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Location: Mailing Address:	Columbia, S.C. (State capital, population, 430,000) Rex Enright Athletic Center; 1300 Rosewood Drive;
	University of South Carolina; Columbia, SC 29208
Mascot:	Cocky
Colors:	Garnet (PMS 201) & Black
	Dr. Andrew Sorensen
	tive: Dr. Russ Pate
	Dr. Mike McGee
	rator:
	Kim Hudson (Texas Tech, 1982)
	Jason Hou (Bejing University, 1993)
	Ayanna Wakefield
-	
	NCAA Division I
	rances:1984, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002
	8 (Shonda Cole, Lauren Ford, Nicole Miller, Sarah Iris Santos, Alexcis Thomson, Lynae Vanden Hull)
	3 (Amy Benson, Mariana Branquinho, Niece Curry)
	onda Cole, Lauren Ford, Nicole Miller, Sarah Morgan,
Katelyn Panzau, Iris Santo	

MEDIA INFORMATION

PRESS SERVICES: Members of the media are supplied with weekly release packages, which contain updated statistics, features and what's ahead.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Shooting is available from the sidelines as well as both endzones off of the court. Please make arrangements through the SID office.

INTERVIEWS: All student-athlete and coach interviews must be coordinated with the SID office. Phone interviews with out-of-town media can be arranged.

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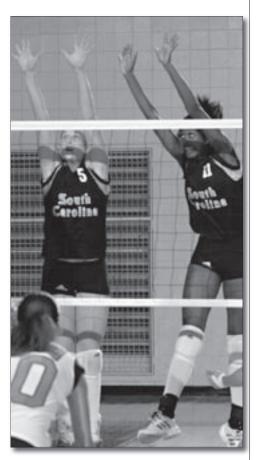
The 2004 team returns all but one starter from last year and with more experience under the belts of the young athletes, head coach Kim Hudson and her staff believe this year the team will be more competitive and more determined than before.

"The best part of coaching is seeing the change of a player as they develop into a young adult," said Hudson. "There is a big change from the freshman to sophomore year and an even bigger change from sophomore to junior year. Coaching a more experienced team can be more enjoyable."

This year, Hudson believes the experience has helped the team form a stronger sense of competitiveness and maturity on and off the court. With a team that has no seniors on the roster, the experience will play a major factor in their success.

"Some advantages to having a young team is a young team still laughs and is more resilient," said Hudson. "It is like I have a team of two-year-old pups. They are still glad to see you and you can't wait to be close to their eagerness."

Returning for the Gamecocks is SEC Co-Freshman of the Year recipient, Lynae Vanden



Lynae Vanden Hull & Lauren Ford

Hull. Vanden Hull led the Garnet and Black in kills and kills per game last year. Sophomore Shonda Cole was second on the team in kills while junior Lauren Ford led the team in blocks. Setter Katelyn Panzau produced impressive freshman numbers for the Gamecocks as she recorded 1,069 assists and became the fifth freshman to reach the 1,000 mark.

As for strengths and weaknesses for the '04 team, the Gamecocks should be strong in offense and at the net but passing and ball control will be a prime focus in the preseason.

"Our strengths this year will be our offense and net play. We will get better as the year progresses because we are young and athletic," said Hudson. "We have a big window of growth here. The key will be to keep our confidence and understand the importance of determination and work ethic. We will need to really focus on our passing and ball control both during preseason and the regular season."

SCHEDULE

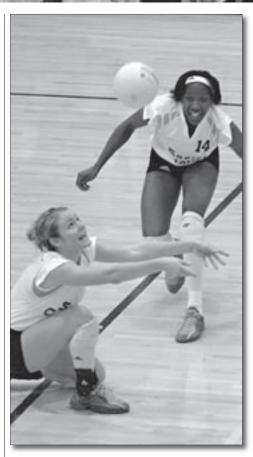
For the second year in a row, the Gamecocks' schedule will prove to be one of the toughest in the history of the program. For the first time, the Gamecocks will host the Southern California Women of Troy. This also marks the first time any defending national champion have ever played in Columbia. The two teams will meet in the Gamecock Invitational, which will also tout No. 25 Notre Dame and a traditionally ranked Michigan State team.

"I really like our schedule this year. We will be challenged every weekend and I believe we will get an idea of how we compare with teams across the country," said Hudson. "Our home schedule is no doubt the most challenging we have had."

The Garnet and Black open the season on the road at the Wake Forest Tournament in Winston-Salem, N.C. There, USC will start the season against the Demon Deacons then follow with Connecticut and Marshall. This will be the first ever meeting for South Carolina against those two teams.

The Gamecocks' home opener will be a match for the history books as well. South Carolina will host cross-state rival Clemson on Sept. 7 in the Colonial Center. This will be the first time volleyball has ever played in the 18,000seat arena. The Gamecocks will look to avenge the loss they suffered last year to the Tigers and hope to improve on the 31-19 series record.

USC returns to the road and up the interstate for their second tournament of the year when they head to Durham, N.C. for the Duke Invitational. South Carolina will face the Blue Devils, Northern Illinois and Towson. The Duke tournament will be a solid springboard for the



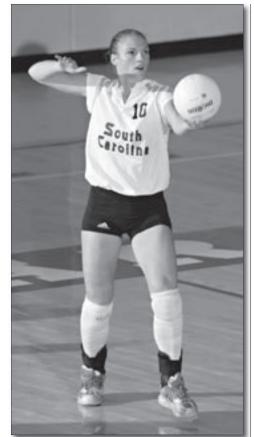
Katelyn Panzau & Shonda Cole

Gamecocks as they return for their highly anticipated Gamecock Invitational.

"Our home tournament may be the best tournament in the country," said Hudson. "It will be good to expose our community to the best volleyball in the country."

The level of volleyball that will be played during the weekend will be the best that the state of South Carolina has ever seen. The Gamecocks faced all three teams last year and though the results appear dismal, the games were a lot closer then what the final score dictated. South Carolina fell to Southern California 3-0 and Michigan State 3-1 but defeated Notre Dame on their home court 3-1. This will be a prime opportunity for the Gamecocks to show spectators everywhere that this team is for real and can play among the best.

After the thrill of preseason tournament play is over, South Carolina begins SEC play with their opening weekend in Columbia against Mississippi State and Ole Miss on Sept. 24 and 26. Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, NCAA runners-up Florida, LSU and Arkansas round out the Gamecocks home conference schedule. On the road, South Carolina will head to Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida and Georgia.



Sarah Morgan

"The SEC will be tough as usual. Florida is a focus as the defending conference champions, and Tennessee, Georgia and Arkansas will be pretty strong as well," said Hudson. "These teams return either all or most of their squads."

SETTERS

Leading the way for the setters is sophomore Katelyn Panzau. Last year, the Belleville, III., native became the fifth Gamecock freshman to record 1,000 assists as she led the team with 1.069. South Carolina will look to Panzau to set the tone of the match and with a year under her belt, should be ready to provide the Gamecocks the sets they need to be successful offensively.

Hudson has also made a change in making Iris Santos a second go-to setter. Santos switches with Alexcis Thomson, who will see action as a libero this year.

OUTSIDE HITTERS

At the outside hitter position, the Gamecocks return all veteran players. Shonda Cole is South Carolina's lead returning outside hitter. The Kings Mountain, N.C. native posted 279 kills last year, good enough for second best on the team. An electric and exciting player to watch,

Cole's natural athleticism could put her in the position to be a contender for conference honors and make a name for herself in the Gamecock history books.

On the other side of the coin is junior Sarah Morgan. A true leader. Morgan's maturity, calm demeanor and knowledge of the game will be beneficial in critical moments. Her ability to step up her game during crunch time, could pay off for the Gamecocks.

Junior Nicole Miller is the jack-of-all-trades for the Gamecocks. Miller has seen action in various positions from middle, to outside to libero. This year, the Stockton, Calif. native should just be splitting her time between outside and middle. Last year, she was the only player to record double figure kills against No. 1 Southern California.

Iris Santos is coming off of knee surgery from the spring but she should be fine for the season. This season, Santos should have plenty of opportunities to build her stats.

MIDDLE BLOCKERS

RS-Sophomore Lynae Vanden Hull has been filling the shoes of former right side blocker Cally Plummer. However, instead of being in Plummer's shadow, Vanden Hull made a statement of her own in 2003 SEC Co-Freshman of the Year. Vanden Hull led the team in kills and kills per game last year and she shows no signs of holding back. A role she has quietly moved into, Vanden Hull provides the Gamecocks the strong presence they need at the net.

Junior Lauren Ford is another key to South Carolina's blocking presence. Ford, led the team in blocks and with her jumping and athletic abilities, she can get to just about any ball that comes to her side of the net. Like Cole, Ford can be exciting to watch with her powerful kills and great blocks.

The third participant of the block force is Nicole Miller. Miller is the second leading block returner for the Gamecocks. She has the ability to get to the ball when Ford and Vanden Hull can't. With the combination of the three, South Carolina possesses a very strong presence at the net and has great scoring potential.

The two newcomers to the middle blocker family are redshirt freshman Crystal Johnson and true freshman Belita Salters. Over the spring and summer, Johnson developed her knowledge of the game and a stronger sense of her playing capabilities. Salters possesses athletic skills that could definitely help the Gamecocks be that much better of a team.

LIBERO & DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST

Alexcis Thomson has been moved to the libero position to help the Gamecocks in their

passing. The only returning player at this position, Thomson already has a good chemistry with the team that will aid with the passing and ball control of the team. Thomson will lead newcomer Caitlin Withers, while newcomer Andie Evans will see time as the defensive specialist.

2004 GAMECOCK VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

8

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15

17

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24

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31

3-4	Wake Forest Invit., Winston-Sa	alem, N.C.
3	vs. Wake Forest	7 p.m.
4	vs. Connecticut	11 a.m.
4	vs. Marshall	5 p.m.
7	CLEMSON	7 p.m.
10-11	Duke Invitational, Durham, N	I.C.
10	vs. Duke	7 p.m.
11	vs. Northern Illinois	10 a.m.
11	vs. Towson	5 p.m.
17-19	USC INVITATIONAL, COLUM	BIA, S.C.
17	vs. Southern California	7 p.m.
18	vs. Michigan State	Noon
19	vs. Notre Dame	2 p.m.
24	MISSISSIPPI STATE*	7 p.m.
26	MISSISSIPPI*	. 1:30 p.m.
29	TENNESSEE*	7 p.m.

OCTOBER

KENTUCKY*	7 p.m.
at Mississippi*	7 p.m.
at Mississippi State*	1:30 p.m.
at Alabama*	7 p.m.
at Auburn*	1:30 p.m.
GEORGIA*	7 p.m.
FLORIDA*	1:30 p.m.
at Tennessee*	7 p.m.
at Kentucky*	2 p.m.

NOVEMBER

5	LSU*7 p.m.
7	ARKANSAS* 1:30 p.m.
12	at Florida*7 p.m.
14	at Georgia* 1:30 p.m.
19-21	at SEC Tournament (Gainesville, Fla.)
27	NORTH CAROLINA Noon

DECEMBER

2-5 9-11 16-18	NCAA First/Second Rounds NCAA Regionals NCAA Championship (Long Beach, Calif.
	Home matches listed in ALL CAPS * - SEC Match







The volleyball and basketball offices are also located in the Volleyball Competition Facility.



Above: Coach Hudson does her postgame internet broadcast interview after a Carolina victory. Below: Fans of all ages enjoy Gamecock volleyball. These young Gamecock fans anxiously wait for the winner of the Halloween Costume Contest to be announced.



2004 GAMEGOCK VOLLEYBALL



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