

# Former walk-on eager to start second season as Gamecocks' kicker

Willie T. Smith III, The Greenville News 1:54 p.m. EDT August 24, 2014



(Photo: MYKAL McELDOWNEY, Staff)

COLUMBIA – Elliott Fry has proved one thing during his year at South Carolina – he doesn't rattle easily.

After entering USC as a walk-on place-kicker from Frisco, Texas, Fry made an immediate impression on special teams coordinator Joe Robinson and coach Steve Spurrier.

After becoming the first freshman place-kicker to start in a season opener since Courtney Leavitt in 1996, Fry impressed so much that Spurrier placed him on scholarship after only one semester.

"I've been kicking good," Fry said. "I've been staying consistent during camp and (scrimmages). Overall, I think I've played well."

Fry converted 15 of 18 field goal attempts as a freshman, leading the team in scoring with 99 points. That was enough to earn first-team selection on the Southeastern Conference All-Freshman team and third-team mention on the 2014 preseason All-SEC squad.

Fry concedes to be to being taken aback when thinking about all that has happened during the past 10 months.

"I am more than satisfied," Fry said. "I couldn't ask for anything else. I'm enjoying my time here and not just playing football – just being in school and the team. I'm just having a good time."

Fry is one of the team's more free-spirited players. He likes to make humorous Vine videos and other things to entertain.

"I like having fun besides football," said Fry. "I like to get out and make people laugh, do crazy things – nothing too crazy, though."

He is also finding his celebrity around campus grow.

"I think there are some people who know me," Fry said. "I wouldn't say a lot of people. It's definitely nothing crazy."

As a Texas native, Fry can't wait for the Gamecocks to open the season Thursday against Texas A&M.

"I'm real excited to play them," Fry said. "I have a stepbrother who will be a freshman there, and my stepsister just graduated. It's going to be a fun game. I have a lot of friends who go there, too."

The Aggies displayed no interest in Fry out of high school, which is no surprise since he only garnered one scholarship offer from a mid-major program and it was as a punter.

Robinson saw something in Fry. When the offer to come to USC as a preferred walk-on was extended, Fry took it.

He isn't resting on his laurels, however. After USC's initial preseason scrimmage, Spurrier put whether or not the team would run wind sprints or not on Fry's leg.

He needed to make a 48-yard field goal to send his teammates home happy. With the squad circled around, he drilled the kick through the middle of the uprights.

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