10-23-2009

The Daily Gamecock, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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**Weather**

**WEATHER**

**Friday**

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**INSIDE**

**Seeing Stars**

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier is trying to figure out how to beat LSU’s recent wins against the Vanderbilt Commodores.

See page 18

**Parade showcases student-built floats**

Homecoming tradition back after three-year absence

Cheybe Sidel
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

At the beginning of Homecoming week, many student organizations gathered on the intramural field on Greene Street to work feverishly on their Homecoming floats for today’s parade.

The noise of sawing could barely be heard over the music as dozens to “nail this” and “cut that” were shouted out to various teammates, everyone wanting their float to be the best.

Float building, once a Homecoming tradition, is back this year by popular demand, requires organizations to work in pairs, designing and building a float that coincides with the “Anchors Away” theme within a designated seven-hour period.

While not a part of Homecoming since 2006, when it was ceased due to complaints from local residents about students building their floats on empty lots with no permit and making too much noise, it is back and the competition is fiercer than ever before.

Pi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Chi Omega’s float will feature a boat sailing on a giant surfer, with a big tall “Carolina Gamecocks” written on the side. “My mom and I came up with it,” said Britton Boyer. Float Chair and third-year sports and entertainment management student.

Alpha Delta Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon will be presenting a pirate ship theme at this afternoon’s parade. As the girls of A DP work hard on decorations, Matt Barnhill, a second-year mechanical engineering student, makes sure everything is sturdy and ready for the final changes.

“A lot of hard work went into this,” said Barnhill. “I hope itursively do well.” Tri Delta and Kappa Alpha’s design puts a different twist on the “Anchors Away” theme. Their float will include a giant oyster with Cocky inside holding a pearl.

“The pearl is supposed to represent Tri Delta and K A ,” said Homecoming committee member and second-year management student carrot Frasier.

“The idea we are going for is that USC is the pearl of the SEC.

During the float building madness, Jeff Hunter, DJ for Homecoming and well-known sound man for USC, keeps the students motivated and energized as they create their float masterpieces. Hunter has done sound for the cheerleaders and football games for 17 years.

“We get to see them being proud and I love it,” Hunter said. “It reminds me of high school. This is like Christmas for the sound people.”

All in attendance for the Homecoming Parade today at two o’clock will be able to see all seven of the floats and pick their favorite.

Comments on this story?
E-mail suggestion@usc.edu

**Cockfest**

Fireworks explode at the end of Cockfest, the University’s annual Homecoming pep rally. Around a thousand students attended the event at Williams-Brice Stadium to celebrate everything Carolina, and they were entertained with performances from Cockey, two Columbia bands and the USC cheerleaders. The Carolina Girls basketball dance team, Cocktails and Sound Check a capella groups also performed at the evening’s events. Student body treasurer Elke Tzanoski was the MC for the pep rally. Homecoming continues today with a parade on campus at 2 p.m. on Greene Street and the annual step show at 8 p.m. at the Carolina Coliseum.

**Programs have remained popular despite economy**

HUNTER HARDINGE
STAFF WRITER

England, Australia, New Zealand, Spain. With so many places to visit, how does a student choose where to study?

The USC Study Abroad office not only helps you in your decision on where you want to study abroad, but also the guide you in deciding which program best fits you.

“The study abroad advisor are here to help you in your choice and find if study abroad is right for you. We encourage students to talk about their experience with the process,” said Elise Hammond, the director of the Study Abroad office.

The first step in the process is scheduling a meeting with a peer study abroad advisor. These are students who have studied abroad and can give you insight into what it is really like.

The next step involves making an appointment with a study abroad advisor to talk about location programs, financial, and classes.

“The second step is important because we help students narrow down where they actually want to go,” said Hammond.

We also tell them about different options including the Global Exchange/Direct program, the Global Partners programs. Students should talk to their academic advisor, and mom and dad about anything kind of decision,” Hammond said.

The Global Exchange/ Direct program sends students to different countries around the world, which can be found on the study abroad Web site. “The greatest thing about the Global Exchange/ Direct program is students in-state and out of state receive in-state tuition to USC while abroad.

The Global programs are affiliate programs that offer students opportunities to study abroad at more locations. These programs can also be found on the study abroad Web site.

I studied through the Direct Exchange Program in Russia,” said Hunter Hardinge, a fourth-year international studies student.

For more information on Study Abroad, visit their Web site at sa.usc.edu or call (803) 777-1476.

Comments on this story?
E-mail suggestion@usc.edu

**Study abroad sees applicants increase**

**Contact us**

**VANDERBILT PREVIEW VIDEO**

Sports Editor Chris Cox

breake down Saturday’s game with Justin Faberio and Mike Wadsworth of Capital City Sports.

Online at

www.DailyGamecock.com

**NEWS**

Ryan Runian
Marilyn Jayner
Jason Johnson

tele a tale

with StartBusters! A substantial coffee go to sit little more than an overworkedlabel.

See page 4A

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**Contact us**

**Online Exclusive**

**VANDERBILT PREVIEW VIDEO**

Sports Editor Chris Cox
breaks down Saturday’s game with Justin Faberio and Mike Wadsworth of Capital City Sports.

Online at

www.DailyGamecock.com
CALENDAR

What: Doughnuts for Diabetes
Where: 11 a.m.
Where: Russell House
Cost: Free

What: Homecoming Parade
Where: 2 p.m.
Where: Green Street
Cost: Free

What: Study Abroad Exchange Student Orientation
When: 2:30 p.m.
Where: RH, Room 302
Cost: Free

What: Alpha Lambda Delta meeting
When: 3:30 p.m.
Where: RH, Room 315
Cost: Free

What: Homecoming Step Show
Where: 8 p.m.
Where: Carolina Theatre
Cost: Free

SUNDAY

What: Hill of the Lord
When: 11 a.m.
Where: RH, Theater
Cost: Free

What: Sunday Night lax
Where: Nursing 133
Cost: Free

SPORTS SCHEDULE

VOLLEYBALL

Today
Volleyball Competition Facility 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Today
Vanderbilt
FOOTBALL

Volleyball Competition Facility
Today
Mississippi
VOLLEYBALL

SCHEDULE

LOCAL & WORLD NEWS

LOCAL

Union man stores dynamite

UNION — Authorities say a South Carolina man, fearful that explosive materials in a dead relative’s basement might fall into the wrong hands, loaded them into his truck and drove 80 miles to another county to turn them in.

Union County Sheriff David Taylor said Thursday that he and his son found the man Monday morning, including a mixture and black powder in his deceased uncle’s home.

Taylor says the man drove Wednesday to downtown Union to surrender the materials because he feared the home would burn down.

The materials included black powder.

The law enforcement officials say the man was a military enthusiast and died until the explosives could be removed.

Lexington County Sheriff’s Maj. John Allard says the man’s uncle had been a military enthusiast and died within the past week. Taylor says none of the items were illegal, but says he didn’t want to give them to the wrong people.

NATIONAL

Federal agents hundreds in raid

WASHINGTON — The largest single strike at Mexican drug operations in the U.S. federal officials on Thursday announced the arrest of more than 300 people in raids across the country aimed at the newest and most violent cartel.

La Familia has earned a reputation for dominating the methamphetamine trade and deploying graphic violence, including beheadings. U.S. officials said the cartel, based in the state of Michoacan of southwestern Mexico, has a vast network pumping drugs throughout the U.S., specializing in methamphetamine.

The arrests took place in 18 cities, from Boston to Seattle and Tampa, Fla., to St. Paul, Minn., in 19 states.

Attorney General Eric Holder pledged to keep hunting La Familia and the cartel responsible for a wave of gun violence.

“The extraordinary, unprecedented scale of these arrests is due to the leadership from the top of the drug-trafficking pyramid,” Holder said at a news conference.

Michale Leonhart, who heads the Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington, said the cartel is a single entity, part due to its quasi-religious background.

DEA officials say the cartel professes a “Robin Hood mentality” of aiding the poor by stealing from the rich. Some drug proceeds are spent looking after the poor, according to investigators.

INTERNATIONAL

Protesters Invade BBC center

LONDON — Anti-nuclear protesters broke into the BBC’s west London headquarters on Thursday ahead of a far-right party leader’s appearance on a leading political debate show.

Hundreds of protestors gathered outside the BBC Television Center in an increasingly rowdy rally against British National Party chief Nick Griffin, who is due to appear on the broadcaster’s “Question Time” program.

At one point about 20 people braved a police cordon and ran into the center. An official said it was the first time violence had been breached.

BBC footage showed some being pulled across the floor by their arms and legs by security. The broadcaster said the protestors were “excited promptly” from the building.

“Shame on the BBC!” one female protestor yelled as she was being dragged out.

Scotland Yard said three officers were injured in the protest and two people were arrested for alleged violent disorder.

The BBC later broadcasted footage of Griffin arriving in the building and taking his place on the “Question Time” panel to scattered applause. Justice Secretary Jack Straw, a senior member of the governing Labour Party, was seen sitting across from Griffin on the show’s panel.

“Question Time” gathers Britain’s leading politicians, journalists and others to debate issues from a studio audience.

— The Associated Press

WEIRD HEADLINES

Man Busted for Being Naked at Home

A Va. man was busted for indecent exposure after he was caught in the buff in his own home. Alone.

Eric Williamson, 29, got up at 5:30 a.m. Monday and went to the kitchen to make some coffee. He was naked, but he was alone in the Springfield house, so he didn’t think it mattered.

Man pleads guilty to DWI in motorized La-Z-Boy

DULUTH, Minn. — A Minn. man has pleaded guilty to driving his motorized La-Z-Boy chair while drunk. A criminal complaint says 62-year-old Dennis LeRoy Anderson told police he felt a bar in the northern Minn. town of Proctor on his chair after drinking eight or nine beers.

Cops: Son drove as mom made heroin deliveries, GLoucester, Mass. — A woman was arrested and accused of taking her 25-year-old son along with her on trips to buy and sell heroin. Nancy Fallfold pleaded not guilty Tuesday in Gloucester District Court to charges of possession of heroin and distributing heroin. Her son, Timothy Fallfold, was charged with knowing where heroin was kept.

Study: McCain Voters Lost Testosterone

Young men who voted for John McCain last more than a presidential election last November. A study says their testosterone level plummeted.

TODAY IN HISTORY

B.C. 42

Marcus Junius Brutus, a leading conspirator in the assassination of Julius Caesar, commits suicide after his defeat at the Second Battle of Philippi.

1921

In the French town of Chalons-sur-Marne, an American officer selects the body of the first “Unknown Soldier” to be honored among the approximately 77,000 United States servicemen killed on the Western Front during World War I.

1971

Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Fla. The 75-year-old Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California. Disney World, featuring rides and characters from Disney’s beloved movies, would quickly become the most visited theme park in the world.

1983

A suicide bomber drives a truck packed with explosives into the U.S. military barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. military personnel. That same morning, 58 French soldiers were killed at the Second Battle of Philippi.

1998

Dr. Barnett Slepian is shot to death inside his home in Amherst, N.Y., by an anti-abortion activist aiming to perform a legal abortion.

2002

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Trent Dilfer retires, saying he can no longer handle the pressures of an N.F.L. career.

2009

A suicide bomber drives a truck packed with explosives into the U.S. military barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. military personnel. That same morning, 58 French soldiers were killed at the Second Battle of Philippi.

Tickets: 251-2222

“Unknown Soldier” to be honored among the approximately 77,000 United States servicemen killed on the Western Front during World War I.

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A suicide bomber drives a truck packed with explosives into the U.S. military barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. military personnel. That same morning, 58 French soldiers were killed in their barracks two miles away in a separate terrorist attack.

2002

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“Unknown Soldier” to be honored among the approximately 77,000 United States servicemen killed on the Western Front during World War I.
One of my favorite activities involves reading a copy of the Columbia Daily Collegian while drinking a mocha latte. It feels like I’m truly a Columbia native when I’m there. I’ve been a member of the local coffee community for over a year now and I can tell you that the quality of coffee here is far superior to that found in other cities. Whether you’re in need of a quick pick-me-up or just want to relax and enjoy a good cup of coffee, there is no better place than in our local coffee houses.

Now, at surface level, this situation seems like a great move. For example, if you go to a Starbucks and order a white chocolate mocha, you will taste exactly the same, and I know the employees will make it just the way I like it. I don’t have to venture to a local coffee shop to get my coffee the way I like it. However, when I go to a local coffee shop, I can enjoy the atmosphere and the people who work there. I also appreciate the fact that local coffee shops are usually much more affordable than Starbucks.

Lastly, I would like to say that the coffee at Starbucks is not the only coffee out there. There are many other local coffee shops that offer a wide variety of coffee and other drinks. I encourage everyone to try out a local coffee shop and see the difference for themselves.

In conclusion, while Starbucks may be the most popular coffee chain, there are many other local coffee shops that offer a unique and enjoyable experience. I encourage everyone to try them out and see the difference for themselves.
Axe To Fall

The band Converge releases its third studio album, "Axe To Fall," which features a heavy, intricate creative process that has become its signature sound. The album contains new material that builds upon the band's previous work, including the guitar-driven "Wretched World" and the rhythmically driven "Dark Horse.

The band's sound, characterized by "lightning-quick" guitar work, is highlighted in the album's opening track, "Dark Horse," which showcases the band's ability to create a unified sound. This approach is evident throughout the album, with each track building upon the previous one.

The album's success has been attributed to the band's dedication to building skate parks in Columbia and Charleston, and recently Blythewood. The band has a strong fan base in the area, and the release of "Axe To Fall" has only solidified their position in the music industry.

Converge delivers brutal 'Axe To Fall'

Converge's most recent album, "Axe To Fall," has received positive reviews for its heavy sound and intricate compositions. The album features the band's signature sound, with the guitarist's frenzied riffing and the vocalist's cacophonous delivery creating a unifying musical landscape.

The album's sound is characterized by the band's dedication to building skate parks in Columbia and Charleston, and recently Blythewood. This dedication to community and creative process has led to the band's success, with "Axe To Fall" receiving critical acclaim and a dedicated fan base.

With plans to continue the event quarterly, the organizers of the event intend on using the revenue from "Axe To Fall" to continue the event, with the proceeds going towards the South Carolina lottery.

To listen to punk rock and heavier alternative music, Converge has released a series of albums that have gained a dedicated following. The band's sound is characterized by the guitarist's frenzied riffing and the vocalist's cacophonous delivery, creating a sound that is both heavy and intricate.

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PhD • by Jorge Chan

Today.

True. Begin simple projects right. Obviously, that’s not like you can’t do anything.

Things improve tomorrow.

Others push your buttons. You may wish you had when you stay in bed all day. But you wisely.

Use power your way. Use power bring beneficial changes your best day, but it can take charge completely.

Persuasion is your goal, you’re on the right track. Persuasion is your goal, you’re on the right track. Persuasion is your goal, you’re on the right track. Persuasion is your goal, you’re on the right track.

You have a hard time. Whatever you have in the day’s end, you’re on another highway.

Make changes on a practical level. They don’t have to be big changes in other pursuits.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES This won’t be your best day, but it can bring beneficial changes your way. Use power wisely.

TAURUS You feel like you can’t do anything right. Obviously, that’s not true. Begin simple projects today.

GEMINI You can’t stay in bed all day, but you may wish you had when others push your buttons. Things improve tomorrow.

CANCER If passion is your goal, you’re on the right track. Persuasion is your goal, you’re on the right track.

SCORPIO This isn’t the time to try to convince others. Persuasion is your goal, you’re on the right track.

SAGITTARIUS You have a hard time listening to others now. They babble and don’t think you can’t pass. By day’s end, you’re on another highway.

CAPRICORN Whatever you have in the back of your mind, keep it there today. This isn’t the time to try to convince others.

PISCES Make changes on a practical level as necessary. They don’t have to be big changes in other pursuits.

Today.

CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY 1, 3:30, 8 p.m., $6.50 Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

AQUARIUS An older person sets up a roadblock. At first you think you can’t pass. By day’s end, you’re on another highway.

SAGITTARIUS An older person sets up a roadblock. At first you think you can’t pass. By day’s end, you’re on another highway.

Today.

Today.

Today.

Today.

Today.
Drinking Stat #1

Every year, more money is spent promoting the use of alcohol than any other product.

Please join us in drinking responsibly. Sponsored by Delta Zeta.
We've got that in our head, and we can do it.”

“Every year is a new team. It’s not the same guys as before. The attitude has been very good. The team spirit has been good.”

“You’re able to break the Vandy curse.”

“We had more yards than they did last year, but we didn’t execute.”

“Talk only goes so far. To break the Vandy curse, Carolina will have to perform on the field and reverse the woes that have plagued them against Vandy.”

“Carolina can’t afford to think like that. "We all know the importance of the game. Vandy has completed for two years, that’s why we’ve lost to them," Spurrier said. "They kicked our tail and outplayed us. And if they outplay us tomorrow night, there’s a chance they’ll beat us again."

“Just like the past two years, Vandy will not be the favorite. Just like the last two years, Vandy has a chip on its shoulder. "They have something to prove. For the underdogs, they can be dangerous," Apley said. "They feel like they have something to prove and they are going to come to this stadium and play it all out."

"It all sounds very similar to the past, but there’s one thing USC thinks they can make different. The outcome.

The outcome.

"We're able to beat these guys and we can do it."

"We have a whole bunch of new starters on offense and defense. and reverse the woes that have plagued them against the Commodores the past two seasons."

"We're still working hard. We were still out there fighting."

"We had more yards than they did last year, but we didn't execute."
Sophomore wide receiver to start above injured Brown

Chris Biko / The Daily Gamecock

A fresh-fallen Bryant-Denny Stadium. It was the brand of quiet only a vicious, injury-inducing hit could produce.

Just moments earlier, the crowd had witnessed South Carolina senior wide receiver Moe Brown get crushed by two defenders when diving for a first down in the red zone. About 15 minutes later, Brown was being carried off the field with his thumbs raised to a chorus of “Let’s go Moe” from the USC marching band. Brown would later be diagnosed with a concussion, and his recollection of the event was understandably hazy.

“I really didn’t know what had happened at all,” said Brown. “I was asleep. I was kind of in a dream state.”

But, I am looking out for my best interest and they have whooped up on us the past two years,” said Brown. “But, I am looking out for my best interest and they say it is not good for me to play.”

Brown’s experience is the anchor to an otherwise young receiving corp. He will have to do his best coach impression if he wants USC to have a successful game.

“Moe will be on the sideline being a good cheerleader for our team this week,” said head coach Steve Spurrier. Brown should be back for the Tennessee game next week, but for now he will be replaced in the starting lineup by sophomore Jason Barnes. Barnes had a great game against Alabama after substituting for Brown. He was a pass catching machine, accumulating six grabs for 46 yards, with all of them coming in the second half.

“We (the recovery) pride ourselves on the game coming down to us,” said Barnes. “We feel like we have to make plays in win every game this season.”

Barnes and the Gamecock offense will be matching up against a very good Vanderbilt defensive squad on Saturday. Currently, the Commodores rank sixth in the SEC in total defense and second in the conference in pass defense.

Leading Vanderbilt’s secondary is senior cornerback Myron Lewis. Lewis leads the team with three interceptions and provides the leadership to a very young and inexperienced secondary.

“They make few mistakes (on defense),” said Spurrier. “They’re in position where they’re supposed to be. You have to execute to beat them.”

To defeat Vandy, the Gamecocks will have to limit the turnovers that have plagued them in the last two games against the Commodores. In those contests, USC lost a total of two fumbles and five interceptions.

“Hopefully we’ll be prepared to play our best one of the year, said Spurrier. “That’s what it will take to beat Vandy Saturday night.”

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Stewart prepares for mobile quarterback

For Carolina to end the losing streak against Vanderbilt, the USC secondary has to stop quarterback Larry Smith whether through the air or on the ground. While his numbers aren’t impressive stats-wise – three touchdowns compared to seven interceptions – what makes him so dangerous is his running ability, where he has rushed for two touchdowns, and ran for over 100 yards this season.

For the USC secondary, for the Gamecocks to end the two game losing streak, and continue the momentum of a great season heading into a tough rest of the schedule, Stewart has proven able to step up and make big plays when it counts the most, and with his experience playing the spur and safety position the past two seasons, he has proven to be a versatile athlete who should have the speed to keep with Smith in a foot race. But is the game plan still the same for say a scrambler vs. a pocket quarterback? “We approach every week the same” said Stewart “we approach it all the same way.” Stewart, who has seen the most experience against this Vanderbilt team compared to the rest of the secondary, will have to be the watchful eye for them in play in case Stewart on the Vanderbilt offense struggles. “We just get out there and compete we don’t care who it is.”

While the losing streak does come up during practice, “we just want to put that on our shoulders and carry that into the game,” Stewart said. The last thing the Gamecocks need is for Larry Smith to be running loose in the secondary if they want to beat the Commodores. The defense should be ready to play on Saturday. With the leadership abilities of Stewart, and the talented young secondary surrounding him, Vanderbilt will have a hard problem moving the ball through the air and the ground.

Coach Steve Spurrier just wants his defense to remember this plan for containing Smith,”we just got to corral him.”

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Vanderbilt’s dual-threat Smith to test Carolina secondary

Jasen Worlik / The Daily Gamecock

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Senior safety Darian Stewart has the task this weekend of stopping him, and with a young secondary around him, Stewart has to be the one to step up, and make the big plays for the USC secondary, for the Gamecocks to end the two game losing streak, and continue the momentum of a great season heading into a tough rest of the schedule. Stewart has proven able to step up and make big plays when it counts the most, and with his experience playing the spur and safety position the past two seasons, he has proven to be a versatile athlete who should have the speed to keep with Smith in a foot race. But is the game plan still the same for say a scrambler vs. a pocket quarterback? “We approach every week the same” said Stewart “we approach it all the same way.” Stewart, who has seen the most experience against this Vanderbilt team compared to the rest of the secondary, will have to be the watchful eye for them in play in case Stewart on the Vanderbilt offense struggles. “We just get out there and compete we don’t care who it is.”

While the losing streak does come up during practice, “we just want to put that on our shoulders and carry that into the game,” Stewart said. The last thing the Gamecocks need is for Larry Smith to be running loose in the secondary if they want to beat the Commodores. The defense should be ready to play on Saturday. With the leadership abilities of Stewart, and the talented young secondary surrounding him, Vanderbilt will have a hard problem moving the ball through the air and the ground.

Coach Steve Spurrier just wants his defense to remember this plan for containing Smith, “we just got to corral him.”

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Stewart prepares for mobile quarterback

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BCS Busters set for primetime clash

Horned Frogs, Cougars prepare to square off with championship implications on line

Ryan Velasquez
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

In last year’s showdown, TCU handed BYU its first loss, knocking them out of the BCS picture. How the tables have turned. Entering week eight, the Horned Frogs hold a perfect 6-0 record and are in the running to go to the first BCS bowl game in school history. Boasting the nation’s No. 4 defense, TCU has held opponents to just over 13 points per game this season. The Cougars, on the other hand, enter this week’s matchup as the potential spoiler. Since its brutal loss to Florida State, BYU has won four straight and currently ranks sixth in the country in points per game. Don’t look for much scoring this week, however, as TCU will hold off the Cougars’ offense and stay in the running for a BCS bowl.

The Pick: TCU 20, BYU 14

No. 10 TCU @ No. 16 BYU

No. 7 Iowa @ Michigan State

The Hawkeyes travel to East Lansing with a chance to leave 8-0, a record they’ve never had in their 120-year history. Led by a stout defense that leads the country in interceptions, they head into this matchup looking to extend their lead in the Big Ten and keep their national title hopes alive. After losing three of its first four, Michigan State has bounced back to win three in a row and can steal Iowa’s top spot in the conference standings with a win Saturday. The Spartans have won four straight against the Hawkeyes at home. That streak will end tomorrow, as Iowa’s defense will get the job done on the road for the second week in a row.

The Pick: Iowa 24, Michigan State 10

No. 3 Texas @ Missouri

Despite another shaky performance, Colt McCoy and the Longhorns are still undefeated and control their own destiny in the national title race. Traveling to Missouri, they have a chance to extend their five-game winning streak against the Tigers, who have struggled since opening conference play. Texas’ main concern will be staying focused on the matchup at hand rather than looking ahead to next week’s showdown at No. 14 Oklahoma State. The Longhorns will again start slowly, but will eventually be too much for the rebuilding Tigers.

The Pick: Texas 31, Missouri 13

The Sooner are staring oblivion in the face as the team that lost just one game a year ago suddenly finds itself with a 3-3 record. It doesn’t get any easier for Oklahoma, as 2008 Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford has chosen season-ending shoulder surgery after sustaining hard hits in both the BYU and Texas games. Freshman quarterback Landry Jones has been good, but he won’t be enough to beat the 5-1 Jayhawks.

The Pick: Kansas 24, Oklahoma 20

Tennessee @ No. 1 Alabama

It’s safe to say that Nick Saban hasn’t forgotten Lane Kiffin’s jabs about his recruiting during the offseason. Leading up to this game, Tennessee made a request to wear its orange jerseys, as it was once a tradition for these two to wear their home colors during their annual showdown. The SEC gave its approval. Alabama didn’t. The Tide will be very motivated in this one after a turnover, penalty laden night last week. Look, for the defense to thrive against Tennessee’s inconsistent offense and shaky play at quarterback. On the other side of the ball, a four carry, 1-yard performance against the Vols last season is still fresh in Mark Ingram’s mind. Expect a big difference this year.

The Pick: Alabama 48, Tennessee 6

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UPCOMING GAMES

EQUESTRIAN
10/23 vs. Georgia; Blythewood, SC 2PM

VOLLEYBALL
10/23 vs. Mississippi 7PM
10/25 vs. Arkansas 1:30PM

MENS BASKETBALL
10/28 Practice at the Strom 5-6PM

- FREE PIZZA
- STUDENTS GET 1 REWARDS POINT FOR ATTENDING
- CHANCE TO WIN GREAT PRIZES:
  - iPhone, Gas Card, In Game on Court Experience, Lunch for 2 with Head Coach Darrin Horn and many other great prizes.
As a team, Vanderbilt definitely believes it can keep its streak against South Carolina going. The Commodores have been awful in losing five of their last six games, including that mind-boggling loss to Army, but they haven’t lost confidence in themselves. Almost all of the big playmakers in last year’s bowl team are back, and they know they can hang with almost any team in the conference thanks to a strong defense, including a particularly solid secondary. The main problem this season has obviously been offensive execution, and they think that if they can get the no-huddle to start producing consistently, then they can be a winning team again.

Johnson was able to finally win over his home state because his team played smashmouth defense and pounced on scoring opportunities when they presented themselves. In both victories the past two seasons, the Commodores turned South Carolina turnovers into points and kept pressure on Gamecock quarterbacks the entire game. Vanderbilt almost never wins games where it doesn’t win the turnover margin, because it simply doesn’t have the offensive firepower to keep up otherwise. Also, the Commodores avoided penalties, while South Carolina had numerous false starts in the loss in Columbia in 2007 and had defensive holding calls extend a clinching Vanderbilt touchdown drive in 2008. Smart, disciplined football and pressure defense is what Johnson coaches, and the last two years it’s been enough to notch solid wins over Steve Spurrier, who until recently had always owned Vanderbilt.

Why has the offense struggled so mightily?

A lot of blame for this year’s struggles has gone to quarterback Larry Smith, who has yet to complete at least half of his passes in a conference game this year, but there are problems beyond his own. Smith has certainly underachieved this year, and he has not only been inaccurate, but he also has lacked touch on shorter throws that require a little less speed and a little more precision. There is a young, untested group of receivers and it’s a small wonder the passing attack has been so anemic. The run game has been generally unproductive, and Smith has rarely had much time to throw in the pocket. Also, the play-calling on the offensive side of the football has not put Commodore play-makers in position to succeed. It has been predictable and punchless, and the no-huddle offense Vanderbilt installed in the offseason has not led to quicker scoring, but rather to quicker 3-and-outs that has left Vanderbilt’s defense breathless from spending so much time in the field. In our five losses, we’ve been outscored 37-10 in the fourth quarter. That’s no coincidence; by then, the D has simply worn down.

Will the streak continue?

The streak won’t continue, and it’s not too hard to diagram why. The combination of Carolina’s nasty, relentless defense, led by Eric Norwood, and the fact that the Commodores’ 10 points against Georgia was the most they’ve scored in four conference games should tell the whole story. I can see Vanderbilt hanging in there for the first half, but unless we get off to an early lead for once, the Gamecocks will pull away in the end. I’ll go with South Carolina, 27-10.
Arkansas @ Ole Miss
Tennessee @ Alabama
Clemson @ Miami (FL)
Penn State @ Michigan
Oklahoma @ Kansas
TCU @ BYU
Iowa @ Michigan State
Texas A&M @ Texas Tech
Auburn @ LSU
Vanderbilt @ USC

Last Week’s Standings:
Overall:
Ole Miss 7-3
Alabama 5-5
Miami (FL) 5-5
Penn State 5-5
Kansas 5-5
TCU 5-5
Iowa 5-5
Texas Tech 5-5
LSU 5-5
USC 5-5

(48-22)
(50-20)

For South Carolina, junior tight end Weslye Saunders will not start against Vanderbilt due to a nagging sprained ankle he suffered against South Carolina State. However, he is expected to see playing time. Freshman Justice Cunningham may not play due to a sprained ankle. Sophomore tight end Austin Monahan is out for the season with a torn ACL.

Injury report: For South Carolina, junior tight end Weslye Saunders will not start against Vanderbilt due to a nagging sprained ankle he suffered against South Carolina State. However, he is expected to see playing time. Freshman Justice Cunningham will start in his place. Long snapper Charles Turner may not play either, as coach Steve Spurrier noted that the junior has a slight concussion. Walk-on Matt Williams-Brice will start in his place. Long snapper Charles Turner said, “There are times when it’s appropriate, and there are times when it’s not appropriate, and that’s what the memorandum clarifies.”

Notes: The conference office’s busy week continued, as league commissioner Mike Slive had to send out memos across the conference noting the rule on illegal use of tape. After USC, coach Steve Spurrier questioned the use of Alabama’s holder marking field goal and extra point attempts with tape. But Carolina wasn’t done. Athletics Director Eric Hyman complained that the Crimson Tide used artificial noise on third downs- something USC was banned from doing in 2006. “We expect everyone to do in 2006. “We expect everyone to be on the same page starting Saturday,” Slive said. “We expect everyone to do it again in South Carolina.”

Notes: The national cameras will be in the house as former Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen hosts his old Gators in a primetime matchup in Starkville.

The two have been inseparable since their days at Notre Dame. The Bulldogs have been improving week-by-week and can match their win total from a year ago if they knock off the No. 2 Gators tomorrow night. While they may not get the upset Sunday, don’t be surprised if Mullen and Co. pull one before the season is up.

Arkansas (3-3, 1-3 SEC) @ Ole Miss (4-2, 1-2) Time: 12:21 ET TV: SEC Network Notes: After the Razorbacks suffered a heartbreaking 21-20 loss at Florida last weekend, the Southeastern Conference suspended the officials from the game for questionable penalties. The crew called a personal foul on Arkansas defensive lineman Malcom Shepherd who seemed questionable at best. The flag came on the game-tying drive for the Gamecocks. The suspension was involved in the controversial celebration penalty on Georgia wide receiver AJ Green in a loss to LSU in the closing minutes.

Tennessee (3-3, 1-2) @ No. 1 Alabama (7-1, 4-0) Time: 12:30 ET TV: CBS Notes: The conference office’s busy week continued, as league commissioner Mike Slive had to send out memos across the conference noting the rule on illegal use of tape. After USC, coach Steve Spurrier questioned the use of Alabama’s holder marking field goal and extra point attempts with tape. But Carolina wasn’t done. Athletics Director Eric Hyman complained that the Crimson Tide used artificial noise on third downs- something USC was banned from doing in 2006. “We expect everyone to be on the same page starting Saturday,” Slive said. “We expect everyone to do it again in South Carolina.”

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Notes: The Auburn Tigers come into Saturday’s contest reeling after consecutive losses to Texas A&M and Mississippi State, Eastern Kentucky and Vanderbilt. But tomorrow’s matchup may not be as easy as it might look. They had to escape with just a two-point win when the teams met last season.

Auburn (5-2, 2-2) @ LSU (8-1, 1-3) Time: 7:00 ET TV: ESPN Notes: The conference office’s busy week continued, as league commissioner Mike Slive had to send out memos across the conference noting the rule on illegal use of tape. After USC, coach Steve Spurrier questioned the use of Alabama’s holder marking field goal and extra point attempts with tape. But Carolina wasn’t done. Athletics Director Eric Hyman complained that the Crimson Tide used artificial noise on third downs- something USC was banned from doing in 2006. “We expect everyone to be on the same page starting Saturday,” Slive said. “We expect everyone to do it again in South Carolina.”

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