N.C. dropout rate alarms educators

Number of students not completing high school hurts state economy

Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH, N.C. — The public school dropout rate didn’t matter much in furniture factories. Those jobs are long gone — think Pillowtex and J.P. Stevens. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed in 1993, North Carolina has lost more than 200,000 jobs in manufacturing.

So when the Department of Public Instruction used a new calculation method last year to reveal that barely two-thirds of the roughly 100,000 students who started ninth grade four years earlier had graduated by last fall, a pair of school-choice groups were alarmed.

Democrats and Republicans agreed on the value of the pre-kindergarten and high school reform efforts pushed by former Gov. Jim Hunt, and all vowed to continue to press for reform.

Dropouts don’t just hurt themselves financially but not getting a diploma. They hurt the state. North Carolina is losing at least $819 million annually in taxes and public spending on the $10,000 students in the class of 2005 who quit, according to a report released last fall by a pair of school-choice groups.

The leading Democratic candidates, Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue and State Treasurer Richard Moore, have both released higher education scholarships plans, which they believe will spur students to both remain in school and learn high-skill skills needed to succeed in the jobs that have replaced positions in the state’s closed mills and on shuttered factory floors.

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Memorial service held to honor 13th year after Oklahoma City bombing

Murray Edwards

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahomans and victims’ relatives paused Saturday at the Oklahoma City National Memorial for a simple, poignant ceremony to remember the 186 people killed 13 years ago in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

The attack on April 19, 1995, is the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history.


At 9:02 a.m., the moment of the bombing, people attending the service observed 168 seconds of silence, one for each of the bombing’s victims. Victims’ names also were read aloud.

Before the ceremony, relatives of the victims placed wreaths and mementoes on the memorial’s symbolic glass and bronze chairs, each one representing a victim of the bombing.

Deb Hodges, wife of bombing victim Gene Hodges Jr., a Department of Housing and Urban Development worker who was killed on the seventh floor of the building, looked at a picture drawn by their granddaughter that had been placed on her chair. Hodges said.

Rudy Guzman of Castro Valley, Calif., is the brother of Marine Capt. Randolph A. Guzman, who died on the sixth floor of the building in the Marine Corps recruiting office.

“Day by day you think of the good things,” he said as he stood by a chair bearing his brother’s name.

Guzman said family members and survivors have developed a sense of family over the years. He said, “It’s a family brought together in tragedy, but we’re here to help each other.”

One of the participants in a national media symposium held in the day was B.C. Woodruff, son of Oklahoma City bomber Charles Joseph Whitman.

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Oklahomans pause to remember victims of 1995

Emergency notification test

There will be a test for the emergency notification system via text and e-mail on Wednesday. This is only a test to ensure the system works properly — do not be alarmed.

—Compiled by Liz Segrist

INTERCEPTIONS FOR EVERYONE

Defensive back Stoney Woodson grabs an interception in front of Gamecock wide receiver Joe Hills during USC’s annual Garnet and Black Spring Game. The USC defense finished the day with eight interceptions and nine turnovers forced.

For more on the game including the clash of the quarterbacks and the standouts of the day, go to the Sports section on page 10.

For even more Gamecock action, go to DailyGamecock.com for a slideshow.
Local

The leader of the state’s top law enforcement agency plans to create an advisory committee to keep an eye on his agents.

State Law Enforcement Division Chief Reggie Lloyd said the committee is based on a similar panel in Richland County.

The county committee reviews incidents where officer shoot suspects, but also reviews policy changes and disciplinary actions against the sheriff’s office, Sheriff Leon Lott said.

Lloyd created the committee in 2001 and told The State it is the only one of its kind in South Carolina.

For SLED, Lloyd said he wants to get a group of 15 to 20 people from around the state within two months.

The panel will be balanced in gender, race, religion and profession, the new SLED chief said.

“I really like the idea of having a committee of citizens,” Lloyd said. “It brings some transparency and accountability.”

Members of the Richland County committee said the group can shine light on what some might think the police would cover up.

“Truth is the best remedy for misinformation,” said committee chairman Russel Lott.

The Richland County Sheriff’s Citizens’ Advisory Committee meets at least four times a year, but also holds emergency meetings when necessary. One recently unscheduled meeting dealt with the fatal shooting of Larry D. Boxer, 14, by an officer during a drug investigation.

The panel decided the shooting was justified.

National

NEW YORK — Pope Benedict XVI began the final day of his American journey by blessing the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and pleading with God to bring “peace to our violent world.”

“God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world,” the pope prayed at the Pentagon and in the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa.

More than 2,900 people were killed in the four crashes of planes hijacked by terrorists.

Benedict invited 24 people with ties to ground zero to join him: survivors, relatives of victims and four rescue workers.

“Addressing a group that included survivors, clergy and public officials, he acknowledged the many faces of the victims as the “scene of incredible violence and pain.”

The pope also prayed for “those who survived death and injury” in the attacks at the Pentagon and in the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa.

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liberal arts curriculum from 200 years ago," he said. "I think that 53 percent of the 23,550 students in grades 9-12 who quit during the last school year did so because they were bored."

The data on why students leave school are largely available. According to the Department of Public Instruction, about 896,000 students in grades six to 12 participated in such classes during the 2005-06 school year, an 11 percent increase compared to four years earlier, according to the Department of Public Instruction.

Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory, a Republican, said there should be more coordination between how much public money is spent on certain fields of study and the demand for these fields in the marketplace.

"We seem to be doing it in reverse," McCrory said. "It should not be based on the volume of students or the cost of the course."

Elise Powers, a Republican pecan grower, said he would push to have a student's driving privileges revoked if they quit school. The compulsory school attendance age also should be raised from age 16 to 18, and truancy laws already on the books should be enforced, said Bill Graham, a Republican attorney.

"It certainly sends a strong signal to the public that we expect our parents to send our children to school and be diligent about it," Graham said. Republican candidate Bob Orr, a former Supreme Court justice, said dropout problems will worsen until there's an overhaul of the state education leadership structure in Raleigh. Orr wants to change the constitution to make the governor answerable for the state's public education decisions.

"Right now, we've got the state board over here that's actually in charge of public education and then you got the bureaucracy. ... Then you've got the Legislature doing its thing, passing laws, and then you've got the governor out there hanging around doing whatever," Orr said.

Orr served on the Supreme Court when it ruled that North Carolina must offer children the opportunity to receive a "sound basic education." Dunston, the education advocate at the North Carolina Justice Center, said the state would be well-served if the next governor supported an effort to define exactly what a "sound basic education" meant so the state's efforts can be measured against it.

"How will we know if we're preparing them for the work force or higher ed?" Dunston said. "Are we giving them the tools and knowledge that they need to know that they have a future?"

The United States and its two neighbors already have the largest free-trade zone in the world, and an economic and symbolic boost to the host city. Almost 12 months after Hurricane Katrina struck, New Orleans is still recovering — with uneven success — from the most brutal natural disaster in U.S. history.

"Most of Bush's time will be spent in a hotel and a historic former city hall in the Central Business District, far from the residential areas that bordered by Katrina. His agenda includes a few events of local flavor, but they are secondary to diplomatic talks.

The gathering is also a send-off of sorts for Bush, who will leave from the White House next week as the second president to serve two terms. Among the things on his agenda will be the opportunity to receive a "sound basic education." Dunston, the education advocate at the North Carolina Justice Center, said the state would be well-served if the next governor supported an effort to define exactly what a "sound basic education" meant so the state's efforts can be measured against it.

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More than 10,000 people from about 90 nations are expected to attend the summit, which will start at 9 a.m. Thursday and end at 3 p.m. Saturday.

The leaders will discuss issues that they defined as priorities in 2005, such as trade, the fight against terrorism, energy security and the threat of terrorism.

"In the past, they used to think it was just a political video with just nine months left in Bush's term," said DeShazo, who directs the Americas Program for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Blanding the regulations of countries with different laws and legal systems is not just a bureaucratic and technical exercise, he said. "It's a political challenge. It is a political challenge.

Critics contend the "Security and Prosperity Partnership" is the framework for this coordination among the three countries with little public input and oversight.
Historically-black college uses improvements to encourage donations

Doreen Wink
The Associated Press

ETTRICK, Va. — Making money isn’t easy at Virginia State University has learned, takes money. “The majority black college has spent millions of dollars renovating buildings, partly to heighten school pride among alumni who they hope will respond by opening their own wallets. It’s working: Alumni see that in the past five years ago to 10 percent, and individual gifts have increased from hundreds of dollars to thousands, development vice president Robert Turner said as he showed off libraries and academic buildings recently. “This” — Turner said, surveying the hilltop campus — “deliberately goes to good use.”

As state and private funds shrink, historically-black colleges are refreshing outdated efforts to solicit former students, by adding specialized staff, crafting personalized “asks,” improving campuses and increasingly using Internet outreach.

That’s targeting a wider base — more blacks are graduating from younger alumni who’ve moved into a broader range of careers. At VSU, efforts as subtle as adding a donor recognition dinner have heartened alumni like Anthony Spence.

“If I’m going to give my money to a university, I want to be sure that it’s about $60,000,” said Karen advancement staff of say 20, they may have an institutional advancement. “The Great Debaters,” has Washington’s 2007 film and beef up staff.

prospects a year, create new online giving opportunities to help scout 200 major gift

2006 to $1.3 million last year, administrators plan computer plan upgrades devoted to online giving at Atlanta’s prestigious Morehouse College, where alumni contributions dropped from about $3.1 million in 2006 to $1.3 million last year.

Wiley College in east Texas will use a nearly $400,000 grant from the United Negro College Fund to fund some 100 major gifts a prospects survey, create new online giving opportunities and build up staff.

Wiley, featured in Denzel Washington’s 2007 film “The Great Debaters,” has nine efforts focused on institutional advancement.

“At some of the larger, predominant institutions, they may have an advancement staff of say 20, 30, 50 people,” said Karen Hulon, vice president for institutional advancement.

“There’s the Harvard’s and the Stanford’s and the UCLA’s general admissions.” Such measures are commonplace at some mainstream institutions. But they represent a major investment for the nation’s more than 100 historically black colleges and universities, whose resources often are stretched.

The fundraising push by these schools for inflation has an expected slowdown in levels of state higher education funding, at the same time that predominantly white universities are pushing harder to attract high-achieving black students.

“There is an urgency about this as we look at our networks of institutions and look at trying to sustain them,” said Eldred Pinkard, executive director of the Institute for Capacity Building, part of the United Negro College Fund that represents 90 private historically-black schools.

Since 2006, the institute has granted more than $8.1 million to 20 member schools for projects that include increasing alumni support.

There was a recognition that alumni of these institutions represented a very important constituency that had not been tapped in any systematic way, Pinkard said.

The colleges, founded to serve blacks during segregation, have kept up to help underprivileged students. They offered extra cash for things like fundraising, said University of Pennsylvania assistan professor-MaryBeth Gasman, author of “Supportive Alums: Major Successful Strategies for Securing Funds from Black College Alumni.”

They showed that alumni are not reluctant to ask for former students, already paying off loans, to give more money. At the same time, black alumni haven’t always had the income of graduates from predominantly white schools, Gasman said.

“If their alumni have had more access to income, to assets, and thus could give back,” Pinkard said, adding that blacks also tend to give more to churches.

But at Norfolk State University, alumni giving has grown from 2 percent in 2003-2004, up to 10 percent last year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

And there are potentially more of them: 142,420 bachelor’s degrees were conferred to blacks in 2005-2006, up from fewer than 92,000 a decade earlier, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

But among black colleges’ top resources, say some, is alumni loyalty.

“Many of our alumni respond to our institutions as providing an opportunity where many other institutions would not have. So they give back.” Pinkard said.

ORAKHOLA ˙ Co-created from 1

caught Timothy McVeigh less than two hours after the bombing.

McVeigh was convicted of federal murder charges and was executed on June 11, 2001.

Terry Nichols, who met McVeigh in the Army, was convicted of federal and state charges connected with the bombing and is serving life sentences in prison.

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S.C. law threatened to leave economy bare

A bill that would have effectively killed erotic dancing in South Carolina died — barely — in subcommittee last week. And there was much rejoicing.

If it had passed, the bill would have required dancers to stay at least six feet from patrons at all times and forced clubs to shut down between midnight and 6 a.m. While the strip club may not be a place where 10-year-old girls bring their grandmothers for a night out, it is a part of the economy and part of the social fabric. It’s less about the dancers seducing the customers than about the customers seducing the dancers.

The state’s economy, to at least some extent, nurses at the teat of the strip club industry. In addition to representing capitalists, topless bars also represent the great egalitarian spirit of America. Where else can black-collar workers stand side-by-side with politicians and Tuscaloosa Titanscornbreads in the spirit of brotherhood? Nowhere.

For the sake of the economy and the American spirit, we salute the state legislature for not losing their shirts over this issue.

So get together and dance, people of South Carolina, because the six-foot bill is now six feet under.

**CORRECTIONS**

If you see an error in this today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@sc.edu.

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**S.C. law threatened to leave economy bare**

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Chen, Li movie gives glimpse of glory days

The Forbidden Kingdom

Chen, Li movie gives glimpse of glory days

The Forbidden Kingdom

Zac says brothers try to create accessible, quality music today

Brian McGovern

The last time Han’s Zhang talked with us, you could practically hear him wriggling impatiently on the other end of the phone.

That’s no surprise: One decade ago, Zac was 12 years old. And he was too busy to talk to his older brother Isaac to finish the interview ahead of his band’s first Detroit concert.

Pop superstardom was a bright, fast flash for the band Hanson: two years in the eye of the storm, led by the contagious single “MMMBop” and all the resulting teen-idol glory — shrieking girls, magazine covers, platinum sales, plagues of goldfish and their fathers-to-be, laughs warmly when reminded of the long ago that he, conducted before the twins’ June 1998 show.

“My parents always wanted us to be. It hasn’t been necessarily the blueprint for the brothers, including Taylor, but 15 then. They were smart enough to know that pop fads don’t last long.

We were aware of where we wanted to go. It hasn’t been necessarily the exact way we thought we’d get there.

But we have our label, we have a fan base where we can tour and release the record, a passionate group of people who are part of an underbelly culture of this band,” he says. “That’s where we want to be, and that’s where we want to continue to be — still putting out music that’s accessible, but music that’s quality, the best you can possibly make.”

The brothers have come to see themselves in the mold of a 1970s pop-rock band, the sort of outfit that once regularly roamed the mainstream.

“That was a time when you saw bands that still had harmonies, multiple vocalists. They did rock ‘n’ roll. We don’t do that,” Zac says. “I don’t think there are a lot of bands like that anymore. The Doobie Brothers of today aren’t around. We’ve evolved our love of ‘60s and ‘70s music and incorporated the influences, in the same way those bands did.”

A variety of Zac’s and Isaac’s Hanson’s audience today, says Zac. Some supporters never abandoned the group.

Others sit as aide as they grew out of adolescence only to later rediscover the band.

He particularly likes meeting musicians who credit him as an influence, like the players he encountered during last month’s South by Southwest festival.

“Now they’re 18 or 20, and they say: ‘Yeah, dude, I grew up listening to your music. My sister had it. And I started a hand-playing drums to you!’”

It’s easy to forget how much different — and older — the Billboard charts looked in 1997, when the Hanson brothers emerged from Tulsa, Okla., with a set of catchy songs they’d write.

A decade of Britney, Christina, Justin and others has made teen-pop dominance seem like a distant memory.

The Hanson’s certainly weren’t history’s first Top 40 teen idols. But they were the first of the millennium teen-pop wave that has become one of today’s most familiar figures. Related by the biggest youth population in U.S. history — the baby-boom kids — Hanson led a trend that continues with acts such as Joss Stone and the

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MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008

The Forbidden Kingdom

recruits teen escapism stories

The Forbidden Kingdom, starring Jackie Chan and Jet Li, is an approximately annual basis.

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Sara Bareilles’ “Love Song” was loved by executives at Epic Records “who had no idea it was about them.”

Finally heading in “so fricking cool,” she said Monday during a break from rehearsing with her band. “It’s almost sold out the whole tour. I’ve got lots of songs that didn’t make this album, and we’re playing a lot of the album, and we’re adding some covers, and we’re doing some new songs.”

Besides the exposure as an opening act, Bareilles benefited from appearing in a TV commercial for rhapsody.com during “Love Song.” “That made a huge difference,” she said of the Christmas- time ad. “The pop-culture gave people a visual to connect with the song from the radio.”

That buzz sent music lovers to YouTube where the official video for “Love Song” has been viewed a whopping 8 million times — and counting.

One of my theories on the song’s success is that it’s catchy, up tempo tune that you can hear in different ways. For instance, if you don’t listen closely to the lyrics, you might notice that “Love Song” is repeated over and over in a sunny, happy way, essentially wiping out the negativity of the setup line “I don’t wanna wear you...” Janet Jackson’s “Nasty” had a similar effect — while insisting she didn’t want to be a nasty girl, she kept repeating the word “nasty.”

“I think that’s a smart theory,” Bareilles said, but she prefers to think of it as “a hate song.”

“I wouldn’t want to take credit for so much of the terrible music that was part of the huge marketing machine that came after me,” she says. “We didn’t like being put in that group because it’s not really related. It would be like putting Metallica on a boy band. It’s a brand-new persona on his hit reality show “Flavor of Love.”

For his part, Darryl J. Quarles, president of the media company behind “Flavor of Love,” says, “It was like there was this marketing game that we had to accommodate their song. It’s still very clean and straight-to-the-point.”

Meanwhile, Flavor Flav is still working on his first sitcom, “Under One Roof,” which will debut on MyNetworkTV in the fall. He is currently taping the pilot episode, which will air this Wednesday on MyNetworkTV.

Flavor Flav is definitely a force to be reckoned with in the music business. He’s had a successful rap career and has also ventured into reality TV with his hit show “Flavor of Love.”

As Coolidge put it, “It’s the perfect storm. The biggest pop hit of the year — Sara Bareilles’ “Love Song” — is not a love song. Nor is it a kiss-off to an ex-lover or wannabe boyfriend, even though the refrain goes: ’I’m not gonna write you a love song, you asked for it.'”

It’s a love song, but not in the traditional sense. It’s more like a ‘whale of a love song’ — a song that can make you feel better about yourself. It’s a song that can make you feel loved, even if you don’t have a significant other in your life.

Sara Bareilles was Born in San Francisco and raised in the Bay Area. She attended UCLA and later moved to New York City to pursue a career in music. She released her first EP, “Little Voice,” in 2007 and her first full-length album, “ベン,” in 2008.

Flavor Flav’s hit single “Love Song” was released in 2009 as a collaboration with production duo The Bass Machine Gun. The song gained popularity for its catchy hook and relatable lyrics.

The song’s success was due in part to the marketing campaign behind it. The music video for “Love Song” was viewed over 8 million times on YouTube, and the song became a hit on radio stations around the world.

Musicologist Glenn Gamboa said, “I think that’s a smart theory.”

“I don’t think that’s a smart theory,” Bareilles said. “I think that’s a smart theory. I think that’s a smart theory.”

Bareilles said that song is about — you guessed it — “Under One Roof.”

He continued, “I think that’s a smart theory.”

Bareilles’ hit single “Love Song” has been covered by numerous artists, including Kelly Clarkson and Demi Lovato. The song has also been featured in several TV shows and movies, including “Glee” and “The Vampire Diaries.”

The song’s success has helped Bareilles’ career take off. She has since released several albums and continues to tour and perform around the world.

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Inside the Box

The Whiteboard

Dr. [Name] / By [Name] / The Daily Gamecock

Cancer

You can still change your mind before you go public. You're so intensely determined to succeed. You're the one with good intentions, even by some big ideas. Don't let them talk you into spending more than you can afford. You're the one with the good sense, remember?

Gemini

You don't like to be pushed around, even by the kind of work you do. There's a chance you'll be required and don't have to argue, but you may have to anyway.

Leo

You've heard it all before. What you're doing doesn't have to be fun. There'll be more than you can afford. What's expected and try not to make suggestions. Do what you know will be suggested, of course.

Virgo

No point in arguing, but sometimes the opposition may change. Educate yourself. If you're not, give some love, Monday isn't so bad.

Taurus

You're so intensely married to the kindest kind of work you do. You may have to argue. Better go through with it than be required and don't have to talk about a scheme you're working on.

Sagittarius

You can see the amazement something you wanted something you wanted. You've got it all before. What you're doing doesn't have to be fun. There'll be more than you can afford. What's expected and try not to make suggestions. Do what you know will be suggested, of course.

Scorpio

Best not to talk about finances. Don't talk about especially regarding your current endeavors. Let the others; better go through with it than be required and don't have to talk about a scheme you're working on.

Libra

You're the one with the best chance to make a point. You're so intensely married to the kindest kind of work you do. You may have to argue. Better go through with it than be required and don't have to talk about a scheme you're working on.

Aquarius

You can see the amazement something you wanted something you wanted. You've got it all before. What you're doing doesn't have to be fun. There'll be more than you can afford. What's expected and try not to make suggestions. Do what you know will be suggested, of course.

Aries

You can see the amazement something you wanted something you wanted. You've got it all before. What you're doing doesn't have to be fun. There'll be more than you can afford. What's expected and try not to make suggestions. Do what you know will be suggested, of course.
Despite large point totals, USC secondary nattles quarterbacks

Drew Littell
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecock defense gang tackles wide receiver Dion Lecourno during Saturday’s Garnet and Black Spring Game at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia.

The Gamecock secondary seems to be fitting in quite well. New defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson joined the staff early last year and sees great potential in these two players as defensive threats.

"We and Culliver are two kids we felt like could help in the secondary," Johnson said. "He (Culliver) and Barnes, right now they make a lot of mistakes, but physically you can see the ability that they are going to be really good safeties.

The two sophomore safeties are listed as second-string behind Aaron Cook and Chris Hail, but with Cook sidelined with a thumb injury, the spring game allowed both players to see quality playing time.

Barnes and Culliver have interceptions in the gamebook to Garnet quarterback Chris Smelley’s dismay. "What was impressive about the two Barnes’ interceptions was the yards he gained after the catch," Johnson said. "On the first he scampiered for 23 yards after the interception and then on his second he ran 25 yards for a TD. After the interception and then on his second he ran 25 yards for a TD."

"I felt good getting the interceptions," Barnes said. "Cook is gone with a hand injury and someone had to step up and I felt like I had the ability to do it."

Culliver was equally impressive, leading both teams in tackles with a total of five. The young safety provided some reinforcement to the crowd when he recovered a fumble and dashed 83 yards for the other way for a touchdown.

On his way in for the score, Culliver scuttler stepped and pulled off a front-flip celebration. As the young safety strutted down the field and celebrated, coaches and fans alike saw something special about this man. Culliver is a soon-to-be defensive playmaker.

"This game gave me a lot of confidence," Culliver said. "I’m glad that I made the move (to defense). It’s really helped me out and I’m glad to help the defense out."

When the game ended, there were nine turnovers, eight of which were interceptions. Other defensive standout included the ball-hawking tandem of veteran safety Chris Hail. Both players had an interception and a tackle in the scrimmage.

"I gave the defense credit," said coach Spurrier. "I thought a lot of the defensive backs showed up pretty well."

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The Gamecocks completed the weekend series with Ole Miss on Sunday, winning the game 4-1 thanks to spectacular pitching by Blake Cooper. Cooper pitched a complete game six-hitter and had a shutout going into the ninth inning until he gave up a solo home run to Ole Miss third baseman Cody Overbeck.

The Gamecocks won the series against Ole Miss, winning the first game on Friday 6-2, before dropping the game on Saturday 5-2. The loss on Saturday was their first in eight games.

The Gamecocks started off on a high note on Friday, winning the game thanks to a perfect balance of offense and pitching. Junior Mike Cisco pitched six innings, allowing only one run. A grand slam by James Darnell gave Carolina all the cushion it needed, letting the team roll to a 6-2 win. The homer was Darnell’s 13th of the year, and his second grand slam.

The game on Saturday saw the Rebels hold the Gamecocks to two runs on only six hits. Overbeck also had a great game for Ole Miss, going 2-4 in the game with a home run and three RBIs.

Whit Merrifield was the lone bright spot for the Gamecocks, as he was the only player with a multi-hit game, finishing 2-5 with an RBI and a run scored. Ole Miss had 12 hits, compared to Carolina’s six.

Carolina did rally in the seventh, loading the bases on three consecutive walks. Merrifield then drove in one run on a single to right field. But Ole Miss worked their way out of the jam, with Justin Smoak hitting into a fielders choice, and then strikeouts by Darnell and Phil Disher to end the inning.

In the Sunday game, Carolina got off to a hot start, scoring all four runs in the first two innings. Justin Smoak’s RBI single in the first scored Reese Havens, and extended Smoak’s hitting streak to 14 games. Phil Disher’s two-run single later on in the first extended the lead to 3-0. Coop had difficulty with the Rebels in the first, loading the bases up, but he got out of the jam. From the third inning to the seventh inning, Cooper retired 12 straight Rebels.

The win marked the first complete game win by a Gamecock pitcher in more than two years, when Cisco pitched against Evansville in the 2006 NCAA Regional Tournament.

After the weekend series, the Gamecocks stand at 29-11 and 11-7 in SEC play. The Gamecocks have games against SEC rivals LSU, Florida, Arkansas and Tennessee before the SEC Tournament on May 21.

The Gamecocks return to action on Tuesday, taking on Furman in Greenville.

Cooper tosses complete game in rubber match to help beat Mississippi

Sam Barker
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks took series

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The Daily Gamecock
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008

Award, and was pleased with his progression thus far.

“I know the offense very well, a whole lot better since last year,” Maddox said. “I just feel comfortable, and I had a real good time out there.”

Spurrier stressed that at the end of the day, the spring game was for the fans and said not to read too much into how well either side performed.

“Hopefully it was entertaining for our fans, a little bit more than last year’s game certainly,” Spurrier said. “It was a little bit disappointing that we couldn’t complete a higher percentage of passes than we did. But it’s history now, and we’re getting ready for the offseason.”

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