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Fall tradition draws families from across state for rides, food, fun atmosphere

Taylor Cherry
"It's a family affair."

No matter what age you're turning, elephant ears, ferris wheel rides and games packed with bears never fail to make birthday wishes come true.

Right after school, Kim Harrison picked up her daughter, Lyric, and two of her siblings from the airport and holiday parade, at Pine Middle School while they rode the school to the South Carolina State Fair to celebrate Lyric's birthday. "I think of them as more of sisters, as well as siblings," said Harrison. "By 9 p.m., the girls had already tested their strength at the West Side of the fair. In each, they each won a large stuffed dog. The Steeler, The Gray Horse and Then A-Wolf, or the T-A-Wolf, as Lyric called him, "Pretty much, we stay away from the vomit-inducing rides, but the T-A-Wolf was so much fun!"

Together they enjoyed the sand-sculpting exhibit and The Polar Express were decked out in Santa's role. "I normally don't get to go to the fair, but this was like the biggest reward you could ever get," Harrison said.

Founded in 1894, the state fair moved in 1904 to its present location across from the then Williams-Brice Stadium. Not financed by state funds, the annual October fest is one of the top 50 fairs in the United States and this year, more than 600,000 people are expected to join in the fun.

Attending since the late 1970s, Barb Long of Sumter traveled 120 miles to show her 12-year-old grandson, Ali Mart, what the fair is all about. "There are more rides now than there were when I was a child," Brown said. "My favorite part is just enjoying the company of my family and the food and the train rides."

Senior Deputies Odell Glenn and Alexis Heidelberger do everything they can to ensure the fair's safety and security guards. Bloomingburg has dealt with gang violence and school ruraliz- ers. Now in his third year, he continues doing it because he loves making sure the fair maintains a family friendly at- mosphere.

The fair isn't all games and food, though. Throughout the fair, American Iddl winner David Cook will be headlining musical events along with Christian rockers Toby Mac and The Charlie Daniels Band.

Family-owned businesses such as Haley's and Netterfields have been the award to the fair for decades, providing fair-goers with frozen cotton candy and homemade corn dogs.

As only $8 per person and $24 for an unlimited rides wristband, Kim Harrison will definitely bring her family and friends along for the ride next year. "Mom doesn't do rides, especially not the 'vomit inducing ones, but I'm glad they're having fun," she said.

Comments on this story:
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The annual South Carolina State Fair opened Wednesday and will keep its rides and games going through Sunday, Oct. 25.

Fair lights up Columbia

Football high flyers match players' effort, enthusiasm at game

Sarah Peterman
STAFF WRITER

Who has the power to make 40,000 fans cheer at the top of their lungs? A USC cheerleader.

Lauren Oliva, a third- year hotel, restaurant and tourism management stu- dent and one of the top cheerleaders at the fair, says it's the students who make the crowd.

"I love pumping up and down and getting everyone involved," Oliva said.

This is Oliva's first year on the squad. She said they were nervous about the event.

"There are a few hun- dred girls there and every- one is good," Oliva said. "It's intense. Everyone is in shape and everyone has all the skills. While she's been cheer- ing since middle school, competing for a spot on the USC team brought cheerleading to a whole new level.

Alexis Heidelberger, a third-year criminal justice student, said making the squad for USC helped ful- fill a lifelong dream.

"It's been my lifelong dream to be a cheerleader for a big university like USC. When I made the team, it was one of the best days of my life," Heidelberger said.

As a USC student- athlete, she said the team is more than just a sport.

"Twenty-four girls com- prise the all-girls squad at USC. In the fall semester, football is their focus. In the spring, the girls go to cheerleading competitions across the U.S. Each week the girls prac- tice for two hours, three nights a week. They begin practicing for gameday routines in advance. Wednesdays are spent working on runs, stretches, jumps, levels and condi- tioning. The girls are ex- pected to lead the crowd in peak physical condition.

"The coach also expects perfection. If you don't know the routine, they don't cheer." The coach doesn't cut us if you slack," Oliva said.

"I put a lot on the line for this," said Alexis Heidelberger, who is getting ready for the USC football games. "The cheerleading coach also expects perfection. If you don't know the routine, they don't cheer."

"A coach loves makeup," Oliva said. "For game makeup we have to wear bright red lipstick, a tattoo on our cheek and a huge bow in our hair."

Olivia and her room- mates, who are also cheer- leaders, blast loud music and all get ready together to lead the crowd in the night's cheers.

"We finally get to do our jobs on game day," said CNN.

"I love cheering, but I started out in high school. She was in the car accident. I've been a cheerleader all year and not to cheer after reconstruc- tive surgeries that put titanium plates and screws in her face."

"Cheerleading has always been my favorite thing," Alexis Heidelberger said. "Nothing brings me to cheer in college is what gave me motivation throughout all of the surgeries."

As a base cheerleader, one who flies "flyers" in tricks, if someone were to fall on her face, all of the reconstructive surgeries could be made useless in a second. "I put a lot on the line for cheering. Oliva said."

But Alexis says it's worth it to live out her dream. "Aussie loves it. She said it was the most amazing experience she has ever had."

"Everyone is friends, we all hung out," said Alexis. "Everyone motivates every- one to be better."

Comments on this story:
E-mail: AlexisHeidelberger@usc.edu

Day in the life of: a cheerleader

Alessia Heidelberger, a third-year criminal justice student, is a member of the cheerleading squad for the USC football team.

The team is composed of women with pre-profes- sional majors, high GPAs and an impressive resume of campus activities.

"The hardest part is bal- ancing my schedule," said Heidelberger. "I have to move up to the next tier of being a USC Cheerleader means leaving for the weekend. You have to be committed enough to the team and also beneficial to USC's health programs in general."

"I'm really excited about this, but USC needs this because the senior class and students need the sup- port," said the junior.

Other faculty members agreed the students need the sup- port.

"He's track record of mentoring to students proves quite extensive," said Hendrick, assistant professor of health promotion, education and behavior. "The award rec- ognizes his commitment to students, faculty and also all of those he has worked to continue to educating the world of cancer research."

Who was mon- itored by Herbert, is also a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program.

Professor Daniel L. Feuzman, a chemistry pro- fessor, thinks the award is great, provided that it is utilized properly. "I think it's a great idea, and I hope that the man is competent enough to handle the responsibility," said Feuzman. "$800,000 may not be a lot of money to some people, but it's a great sum."

There are a broad range of cancer research in the state area, especially at USC.

Herbert says he thinks the school needs to move up to the next tier in order to be on par with other schools of the same me- dical medical backgrounds such as St. and UNC. He hopes that the award will allow the USC Col- lege of Medicine, social work, nursing and pharmacy. "The award will cover costs of research and will have more time for re- search and not worry about the mundane," the professor added.
If it’s white, shiny, starts with an “i” and has that goddamn [heart symbol], you will buy it (and I do, too). (And, I do love that you think it’s because Apple is innately ergonomic and users are superior, but every time I see an Apple store — with its blinding white walls, corporate monogram, and how much Orwell was talking about —

Mac attempts to label its computers as superior to PCs, but which PCs do they mean? Do they mean Dell or Alienware? PC is a broad category, and for Apple to immunize that Macs are superior to all types is ignorant at best. That’s like saying Coke milk is superior to soda, you would rather have a glass of that than a French 75, but we’re talking about Coca-Cola then Bens could jump off the PC.

The PC category is vast and versatile, but Macs only ran Mac OS and their hardware and appearance cannot be altered. On the contrary, several of those other things illegal. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11) and drunkenness (1 Corinthians 6:10) are all forbidden in the Bible, yet those who push Congress to outlaw gay marriage aren’t pushing Congress to make those very things illegal. Why? because nobody is interested in stealing DMB songs off their phones, that will outperform any PC on the market and will last more than other children because of Macs used to carry the stigma of being too much dorkier fellow wearing a suit that went out of style in 1998, now, we all know of these genius

The one silver lining of this? It didn’t happen in South Carolina.

The 1950s called: they want their racism back

Just when we thought it was safe for interracial couples to stop living in fear of the noose, the homosexuality replaced race as the hot topic at the alter, a justice from Louisiana.

Justice of the Peace Keith Bardwell refused to sign a marriage license to interracial couple Booth Humphrey, 10, and 12-year-old Terrence McKay. The judge, who is white, says he is not racist and has no problem with marrying black couples, but that he would not sign licenses for the couple because of concern for any future children the couple may have. Arguments have been made in the past that children with interacial, or more recently, homosexull, marriages face more scrutiny and problems than those of their married counterparts. It’s a risk all couples taking part in our marriage aren’t pushing Congress to make

Premarital sex (1 Corinthians 7:2), divorce (1 Corinthians 7:9-11) and drunkenness (1 Corinthians 6:10) are all forbidden in the Bible, yet those who push Congress to outlaw gay marriage aren’t pushing Congress to make those very things illegal. Why? because nobody is interested in stealing DMB songs off their phones, that will outperform any PC on the market and will last more than other children because of

On the surface alone, the problems of those of their married counterparts. (and still don’t) have the virus problems of PC’s, they (and always will be) the yardstick against which all others are gauged. Nobody else could (or ever will) measure up to them. I grew up on both types of computers because my parents’ jobs differed; my mom needed a PC and my dad read Macs. A Mac was always and forever will be my choice in computing. Last August I bought my first, my very own Mac — I had college in mind when I made the purchase: I wanted a laptop that I knew wouldn’t give me problems, would perform excellently, and most importantly would last all four years and beyond if need be. I know I will go and do what the Mac folks are doing, now, and then to make it faster, not reinvent the entire program for the people using it.

You may pay a small premium on a Mac, but it’s cheap compared to the cost of compatible programs that will outperform any PC on the market and will last you years. Like cars (and do they say it twice), you go Mac, you’ll never go back.

You turn on your TV one afternoon after a stressful day, and you get Big Brother. A one-hour show that is completely predictable, finally settles on return of House on USA. During the commercial break you see a witty spot with a younger man wearing a suit, up-to-date clothes and a fryer, older, and a much darker fellow wearing a suit that went out of style in the 70s, the other Mac-alternative.

Macs are given undeserved criticism, some inferior to Apple's Macintosh, but all of these problems with compatibility. PC technology is so tossed about that even the most informed reviews are wrong.

Mac owners’ snobbish sense of student journalism for all you PC folks). The much-updated distinctive Apple Inc. company logo on the For the love of Steve Jobs (and yes, I do love him) and the way I feel about the Mac (and that I want to share with you).

Macs are superior in cost, performance, and design. I have used a PC for the last four years; it has performed great, but Macs are superior because of the hardware, software, and design. It’s true that the average student’s Mac is indeed more powerful than other computers out there. The PC category is vast and versatile, but Macs only run Mac OS and their hardware and appearance cannot be altered. On the contrary, several of those other things illegal. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11) and drunkenness (1 Corinthians 6:10) are all forbidden in the Bible, yet those who push Congress to outlaw gay marriage aren’t pushing Congress to make those very things illegal. Why? because nobody is interested in stealing DMB songs off their phones, that will outperform any PC on the market and will last more than other children because of

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You may pay a small premium on a Mac, but it’s cheap compared to the cost of compatible programs that will outperform any PC on the market and will last you years. Like cars (and do they say it twice), you go Mac, you’ll never go back.
Seven tips for fall fashion

Plaid, green nail polish, oversized cardigans in vogue this season

Angelina

THE GLOBE COLUMN

Whether walking around campus or going out with friends, there are some new trends to change the style of any college girl.

1. Green Nail Polish

This color may sound weird at first, but we’re not talking the kind of lime green every girl was into in middle school. Dark green polish is the “it-color” for fall, whether it be the Chanel “Jade” polish to OPI’s “Here Today, Aragon Tomorrow” polish. This is especially for those girls who were attracted to the dark nail polishes of season’s past. Essentially, green is the new black.

2. Leather Jacket

A simple piece that is easy to put on a little bad girl wardrobe into a wardrobe, a leather jacket is a must have for your girl collection. Converse sneakers and a plain white T-shirt, or it can be paired with a brightly colored mini-dress to put an edge on something sweet. The best kind of leather jacket should have a worn-in look to give it that full effect. Details such as studs or zippers can also add edge to the look.

3. Oversized Cardigans

Whether in neutral colors like black, grey, brown, or dark purple, a loose, solid-colored cardigan is an extremely versatile item perfect for achieving that causal, chic, and together look while also looking class. It can be worn over a simple T-shirt with a belt over a dress to make it more causal, and even with a pair of shorts. If an element of boldness is desired, then a solid-colored or patterned cardigan is the best option. Cardigans are also great running to class in a comfortable, yet chic atmosphere.

4. Wide Belts

This is an accessory that can be paired with almost any clothing item and creates a perfect look together. Ideal over a biggy tee or tank, a loose dress, or even over a large cardigan, these belts can be found everywhere from Banana Republic to Express to Target.

5. Studs

Studs have been popping up all over the runway shows of designers like Balmain and Yves Saint Laurent. Whether adding a little detail to a jacket, a belt, or even a dress, these tiny pins can add a punch to anything. Just make sure not to overload on them or you can come off tacky.

6. Sequins

No sequins may at first glance seem like another Willy Wonka throwback, but it was announced as a “More Wear Now” item in Voguemagazine.

Seven tips for fall fashion

Nautical twist on classic Austen novel proves riotous

Author Winters combines Romantic literature, fantastical imagery

Kate Crocker
THE DAILY GLOBE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Just as the title proclaims, “Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters” offers the original Jane Austen novel with a new twist — sea monsters. The trial of the high seas begins when the Dashwood Family — Elinor, Marianne, their sister Marianne, a romantic at heart, is pursued both by Willoughby and the half squid half man, Colonel Brandon. Sea Monsters” offers the original Jane Austen novel with a new twist — sea monsters. The trial of the high seas begins when the Dashwood Family — Elinor, Marianne, their sister Marianne, a romantic at heart, is pursued both by Willoughby and the half squid half man, Colonel Brandon.

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Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters

In The Red

A骚tistical Kitty

2. LE LOUP

3. HUDSON MOHAWKE

4. XX THE XX

5. LA ROUX

6. CHLOE

7. BOOM BOX REPAIR

8. ASTRAL PLANETS

9. AVET BROTHERS

10. MOMENTUM

11. NOS PREDICTIVE ARTISTS

12. DRUMS

13. RAVEONETTES

14. VOLCANO CHOIR

15. GREEN LIPS

16. MONSTERS OF FOLK

17. PLANET PERIL

18. MONSTERS OF FOLK

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28. MONSTERS OF FOLK

29. PLANET PERIL

30. MONSTERS OF FOLK

Washed Out

LIFE OF LEISURE

Top 30 Albums

Fighting for peace is like

Top 30 Albums

Fighting for peace is like

Top 30 Albums

Fighting for peace is like

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First-year blogs for Seventeen

Student one of 15 chosen to chronicle freshman experience

Michelle Reino
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Each year, a new freshman class comes to campus, and among the newcomers there are always a few standouts. Alexandra Cherry is one of this year’s stars. Landing a part in Seventeen magazine’s “Freshman 15” year-long feature, Cherry has put her life as a new college student on display for readers across the entire nation. Cherry, a first-year visual communications student is being highlighted, along with 14 other students at various colleges across the nation in a behind-the-scenes look at their freshman year. Sharing her experiences through online blogs, pictures and videos and having articles included in the magazine, Cherry is showcasing her life in hopes that her honesty and experiences will help inform other girls her age what college life is like.

“Like knowing that what I’m working on now might help a reader in the future, since I’m giving tips and advice for things like video editing,” Cherry said.

Last year, Seventeen went through thousands of submissions from all over the country to find girls who would be willing to participate. Cherry was chosen after having been recommended to the magazine.

“Cherry’s journey chronicling her college experiences has just begun, but she feels she is already benefiting from this form of self-criticism,” Cherry said. “One of the best things about being one of the Freshman 15 is that I can go on the official Campus Secrets video. During these short videos, I’m going to highlight my passion and skill for video editing while talking about real college issues like hookups and roommates. While Cherry’s obligations are hectic, being on the Gamecock Color Guard and her regular schoolwork definitely keeps her busy and collected daily life is like.”

The Freshman 15 were just introduced in the October issue of Seventeen, but Cherry posted her first blog in Seventeen.com in September and has continued to blog about her life at USC, including her move-in experience, inevitable procrastination and of course, Colombian foodball. Cherry has already sent a “Friday Night Diary” to her editors at Seventeen that will be featured in the January issue of the magazine.

“Hopefully people are really interested in the magazine’s look at college life,” Cherry said. “I’ve been reading Seventeen since I was 13 and it’s something I’m really passionate about.”

Comedian Maher urges youth to participate.

Love him or hate him, Bill Maher is a man on a mission. Maher, who hit hard on the lens screen last year with the audacious critique of organized religion, “Religulous,” has just completed the seventh season of his HBO series, the political-humor-driven talk show “Real Time with Bill Maher.”

Conservatives call for his head, and even President Barack Obama — whom Maher generally supports — finds himself in the crosshairs of the comic’s verbal assault. No one is safe. And all the verbal carnage, Maher assures, is for a greater cause.

Q: Are the American people really as stupid as you say?

A: It’s not getting any better for the American people. It seems to be getting worse. That’s predictable, education is a cycle. Stupidity breeds more stupidity.

Q: You’ve received some recent criticism for calling out President Barack Obama — whom you’ve been pretty quiet. Do you see this as a turning point?

A: I’m still a tough job and he inherited a mess, but him the benefi t of the doubt, we know it’s a man on a mission. Maher, who hit hard on the big screen last year with the audacious critique of organized religion, “Religulous,” has just completed the seventh season of his HBO series, the political-humor-driven talk show “Real Time with Bill Maher.”

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Inside the Box  ● By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock

SAGITTARIUS

If others would say what they mean, you could take effective action. It probably won’t happen today.

SCORPIO

Stick your finger into more than one pie. You’re never satisfied with just one project. Finish at least one thing.

SAGITTARIUS

If others would say what they mean, you could take effective action. It probably won’t happen today.

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E-mail: sholmes@mailbox.sc.edu • Office hours: M-F 8:30 am - 5 pm  • Rosselli House, Rm. 343
At 5-foot-10 and 173 pounds, Whitlock is very quick and has excellent ball control, has gotten tougher and has proven he's ready to play.

"C.C. had a great game," Spurrier said. "He's improved, has gotten tougher and has proven he's ready to play." At 6-foot-10 and 171 pounds, Whitlock is very quick and has excellent ball control, and there's no doubt he has the physical abilities needed to play cornerback at the SEC level.

"C.C. has tried to do what's right," Spurrier said. "That's why you don't give up quickly on some of these freshmen that have problems.

Whitlock said, "It really means something for my family, because I [have] a lot of people pulling for me."

So far Whitlock has nine tackles in two games and will have another opportunity to show what he can do this week against Alabama, who ranks fourth in the SEC in pass offense. The physical nature of Alabama's offense will bring all sorts of challenges for not only Whitlock but the entire defensive secondary.

Even if Whitlock plays well, it still isn't clear if he will be competing with Auguste for a starting job when he comes back from his suspension. When asked whether or not he thought the coaches were going to have a tough decision once Auguste returns, Whitlock just smiled and shook his head. "I don't know."

I'm going to let the coaches decide on that," he said. "What is certain, however, is that if Whitlock puts the work in on the practice field he will have the opportunity to play, even if Auguste does reclaim the starting job.

"We're relying on whoever we think are the best players to give us a chance to go win the game," Spurrier said. That means that if Whitlock can step focused on school and football, he should be a pillar of the Gamecock secondary for seasons to come.

After signing with USC in spring 2008, the future looked bright for the Chester native. A four-star recruit, Whitlock had a remarkable high school career, playing both quarterback and cornerback. As a junior, Whitlock passed for over 1,500 yards, had 26 all-purpose touchdowns and intercepted 15 passes and just one interception. That was enough to earn him first team all-state honors as a junior, but he was in a position to even get one when, six months ago, it looked like he wouldn't get a chance to play in a game, let alone start one.

What makes the game ball so special is not that it was deserved, but that he was in a situation where he had to prove to both Spurrier and his teammates that he's matured since the offseason and is able to pull himself out of his hole says a lot about the character Whitlock has, and that he's ready to play football.

"After being through all that I can say [there's] a reason for everything," Whitlock said. "It really means something for my family, because I [have] a lot of people pulling for me."

Halfway through his freshman season, however, issues off the field began to hinder his football career. Last September, Whitlock was caught in the middle of a fight inside the Russell House in the days leading up to the Georgia game. That incident was followed later by an academic suspension in March, causing him to miss most of spring practice. Then in May, days after getting reinstated, Whitlock was charged with trespassing at a club in his hometown and was again suspended.

Many people questioned whether Whitlock would be able to play at all this season, or even drafted. Fortunately for Whitlock, Spurrier and South Carolina Athletic Director Eric Hyman showed patience with the cornerback, reinstating him in mid-July, but enforcing the one game suspension imposed on him for his academic violations.

"C.C. had a great game," Spurrier said. "He's improved, has gotten tougher and has proven he's ready to play." At 6-foot-10 and 171 pounds, Whitlock is very quick and has excellent ball control, and there's no doubt he has the physical abilities needed to play cornerback at the SEC level.

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Mark Ingram threw a pass against Kentucky — not even Alshon Jeffery himself. "I had no idea something like that would happen," Jeffery said. "I just made plays."

After catching just five passes for 61 yards in the first five games of his career, Jeffery bustled out Saturday afternoon, more than doubling his season total in receiving yards by catching seven balls for 188 yards and three touchdowns. His trio of touchdown receptions not only carried the Gamecocks to a ‘W’, but also earned him a spot in SEC Freshman of the Week, following defensive end performance in school history.

Jeffery said. "I just made plays."

South Carolina's freshman wide receiver Alshon Jeffery against one of nation's best corners. Nobody could have predicted the coming out party that Jeffery hopes for repeat performance.

"Alshon kept getting better and better knowing where to go. We commented last night in practice that he's practicing so much faster than he did earlier in the year," Spurrier said. "Last night he was flying around. He's improved. He'll tell you that. When you know where to go, then you can go faster. For a true freshmen to step in here and learn the offense without being here much in the

Ingram provides stiff challenge for USC

"Crimson Tide ground attack imposing test for undermanned linebacking corps"

If Carolina wants any shot at knocking off No. 2 Alabama tomorrow night, they have to stop the Crimson Tide run game and tallback Mark Ingram in particular. Through the first six games of the year Ingram has been the engine that powers the Alabama offense. The sophomore, a bruising downhill runner who wears down defenses, has scored at least one touchdown in every game this year – success that has helped to set up the passing game as well.

"They're just a power football team," linebacker Eric Norwood said. "I think they run game helps their passing game out a lot, it’s been pretty successful.”

The responsibility of stopping the rush attack falls to the linebackers, particularly middle linebacker Shaq Wilson. A natural outside linebacker who was forced to move inside due to Rodney Paulk's season-ending injury, Wilson is coming off of a neck injury that limited his playing time against Kentucky last week. Carolina will need him to be a strong presence in the middle against the Tide.

"They're a great running team," Wilson said. "We're going to go out there and play our assignments." A bit undersized for the middle linebacker position, Wilson will need to use his quickness to close down any holes that might allow Ingram to burst into the second level of the defense. Wilson will have an easier time in the pass coverage, where he should be able to use his speed to shadow Ingram and keep him from gaining yards after the catch.

Wilson's greatest challenge will be staying fresh throughout the game. With Wilson still coming off an injury, it's entirely possible defensive assistant head coach Ellis Johnson may choose to rotate Wilson with transfer Josh Dickerson. Whenever Wilson gets in, he feels he is ready to go.

"That’s Coach Johnson’s decision,” said Wilson on whether he will start. “I’m feeling good. Whenever I get the call, I’m going in there.”

The Tide offense presents a daunting challenge, but USC is taking it in stride.

"We're just going to go out and play ball. That’s it," Norwood said. "They’re D-I. We’re D-I. It’s just a matter of who’s going to go out and play the hardest and make the most plays.”

If the Gamecocks hope to break Mark Ingram's touchdown streak and contain the Bama offense, they will need a big night from their backers, Wilson especially. They feel they're up to the challenge.

"We’re going to go out there and do the best we can," Wilson said. "We’re going to play full speed and give it our all.”

Comments on this story? E-mail saqog@sptmail.unc.edu
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TUESDAY, OCT 20 AT 7:00 PM

WOMEN’S SOCCER VS ARKANSAS
THURSDAY, OCT 22 AT 7:00 PM
Assistant Sports Editor breaks down USC’s game against Alabama

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Is Weslye Saunders in the witness protection program?

Even since his huge night at Georgia, the junior tight end has seemingly been missing in action. The Gamecocks need Saunders to become a factor against the stout Alabama line, both blocking in the run game and helping to break the chains with big catches across the middle. The last time Stephen Garcia found himself driving in crunch time on the road in a hostile environment, Saunders was his go-to receiver. There would be no better time for the big man to reemerge than in Tuscaloosa tomorrow night.

Can Bryce Sherman be a game-breaker on kick returns?

‘Sherm the Worm,’ or ‘The Shermanator’ has been a fan favorite among Gamecock Nation ever since he burst onto the scene in summer practice. The shifty tailback has seen limited time in the first half of the season, but has shown a burst of speed and promise backs in the game. Now they’re going up against a big, nasty, heavy, angry defensive line that may well be the best in the nation, and a fleet of fast-blitzing linebackers. If the line was ever needed, it’s going to be in this game.

Will the offensive line hold up?

Eric Wolford’s unit has resembled a revolving door this fall lots of guys coming, and going, and coming again. This weekend will be the big Ironman test for the Gamecock offensive line. They have struggled at times, but have found ways to give Garcia and the running backs in the run game.

Will Spencer Lanning decide the game?

Cornerback CC Whitlock predicted on Monday night that Saturday’s game will come down to a field goal. If the sophomore proves to be Carnac, the only question for Carolina will be what side of the kick they will be on, and who will be taking it. Will it be gaffe-prone ‘Bama kicker Leigh Tiffin, or steady-as-a-rock Spencer Lanning? If it’s Lanning that ends up having a shot to win the ballgame, USC should feel pretty comfortable.

Can USC make this a dogfight?

Steve Spurrier has said that he comes to expect a dogfight of a game week-in and week-out, no matter how inferior the competition. This week, he needs a dogfight to break out. There’s no getting around it; the Crimson Tide is a better football team, top to bottom. The defense plays fast and ferociously, the offense blows you off the ball and hits you in the mouth, and the special teams can swing momentum at will. To have any hope, the Gamecocks will have to get down and dirty to win an ugly one.
Big 12 rivalry holds title implications

Last year’s Heisman winner searches for upset victory over No. 3 Texas Longhorns

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Coming into the season, most had this down as a de-facto national semifinal game. Oh, how times have changed. After two nonconference losses to BYU and Miami and a shoulder injury that kept Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford out until just last week, the Sooners come into the 104th edition of the Red River Rivalry with their national championship hopes dashed. Texas has held up their end of the bargain though, going unbeaten to this point, although they haven’t exactly done it with style. The slow first halves will finally catch up to the Longhorns this week, as Oklahoma finds a way to escape the Texas State Fairgrounds with a season-salvaging win.

The Pick: Oklahoma 36, Texas 35

Sue Ogrocki
/The Associated Press

Ben Margot
/Associated Press

Don Peterson
/The Associated Press

Charlie Neibergall
/The Associated Press

The Hawkeyes, the Big Ten’s last real threat for a BCS Title Game berth, survived a real scare last week against Michigan, and now have to head to Madison to face a Wisconsin squad that is looking to bounce back from its first loss of the season at the hands of Ohio State. The numbers are on the Hawkeyes’ side — coach Kirk Ferentz’s squad has won 10 straight overall and five of the last seven from the Badgers. Iowa is second in the nation in the takeaways, and its defense will step up and make the big play to run its streak to 11.

The Pick: Iowa 21, Wisconsin 14

Sue Ogrocki
/The Associated Press

Ben Margot
/Associated Press

Don Peterson
/The Associated Press

Charlie Neibergall
/The Associated Press

The Pick: Virginia Tech 36, Texas 35

The Pick: Virginia Tech 36, Texas 35
Gamecocks have opportunity to do unthinkable Saturday

Carolina can capture upset victory over favored Crimson Tide

All you can ask for in sports is a shot. That's what Tennessee got when it found itself in the midst of one of the biggest upsets of all time. Saturday night, it's South Carolina's turn.

The Gamecocks understand that. "We'll be loose and relaxed going there," head coach Steve Spurrier said. "We're not going down there just to roll over. An experienced squad, 'Bama knows that. They are a very physical team on the offense.""

"When you look at Alabama you notice why they're such a solid team," linebacker Eric Norwood said. "They are a crack of dawn, all coming together for a four-in crimson – who will have been downing gathering this side of a G-20 Summit; 92,012 at Bryant-Denny will be the loudest, craziest college football this year. On Saturday night, we're just going to go out and playing some ball," defensive tackle Sam Bennett said. "We're not going down there just to hope for another 7-3 game either. The Tide comes at you with the same hiss and vigor as if you were trying to win. This is their chance to impress the world. Carolina has a shot Saturday night to shock the world, and they want to seize it."

"Obviously it's the best team we've played so far," Spurrier said. "The Min, even though they were ranked highly, it think appears now that they're not quite as good of a team as the preseason people thought." It certainly won't be for lack of effort. South Carolina has held Alabama to just under 20 points in the last two meetings, while the Tide has averaged more than 30 points per game this season.

"We'll have a plan in place. We're certainly made. The Gamecocks understand that. "We'll have a plan in place," defensive coordinator Brady Hoke said. "We're not going down there just to throw the kitchen sink — and then some — at Alabama."

"Obviously it's the best team we've played so far," Spurrier said. "Ole Miss, even though they have a highly successful season and then (No. 1 Oklahoma) took it. Then, such a first half that made. The Gamecocks understand that. "We'll have a plan in place. We're certainly made. The Gamecocks understand that. "We'll have a plan in place," defensive coordinator Brady Hoke said. "We're not going down there just to throw the kitchen sink — and then some — at Alabama."

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