

SOUTH CAROLINA

ATHLETICS

Dear Reader,




You may notice that this media guide looks and feels different from many others you have received this year. This is just one way we are trying to help out the environment.

One of the main components of any coaching job is to inspire and enact change: change in technique, change in attitude, change in maturity. With that in mind, it feels like a natural progression for us – the University of South Carolina women's volleyball staff – to inspire and enact that change relative to our environment.

College athletics is designed to prepare student-athletes to enter the workforce as conscious, responsible and disciplined people. As our planet continues to warm and our resources dwindle, it is more important than ever to introduce these concepts to our student-athletes and our community by practicing positive environmental interaction within the athletic setting. Using 100% recycled paper for our 2008 media guide is just the first, small, groundbreaking step in a long journey, at the end of which we hope to find every athletic program at the University of South Carolina, and ultimately every athletic department in the country. Leading by example as a program will not only empower our student-athletes with the satisfaction that they have started change but also the confidence to continue and spearhead change when they leave the Gamecock volleyball program.

We want everyone associated with the University of South Carolina women's volleyball program to help however they can with this effort. Remember, just by reading and using this media guide, you have started the journey along with us. Now take whatever size steps you can to meet us at the end.

Sincerely,

The South Carolina Volleyball Staff



Gamecock Athletics • 1322 Heyward Street, The Roost, Building B • Columbia, South Carolina, 29208

QUICK FACTS/TABLE OF CONTENTS

QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location	Columbia, S.C.
Founded	1801
Enrollment	27,390
Colors	Garnet (PMS 202) & Black
Nickname	Gamecocks
Mascot	Cocky
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Southeastern (Eastern Division)
President	Dr. Harris Pastides
Athletics Director	Eric Hyman
Senior Associate AD/SWA	Val Sheley
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Bill Bearden
Home Court (Capacity)	Volleyball Competition Facility (1,200)
Ticket Office Phone	(803) 777-4274

VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

Head Coach	Ben Somera
Alma Mater	Southern California, 1995
Record at South Carolina (Years)	14-15 (1)
Overall Record (Years)	Same
Assistant Coach	Damian Elder
Alma Mater	Fresno State, 2002
Assistant Coach	Laura Collins
Alma Mater	Oregon State, 2004
Director of Operations	Shannon Pallardy
Alma Mater	USC Upstate, 2006
Graduate Assistant	Kristin Belzung
Alma Mater	Northern Iowa, 2008
Volleyball Office Phone	(803) 777-0755
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	10/6
Starters Returning/Lost + Libero	5/1 +1
Newcomers	5
2007 Record	14-15
Conference Record/Finish	7-13/4th East

MEDIA RELATIONS

Director	Steve Fink
Assistant Director	Emily Feeney
Assistant Director	Matt Freed
Assistant Director	Andrew Kitick
Assistant Director	Diana Koval
Assistant Director (Volleyball Contact)	Koby Padgett
Graduate Assistant	Miquel Jacobs
Office Phone	(803) 777-8017
Office Fax	(803) 777-2967
Press Row	(803) 777-3650
E-mail Address	kpadgett@sc.edu
Mailing Address	Roost Building B, 1322 Heyward Street Columbia, SC 29208

MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

The 2008 South Carolina Volleyball Media Guide was designed, written and edited by Assistant Media Relations Director Koby Padgett. Editorial assistance provided by Steve Fink, Diana Koval, Trey Bloomer, Megan Holt, Ashley Keyes and Emily Steele. The front, back and inside covers were designed by Grant Hawkins. Images were provided by Jason Ayer, Travis Bell, Allen Sharpe, USC Instructional Services, Columbia Chamber of Commerce and S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. This publication was created using Adobe InDesign and Photoshop CS3 on an Apple Macbook Pro. The guide was printed by Service Printing.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT

South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Quick Facts & Table of Contents	2
Media Information	3
The Southeastern Conference	4

SEASON PREVIEW

Team Picture & Numerical Roster	6
Alphabetical Roster, Breakdown & Pronunciation Guide	7
Radio/TV Spotting Chart	8
Season Outlook	9-11
Opponent Information	12-16

VOLLEYBALL STAFF

Head Coach Ben Somera	18
Assistant Coach Damian Elder	19
Assistant Coach Laura Collins	19
Director of Operations Shannon Pallardy	20
Graduate Assistant Kristin Belzung	20
Gamecock Professional Staff	21
Molten Advertisement	22

THE GAMECOCKS

Dinelia Concepcion	24-25
Petra Lorenzi	26-27
Belita Salters	28-29
Sarah Cline	30-31
Ivana Kujundzic	32-33
Meredith Moorhead	34-35
Jordan Bradosky	36-37
Megan Laughlin	38-39
Hannah Lawing	40-41
Annie Thomas	42
Bridget Denson-Dorman & Tory Anderson	43
Lindsey Roy, Olivia Ryder & Teresa Stenlund	44

SEASON IN REVIEW

Statistics & Results	46
Individual & Team Statistics	47-49
Match-By-Match Statistics	50-52
Individual & Team Superlatives	53-54
SEC Review	55
Box Scores & Recaps	56-70

HISTORY & RECORDS

Career Records	72
Season Records	73
Individual Match Records	74-75
Team Match Records/Yearly Totals	76-77
Yearly Statistical Leaders	78-79
Gamecock Honor Roll	80-81
Coaching Records	82
Gamecock Letterwinners	83
All-Time Conference Standings	84-85
Yearly Results	86-91
Series Results	92-94
Postseason Results	94
Letterwinner Statistics	95-104
All-Time Season Statistics	105-110

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

About The University Of South Carolina	112-113
About Columbia	114
About The State	115
President Dr. Harris Pastides & FAR Dr. Bill Bearden	116
Athletics Director Eric Hyman	117
Total Athletics Program	118-119
Gamecock Volleyball Facilities	120-121
Gamecock Athletic Facilities	122-123
Life Skills & Academics	124-125
Team Gamecocks	126
Gamecock Athletics Total Care	127
Gamecock Tradition	128

NOTE TO THE MEDIA

The South Carolina athletics media relations office is ready to assist members of the media in their coverage of Gamecock athletics. Any questions concerning South Carolina volleyball should be directed to assistant media relations director Koby Padgett at (803) 777-8017. Interviews, statistical or general information concerning student-athletes or coach Ben Somera and/or his staff should be handled through Padgett. If you will be attending a home match, please inform Padgett at least 24 hours in advance. Thank you for your interest in South Carolina volleyball. Please let us know if we can assist you in your coverage of the Gamecocks.

CREDENTIALS

Credentials are not required to attend volleyball matches, however, please notify Padgett at least 24 hours in advance of a home match to assure having your name placed on the pass list.

MEDIA SERVICES

Box scores will be available at the conclusion of each game, and a complete box with play-by-play will be distributed when the match has finished. Fax service is available as well for those media members needing it. At the present time, high-speed Internet is not available at the facility for non-USC employees. Several phone lines are available for a dial-up connection.

VISITING RADIO

Visiting radio should notify the media relations office at least one week in advance of a match so that

arrangements may be made for the broadcast. Visiting radio typically is seated on the side opposite the team's benches with two available phone lines. In the event of a televised match, visiting radio is placed behind the service area near the entrance to the facility.

ON THE WEB

All media members are encouraged to visit www.GamecocksOnline.com for all the latest news releases, statistics, notes and other information pertaining to Gamecock volleyball as well as all other sports sponsored by the school. South Carolina broadcasts live video from home matches on the premium Gamecock All-Access channel. Additionally, members of the media may visit the official Web site of the Southeastern Conference, www.SECsports.com, for current standings, statistics and weekly releases.

POST-MATCH INTERVIEWS

Following a 10-minute cooling off period, student-athletes and coaches will be available for interviews conducted on the court. Coach Ben Somera will first conduct a post-match interview for South Carolina's Internet broadcast and then be available to media members for questions.

FACILITY LOCATION

The physical address for the Volleyball Competition Facility is 1051 Blossom Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Building is located next to the Carolina Coliseum at the corner of Blossom and Assembly Streets, across from the Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center.

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

Steve Fink, Director

E-mail: finksc@mailbox.sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-7987 • Cell: (803) 240-5268

Emily Feeney, Assistant Director

E-mail: efeeney@gwm.sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-7743 • Cell: (803) 727-3284

Matt Freed, Assistant Director

E-mail: mfreed@mailbox.sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-9917 • Cell: (682) 521-3892

Andrew Kitick, Assistant Director

E-mail: kitick@sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-5257 • Cell: (803) 240-4150

Diana Koval, Assistant Director

E-mail: dkoval@gwm.sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-7977 • Cell: (314) 369-6050

Koby Padgett, Assistant Director (Volleyball)

E-mail: kpadgett@sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-8017 • Cell: (803) 730-9955

Miquel Jacobs, Graduate Assistant

E-mail: MiquelJacobs@aol.com
Office: (803) 777-1516 • Cell: (803) 530-5727

Lynne Beattie, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: lynneb@gwm.sc.edu
Office: (803) 777-5204

University of South Carolina
Athletics Media Relations
Roost Building B, 1322 Heyward Street
Columbia, SC 29208
Office: (803) 777-5204 • Fax: (803) 777-2967

MEDIA OUTLETS

PRINT

Associated Press, 1311 Marion Street, Columbia, SC 29201, (O): 803-799-5510, (F): 803-252-2913, Pete Iacobelli (piacobelli@ap.org)
Charleston Post & Courier, 134 Columbus Street, Charleston, SC 29403, (O): 843-937-5598, (F): 843-937-5579, Travis Haney (thaney@postandcourier.com)
The Gamecock, 1400 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208, (O): 803-777-7182, (F): 803-777-6482, gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu
The Morning News, Box 100528, Florence, SC 29501, (O): 843-317-7271, (F): 843-717-7292, Mark Haselden (mhaselden@florencenews.com)
Greenville News, Box 1688, Greenville, SC 29602, (O): 864-298-4239, (F): 864-298-4395, Rick Scoppe (rscoppejr@sc.rr.com)
Rock Hill Herald-Journal, Box 11707, Rock Hill, SC 29731, (O): 803-329-4074, (F): 803-329-4021
Spartanburg Herald-Journal, Box 1657, Spartanburg, SC 29304, (O): 864-582-4511, (F): 803-594-6350, Matt Cobbs (matt.cobbs@shj.com)
Spurs & Feathers, Box 8055, Columbia, SC 29202, (O): 803-256-1789, (F): 803-256-1789, Dexter Hudson (spursusc@aol.com)
The State, Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202, (O): 803-771-8470, (F): 803-771-8613, Joe Person (jperson@thestate.com)

RADIO

WVOC (560 AM), Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29221, (O): 803-343-1100, (F): 803-798-5255, Christopher Thompson (sports@wvoc.com)
Citadel Broadcasting, Box 1506, Columbia, SC 29205, (O): 803-796-9975, (F): 803-466-6453, Mike Morgan (theshow@1075thegame.com)
WCOS-AM (1400 AM), Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29204, (O): 803-772-5600, (F): 803-779-7572, Teddy Heffner (teddy@1400theteam.com)
ESPN (93.1 FM), 1900 Pineview Drive, Columbia, SC 29209, (O): 803-695-8600, (F): 803-695-8605
South Carolina News Network, 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29204, (O): 803-790-4305, (F): 803-790-4309, Phil Kornblut (philtalk@aol.com)

TELEVISION

WIS-TV (Channel 10), 1111 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29202, (O): 803-758-1288, (F): 803-758-1278, Rick Henry (rhenry@wistv.com)
WLTX-TV (Channel 19), 6027 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29205, (O): 803-647-0233, (F): 803-776-1791, Bob Shields (bobshields@wltx.com)
WOLO-TV (Channel 25), Box 4217, Columbia, SC 29204, (O): 803-754-7525, (F): 803-691-4015, Tim Hill (timhill@abccolumbia.com)

VOLLEYBALL ORGANIZATIONS

AVCA, 1227 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite B, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, (O): 719-576-7777 ext. 105, (F): 719-576-7778, Leah Brock (leah.brock@avca.org)
USA Volleyball, 715 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80910, (O): 719-228-6800, (F): 719-228-6899, Bill Kauffman (bill.kauffman@usav.org)

ABOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

The Southeastern Conference, with its storied 76-year history of athletic achievements and academic excellence, has built perhaps the greatest tradition of intercollegiate competition of any league in the country since its inception in 1933. The 2007-08 academic year was another season to remember for the SEC as conference teams captured five national titles and five national runner-up finishes. The SEC won consecutive national championships in football, gymnastics, women's basketball and men's tennis. Since 1990, the SEC has won 126 national team championships for an average of nearly seven per year.

LSU won the SEC's first national title of the year with its win in the BCS National Championship Game in football. The Tennessee Lady Vols won its second consecutive women's basketball national championship. Georgia earned a pair of national championships as the Gym Dogs won their fourth straight gymnastics championship as well as the men's tennis team won back-to-back national titles. LSU won its second national championship of the year when the women's track & field squad won the national title. Florida finished first among Southeastern Conference schools and sixth overall in the Director's Cup final standings.

Overall, the SEC finished in the top two in nine and in the top five in 13 of the 20 sports. Nine SEC teams participated in football postseason bowls with Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi State and Tennessee winning the Independence, Chick-Fil-A, Sugar, Music City, BCS National Title Game, Liberty and Outback Bowls, respectively. A league record-tying six men's basketball teams were invited to the NCAA Tournament with Tennessee advancing to the Sweet 16. The SEC has now sent at least one team to the regional semifinals for 19 straight years. Five women's basketball teams were also invited to the NCAA Tournament with Tennessee winning the NCAA Championship and LSU advancing to the Women's Final Four for the second straight year. The SEC had a record-tying nine teams advance to post-season play in baseball, hosting two super regionals with Georgia finishing second and LSU advancing to the College World Series. With 168 teams advancing to NCAA postseason competition, the SEC continued to solidify its place as the nation's premier conference.

In addition to the five team championships, 46 SEC student-athletes garnered individual national championships, while 457 individuals were awarded with First-Team All-American honors. Student-athletes around the league continued to excel in the classroom as well with over 2,300 earning recognition on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

On the national all-sport level, the SEC placed nine programs in the top 50 of the NACDA Director's Cup rankings. Florida led the league with a sixth-place finish. LSU placed eighth while Georgia was 10th; Tennessee finished 16th, Auburn 20th, Arkansas 24th, Alabama 25th, Kentucky 36th and South Carolina 48th to round out the league's top-50 finishes.

QUICK FACTS

Founded	1933
Members	Alabama Crimson Tide, Arkansas Razorbacks, Auburn Tigers, Florida Gators, Georgia Bulldogs, Kentucky Wildcats, LSU Tigers, Mississippi Rebels, Mississippi State Bulldogs, South Carolina Gamecocks, Tennessee Volunteers (Lady Volunteers), Vanderbilt Commodores
Commissioner	Michael L. Slive
Volleyball Media Contact	Ayanna Wakefield
Office Phone	(205) 458-3000
Office Fax	(205) 458-3030
Cell Phone	(205) 215-8905
E-mail	awakefield@sec.org
Address	2201 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North Birmingham, AL 35203

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL

Year after year, the Southeastern Conference shows why it is considered to be one of the premier volleyball conferences in the nation.

In the last two decades, the SEC has made stellar contributions in volleyball. The conference has sent at least two SEC teams to the NCAA Tournament in every season the last 18 years. The SEC had a team reach the Final Four seven of the 10 seasons in the '90s with the league having a team advance to the regional final nine of those 10 seasons. Since 2000, the SEC has had a team reach the Final Four three times and regional final four times.

In 2007, Florida captured its 17th ever SEC Championship and made its 18th NCAA Tournament appearance and advanced to the regional semifinals. In all, five teams from the SEC made the NCAA Tournament, including Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, LSU and Mississippi.

Since the inaugural SEC volleyball championship in 1979-80, many changes have occurred in the conference with volleyball. The addition of Arkansas and South Carolina to the league in 1991 brought the divisional format to the sport with five teams competing in the Eastern Division and six teams in the Western Division.

Along with the popularity growth throughout the country, women's volleyball has also grown in the SEC. A benchmark in that growth came in 1995 when SEC volleyball was first broadcasted on SEC-TV (FOX Sports Net South, FOX Sports Net Southwest and Sun Sports) on a tape-delay basis. For the past nine seasons the coverage of live telecasts has grown, especially in the last six years.

SEC volleyball will continue to enjoy the live coverage on SEC-TV to almost 22 million subscribers in the conference's nine-state region.



SEC VOLLEYBALL NOTES

- The 2007 season marked the 18th consecutive year in which the SEC placed at least two teams in the NCAA Tournament.
- Five SEC teams earned berths to the NCAA Tournament.
- All 11 teams in the SEC posted wins in double digits in 2007, with four claiming 20-win seasons.
- LSU claimed the Western Division crown in 2007, while Florida earned the Eastern Division championship and overall title.
- Florida captured its 17th SEC championship and advanced to the NCAA Regional semifinals.
- Two players were named AVCA All-America, five were named AVCA Honorable Mention All-America and nine (including two honorable mention) players were named to the AVCA Division I All-South Region Team.
- Two players were selected to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American Teams.
- Twelve student-athletes were named to *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District teams.
- In the past 17 years, 980 student-athletes have earned selection to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.