



# SOUTH CAROLINA

## SAND VOLLEYBALL

South Carolina Athletic Media Relations • Sand Volleyball Contact: Justin Holt • [jnholt@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:jnholt@mailbox.sc.edu)  
 Rice Athletics Center, 1304 Heyward Street, Columbia, S.C. 29208 • Office: 803-777-7872 • Cell: 803-447-9959

### 2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
3/8	at North Florida vs. Jacksonville	1:30 PM 3:30 PM
3/9	vs. Florida International vs. Florida Atlantic	12:30 PM 3:30 PM
3/11	vs. Mercer at Georgia State	1 PM 5 PM
<b>3/21</b>	<b>Oregon</b>	<b>7 PM</b>
<b>3/22</b>	<b>UAB</b> <b>LSU</b>	<b>3:15 PM</b> <b>7 PM</b>
<b>3/23</b>	<b>Louisiana-Monroe</b>	<b>1:15 PM</b>
3/29	at Florida State vs. Jacksonville vs. LSU	10 AM 1 PM 4 PM
3/30	FSU Bracket Play	All Day
4/5	vs. Florida State at College of Charleston	8 AM 12 PM
4/6	vs. Georgia State	12 PM
4/12	Fiesta on Siesta	All Day
4/13	Fiesta on Siesta	All Day
4/18	FSU Pairs Tournament	All Day
4/19	FSU Pairs Tournament	All Day
<b>4/22</b>	<b>College of Charelston</b>	<b>5 PM</b>
5/2	AVCA Championships	All Day
5/3	AVCA Championships	All Day
5/4	AVCA Championships	All Day

Home matches in **bold**

### PROJECTED SC LINEUP

1. Paige Wheeler (5-6, Junior)	&	Megan Kent (5-11, Senior)
2. M. Christiaansen (5-9, Junior)	&	Sarah Blomgren (5-11, Sophomore)
3. Jordan Loney (5-8, Sophomore)	&	Jade Vitt (5-7, Freshman)
4. Litsa Darby (5-6, Sophomore)	&	KoKo Atoa-Williams (5-10, Freshman)
5. Chynna Ratner (5-6, Freshman)	&	Erin Neuenfeldt (5-10, Freshman)



@GamecockSandVB



GamecockSandVolleyball

### THIS WEEK'S OPPONENTS

<b>North Florida</b> Saturday, March 8 1:30 PM St. Augustine, Fla. <b>2013 Record</b> 16-5	<b>Jacksonville</b> Saturday, March 8 3:30 PM St. Augustine, Fla. <b>2013 Record</b> 7-17	<b>Florida International</b> Sunday, March 9 12:30 PM St. Augustine, Fla. <b>2013 Record</b> 6-5	<b>Florida Atlantic</b> Sunday, March 9 3:30 PM St. Augustine, Fla. <b>2013 Record</b> 0-10
<b>Mercer</b> Tuesday, March 11 1 PM Atlanta, Ga. <b>2013 Record</b> 0-17	<b>Georgia State</b> Tuesday, March 11 5 PM Atlanta, Ga. <b>2013 Record</b> 8-9		

### NOTEWORTHY

#### South Carolina Overview

- The Gamecocks enter their inaugural season under the direction of head coach Moritz Moritz, who served as an assistant on the Carolina indoor staff the previous two seasons.
- South Carolina was the first SEC school to add the sport and 31st overall.
- The Gamecocks currently have a roster size of 18 players. Three of those individuals - Paige Wheeler, Litsa Darby and Megan Kent - played indoor volleyball for Carolina in 2012 before making the transition to sand only players this year.
- Twelve of the 18 players are sand only players, while six - Mikaela Christiaansen, Erin Neuenfeldt, Sarah Blomgren, Jordan Wilson-Talmadge, Helen Récaborde and KoKo Atoa-Williams - are crossover players from the indoor program.
- South Carolina boasts a diverse roster as it has players from 12 different states, including Virginia, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Nevada, California, Florida, Arizona, South Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, Maryland and New Jersey.

#### Projecting the Lineup

- South Carolina heads into its first match with junior Paige Wheeler and senior Megan Kent as the No. 1 pair in its projected lineup. At No. 2 is junior Mikaela Christiaansen and Sarah Blomgren, followed by sophomore Jordan Loney with freshman Jade Vitt, sophomore Litsa Darby with freshman KoKo Atoa Williams and freshman Chynna Ratner with freshman Erin Neuenfeldt.

#### Scouting North Florida

- The Ospreys went 16-5 in 2013, including an 8-0 mark in conference play to claim their second-straight Atlantic Sun Conference title.
- North Florida earned an automatic bid to the AVCA Sand National Championships and was eliminated with losses to Florida State and Southern California.
- UNF Returns it's top pair of Anna Budinska and Dagnija Medina, a two-time All-Atlantic Sun duo. The pair went 16-11 overall last season and 12-9 in duals.

#### Scouting Jacksonville

- The Dolphins went 7-17 a year ago.
- Jacksonville is coached by Michelle Collier, who was an assistant for the South Carolina indoor program from 2010-11.



## QUICK FACTS

Location ..... Columbia, S.C.  
 Founded ..... 1801  
 Enrollment ..... 31,288  
 Colors ..... Garnet (PMS 202C) & Black  
 Nickname ..... Gamecocks  
 Affiliation ..... NCAA Division I  
 Conference ..... Southeastern (Eastern Division)  
 President ..... Dr. Harris Pastides  
 Athletic Director ..... Ray Tanner  
 Home Court ..... Carolina Sand Facility

## MEDIA INFORMATION

Assistant AD/Media Relations ..... Steve Fink  
 Asst. Director/Sand Volleyball ..... Justin Holt  
 Office Phone ..... (803) 777-7872  
 Email ..... jnholt@mailbox.sc.edu  
 Personal Phone ..... (803) 447-99559  
 Office Fax ..... (803) 777-2967  
 Department Website ..... GamecocksOnline.com  
 Twitter ..... twitter.com/GamecockSandVB  
 Facebook ..... facebook.com/GamecockSandVolleyball  
 Mailing Address ..... Rice Athletics Center  
 1304 Heyward St.  
 Columbia, SC 29208

## ABBREVIATIONS

When needing to abbreviate South Carolina for your scoreboard or broadcast boxes, the preferred shortenings are S. Carolina or SC. Please refrain from using USC or SCAR when referring to the University of South Carolina. Proper logos and wordmarks can be emailed for use by any media outlet upon request. Thanks.

## AVCA POLL

Rank	School	2014 Record
1	Pepperdine	0-0
2	Southern California	0-0
3	Long Beach State	0-0
4	Florida State	0-0
5	Hawaii	0-0
6	UCLA	0-0
7	Nebraska	0-0
8	St. Mary's	0-0
9	Florida International	0-0
10	Stanford	0-0

## GAMECOCK STAFF

Head Coach ..... Moritz Moritz  
 Year at SC ..... 1st  
 Overall Record ..... 0-0  
 SC Record ..... 0-0  
 Asst. Coach/Recruiting Coordinator .... RJ Abella  
 Year at SC ..... 1st  
 Director of Operations ..... Morgan Thomas  
 Year at SC ..... 1st

## NOTEWORTHY

- The Dolphins top pair of Taylor Nyquist and Sammie Strausbaugh return after going 25-3 overall last season, including 16-2 in duals.

### Scouting Florida International

- FIU enters the season ranked No. 9 in the AVCA Preseason Poll after going 6-5 a year ago.
- The Panthers return one of their top pairs from a year ago in Jessica Mendoza and Maryna Samoday, who went 22-5 overall, including 2-0 at No. 1 and 6-1 at No. 2.
- Mendoza and Samoday made it to the semifinals of the AVCA Sand Championships Pairs Tournament.

### Scouting Florida Atlantic

- The Owls went 0-10 a year ago.
- Florida Atlantic is led by head coach Brooke Kohler.
- The Owls currently have 11 players on the roster, including seniors Megan Knapp, Darija Sataric and Mandy McIntosh.

### Scouting Mercer

- The Bears went 0-17 during their inaugural season a year ago.
- Mercer is coached by Damian Elder, who served five seasons as associate head coach of the South Carolina indoor program from 2006-10.
- Senior Jamie Duffy returns to lead the Bears in 2014. Duffy partnered at No. 1 with both Madison Petsos and Jenna Katona a year ago.

### Scouting Georgia State

- Georgia State went 8-9 in its inaugural season in 2013.
- The Panthers collected wins over AVCA National Championship participants North Florida and Louisiana-Monroe.
- Georgia State's top pair of Lane Carico and Katie Madwell went 33-8 at No. 1 and advanced to the semifinals of the AVCA Sand Championships Paris Tournament. With Carico gone, Madwell returns for her senior season and will look to lead the Panthers' top pair.

### Fastest Emerging Sport in NCAA History

- Sand volleyball is the fastest growing NCAA sport ever.
- The sport had just 16 teams in its inaugural season in 2012. A total number of 41 Division I schools have decided to add the sport since then.
- Now that the number of schools is over 40, the NCAA will sponsor an NCAA Championships when those programs have sponsored the sport for two years.

### There's a Difference?

- Although sand volleyball and indoor volleyball have plenty of similarities, they also have several differences, including a court size of 16m x 8m compared to 18m x 9m.
- Each team event is called a dual and consists of five pairs for each team.
- A winner is determined when a team wins three of the five pairs matches. Each pairs match is a best-of-three format. The first two sets are rally scoring to 21 points with the third set to 15 if necessary.
- There is no open-hand tipping in sand volleyball.
- The block touch does count as the first of three allowable touches in sand volleyball.
- With the weather elements, pairs swap courts every seven points in a 21-point set and every five points in a 15-point set.
- Sand coaches are only allowed to give instructions to players during timeouts and between sets.

## 2014 ROSTER

NO	NAME	HT	YR	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
1	Paige Wheeler	5-6	JR	Virginia Beach, Va. (Cape Henry)
2	Jordan Loney	5-8	SO	Marshalltown, Iowa (Marshalltown)
5	Chynna Ratner	5-6	FR	Bradenton, Fla. (Bradenton Christian)
10	Mikaela Christiaansen	5-9	JR	Tucson, Ariz. (Ironwood Ridge)
11	Jade Vitt	5-7	FR	San Diego, Calif. (La Costa Canyon)
13	Shiloh BURGREN	5-6	SO	Orangeburg, S.C. (Orangeburg Prep)
14	Haley Guyton	5-6	JR	Columbia, S.C. (Dreher)
15	Morgan LaVigne	5-7	FR	Dallas, Ga. (Dominion Christian)
20	Erin Neuenfeldt	5-10	FR	Birmingham, Mich. (Seaholm)
21	Litsa Darby	5-6	SO	Mount Pleasant, S.C. (Ashley Hall)
22	Megan Kent	5-11	SR	Ijamsville, Md. (Urbana)
23	Sarah Blomgren	5-11	SO	Canyon Country, Calif. (Saugus)
24	Katie McCormick	5-10	FR	Simpsonville, S.C. (St. Joseph's Catholic)
25	Jordan Wilson-Talmadge	5-7	FR	Orlando, Fla. (First Academy)
31	Zuzanna Reszka	5-10	SO	Clinton, N.J. (North Hunterdon)
32	Helen Récaborde	5-10	FR	Atlanta, Ga. (Atlanta International)
35	KoKo Atoa-Williams	5-10	FR	Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue)

