

SOUTH CAROLINA

ATHLETICS

Dear Reader,

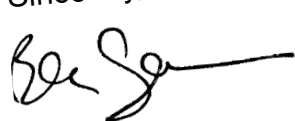


This media guide may seem to look and feel a little different from many others you may pick up this year. This is one way we are trying to help out the environment.

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 resources on our planet dwindle, it is very important for us to introduce these concepts to our student-athletes and community by practicing positive environmental interaction within the athletic setting. While some have discontinued printing media guides, we feel it is still a vital part of our program to have. Using high-quality paper that contains at least 25 percent post-consumer content in printing our media guide for the second straight year is just a small step in the journey. We continue to hope that other programs at the University of South Carolina and across the country will follow this example. This step forward will not only empower our student-athletes with the satisfaction that they have implemented change but also give them the confidence to continue to 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. We once again hope to host a Garnet, Black and Green game to raise recycling awareness on campus and in the Columbia community again this fall. Just by reading and using this media guide, you have continued the journey with us. Please continue to walk down this path with us to a cleaner and greener tomorrow.

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	25,077
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)	35-24 (2)
Overall Record (Years)	Same
Associate Head Coach	Damian Elder
Alma Mater	Fresno State, 2002
Assistant Coach	Laura Collins
Alma Mater	Oregon State, 2004
Director of Operations	Kristin Belzung
Alma Mater	Northern Iowa, 2008
Volleyball Office Phone	(803) 777-0755
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	9/4
Starters Returning/Lost + Libero	5+1/1
Newcomers	4
2008 Record	21-9
Conference Record/Finish	12-8/4th East

MEDIA RELATIONS

Director	Steve Fink
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Assistant Director	Matt Freed
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Assistant Director	Diana Koval
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MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

The 2008 South Carolina Volleyball Media Guide was laid out, written and edited by Assistant Media Relations Director Koby Padgett. Editorial assistance provided by Steve Fink, Diana Koval, Wes Todd, Laina Balafas, Trey Bloomer and Calhoun Hipp. The inside covers were designed by Grant Hawkins. Interior graphics were designed by Michael Holt. Images were provided by Jason Ayer, Travis Bell, Willis Glasgow, 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 R.L. Bryan 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.

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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.

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.

MATCH DAY SERVICES

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. 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. 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.

DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

ACADEMIC SERVICES (803) 777-6448

Raymond Harrison	Director of Academics and Life Skills
Renia Edwards	Director of Internal Operations
Rob Campbell	Assistant Director
Maria Hickman	Assistant Director
Steve Bondurant	Academic Advisor
Al Daniel	Academic Advisor
Katie Ethridge	CHAMPS Life Skills Coord./Advisor
Milton Green	Tutor Coordinator
Mike McCall	Learning Specialist/School Psychologist
Maya McCoy	Learning Specialist/Academic Advisor
Jennifer Sturm	Learning Specialist/Tutor Coordinator
Rosalind Isaac	Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION (803) 777-4202

Eric Hyman	Athletics Director
Marcy Girtton	Deputy Athletics Director
Kevin O'Connell	Executive Associate AD
Val Sheley	Senior Associate AD/SWA
Charles Waddell	Associate AD
Caroline Allen	Human Resources Coordinator
Katherine Brown	Director of Administrative Operations
Emily White	Administrative Assistant/A.D.
Barbara Luberoff	Administrative Assistant/SWA
Jennifer White	Administrative Assistant
Molly Hankinson	Administrative Assistant

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Scott Gardner	Athletic Trainer
Clint Haggard	Athletic Trainer
Jen Herod	Athletic Trainer
Nathan Peck	Athletic Trainer
Erin Pettinger	Athletic Trainer
Mark Rodger	Athletic Trainer
Stephanie Rosehart	Athletic Trainer
Jenny Hill	Sports Dietician
Sandra Schmale	Administrative Assistant

BUSINESS OFFICE (803) 777-3809

Jeff Tallant	Chief Financial Officer
John Humphries	Budget Director
Jim Petrus	Business Manager
Jeanne Callahan	Accounting Director
Emmie Anderson	Fiscal Technician
David Jackson	Accounting Manager
Deronda Powell	Purchasing Agent

CHEERLEADING/MASCOT (803) 777-8429

Erika Goodwin	Head Coach
Ron McGinty	Assistant Coach

COMPLIANCE (803) 777-1519

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DJ Brown	Associate Compliance Director
Jamie Funk	Assistant Compliance Director
Maureen Davis	Admin. Asst/Student Financial Support
Sharon Mathias	Admin. Asst/Student Financial Support
Becki Buls	Compliance Intern

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Ronald Kasper	Sports Psychologist
---------------	---------------------

EQUIPMENT (803) 777-2276

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Mac Credille	Assistant Equipment Manager
Joe Sumter	Assistant Equipment Manager
Terrance Brown	Equipment Manager
Jake Corbett	Equipment Manager

EVENT MANAGEMENT (803) 576-9094

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Kelly Lewis	Operations & Facilities Manager
Nancy Wheeler	Administrative Assistant

FACILITIES (803) 777-3387

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Jim Shealy	Director of Facilities
Mel Parker	Coordinator of Facilities Scheduling
Rickey Seay	Facilities

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Patrick McFarland	Gamecock Club Director
Elizabeth Bowen	Director of Development Operations
Monica Martin	Major Gifts/Club Seats & Suites
Jack Wilson	Stewardship Director
Aaron Lucas	Assistant Gamecock Club Director
Daniel Jimenez	Assistant Gamecock Club Director
Toni Karl	Stewardship Coordinator
Jeff Crane	Director of Revenue Development
Lindsay Sprague	Asst. Director of Revenue Development
Caitlyn McAnulty	Revenue Development Coordinator
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Toni Day	Administrative Assistant/Major Gifts
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Matt Strickland	Gamecock Club Assistant

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Donnie Lindler	Sport Turf Supervisor
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Eddie Dunning	Groundskeeper
Travis Reed	Groundskeeper
Marcus Thurber	Groundskeeper

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Gordon Addy	Facility Maintenance
Dorothy Harris	Custodian
Hugh Monts	Maintenance

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Jolie Helton	Marketing Intern
Andy Morris	Coordinator for Digital & Social Media

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Craig Fitzgerald	Strength/Conditioning Director/Football
Billy Anderson	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach
Dan Austin	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach
Joe Connolly	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach
Orlando Smith	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach
Matt Thomas	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach
Andrea Tyndall	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach
Jon Vaden	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach

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Nancy Addison	Ticket Office Assistant
Clay Wilson	Ticket Office Assistant
Sally Davis	Ticket Office
Shehryar Humayun	Ticket Office/Parking Assistant

VIDEO/MULTIMEDIA (803) 777-5338

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Paul Danna	Multimedia Services Director
Kyle Lewis	Assistant Director Multimedia Services
Stephen Manderville	Assistant Director Multimedia Services
Paul McGee	Assistant Video Coordinator
Cynthia Jordan	Video Coordinator

SPORT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Rita Boykin	Football/Head Coach
Kristi Davis	Baseball/Softball
Kim Fields	Football/Defense
Susan Hook	Men's Basketball
Kaye Hunke	Women's Basketball
Holly Moring	Men's Basketball/Head Coach
Marci Saltzman	Golf
Vickie Simpkins	Football/Offense
Neal Webb	Soccer/Track & Field/Cross Country

SPORT DIRECTORY

BASEBALL (803) 777-7830

Ray Tanner	Head Coach
Chad Holbrook	Associate Head Coach
Mark Calvi	Assistant Coach
Sammy Esposito	Volunteer Assistant Coach
Kyle Lipsey	Director of Baseball/Softball Operations

MEN'S BASKETBALL (803) 777-4197

Darrin Horn	Head Coach
Neill Berry	Assistant Coach
Michael Boynton	Assistant Coach
Cypheus Bunton	Assistant Coach
L.J. Heep	Director of Basketball Operations

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (803) 777-0371

Dawn Staley	Head Coach
Lisa Boyer	Assistant Coach
Nikki McCray	Assistant Coach
Carla McGhee	Assistant Coach
Angela O'Neal	Director of Basketball Operations

EQUESTRIAN (803) 777-3829

Boo Duncan	Head Coach
Alix Schwartz	Assistant Coach
Ruth Sorrel	Assistant Coach

FOOTBALL (803) 777-4271

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Ellis Johnson	Assistant Head Coach
Lorenzo Ward	Defensive Coordinator
Eric Wolford	Offensive Line
Steve Spurrier Jr.	Wide Receivers
Jay Graham	Running Backs
Jeep Hunter	Tight Ends
G.A. Mangus	Quarterbacks
Brad Lawing	Defensive Line
Shane Beamer	Special Teams
Robbie Liles	Dir. of High School Relations
Jamie Speronis	Director of Football Operations

GOLF (803) 777-7829

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Bill McDonald	Men's Head Coach
Kalen Anderson	Women's Head Coach
Mike Burcin	Assistant Coach

SOCCER (803) 777-7965

Mark Berson	Men's Head Coach
Shelley Smith	Women's Head Coach
Jamie Smith	Women's Associate Head Coach
Mike Babst	Men's Assistant Coach
Mat Cosgriff	Women's Assistant Coach
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Rick Pauly	Assistant Coach

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Jason Memont	Assistant Swimming Coach
Abby Steketee	Assistant Swimming Coach
Steven Steketee	Assistant Swimming Coach

TENNIS (803) 777-7869

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Arlo Elkins	Women's Head Coach
Jeff Kefalos	Men's Assistant Coach
Katarina Petrovic	Women's Assistant Coach

TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY (803) 777-7829

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Dee Quarles	Associate Head Coach
Lawrence Johnson	Assistant Coach
Stan Rosenthal	Assistant Coach/Cross Country Coach
Mike Sergent	Assistant Coach



ABOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

The Southeastern Conference, with its storied 77-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 2008-09 academic year was another season to remember for the SEC as conference teams captured five national titles and six national runner-up finishes. The SEC won national championships in football, men's swimming and diving, women's indoor track & field, gymnastics, and baseball. Since 2000, the SEC has won 63 national team championships, while the league has won 131 national team titles since 1990 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. Georgia won its fifth straight gymnastics championship. Auburn captured the men's swimming and diving crown, while the Tennessee Lady Volunteers won their second women's indoor track & field championship. LSU closed out the year with its sixth baseball championship. Florida finished first among Southeastern Conference schools and third overall in the Director's Cup final standings.

Overall, the SEC finished in the top two in nine, in the top five in 13 and in the top 16 in 19 of the 20 sports sponsored. Eight SEC teams participated in football postseason bowls with Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi and Vanderbilt winning the BCS National Title Game, Capital One, Liberty, Chick-Fil-A, Cotton and Music City Bowls, respectively. Three men's basketball teams were invited to the NCAA Tournament. Seven women's basketball teams were also invited to the NCAA Tournament, with Vanderbilt making it to the Sweet 16. LSU won the baseball title, while Arkansas also made the men's College World Series after the SEC had eight teams advance to postseason play, hosting three super regionals. With 150 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, 53 SEC student-athletes garnered individual national championships, while 323 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. The SEC had 41 of its student-athletes earn *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America mentions, the most of any Division I conference in the nation.

On the national all-sport level, the SEC placed nine programs in the top 40 of the NACDA Director's Cup rankings. Florida led the league with a third-place finish. LSU placed ninth while Georgia was 18th; Tennessee finished 23rd, Arkansas 25th, Auburn 26th, Alabama 30th, Kentucky 34th and South Carolina 39th to round out the league's top-40 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
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SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL

The Southeastern Conference continues to flourish as a solid and competitive league in women's collegiate volleyball.

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 19 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 2008, Florida captured its 18th ever SEC Championship and made its 19th NCAA Tournament appearance and advanced to the regional semi-finals. In all, four teams from the SEC made the NCAA Tournament, including Florida, Kentucky, LSU and Tennessee.

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.

In 2009, the SEC entered into an unprecedented TV agreement with ESPN that will provide exclusive coverage of SEC athletics. In the arrangement, SEC volleyball will now be broadcast on three different platforms: ESPNU, FS South/Southwest/Sun Sports and CSS. Live SEC volleyball coverage can now reach into 46 million homes nation-wide on ESPNU, and in the SEC nine-state region, 22 million homes on FS South/Southwest/Sun Sports, and 7 million homes on CSS.



SEC VOLLEYBALL NOTES

- The 2008 season marked the 19th consecutive season in which the SEC has placed at least two teams in the NCAA Tournament.
- Four SEC teams earned berths to the 2008 NCAA Tournament.
- Four teams posted 20-plus win seasons. Kentucky led with 26, Florida with 25, Tennessee with 22 and South Carolina with 21.
- LSU claimed the Western Division crown in 2008 for the fourth consecutive season, with Florida earning the Eastern Division championship for the 14th consecutive season.
- Florida captured its 18th SEC championship and advanced to the NCAA Regional semifinals.
- In 2008, Kelsey Bowers (Florida) was selected to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Team (Second Team) for a total of six SEC selections all-time. Nine student-athletes were named to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District teams for a total of 46 all-time.
- Freshman Kelly Murphy (Florida) was named AVCA Third-Team All-America, seven were named AVCA Honorable Mention All-America and 14 (including six honorable mention) players were named to the AVCA Division I All-South Region Team.
- Florida's Kelly Murphy was named AVCA South Region Freshman of the Year and AVCA National Freshman of the Year, and Tennessee Head Coach Rob Patrick was named AVCA South Region Coach of the Year.
- In the past 18 years, 1,049 student-athletes have earned selection to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.



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South Carolina**

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