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QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location	Columbia, S.C.
Founded	1801
Enrollment	27,390
Colors	Garnet (PMS 201) & Black
Nickname	Gamecocks
Mascot	Cocky
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Southeastern (Eastern Division)
President	Dr. Andrew Sorensen
Athletics Director	Eric Hyman
Senior Associate AD/SWA	Val Sheley
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Bill Bearden
Home Court (Capacity)	Volleyball Competition Facility (2,000)
Ticket Office Phone	(803) 777-4274

VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

Head Coach	Ben Somera
Alma Mater	Southern California, 1995
Record at South Carolina (Years)	First Year
Overall Record (Years)	First Year
Assistant Coach	Damian Elder
Alma Mater	Fresno State, 2002
Assistant Coach	Shannon Pallardy
Alma Mater	USC Upstate, 2006
Volleyball Office Phone	(803) 777-0755
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	7/6
Starters Returning/Lost + Libero	3/3 +1
Newcomers	8
2006 Record	15-17
Conference Record/Finish	8-12/4th East

MEDIA RELATIONS

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Assistant Director	Matt Freed
Assistant Director	Andrew Kitick
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MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

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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.

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MEDIA INFORMATION

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 the media relations office by calling (803) 777-5204. Interviews, statistical or general information concerning student-athletes or coach Ben Somera and/or his staff should be handled through the media relations office. If you will be attending a home match please inform the office 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 the media relations office 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 conducts Internet radio broadcasts of all home matches and has live video available for select matches. 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 radio 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.

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

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MEDIA OUTLETS

PRINT

Associated Press, 1311 Marion Street, Columbia, SC 29201, (O): 803-799-5510, (F): 803-252-2913, Pete Iacobelli (piacobelli@ap.org)

The Gamecock, 1400 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208, (O): 803-777-7182, (F): 803-777-6482, gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

Charleston Post & Courier, 134 Columbus Street, Charleston, SC 29403, (O): 843-937-5598, (F): 843-937-5579, Travis Haney (thaney@postandcourier.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, David Cloninger (dcloninger@heraldonline.com)

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)

WISW-AM (1320 AM), Box 5106, Columbia, SC 29250, (O): 803-796-9975, (F): 803-466-6453, Mike Morgan (primetime1320@aol.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, Rich Taylor (rt@espnscolumbia.com)

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, Will Engle (will.engage@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 75-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 2006-07 academic year was another season to remember for the SEC, as conference teams captured eight national titles and five national runner-up finishes. The SEC became the first conference to ever win national championships in football, men's and women's basketball in the same school year. Since 1990, the SEC has won 121 national team championships for an average of nearly seven per year.

Florida won the SEC's first national title of the year with its win in the BCS National Championship Game in football. Auburn for the second straight year took home a pair of national titles in both men's and women's swimming and diving. Florida won its second national championship when the men's basketball team repeated as national champions, and the Tennessee Lady Vols made it a sweep in basketball with their women's basketball national championship. Vanderbilt won its first-ever school national championship when the Lady Commodores were crowned champions of bowling. Georgia capped the year off with a pair of national championships, as the Gym Dogs won their third straight gymnastics title and the men's tennis team finished a perfect season with an NCAA championship.

Overall, the SEC finished in the top two in 12 of its 20 sponsored sports and in the top five in 15. Nine SEC teams participated in football postseason bowls with Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU and South Carolina winning the Cotton, BCS National Title Game, Chick-Fil-A, Music City, Sugar and Liberty Bowls, respectively. Five men's basketball teams were invited to the NCAA Tournament, with Florida winning its second straight NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. The SEC has now sent at least one team to the Sweet 16 for 18 consecutive years. Five women's basketball teams were also invited to the NCAA Tournament, with Tennessee winning the event and LSU advancing to the Final Four. The SEC had five teams advance to postseason play in baseball, hosted three regionals and one super regional and saw Mississippi State advance to the College World Series. With 159 teams advancing to NCAA postseason competition, the SEC continued to solidify its place as the nation's premier conference.

In addition to the eight team championships, 52 SEC student-athletes garnered individual national championships, while 522 individuals were awarded with first-team All-America honors. Student-athletes around the league continued to excel in the classroom as well with over 2,000 earning recognition on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

On the national all-sport level, the SEC placed 11 teams in the top 50 of the NACDA Director's Cup rankings. Florida finished first among SEC schools and sixth overall in the Director's Cup final standings. Tennessee finished seventh while Georgia was 12th; LSU finished 17th, Auburn 19th, Arkansas 31st, South Carolina 32nd, Vanderbilt 33rd, Alabama 43rd, Kentucky 45th and Mississippi 49th to round out the league's top-50 finishes.

QUICK FACTS

Founded	1933
Members	Alabama Crimson Tide, Arkansas Razorbacks (Lady 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
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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 past 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 past 17 years. The SEC had a team reach the Final Four seven of the 10 seasons in the 1990s, with the league having a team advance to the regional finals nine times. Since 2000, the SEC has had a team reach the Final Four three times and regional final four times.

In 2006, Florida captured its 16th SEC championship and made its 17th NCAA Tournament appearance, where it advanced to the regional semifinals. In all, seven teams from the SEC made the NCAA Tournament including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Since the inaugural SEC volleyball championship in 1979, many changes have occurred in the conference with the sport. The addition of Arkansas and South Carolina in 1991 brought a divisional format with five teams competing in the Eastern Division and six teams in the Western Division. In 1999, the tournament format was changed to include only the top eight teams from the regular-season standings. The 2006 campaign marked another dramatic change for SEC volleyball, as a postseason tournament was not played for the first time in 27 years.

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 Sunshine Network) on a tape-delay basis. For the past eight seasons, the coverage of live telecasts has grown. SEC volleyball will continue to enjoy live coverage on SEC-TV in 2007 to almost 22 million subscribers in the conference's nine-state region.

SEC VOLLEYBALL NOTES

- The 2006 season marked the 17th consecutive year in which the SEC placed at least two teams in the NCAA Tournament.
- A record-breaking seven SEC teams earned berths to the NCAA Tournament, breaking the previous record of six teams in 2005.
- Ten of the 11 teams in the SEC posted wins in double digits in 2006, with Florida recording 30 and LSU 26, respectively.
- LSU claimed the Western Division crown in 2006, while Florida earned the Eastern Division championship and overall title.
- Florida captured its 16th SEC championship and advanced to the NCAA Regional semifinals.
- Three players were selected as Sports Imports/AVCA National Player of the Week.
- Two players were chosen for the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America Team.
- Two players were named AVCA All-America and eight players were named to the AVCA All-South Region Team.
- In the past 16 years, 908 student-athletes have earned selection to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.





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