake twice. We saw this after his infamous promise speech after the Ole Miss upset last year. Florida’s got the ability and the schedule to go undefeated. If everything goes according to plan, the Gators will go undefeated and bring home yet another National Championship.

Coach’s Comment: “Great things happen when you have an unselfish team. Last year’s was arguably the most unselfish I’ve been a part of.” — Urban Meyer

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu
Tiger Offense: With the loss of James Davis in the backfield, it will be up to returning halfback CJ Spiller to retain the potency of Clemson’s running game. The big question mark in the Clemson offense this year is at the quarterback position. Competing for the starting job will be redshirt sophomore Willy Korn (who took a few snaps in games last season, throwing for 216 yards and a touchdown) and redshirt freshman Kyle Parker. The offensive line will need to step up to protect whoever may be in the pocket as the team ranked 103rd in the nation in sacks allowed.

Tiger Defense: Clemson’s defense last season was mediocre at best in getting pressure on the quarterback, as they averaged only a sack per game. This season does not look to be much different. The Tigers do bring back senior Kavell Conner (who recorded 125 tackles for last year’s squad) as well as cornerbacks Crezdon Butler and Chris Chancellor (who each had two interceptions last season). Those two will need to step up big for the Tigers, as CU’s secondary will be hard-pressed to replace impressive backs Michael Hamlin and Cris Clemons.

Why USC Will Win: They hate losing to Clemson. Only two times this decade has South Carolina beaten its in-state rival. Moe Brown and Eric Norwood will look to go out with a bang against a Clemson team they have only beaten once in their careers at USC. If Stephen Garcia can stay healthy and prove to himself and the fans that he deserves the starting job at quarterback, then South Carolina should have little trouble beating Clemson. Lest fans forget the game is in Columbia this year, which is always a hostile place to play—especially if it’s Clemson.

Why USC Won’t Win: Clemson always comes to play against USC. No matter what the situation is at the end of the season, Clemson always seems to be more prepared and intent on winning against South Carolina. If Dabo Swinney has everything in motion and has a steady, reliable quarterback, then Clemson could sneak out of Williams-Brice with another win.

Season Prediction: Dabo Swinney is in the situation to prove to the fans that his retaining of the coaching job in the off-season was not a mistake. However, if things go sour quickly, he could be feeling the pressure of people calling for his head. The Tigers have a much easier season opener than last year, taking on Middle Tennessee State at home, then heading down to Atlanta to play Georgia Tech in what should be an early indicator of how the season will pan out. If the quarterback situation is not taken care of early in the season then the Tigers fall to the ranks of last year’s team, a mediocre 7-5 in the regular season and a bowl bid.

Coach’s Comment: “My number one goal is to win the opening game. My number two goal is to win the division and the number three goal is to win the state championship.” –Dabo Swinney
I’ll be perfectly honest, when it comes to being a “Negative Nellie,” I’m the worst of the bunch. Year by year, I generally find myself predicting seasons of 5-7 or 6-6. I’ve always taken the attitude that before I predict nine wins, I have to see nine wins. And when has Carolina ever shown us that? Once, twice, three times maybe?

The history books don’t lie, and the fact of the matter is Carolina football is just not that good. Now I know what you’re thinking, I’m just another columnist bashing the Gamecocks into the oblivion that they seem to already be entwined with. But hold your horses, the bashing hasn’t commenced just yet.

To be quite frank, I’m actually excited about this year’s squad. Do I think they’ll win nine or 10 games? No, but I think they’ll be a great team to watch. What seems to be different about this year’s edition of Gamecock football is the attitudes of head coach Steve Spurrier’s newest bunch of kids.

When you speak with kids like running back Jarvis Giles, wide receiver Tori Gurley and veteran leader Moe Brown, you can’t help but pull for these students of the game on the gridiron. Living in Columbia my entire life, I’ve seen my fair share of careless players who bring their nonchalant attitudes into Williams-Brice Stadium every Saturday.

When the fans left bitter and disappointed, the players seemed to leave carefree and thrilled to be out of their pads. That won’t be the case this season. With a fresh infusion of knowledgeable coaches this past offseason coupled with a jolt of passionate and talented athletes, this columnist is looking for big things in the years to come in the Cockpit.

Let’s face facts, the odds of Carolina putting together an out-of-this-world season are slim at best, as the Gamecocks will field a team full of youngsters pitted against arguably the toughest schedule in the country. But believe me when I say no one should be disappointed with whatever outcome awaits Gamecock football this season, because the best is yet to come.

Trust me, I’ve heard it all. All Gamecock fans have. “Wait ‘til next year, that’s all you coots say,” cries the toothless Clemson fans. Sure, make fun of us now— you guys have certainly earned that right. But don’t be surprised when these baby-faced freshmen in 2009 are clobbering your faces in within the next two seasons.

I haven’t given up hope on Spurrier and neither should you. Have we gotten what we expected from the head ball coach when he arrived in November 2004? Probably not. But does he still have that grit and desire to win that he certainly possessed back then? Without a doubt.

Those new players have that fearless, proud, never say die attitude, too. They’ll show it to you this fall. And in the years to come, they’ll prove it in the win column as well.
I’ll be frank; I don’t really know where this season of Carolina football is going. The case that has been made inside the pages of this tabloid – a 7-5 season and a trip to Nashville for the Music City Bowl – is the soundest, but I can just as easily see a 9-3 campaign, as well as a 3-9 one.

However, no matter what the win and loss shakedown ends up being, one thing is guaranteed: the culture around the Gamecock football program has taken a dramatic turn for the better ever since the debacle that was New Year’s Day in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Last year, gloom and doom reigned supreme for the entire fall. Even when USC won, it was ugly. A win’s a win, but beating woeful UAB at home by only 13 points and events of that nature wear on the psyche over time.

That being said, I think it all changes this year. There’s a definite swagger around the team, from the top down. Coach Steve Spurrier spent much of last season frustrated, stuck on an endless quarterback carousel with the voices of fans and media whispering he had lost his touch. I can safely tell you in the handful of days I have been at practice this summer, it has become apparent that the fire’s still in his belly. You can tell that the guy in front of you is the guy who coined “Free Shoes University,”

Recruiting class, coaching hires reenergize USC

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Gamecock Offense: As Stephen Garcia goes, so do the Gamecocks. With the graduation of Kenny McKinley and the transfer of Chris Smelley, the unit undeniably belongs to the Tampa Bay native that has captured the fascination and imagination of Carolina fans ever since he first set foot on campus.

However, not much is certain behind Garcia. New offensive line coach Eric Wolford has gone to great lengths to transform the much-maligned unit of a year ago, but it remains to be seen if he can succeed right off the bat with the same players that John Hunt struggled with last fall. The line will also dictate the running game’s success. Hopes are high that last year’s non-existent ground attack will be a thing of the past, but the somewhat concerning fact is that freshmen Kenny Miles, Jarvis Giles and Bryce Sherman and junior Brian Maddox, who played sparingly in 2008, are the likely top four backs.

There’s a bit more experience at wide receiver, as senior Moe Brown, junior Dion LeCorn and sophomore Jason Barnes on paper should be the featured wideouts, but any injury and/or lack of productivity is going to force freshmen Tori Gurley or Alshon Jeffery to take a major role in the complex passing system.

In the end though, it all comes back to Garcia. This offense has been built around him, and he will be largely responsible for its fate, whatever that may be.

Gamecock Defense: When Eric Norwood decided to return to school and renege on his declaration for the NFL Draft in the aftermath of the Outback Bowl, Gamecock Nation rejoiced, and the defense got its MVP back.

Carolina will need a big season out of Norwood, as stability in their second and third levels may be at a premium. Much of the linebacking corps is uncertain outside of Norwood, and the secondary is a huge question mark, the cornerbacks in particular. It is all but assured that freshman Stephon Gilmore will start at one of the corner spots, and the other starter will likely be either unproven sophomore Akeem Auguste or embattled classmate C.C. Whitlock, who will be suspended for at least one game after his now-infamous offseason. The safety play of junior Chris Culliver and senior Darian Stewart should be solid, but the cornerback position could be a major issue, especially with a schedule that has USC facing several pass-first teams and likely Heisman Trophy finalists in Jevan Snead and Tim Tebow.

The defensive line should be the strong point of the defense, and they will need to play well to free up space for the defensive backs and linebackers. Junior tackle Ladi Ajiboye will be suspended, but position coach Brad Lawing has enough talent to weather that storm. Senior Nathan Pepper is poised for a big senior season, sophomore Melvin Ingram can make plays and the defensive ends should be in the opponent’s backfield most of the time as junior Cliff Matthews will be joined by promising freshmen Aldrick Fordham and Chaz Sutton.

Norwood came back to be the leader of the defense, and that’s what he will have to be if USC is to come anywhere close to the success the unit had a year ago.

Gamecock Special Teams: Often in college football, one season’s strength becomes the
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The Daily Gamecock

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

next season’s weakness. With Ryan Succop now a member of the Kansas City Chiefs, what was a strong point for USC — the kicking game — is now a great unknown.

Junior punter Spencer Lanning is poised to take Succop’s place.

Lanning won a scholarship after a stellar 2008 punting the ball, but he isn’t a sure thing. Many teams prefer to not have the same man both punt and kick, and it remains to be seen if Lanning could kick with the same success in front of 80,000 screaming fans on a weekly basis as he does at the Proving Grounds during practice.

Beyond the kicking game, not much should change as Carolina should have more of the solid but unspectacular return teams they fielded in 2008.

Season Outlook: There’s a lot of optimism in Columbia right now with all the new coaches and young athletes entering the program. The optimism may someday translate into unprecedented accomplishments for Gamecock football, but 2009 is not the time.

The Gamecocks will qualify for the postseason, and they will beat Clemson on the Saturday after Thanksgiving at Williams-Brice Stadium. However, the road will be a little painful at times. Florida, Alabama, Ole Miss and Georgia are still going to be putting better football teams on the field, and Tennessee will be much improved. Make no mistake about it, USC will get rouged up on several occasions this fall.

However, if Carolina can start on the right foot tonight in Raleigh, and win the games they’re supposed to win, a 7-5 finish and a trip to the Music City Bowl will be in the books.

Coach’s Comment: “What was the most encouraging part of [last season] is that after the bowl game, we did not lose any committed players. They all came. They all stuck with us. We actually picked up a few more. So it was a sign, the high school players, some of the top athletes, still believe that South Carolina can win, and win big.”

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Senior safety Darian Stewart has become a leader of Carolina’s 2009 defensive unit.

USC’s running game should be drastically improved from last season’s performance.
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AN AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITY
## The Daily Gamecock’s 2009 Season Predictions

### N.C. State (7-5, 4-4)
- South Carolina L
- Murray State W
- Gardner-Webb W
- Pittsburgh W
- @ Wake Forest W
- Duke W
- @ Boston College L
- Florida State L
- Maryland W
- Clemson W
- @ Virginia Tech L
- North Carolina W

### Georgia (8-4, 5-3)
- @ Oklahoma State L
- South Carolina W
- @ Arkansas L
- Arizona State W
- LSU L
- @ Tennessee W
- @ Vanderbilt W
- @ Florida L
- Tennessee Tech W
- Auburn W
- Kentucky W
- @ Georgia Tech W

### FAU (8-4, 6-2)
- @ Nebraska L
- @ South Carolina L
- UL Monroe W
- Wyoming W
- @ North Texas W
- @ Louisiana-Lafayette W
- MTSU L
- @ UAB W
- Arkansas State W
- @ Troy L
- Western Kentucky W
- @ Florida International W

### Mississippi (9-3, 5-3)
- @ Memphis W
- Southeastern Louisiana W
- @ South Carolina W
- @ Vanderbilt W
- Alabama L
- UAB W
- Arkansas W
- @ Auburn W
- Northern Arizona W
- Tennessee L
- LSU L
- @ Mississippi State W

### S.C. State (9-2, 8-0)
- Grambling State L
- @ Bethune Cookman W
- Winston-Salem State W
- @ South Carolina L
- @ Norfolk State W
- Florida A&M W
- @ Hampton W
- Delaware State W
- @ Howard W
- Morgan State W
- NC A&T State W

### Kentucky (6-6, 2-6)
- @ Miami (OH) W
- Louisville W
- Florida L
- Alabama L
- @ South Carolina L
- @ Auburn L
- Louisiana-Monroe W
- Mississippi State W
- Eastern Kentucky W
- @ Vanderbilt W
- @ Georgia L
- Tennessee L

### Alabama (10-2, 7-1)
- VT (Georgia Dome) L
- Florida International W
- North Texas W
- Arkansas W
- @ Kentucky W
- @ Ole Miss W
- South Carolina W
- Tennessee W
- LSU L
- @ Mississippi State W
- Chattanooga W
- @ Auburn W

### Vanderbilt (4-8, 1-7)
- Western Michigan - L
- @LSU - W
- Mississippi State - L
- @Rice - W
- Mississippi - L
- @Army - W
- Georgia - L
- @South Carolina - L
- Georgia Tech - L
- @Florida - L
- Kentucky - L
- @Tennessee - L

### Tennessee (8-4, 4-4)
- Western Kentucky W
- UCLA W
- @ Florida L
- Ohio W
- Auburn W
- Georgia L
- @ Alabama L
- South Carolina L
- Memphis W
- @ Ole Miss W
- Vanderbilt W
- @ Kentucky W

### Arkansas (6-6, 3-5)
- Missouri State W
- Georgia W
- @Alabama L
- @Texas A&M L
- Auburn L
- @Florida L
- @Ole Miss L
- Eastern Michigan W
- South Carolina W
- Troy W
- Mississippi State W
- @LSU L

### Florida (12-0, 8-0)
- Charleston Southern W
- Troy W
- Tennessee W
- @ Kentucky W
- @ LSU W
- Arkansas W
- @ Mississippi State W
- vs Georgia W
- Vanderbilt W
- @ South Carolina W
- Florida International W
- Florida State W

### Clemson (8-4, 5-3)
- Middle Tennessee State W
- @ Georgia Tech L
- Boston College W
- TCU W
- @ Maryland L
- Wake Forest W
- @Miami W
- Coastal Carolina W
- Florida State L
- @ North Carolina State W
- Virginia W
- @ South Carolina L
Later.

Charlie Weis’ crew should be favored in 10 of 12 games and they likely could lose to USC, Pittsburgh, or both and still be in line for a BCS berth. In other words, prepare yourself for the potential of more “Return to Glory” tees this autumn.

The Throwbacks:

Georgia Tech and Navy
In today’s era of spread offenses and shotgun quarterbacks, the triple option is a forgotten art, unless you’re in Atlanta or Annapolis. Georgia Tech ended last year in a disappointing fashion with a Chick-fil-A Bowl thumping at the hands of LSU, but it should be improved in 2009 and serious players in the ACC title race, considering it won nine games in 2008 without coach Paul Johnson recruiting any players to run his option offense.

Up north, Johnson’s old team, Navy, is still thriving running the option as well. The Midshipmen have already signed a contract with the Texas Bowl, pending them being bowl eligible this Jan., but it isn’t out of the question that Navy arrives in the Lone Star State with nine or 10 wins. Quarterback Ricky Dobbs is a dynamic athlete that can pass and throw, the defense competes week in and week out, and head coach Ken Niumatalolo has proven time and time again he can get his team up to play national powers.

Notre Dame seems set to find its way back into the national spotlight this season.

Cinderella Watch: Central Michigan
Heard of Dan LeFevour? You’re about to. The senior quarterback has thrown for close to 10,000 yards in his career, is one of only two players in the history of the FBS to throw for 3,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in the same season, one of only three men to throw for 20 touchdowns and score 20 other and he leads all active players with 11,702 total yards.

In other words, LeFevour is the reason why Central Michigan and its explosive spread offense have hopes to crash the BCS party. If the Chippewas can pull off two road upsets against Arizona and in-state rival Michigan State to start the season, CMU could find themselves in their third MAC championship game in four years, and sixty minutes from history.

Searching for Glory: Notre Dame
It’s been 21 years since Notre Dame won a national championship, and a while since the Golden Domers have been a true contender. That streak should be extended to 22 years this season, but with one of the easiest schedules in school history, the Irish could end up waking the echoes sooner rather than later.

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The Dark Horse: Penn State
Big XII and SEC national title hopefuls take note– one loss may not get you a chance to play for the crystal football this year. The defending Big Ten champion Nittany Lions are a serious threat to run the table and knock one of the power players from the top two conferences out of the national title picture.

With a relatively easy non-conference schedule and a conference slate that has its most difficult games in the friendly confines of Beaver Stadium, PSU should be 9-0 heading into its clash with Ohio State on November 7th in Happy Valley. If linebacker Josh Hull, quarterback Darryl Clarke and the rest of the Lions can take down the Buckeyes, 82-year-old Joe Paterno could find himself in Pasadena for the second straight year, only this time playing for college football’s biggest prize.

Northern teams join throwback option squads hoping to surprise

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

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Up north, Johnson’s old team, Navy, is still thriving running the option as well. The Midshipmen have already signed a contract with the Texas Bowl, pending them being bowl eligible this Jan., but it isn’t out of the question that Navy arrives in the Lone Star State with nine or 10 wins. Quarterback Ricky Dobbs is a dynamic athlete that can pass and throw, the defense competes week in and week out, and head coach Ken Niumatalolo has proven time and time again he can get his team up to play national powers.

Notre Dame seems set to find its way back into the national spotlight this season.

Cinderella Watch: Central Michigan
Heard of Dan LeFevour? You’re about to. The senior quarterback has thrown for close to 10,000 yards in his career, is one of only two players in the history of the FBS to throw for 3,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in the same season, one of only three men to throw for 20 touchdowns and score 20 other and he leads all active players with 11,702 total yards.

In other words, LeFevour is the reason why Central Michigan and its explosive spread offense have hopes to crash the BCS party. If the Chippewas can pull off two road upsets against Arizona and in-state rival Michigan State to start the season, CMU could find themselves in their third MAC championship game in four years, and sixty minutes from history.

Searching for Glory: Notre Dame
It’s been 21 years since Notre Dame won a national championship, and a while since the Golden Domers have been a true contender. That streak should be extended to 22 years this season, but with one of the easiest schedules in school history, the Irish could end up waking the echoes sooner rather than later.

Charlie Weis’ crew should be favored in 10 of 12 games and they likely could lose to USC, Pittsburgh, or both and still be in line for a BCS berth. In other words, prepare yourself for the potential of more “Return to Glory” tees this autumn.

The Throwbacks:

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Returning winners vie for Heisman trophy

Bradford, Tebow highlight impressive list of contenders

1. **Tim Tebow**
   Quarterback, Florida
   
   Tebow should be going for an unprecedented third straight Heisman this year, but that’s another story for another day. No Heisman watch can be considered legitimate without the Florida signal caller directly atop of it.

   No other player in the nation has a better situation. The Gators have the most talented offense and defense in the nation by leaps and bounds, and a stellar offensive line will protect Tebow all year long. Throw in his passion and the desire to fulfill the last goal of his career – to lead the first undefeated team in Florida history – it’s going to take an awful lot to prevent Tebow from winning the award and cementing his legacy as the greatest player in the history of the collegiate game.

2. **Sam Bradford**
   Quarterback, Oklahoma
   
   Bradford is vying to join Archie Griffin as a two-time Heisman winner, but his road will be much harder to hoe. Unlike Tebow, the Sooner offensive line and defense is losing a lot of talent from 2008 and is very unproven; frankly, the Longhorns beat OU last year and there’s no reason to think why they won’t do it again. Bradford will likely be the best NFL prospect of the three, but he may have to play third fiddle to McCoy and Tebow this fall, both in the Heisman voting and when it comes to the National Championship game.

3. **Colt McCoy**
   Quarterback, Texas
   
   McCoy has to be the greatest third place finisher in Heisman history. If you look at his 2008 stats – 3,859 yards, 34 touchdowns, 12-1 record and a ten-point victory over his archrival Oklahoma – it’s almost mind-numbing to think he was the clear third guy on the ballot.

   McCoy will get his this fall, though. Texas still has a better team than the rival Sooners, and McCoy will take on more of the load in the Longhorn system as a senior. It will be tough to better whatever Tim Terrific will pull out, but if anyone can reach the Gator, it’s McCoy.

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