

#### FEBRUARY VMI W, 2-1 18 VMI W, 3-2 VMI W. 13-1 18 24 25 26 W, 8-1 W, 3-2 Flon Flon W, 6-0 Elon 28 Presbyterian W. 2-1 MARCH vs. Clemson (Charleston) W, 3-2 (11) **W, 9-6** Clemson L. 6-5 at Clemson (ESPN3) UNC Asheville W, 8-1 Princeton Princeton Princeton W, 3-1 **11 13 14**16 17 **Charleston Southern** W, 5-2 W. 6-4 Appalachian State at Kentucky\* (CSS) Ĺ, 4-3 at Kentucky L, 4-3 at Kentucky\* (FS South) at Furman (SportSouth) 18 20 **21 22 23 24** 27 L, 6-3 W, 8-5 Wofford (FS South) Florida\* (ESPNU) Florida\* (CSS) L, 5-4 (11) W, 9-3 L. 8-2 Florida\* (CSS) L, 5-4 at The Citadel W, 7-3 30 31 at Vanderbilt' W, 8-3 at Vanderbilt\* (CSS) L, 12-4 APRIL at Vanderhilt<sup>3</sup> W 6-4 (13) at College of Charleston (ESPN3) W, 7-0 Tennessee' L, 5-4 W, 2-1 W, 6-1 Tennessee\* (ESPNU) Tennessee<sup>1</sup> The Citadel W. 8-0 10 11 13 14 15 17 20 21 22 L. 5-4 at Francis Marion Mississippi State\* W, 7-6 Mississippi State\* W, 5-3 Mississippi State\* W, 6-4 College of Charleston (SSouth) L, 4-3 at Auburn' W, 12-5 at Auburn\* (SportSouth) W. 5-3 at Auburn' W. 11-7 26/27 Alabama\* (ESPNU) W, 1-0 Alabama<sup>3</sup> W, 12-11 28 Alabama\* W, 9-1 MAY Davidson (FS South) W, 2-1 W, 8-6 (10) L, 7-6 at Arkansas\* (ESPNU) at Arkansas\* (ESPN2) at Arkansas W, 10-7 Furman (FS South) W, 7-0 11 12 13 at Georgia W, 3-0 at Georgia\* (CSS) L. 6-5 (10) PPD at Georgia 15 **USC Upstate (FS South)** PPD 18 L, 5-2 18 LSU\*(CST) W, 5-4 19 LSU\* (ESPNU) L, 3-2 (10) 23-25 at SEC Baseball Tournament (Hoover, Ala.) 23 vs. Vanderbilt (CSS) L, 24 vs. Auburn (CSS) W, L. 3-2 W, 5-3 25 vs. Florida (CSS) L, 7-2 JUNE 1-3 NCAA Regionals (Columbia, S.C.) Manhattan (ESPNU) W, 7-0 Clemson (ESPNU) W. 5-4 (12) W. 4-3 3 Clemson (ESPNU) 8-11 NCAA Super Regionals (Columbia, S.C.) Oklahoma (ESPNU) 10/11 Oklahoma (ESPNU) W, 5-1 15-25/26 College World Series (Omaha, Neb.) vs. Florida (ESPN) W, 7-3 16 18 vs. Arkansas (ESPN) L, 2-1 21 vs. Kent State (ESPN2) W, 4-1 21 vs. Arkansas (ESPN) W. 2-0 22 vs. Arkansas (ESPN) W 3-2 24-25 CWS Championship Series (Omah, Neb.) 24 vs. Arizona

## 2012 SEASON IN REVIEW

#### OPENING WEEKEND

Carolina Gamecoc

2012 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHEDULE

The Gamecocks opened the 2012 season sweeping a three-game series against VMI. Opening Day was a festive day at Carolina Stadium as the Gamecocks celebrated back-to-back national championships in a pregame ceremony. The South Carolina National Guard Band opened with the national anthem and the sellout crowd of 8,242 fans was treated to a video tribute to the 2011 national championship squad. Several former Gamecock players from the '11 team were in attendance including Robert Beary, Jackie Bradley Jr., Bryan Harper, Peter Mooney, Adrian Morales, Steven Neff, John Taylor, Brady Thomas and Scott Wingo. Bradley, the 2010 College World Series Most Outstanding Player and Wingo, the 2011 College World Series Most Outstanding Player, each threw out ceremonial first pitches before the game. Bradley threw a strike down the middle from near the pitcher's mound to Thomas with Wingo and Beary simulating a throw from second base to home plate. It was Wingo's throw and Beary's pick at home plate that was a key play in the game one victory in the 2011 championship series with the Florida Gators.

The 2012 Gamecocks then got down to business and opened the season with a 2-1 win against the Keydets. With the score deadlocked at 1-1 in the bottom of the eighth and both starters out of the game, the Gamecocks made their move as Evan Marzilli led off with a bunt for a base hit and was sacrificed over into scoring position by Adam Matthews. With two outs and a 0-2 count, LB Dantzler drilled VMI reliever Alan Watts' pitch into center field scoring Marzilli and giving the Gamecocks a one-run lead. In the top of the ninth inning, with one out and a runner on first base, Gamecock sophomore right-hander Forrest Koumas entered the game and behind a solid throw by freshman catcher Grayson Greiner, Carolina nabbed pinch runner Brandon Angus at second base for a caught steal leaving the bases clear. Koumas then retired VMI designated hitter Cameron Walter with a strikeout looking to end the game and preserve the South Carolina victory.

Riding the momentum of a game one victory, South Carolina followed up the win with a doubleheader sweep on Saturday with victories of 3-2 and 13-1 to seal the series victory. Dante Rosenberg went 2-for-4 with two doubles and a game-winning RBI double in the first game. After a pair of close contests, the final game of the series saw Carolina's bats come alive exploding for 16 hits with six pitchers combing for 12 strikeouts as well in the 13-1 victory. Dantzler tallied a three-run homer with TJ Costen adding a two-run shot. Five Gamecocks tallied multi-hit games in the series finale.

#### WINNING STREAK CONTINUES

Great pitching, solid offense and steady defense all materialized against VMI. South Carolina followed the same equation the following weekend with a sweep of Elon to improve to 6-0 on the year.

Carolina came one out away from a no-hitter in the opener and was backed by an offense that featured Christian Walker tallying two hits including a homer and five RBI as the Gamecocks defeated Elon 8-1. Michael Roth hurled seven no-hit innings with seven strikeouts to pick up the win.

A 3-2 win followed the next day as three Gamecock pitchers combined for 16 strikeouts as Carolina held off a late rally to earn a one-run win over the Phoenix. The series finale saw South Carolina race out to a five-run lead in the first two innings and junior right-hander Colby Holmes backing his offense with 5.2 scoreless innings of work. The big hit for Carolina would again come off the bat of Dantzler, who tallied a three-run homer in the bottom of the first inning.

In the sweep of Elon, the Gamecock pitching staff allowed just three runs, one earned, on seven hits in 27 innings of work with 32 strikeouts vs. the Phoenix.

#### NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY

South Carolina ran its season record to 7-0 in its first midweek contest of the season, a 2-1 victory over Presbyterian. February 28 is National Pancake Day and it was ironic that it would be Joey Pankake that struck with the game-winning hit, as his solo home run in the bottom of the fourth inning broke a 1-1 tie and helped lead Carolina to the victory. The homer was Pankake's first of the season and also his first career RBI in a Gamecock uniform.



25 vs. Ariz

\* denotes SEC game
bold denotes home game

## 2012 SEASON IN REVIEW

#### THE NATION'S PREMIER RIVALRY

College baseball's premier rivalry took center stage throughout the Palmetto State as the second ranked Gamecocks and 15th ranked Tigers barnstormed throughout the state from Charleston to Columbia and to Clemson in the third weekend of the year.

The opener in Charleston was an 11-inning thriller as Carolina scored twice in the top of the 11th courtesy of a pair of two-out RBI base hits from Sean Sullivan and Connor Bright and a diving grab by center fielder Evan Marzilli off a line drive by Clemson pinch hitter Jay Baum with two outs and the tying run on third base sealed a 3-2 Gamecock victory at Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park.

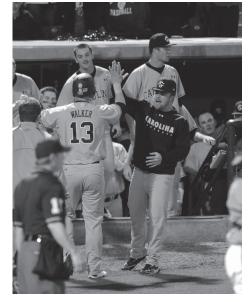
It was an electric crowd of 5,851 fans in Charleston, S.C. with half in Garnet and Black for the Gamecocks and half in Orange and Purple for the Tigers. The rivalry went back and forth the entire evening as both teams traded zeroes for much of the thriller as South Carolina senior left-hander Michael Roth and Clemson junior right-hander Kevin Brady dueled each other on the mound. Both would end up leaving the game allowing a run apiece. With the score tied at 1-1 in the top of the 11th inning, the Gamecocks made their move as Christian Walker opened the frame drawing a walk on four pitches. After a sacrifice bunt moved Walker over, the Gamecocks put runners on the corners against Clemson reliever Daniel Gossett as Kyle Martin singled to left field. After pinch runner Patrick Harrington entered the game, Gossett struck out Joey Pankake for the second out of the inning. That set the stage for Sean Sullivan, who broke through and gave the Gamecocks the lead with a base hit to left field on a 0-1 pitch from Gossett. Lowcountry native Connor Bright added to the output for the Gamecocks with his own RBI base hit, this one to right field scoring Harrington. It was a close play at the plate that saw a collision with Harrington and Clemson catcher Spencer Kieboom. Despite South Carolina's 3-1 lead, the Tigers looked to answer in the bottom half as Richie Shaffer led off with a double off of Carolina reliever Forrest Koumas. With one out and Shaffer still on second base, the Tigers would inch closer as a fielding error by Pankake at shortstop allowed Shaffer to score cutting South Carolina's lead to 3-2. With one out and a runner on first, right-hander Ethan Carter got the second out of the inning with a strikeout against Dominic Attanasio. The Tigers still had a chance though as they put runners on the corners with two outs on a throwing error by third baseman LB Dantzler. South Carolina went to the pen one more time with left-hander Nolan Belcher and Clemson countered with pinch hitter Jay Baum, a right-handed bat. With the count at 2-2, Baum laced a line drive to center field. With the wind blowing in, Marzilli ran on a line and dove and just got his glove underneath the ball to make the catch and preserve the Gamecock victory.

Game two turned to Columbia where Carolina pounded out 11 hits with a three-run homer from Adam Matthews as well as a solo home run from LB Dantzler helping power the way to a 9-6 victory and a series win over the Tigers. Freshman right-hander Evan Beal came on in relief to earn the win and he retired nine batters in a row on his way to the victory.

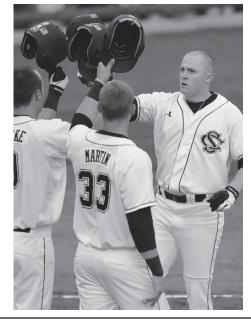
Matthews' three-run blast proved pivotal as it helped Carolina extend the lead to 6-2 in the third inning. On Dominic Leone's 1-0 pitch, Matthews drilled a fastball to deep center field that cleared the wall to increase Carolina's lead to four runs. It was Matthews' first homer of the season and ended the afternoon for Leone. The win marked South Carolina's 100th victory at Carolina Stadium in the four-year history.

The Gamecocks would see a 19-game winning streak that dated back to the previous season snap in a 6-5 loss at Clemson in the series finale. Despite the loss, Carolina put up some strong offense as Grayson Greiner belted out a pair of homers with Adam Matthews adding two hits and a RBI as well. Matthews earned the Tom Price Award as MVP of the series for South Carolina. Matthews hit .417 (5-for-12) in the three games vs. the Tigers with four runs and four RBI.









## **2012 SEASON IN REVIEW**

#### ANOTHER WINNING STREAK

Carolina Gamecoc

With a 9-1 record, South Carolina put together six straight wins against non-conference opponents to increase its season victory total to 15 on the year.

An 8-1 victory over UNC Asheville featured five scoreless innings from freshman right-hander Joel Seddon in his first career start to earn his first career victory. He was given plenty of support with a four-run first inning by the offense. Walker, Dantzler, Marzilli and Bright all had RBIs in the frame.

The highlights continued in a weekend sweep of Princeton. Head coach Ray Tanner tallied his 700th win as a Gamecock head coach as Michael Roth tallied a career-high 10 strikeouts in a 2-1 win over the Tigers. A 6-1 win the next day featured a 3-for-4 day by Christian Walker. Erik Payne went 2-for-3 with two RBI and his first career home run in the series finale, a 3-1 win.

Midweek victories over Charleston Southern and Appalachian State improved Carolina to 15-1 on the year. Junior left-hander Adam Westmoreland earned his first win of the year in a 5-2 win over CSU. Carolina then rallied from a four-run deficit in the first inning to claim a 6-4 win over Appalachian State. Evan Marzilli factored in with a three-run double in the seventh inning that put the Gamecocks ahead and a spectacular catch running into the fence in left-center on a deep fly by Daniel Kassouf to preserve the win.

#### **TOUGH START**

The Southeastern Conference is the best conference in the nation. Week in and week out, it is a fight to the finish. The start of SEC play was tough for the Gamecocks. A weekend trip to Lexington, Ky. opened the conference slate. In the series opener, second ranked South Carolina raced out to a 3-0 lead but 16th ranked Kentucky rallied back for two runs in the bottom of the seventh and Luke Maile's two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to center field lifted the Wildcats to a 4-3 win over the Gamecocks. The second game of the series would be more the same as South Carolina took a 3-2 into the bottom of the sixth inning before single runs by Kentucky in the sixth and seventh innings led them to their second consecutive 4-3 victory. The series finale proved more difficult as the Wildcats broke a 3-3 tie with three runs in the bottom of the 6th on the way to a 6-3 win that sweeped the series against the Gamecocks.

#### DFAI ING WITH ADVERSITY

South Carolina didn't waste anytime when it got back on the field two days later. A trip to Fluor Field in Greenville, S.C. was music to the Gamecocks' ears as Joey Pankake went 5-for-6 with a pair of RBI and Evan Marzilli added four hits including a three-run homer as South Carolina snapped its three-game losing streak with an 8-5 win over Furman that marked head coach Ray Tanner's 1,100th career win in his 25th year in Division I baseball.

The next day, South Carolina would fall to Wofford 5-4 in 11 innings as the Terriers scored twice in the eighth inning to tie the game and a RBI single by Konstantine Diamaduros in extra innings gave Wofford a non-conference win.

Home in SEC play for the first time of the season, South Carolina would meet a familiar foe as the sixth ranked Gamecocks hosted top ranked Florida at Carolina Stadium. The rematch of the 2011 CWS National Championship Series opened on a Thursday night in front of a nationally televised audience on ESPNU. South Carolina scored seven runs in the seventh and eighth innings on the way to a 9-3 victory over the Gators in front of a sellout crowd of 8,242 fans.

With the score deadlocked at 2-2 it was left to the bullpens to decide the fate of the game. Junior right-hander Matt Price made his first relief appearance of the season and shut down the Gator offense in the seventh inning that set the stage for the Gamecock offense in the bottom half.

Evan Marzilli led off the Carolina seventh with his third single of the night, forcing Florida to call the designated hitter, Austin Maddox from the bullpen to face Joey Pankake. The shortstop would lay down a sacrifice bunt to move Marzilli into scoring position. Christian Walker stepped to the plate and quickly went down 0-2 in the count, but for the second time on the evening, he came back to earn a walk. LB Dantzler would earn the same fate, as he walked on five pitches to load the bases for pinch hitter Kyle Martin. The freshman came through for Carolina, roping a two-run single down the right field line to put the Gamecocks up 4-2. South Carolina was not done yet though, as second baseman Erik Payne came to the plate with two outs and runners on the corners. The sophomore ripped a line drive to the right-center wall, clearing the bases and putting Carolina up 6-2 heading into the eighth inning.

Price quelled any answer from Florida in their half of the eighth posting a pair of strikeouts to get the Gators to go quietly. Adam Matthews led off the Gamecocks' half with his third hit of the night, and Marzilli would follow with a sacrifice bunt that moved Matthews to third because of an error on the throw. However, Marzilli would be thrown out at second on the play. Pankake and Walker followed with walks to load the bases again for the Gamecocks with one out. That brought in freshman left hander Corey Stump to face Dantzler. Stump's 2-0 pitch to Dantzler went to the backstop and all the runners advanced, including a scoring Matthews. Dantzler took two more balls and loaded the bases back up for substitute catcher Dante Rosenberg. The junior sent a high chopper to first for an RBI ground out and the Gamecocks lead was stretched to 8-2. Brison Celek then came in to pinch hit and the sophomore cracked an RBI single through the left side. Dantzler would be thrown out at the plate on the play to end the eighth for the Garnet and Black, leading 9-2. Florida would score an unearned run in the top half of the ninth but that would be it as Price recorded the final out to seal the Gamecock victory.





## 2013 Baseball

## 2012 SEASON IN REVIEW

Top ranked Florida answered in game two and raced out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning and belted four home runs on the way to an 8-2 win to set up a rubber game at Carolina Stadium.

Trailing 3-0, South Carolina rallied to tie the game at 3-3 in the middle innings. The Gamecocks got some momentum going in the fourth inning starting with a leadoff single from Joey Pankake. Christian Walker reached base on a dropped fly by center fielder Daniel Pigott and the runners advanced on a sacrifice bunt from Kyle Martin. With two runners in scoring position, Grayson Griener singled to center field driving in Pankake and putting the Gamecocks on the board. Erik Payne added a sacrifice fly to right field scoring Walker and cutting the Gators lead to 3-2. Tanner English doubled to left field in the bottom of the fifth and was driven in by Pankake's second hit of the game tying the score at 3-3.

The middle innings featured solid work from Gamecock junior left-hander Tyler Webb. The southpaw reliever put up several goose eggs and left the game after 3.2 scoreless innings of work allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out a pair of batters to help keep the Gamecocks in the game.

With the score deadlocked at 3-3, the Gamecocks looked to make a move on Florida in the bottom of the eighth inning. Carolina put two runners on with one out as Pankake drew a one-out walk and after a wild pitch, UF reliever Austin Maddox intentionally walked Christian Walker. With pinch hitter Michael Roth at the plate, another wild pitch from Maddox advanced the runners into scoring position. However, Carolina was unable to capitalize as both Roth and Grayson Greiner struck out ending the Gamecocks' threat.

The Gators would answer in the top half of the ninth inning. Gamecock reliever Matt Price retired the first two batters of the frame, but he then walked Vickash Ramjit and hit Cody Dent with a pitch putting runners on first and second for Fontana. Price got ahead of Nolan Fontana with a 1-2 count but on the next pitch, Fontana roped a triple into the gap in right-center scoring both runners and giving the Gators a 5-3 lead.

South Carolina, who trailed 3-0 earlier in the game, looked to mount one more rally in the bottom of the ninth as LB Dantzler hit his fourth home run of the season to left-center cutting the deficit to one run. However, Maddox coaxed Adam Matthews into a foul out down the first base side and pinch hitter Brison Celek flew out to center field giving the Gators a one-run victory.

#### **BOUNCING BACK**

Gamecock fans would be there for the Gamecocks though as they took a Tuesday night trip to Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park and a non-conference tilt with The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. Freshman left-hander Jordan Montgomery retired the first nine batters he faced and allowed just one run in 5.2 innings of work to earn his first career win as 10th ranked South Carolina bounced back with

Riding the momentum of the win at The Citadel, the Gamecocks made their way to Nashville and the third SEC series of the year against the Vanderbilt Commodores. Christian Walker tallied his first two-homer game of his Gamecock career, senior left-hander Michael Roth allowed just three runs in six-plus innings of work to improve to 3-0 and junior right-hander Matt Price pitched three hitless innings of relief for his first save of the year as 10th ranked South Carolina defeated Vanderbilt 8-3 in the series opener

Vanderbilt bounced back the following day with an 8-3 win that set the stage for a pivotal rubber game.

Tied at 4-4 entering the top of the seventh inning. Carolina junior right-hander Matt Price, who had allowed an infield single and a run in the top of the sixth, settled in and kept the game in check for the Gamecocks from the seventh to 11th innings. Time and again with runners in scoring position, Price dug deep and kept the game at bay. He finished going six innings and allowing one run on one hit with four walks and seven strikeouts. He made way for freshman left-hander Jordan Montgomery, who worked a clean 12th inning. That set the stage for the 13th inning. Evan Marzilli reached base with a one-out single. With two outs and Marzilli still on first base. Christian Walker launched a 1-0 pitch from Vanderbilt reliever Philip Pfefier that just cleared the Green Monster wall in left field giving the Gamecocks a two-run lead. Montgomery went back to work in the bottom half and retired the first two batters. After Connor Harrell singled with two outs, Montgomery ended the game with a strikeout against pinch hitter John Norwood for a 6-4 win.

With an SEC series under the belt, South Carolina kept the winning going in Charleston with a 7-0 win at the College of Charleston at Patriots Point in Charleston, S.C. Adam Westmoreland combined with relievers Tyler Webb and Nolan Belcher in a four-hit shutout. All nine position starters reached base at least once for Carolina with eight tallying at least one hit including Joey Pankake, who was 3-for-5 with three runs scored. Christian Walker, Brison Celek and Chase Vergason all had two hits apiece as well.





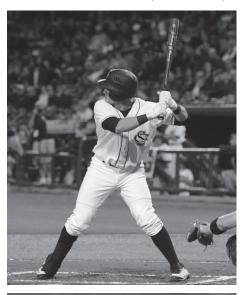
**SEASON IN REVIEW** 

# Carolina Gamecocks

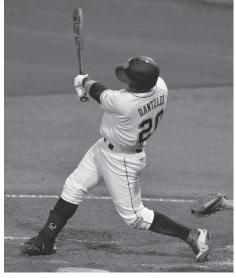
## **2012 SEASON IN REVIEW**

A home series with Tennessee followed. The 10th ranked Gamecocks held a one-run lead entering the eighth inning in the series opener but the Volunteers rallied with single runs in both the eighth and ninth innings on the way to a 5-4 win over the Gamecocks. After a two-run single by Christian Walker put the Gamecocks ahead 4-3 in the sixth inning, the Volunteers looked to make a rally. In the top of the eighth inning, Zach Luther led off with a double to the gap in left-center. After a walk to Drew Steckenrider, both runners were sacrificed over into scoring position. Luther would score the tying run on a RBI fielder's choice off the bat of Chris Fritts. With the score deadlocked at 4-4 in the top of the ninth, Zach Osborne singled with one out and advanced to third on Will Maddox's base hit to right field. Luther was down to a 0-2 count against Gamecock reliever Matt Price and still attempted to a squeeze bunt. On the bunt, Luther popped up to Price for the second out. The Gamecock right-hander attempted to double off Osborne at third base but his throw sailed just high and off the tip of the glove of Gamecock shortstop Joey Pankake and Osborne scurried home with the go ahead run. Tennessee brought in closer Nick Blount in the bottom of the ninth inning. He worked a perfect inning of relief though a ball that Walker turned on went foul with plenty of distance and designated hitter Brison Celek flew out to the warning track in center field to end the game.

Down a game in the series, South Carolina fought back again. With the score deadlocked at 1-1 in the bottom of the ninth, the Gamecocks looked to score the final run as Connor Bright led off with a single to left field. Grayson Griener moved Bright to second on a sacrifice bunt and Bright continued to third on a wild pitch from Tennessee reliever Carter Watson. With one out and runners on the corners, LB Dantzler drove the first pitch he saw to deep center field scoring the winning run.









The series deadlocked one apiece, it would be junior right-hander Colby Holmes that would keep it going for Carolina as he gave the Gamecocks a tremendous start on the way to a 6-1 win over Tennessee and a series victory. Holmes kept the Volunteers in check and the Gamecocks though found their offense in the bottom of the fifth as Joey Pankake reached base on a walk. LB Dantzler followed with a sacrifice bunt to advance Pankake but Dantzler was also able to make it first on a throwing error by Williams. Dante Rosenberg advanced the runners into scoring position with a sacrifice bunt. Carolina loaded the bases then with one out as Chase Vergason reached base on a walk. Williams struggled with his control and walked Tanner English scoring Pankake for the first run of the game. Evan Marzilli made it 2-0 with a sacrifice flyout to center. Matthews and Walker added RBI singles to score two more runs bringing the score to 4-0 for the Gamecocks.

Holmes continued his strong day by striking out two of three hitters in the top of the sixth. The Volunteers would finally get some offensive production in the top of the seventh inning as Tennessee's Chris Fritts hits a solo home run to left field. Holmes would strike out the next batter after he surrendered the home run, tying a season high with six strikeouts.

The Gamecocks extended the lead to five runs in the bottom of the eighth inning. Walker was hit by a pitch to open the frame. With one out and Walker on second base, Joey Pankake then knocked a RBI base hit up the middle scoring Walker. Dante Rosenberg also contributed with a RBI double as a ball hit into right field was lost in the sun by UT right fielder Steve Weaver scoring Pankake and giving the Gamecocks a 6-1 advantage.

### 2012 SEASON IN REVIEW

#### A STREAK BEGINS

The SEC series victory vs. Tennessee was only the beginning. A week later, Mississippi State came to Carolina Stadium and the Gamecocks responded to the Bulldogs with a weekend sweep. All three games of the series would be tight but in each one, Carolina pulled away to move the conference record to 8-7 at the halfway point.

In the series opener, Carolina rallied from three runs down with four runs in the bottom of the eighth with pinch hitter Sean Sullivan tying the game with a two-out triple and scoring the winning run on a wild pitch on the way to a 7-6 victory over the Bulldogs.

With two outs and the Gamecocks behind 6-3 to MSU in the bottom of the eighth, the rally began as Grayson Greiner drove a solo home run to left field, his fourth home run of the year. Trailing by two runs, Adam Matthews followed with a base hit up the middle. That ended the night for Mississippi State starter Chris Stratton as the Bulldogs elected to go to the bullpen for closer Caleb Reed. The hit parade continued as Brison Celek doubled down the left field line to put runners on second and third base setting the stage for Sullivan. Down 0-2 in the count, Sullivan lifted a fly ball into right field that got out of the grasp of a diving Brent Brownlee, scoring both runners and putting Sullivan on third base. Sullivan then scampered home with the winning run as a wild pitch on a strikeout by Reed against Tanner English allowed Sullivan to score and English to reach first base. With a 7-6 lead, the Gamecocks brought on right-hander Matt Price, who hurled a perfect ninth inning for a save and preserving the one-run victory.





In game two, Carolina raced out to a 5-0 lead with all five runs coming with two outs and freshman left-hander Jordan Montgomery allowed just one run in 6.1 innings of work as the Gamecocks held on to defeat Mississippi State 5-3. The Gamecocks completed their first SEC sweep season the following day as Holmes worked a season-high 8.1 innings and five different Gamecocks drove in at least one run as Carolina defeated Mississippi State 6-4. After two runs from Mississippi State in the top of the fifth inning gave the Bulldogs a one-run cushion, the Gamecocks were quick to answer back in their half of the frame as freshman Tanner English led off with a single to left field. Evan Marzilli delivered his second hit of the day to put runners on the corners for Walker. Mississippi State starter Evan Mitchell would issue a free pass to Christian Walker to load the bases for Dantzler. Mississippi State made the call to the bullpen at that point, bringing in left-hander Jacob Lindgren. LB Dantzler tied the game with an RBI fielder's choice to third, which resulted in all runners reaching safely, bringing Brison Celek to the plate. The sophomore from Charleston, S.C. delivered an RBI sacrifice fly to right to put the Gamecocks on top. Adam Matthews would finish off the scoring in the Carolina fifth with an RBI infield single, scoring Walker, giving the Gamecocks a 4-2 lead.

Holmes continued his solid work, holding the Bulldogs to just their two runs on 100 pitches, through eight innings. The Gamecock bats put together a rally in the bottom of the eighth to score some insurance runs, with substitute catcher Grayson Greiner leading off the inning with a double. Second baseman Chase Vergason worked a walk to follow and the two runners were advanced by a sacrifice bunt off the bat of English. Joey Pankake broke the game open with a two-run single that extended the Gamecock lead to four.

#### A NEW STORY UNFOLDS ON THE PLAINS

Ranked as high as eighth in the country, the Gamecocks went back on the road for a weekend series at Auburn. It would also be a weekend series where Gamecock Nation would get to know a new friend. LB Dantzler had an issue. His pet beta fish Reptar was without a caretaker for the weekend. So, naturally, Dantzler did the next best thing, he brought the fish with him on the road. The story grew throughout the weekend and the Gamecocks had a new slogan, "Fear the Fish."

In the series opener, Carolina erupted for 11 runs in the first five innings and backed a quality start from Roth on the way to a 12-5 victory over Auburn. Carolina had a 13-hit night vs. the Tigers with eight of the hits coming from four freshman position players. Connor Bright went 3-for-4 with two runs and three RBI, Grayson Greiner was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBI, Tanner English had one hit with two runs scored and a RBI and Joey Pankake tallied a hit and two RBI as well. Junior outfielder Evan Marzilli was 2-for-3 with two runs scored also. Eight of the nine Gamecock position starters had at least one hit.

In game two, a two-run triple by Christian Walker followed by a two-run homer off the bat of LB Dantzler highlighted a four-run sixth inning as eighth ranked South Carolina held on for a 5-3 victory over Auburn. With a 1-0 deficit entering the top of the sixth inning, the Gamecocks made their move as Chase Vergason drew a leadoff walk after reaching a full count against Auburn starter Jon Luke Jacobs. It was Jacobs' first walk of the game. After a sacrifice bunt from Joey Pankake, the Gamecocks put another runner on base as Evan Marzilli also walked after working to a full count. That set the stage for Christian Walker, who launched a 2-1 pitch into right-center that sailed by a diving attempt by Auburn center fielder Ryan Tella. Walker would triple on the play scoring both runners to give the Gamecocks a one-run lead. LB Dantzler got ahead 3-1 on Jacobs and launched a two-run homer that stayed just fair of the foul pole in right field for a two-run homer increasing the Carolina lead to 4-1.

Confidence was high heading into the series finale and it showed as Carolina broke ahead by six runs in the first three innings and behind an 11-hit attack that featured home runs from Dantzler and Payne, the Gamecocks would defeat Auburn 11-7 to sweep the series. Carolina's 11-hit day featured a 4-for-5 day from Tanner English as the Gamecock freshman outfielder set a season-high. Dantzler was 3-for-5 with three runs scored and a pair of RBI. Payne drove in a career-high four RBI as well.

## **2012 SEASON IN REVIEW**

#### **FEAR THE FISH**

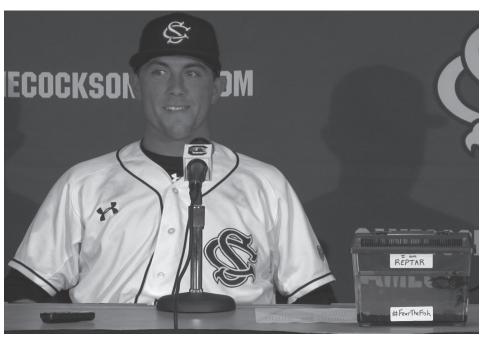
Carolina Gamecod

After the weekend sweep at Auburn, word of Reptar and "Fear the Fish" had made its way through social media avenues. When Carolina returned to action with a SEC series vs. Alabama, Gamecock Nation recognized the new rally cry and quickly bought into it.

The Alabama series would have a bizarre start. Opening on Thursday night as the SEC Game of the Week on ESPNU, the game belonged all to South Carolina starting pitcher Michael Roth and Alabama starting pitcher Spencer Turnbull. Roth limited the Tide to just four hits in seven innings of work with two strikeouts and three walks. Turnbull hurled seven innings of no-hit ball while walking four and striking out five. The rain then made its way into Columbia and the game would have to be halted and resumed on the next day.

In the top of the eighth inning, Carolina went with junior left-hander Tyler Webb to start Friday's action in the eighth and he retired all three batters he faced. That set the stage for Adam Matthews, who launched the first pitch he saw from Alabama reliever Jon Keller over the wall in right field for his third home run of the season putting the Gamecocks ahead by a run. Junior right-hander Matt Price worked a perfect ninth inning to earn his fifth save in a 1-0 victory.

Both teams would get right back on the field an hour later for game two of the series. Unlike the previous contest, this one would be dominated by the offense. Back and forth both teams would go as Alabama built an 11-9 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. With the Gamecocks behind by a pair of runs, Christian Walker got the rally started with a double to the gap in left-center, his fourth time reaching base in the contest. He would score his fourth run of the game on Greiner's single to left-center that cut the deficit to a run. TJ Costen kept the momentum going as he ripped a double down the left field line that put both runners in scoring position. Alabama elected to intentionally walk LB Dantzler to load the bases and set the stage for Sean Sullivan. The Crimson Tide went to the pen for right-hander Jake Hubbard. On the first pitch he saw, Sullivan connected on Hubbard's pitch and flared a blooper into left-center that fell for a base hit. On the play, Alabama left fielder Hunter Gregory rushed his fielding attempt and could not come up with the baseball and Costen aggressively charged home with the winning run setting off a celebration on the field and in the stands. Riding the wave to the series finale, Carolina scored at least one run each of the first five innings with Evan Marzilli, Joey Pankake and LB Dantzler all driving in two runs apiece as the Gamecocks defeated Alabama 9-1 to sweep the Crimson Tide. Dantzler's two RBI came in the third inning with a two-run homer.





#### A ROAD STATEMENT

South Carolina brought a 34-11 overall record as well as a 14-7 SEC record to Fayetteville, Ark. The third ranked Gamecocks would be tested by one of the most talented teams in the country.

Trailing 6-0 after three innings, Carolina stormed back to score eight unanswered runs on the way to an 8-6 victory in 10 innings over the Hogs in the series opener. Evan Marzilli drove in the winning run with a RBI double and would score an insurance run on Grayson Greiner's RBI base hit.

With the Gamecocks behind 6-0 entering the top of the fourth, the rally would begin as Carolina cut the deficit in half. Marzilli had a bunt for a base hit and Christian Walker drew a walk to open the frame. LB Dantzler drove in Marzilli with a double to right field. With runners in scoring position, Grayson Greiner and Kyle Martin would drive in the next two runs on a pair of sacrifice flies.

The Gamecocks tied it at 6-6 in the top of the sixth inning. Dantzler opened the inning with a base hit to right field, his second hit of the evening. Greiner would then square up a pitch from Arkansas starter Ryne Stanek for a home run to left field, his sixth homer of the season and the first home run allowed all year by the Arkansas right-hander. Trailing by a run, the Gamecocks loaded the bases as Tanner English was hit by a pitch, Matthews had a bunt for a base hit and Chase Vergason singled to the gap in left-center. Joey Pankake would drive in English with a sac fly to right field that tied the name

It stayed that way until the 10th inning, when the Gamecocks made their move. Joey Pankake reached base on a single up the middle. On the play, he would move into scoring position as Arkansas shortstop Tim Carver threw wide of first base trying to nab Pankake. With Pankake in scoring position, Marzilli drove a RBI double into the gap in left-center that gave Carolina a one-run lead. After a two-out walk to Dantzler gave the Gamecocks two runners on base, Greiner gave Carolina insurance with a single up the middle. Hustling all the way from second base, Marzilli reached home as Arkansas catcher Jake Wise could not come up with the thrown from Carver allowing Marzilli to score. With an 8-6 lead, Matt Price navigated through the heart of the Arkansas order recording three consecutive outs to seal the victory.

After a 7-6 loss the following day, the Gamecocks and Razorbacks would go at it one more time in a game that started off as a pitcher's duel but exploded into an offensive onslaught.

Scoreless through sixth innings, Carolina erupted for a combined 10 runs in the seventh and eighth innings and held on for a 10-7 victory over 13th ranked Arkansas, the sixth consecutive series victory for the Gamecocks.

## **2012 SEASON IN REVIEW**

Scoreless in the bottom of the sixth inning, Arkansas threatened as they loaded the bases with one out. With Matt Price on in relief, Carolina kept it at 0-0 as a flyout by Derrick Bleeker turned into a double play as right fielder Adam Matthews heaved a perfect throw to catcher Grayson Greiner, who tagged out Mahan to keep the game scoreless.

Carolina rode the momentum of the double play into the seventh inning scoring four times against Baxendale to take a 4-0 lead. Christian Walker led off with a base hit. On the play, an errant throw by Baxendale off the mound went past Ficociello at first allowing Walker to advance into scoring position. With one out and Walker still on second base, Arkansas elected to intentionally walk Greiner. With two outs and runners still on first and second base, Matthews followed his heroics on the field with a RBI base hit up the middle scoring Walker for the first run of the game. Chase Vergason followed with a base hit up the middle as well to score Greiner and Tanner English kept the hit parade going as he singled to center field scoring both runners and giving the Gamecocks a four-run cushion.

Arkansas answered in the bottom of the seventh with three runs to cut the Gamecock lead to 4-3. The Razorbacks strung together four consecutive hits to open the frame with singles from Bo Bigham, Brian Anderson, Jacob Morris and Jake Wise. Morris' single would score a pair of runners with Wise's base hit giving the Razorbacks runners on first and second with no outs. Tim Carver would sacrifice both of them into scoring position. With one out and runners on second and third, Mahan tallied his second hit of the game with a base hit to right field. Morris would score but Matthews again came up with a stellar throw from the outfield as he threw out Wise trying to score the tying run at home plate. Upset over the play, Wise spiked his helmet and would be thrown out of the game. With two outs and Mahan on second base, Price got out of the inning with a groundout by Ficociello to keep Carolina ahead by a run.

The Gamecocks batted around in the top of the eighth inning and scored six more runs to extend the lead to 10-3. Joey Pankake led off the frame with a base hit off of Arkansas reliever Michael Gunn and Evan Marzilli was hit by a pitch. After a wild pitch advanced the runners, the Razorbacks intentionally walked Walker to load the bases. Arkansas would bring on closer Barrett Astin, who struck out LB Dantzler for the first out of the inning. With one out, Grayson Greiner came up with a big hit as he knocked a RBI single into left field scoring a pair of runners. Michael Roth then roped a RBI double into the gap in left-center that also scored two runs. A two-out double to right field by Vergason and a RBI single up the middle by Tanner English gave the Gamecocks a seven-run lead.

Arkansas looked to mount a rally with two runs in the eighth inning on a two-out pinch-hit RBI single from Jimmy Bosco. Having crept to within five runs, Arkansas scored two more in the ninth as Reynolds tallied a RBI double and Bigham singled with two outs to score a run. Price, however, closed it out as he got Anderson to line out to Pankake at short sealing the Gamecock victory.

#### A RACE TO THE END

South Carolina split a weekend series with Georgia with the finale washed out due to rain in Athens. Going into the final weekend of the season, South Carolina sat at 38-13 with a 17-9 record in the SEC, one half game behind Kentucky for first place in the SEC and the SEC Eastern Division. The final series of the regular season took place at Carolina Stadium as the Gamecocks hosted the LSU Tigers. LSU entered the weekend also factoring in to the SEC race with a 17-10 mark in league play.

Rain washed out the opener and pushed the Gamecocks and Tigers to a doubleheader on day two of the series. LSU right-hander Kevin Gausman hurled a complete game and was backed by homers from Mason Katz and Jordy Snikeris as the ninth ranked Tigers defeated second ranked South Carolina 5-2 in the first game of the doubleheader.

Trailing 3-0 entering the sixth inning, Carolina stormed back with a three-run homer by Christian Walker and a RBI triple from Joey Pankake to take a one-run lead and Adam Matthews added a RBI double in the seventh inning as the Gamecocks held on for a 5-4 win over LSU in the nightcap. The victory put the Gamecocks one-half game ahead of Florida, Kentucky and LSU for first place heading into the final conference game of the year.

LSU grabbed an early 1-0 lead against the Gamecocks in the first inning when Arby Fields started things off with a double off the right field fence followed by a passed ball that allowed him to advance to third. Mason Katz then stepped up to the plate and knocked him in with a RBI groundout for an unearned run.

The game remained that way until the bottom of the third inning when Evan Marzilli plated a run to even the score 1-1. Marzilli crushed a 2-2 pitch to left-center for a triple and was brought in on a sacrifice fly to right by Adam Matthews. The triple was Marzilli's third of the season, which ties him with Tanner English for the team-high. The Gamecocks kept the momentum going with a double off the right field wall by Walker, but were unable to score him.

Both starting pitchers competed well on Saturday afternoon. Junior right-hander Colby Holmes allowed just one run, unearned, on four hits in 6.2 innings with no walks and three strikeouts. Sophomore right-hander Ryan Eades for LSU matched him with 5.1 innings allowing one run on seven hits with one walk and six strikeouts.

LSU finally made their move in the 10th as Jordy Snikeris drew a leadoff walk from and was moved over on a sacrifice bunt from Tyler Hanover. JaCoby Jones hit a hard line drive to second, but Chase Vergason was able to hang on to it and get the second out for Carolina. Austin Nola was intentionally walked, which put LSU runners on first and second with pinch hitter Jackson Slaid at the plate and Tyler Webb pitching. Slaid worked the count full and hit a RBI single to shallow right field giving the Tigers a 2-1 lead. Katz followed that with an additional RBI single up the middle to extend the LSU lead to 3-1 in the top of the tenth. The Gamecocks answered back as Marzilli led off with a double to start off the bottom half followed by a base hit to right field from Matthews that put runners on the corners with no outs. Marzilli scored off Walker's sacrifice fly to center to pull the Gamecocks within one run. Goody settled in though to retire the next two batters to seal the win for LSU as Dantzler flied out to right and Greiner popped up to end the game as LSU won the SEC regular season championship with a 3-2 win.

#### **SEC EAST CHAMPIONS**

Despite the loss on the final day to LSU, the Gamecocks won the SEC Eastern Division. The Gamecocks went 17-6 in the final 23 conference games to finish at 18-11, just one-half game behind SEC champion LSU. It marked the sixth Eastern Division title for the Gamecocks under head coach Ray Tanner, South Carolina also won the East in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2011.



## **2012 SEASON IN REVIEW**

#### NCAA REGIONAL

South Carolina began the postseason hosting a NCAA Regional at Carolina Stadium. South Carolina entered as the top seed and as the No. 8 national seed in the country. Also competing in the Columbia Regional was Clemson, Coastal Carolina and Manhattan. The Gamecocks would win all three games played to win the Regional.

The Gamecocks' opening game was a 7-0 victory over Manhattan. Junior right-hander Colby Holmes pitched eight scoreless innings to pick up the win. Holmes surrendered only a single in the eighth inning and fanned a career-high nine batters in eight innings of work. The Gamecocks broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the sixth with a four-run outburst. Freshman Joey Pankake ripped a leadoff double to the gap in left-center. After Evan Marzilli singled and Christian Walker drew a walk to load the bases with no outs, Adam Matthews roped a single to left to drive in Pankake and Marzilli to give South Carolina a 2-0 advantage. Tanner English then smashed his team-high fourth triple of the season to right field to clear the bases and push the Gamecocks' lead to 4-0. South Carolina would add three more runs in the eighth inning.

A familiar foe would be in the opposing dugout for game two as the Gamecocks met up with in-state rival Clemson. A seesaw affair would see Carolina end up as the victor as LB Dantzler blasted a walk-off RBI single off the right field wall in the bottom of the 12th inning, scoring Joey Pankake for o a 5-4 win over the Tigers.

South Carolina trailed 4-2 entering the bottom of the eighth inning. The Gamecocks pulled to within a run in the home half of the eighth. Marzilli ripped a single to right field to lead things off. Walker then doubled down the left-field line, scoring Marzilli from first to make it a 4-3 ballgame. Carolina rallied in the ninth to tie the game. Kyle Martin delivered a pinch-hit single to lead off the frame. After Chase Vergason drew a walk and Dante Rosenberg laid down a sacrifice bunt to move the runners to second and third, Pankake lined a single to center field, scoring pinch runner TJ Costen to tie the game.

Pankake again came through with a leadoff single to begin the 12th. Junior Evan Marzilli then moved Pankake to third with a single to left center, setting the stage for Dantzler. Dantzler smashed a 2-2 offering from Kevin Brady to right to drive in Pankake for the victory.

The Gamecocks jumped on rival Clemson early on in the championship game en route to claiming the Columbia Regional title with a 4-3 victory.

One of the keys to Carolina's win was the stellar regional debut of freshman starting pitcher Jordan Montgomery. The Sumter, S.C., native worked 6.2 innings, giving up two runs and five hits and fanning six batters. He kept Clemson's bats under control for most of the day as he retired 12 straight batters at one point during the game. Junior Tyler Webb closed things out for the Gamecocks to pick up his third save of the season, allowing one run and two hits and striking out four in 2.1 innings.

Carolina tallied 10 hits on the afternoon, as LB Dantzler, Tanner English and Chase Vergason led the charge with two hits each. Joey Pankake added his third triple of the year, and freshman Connor Bright contributed a double, which is the first extra base hit of his career.

The Gamecocks came out swinging early and put together a three-run outburst in the top of the first inning. Pankake ignited the offense as he narrowly missed hitting a leadoff home run off the left field wall and turned it into a triple. Evan Marzilli followed with a sacrifice fly to left field, and Pankake slid under the tag at home to score Carolina's first run. Christian Walker then drew a walk and later scored on a single to left by Adam Matthews, and Bright made it a 3-0 game with a run-scoring double off the wall in left.

Carolina pushed its lead to 4-0 in the sixth. English doubled, advanced to third on a Clemson throwing error by the left fielder and then scored on a single by Vergason to give the Gamecocks a four-run cushion.

Clemson cut Carolina's lead in half in the bottom of the sixth, as Brittle delivered a RBI double and scored two batters later on a groundout by Phil Pohl. The Tigers made things interesting in the ninth by pulling to within 4-3 on a two-out RBI single by Spencer Kieboom, but Webb was able to get Brad Felder to fly out to right to end the game.

Matthews was named Regional MVP.

Also on the All-Tournament Team was Vergason, Dantzler, Pankake, Holmes and Montgomery.

arolina Gamecoc

#### NCAA SUPER REGIONAL

For the second consecutive season and for the sixth time in school history, South Carolina hosted a NCAA Super Regional. A 5-0 victory vs. Oklahoma in game one followed by a 5-1 victory in a two-day span helped the Gamecocks to punch their ticket to Omaha and the College World Series for a third straight year and for the 11th time in school history.

In game one, senior left-hander Michael Roth worked 7.2 scoreless innings on the way to the 5-0 win over the Sooners. Roth didn't disappoint in his final start at Carolina Stadium as he allowed only six hits and had three strikeouts. The Gamecocks struck first with a three-run outburst in the bottom of the second inning. Adam Matthews drew a walk to lead off the inning, advanced to third on a single by Erik Payne and scored on a double to right center by LB Dantzler. Payne then plated on a wild pitch by John, and Dantzler made it 3-0 by scoring on a sacrifice fly to center field from Vergason. Carolina padded its lead with a pair of runs in the seventh. Joey Pankake ripped a RBI single to center to drive in Chase Vergason. Christian Walker then delivered a single through the left side to score Pankake giving the Gamecocks a five-run cushion.

In game two, the Gamecocks combined for five runs in the seventh and eighth innings en route to the 5-1 victory. In a game that took two days to complete because of heavy rain in the area, the Gamecocks' bats came alive on Monday as they scored all five runs and tallied five of their eight hits. The Gamecocks were the first to score as they manufactured a pair of runs in the seventh. Connor Bright delivered a leadoff double to right field. Tanner English then laid down a sacrifice bunt, but the throw by Oklahoma's first baseman sailed into the stands in left field, allowing pinch runner TJ Costen to score and English to advance to second. After moving to third on a sacrifice bunt by Chase Vergason, English raced home on a wild pitch by to give Carolina a 2-0 lead. After Oklahoma trimmed the lead to one run in the bottom of the seventh, South Carolina took control of the game in the eighth with a three-run inning. After Matthews and Dantzler came through with back-to-back one-out singles, English perfectly placed a bunt single past the pitcher's mound to score Matthews. Vergason then ripped a double to the gap in left center, clearing the bases to give the Gamecocks a 5-1 advantage.

#### **COLLEGE WORLD SERIES REMATCH**

A rematch of the 2011 CWS National Championship Series would be the feature game of the first two days at the College World Series. Defending national champion South Carolina against the top seed Florida Gators.

Erik Payne's three-run triple highlighted a five-run fifth inning, as Carolina defeated Florida 7-3, in the first round of the College World Series, held at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska Saturday night. The Gamecocks extended their NCAA record winning streak in the postseason to 22 straight games, including 12 in a row at the College World Series, in front of an announced attendance of 25,291.

## 2013 Baseball

## **2012 SEASON IN REVIEW**

Gamecock starter Michael Roth (8-1) worked 6.1 innings, allowing seven hits and three runs, all earned, with three walks and three strikeouts. He threw 98 pitches, 54 for strikes. Roth became the fourth pitcher to win a game in three different College World Series. Southpaw reliever Tyler Webb relieved Roth and escaped a bases loaded, one-out jam in the bottom of the seventh inning by retiring Tucker on a short fly to left then getting Johnson to line out to right. Carolina closer Matt Price worked the final two frames, retiring six of the eight batters he faced, including three by strikeout. He was helped by Marzilli's spectacular diving catch on a sinking liner by Pigott leading off the bottom of the eighth. Price logged his 42nd career save, moving him into sole possession of eighth place on the NCAA's all-time list, and breaking the SEC record.

Carolina finished the night with a dozen hits off six Gator hurlers. They left 12 runners on base, putting runners on base in every inning except the eighth. Florida collected nine hits and left nine on base.

The Gators got on the scoreboard first with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. Justin Shafer and Vickash Ramjit stroked back-to-back singles to open the inning. The Gamecocks flashed some leather, as Michael Roth made a diving catch of Josh Tobias's sacrifice bunt attempt for the first out and Chase Vergason made a diving stop on a grounder off the bat of Nolan Fontana and flipped to Joey Pankake to force Ramjit at second for the second out. But Preston Tucker lined a double over Tanner English's head in left field, plating both runners for an early 2-0 Gator advantage.

Evan Marzilli led off the decisive fifth with a double to the right-centerfield gap, his second two-bagger of the game. Christian Walker followed with his second hit of the night, a single to left, putting runners at the corners. Adam Matthews walked to load the bases with no outs, setting the stage for Payne's bases-clearing triple to the right-centerfield wall. LB Dantzler followed with an RBI double to deep center, ending Gator starter Brian Johnson's night on the mound. Tanner English bunted Dantzler to third and Vergason capped the uprising with an RBI single to center. Johnson (8-5) worked four-plus innings, allowing eight hits and five runs, all earned, with three walks and five strikeouts.

Florida answered with a single run in the bottom of the fifth. Tobias singled to left and Fontana was hit by a pitch to put a pair of runners on base with no outs. Both runners moved up 90 feet on a ground out and Tobias scored on a sacrifice fly by Mike Zunino, the third player taken in the recent MLB Draft, to cut the Carolina lead to 5-3.

The Gamecocks added a pair of insurance runs in the top of the ninth, aided by some wildness from the Gator pitching staff and less than stellar fielding. Walker led off with walk, moved to second on Matthews' sacrifice bunt, advanced to third on a wild pitch from Keenan Kish and scored on a wild pitch from Steven Rodriguez. Both Kish's and Rodriguez's wild pitches came with Payne at the plate. With two outs, Dantzler reached base safely when Rodriguez was unable to cleanly handle a slow roller. He moved to second on English's second single of the night and scored when Ramjit threw wildly to the pitcher covering first on Vergason's sharp grounder.

#### **END OF THE STREAK**

South Carolina would meet another familiar foe in its second game of the CWS as the Gamecocks met Arkansas on the diamond.

Arkansas scored twice in the first four innings and held on for a 2-1 win over the Gamecocks to snap Carolina's NCAA-record 22-game postseason winning streak and also ends the Gamecocks' 12-game winning streak at the College World Series.

Arkansas got on the scoreboard first in the top of the first inning. Tim Carver led off with a single to right, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt, went to third on a groundout and scored on Dominic Ficociello's RBI double in the left-centerfield gap. The Razorbacks made is 2-0 in the top of the fourth inning. Brian Anderson walked, stole second and scored on a two-out single by Matt Vinson.

Carolina cut the lead in half in the bottom of the fifth inning. Chase Veragson led off with a walk, was sacrificed to second by Dante Rosenberg and scored on Evan Marzilli's two-out triple to deep centerfield. Marzilli had two hits in the contest and has four in two games at the College World Series including three extra-base hits.

The Gamecocks were limited to just four hits on the night and were just 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position, stranding seven runners on base. Arkansas wasn't much better, collecting just six hits and going 2-for-11 with runners in scoring position while leaving seven runners on base. Both teams committed one error.

#### **ROTH DELIVERS AGAIN**

Michael Roth is known for many special games in Omaha. One more time, he would deliver for the Gamecocks. After a rain delay pushed back the Gamecocks' contest with Kent State, both teams would be forced to come back the next afternoon with the winner having to play in the evening as part of a day-night tripleheader at T.D. Ameritrade Park.

In an elimination contest, South Carolina defeated Kent State 4-1 to advance on to the night's contest against the Razorbacks.

The Gamecocks rode the stellar pitching of Michael Roth. He went the distance, allowing two hits and one run with no walks and eight strikeouts while throwing 106 pitches. He retired the final 22 batters he faced in order.

The Golden Flashes broke out on top with a run in the top of the second inning. George Roberts led off with a single to right, advanced to second on a groundout and scored on Sawyer Polen's single to left. Those would be the only two baserunners of the game for Kent State.

The Gamecocks came right back with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning. With one out, Adam Matthews and Kyle Martin stroked back-to-back singles. After Tanner English struck out, Grayson Greiner singled off the glove of Polen behind the third base bag. When the ball rolled away into foul territory, Matthews was able to beat the throw to the plate to tie the score at one. Chase Vergason followed with a single to right, plating Martin with the Gamecocks' second run.

Carolina increased its lead in the bottom of the third inning. After Christian Walker belted a two-out double into the right-centerfield alley, LB Dantzler crushed a two-run homer over the right field bullpen, his 10th round tripper of the season, giving the Gamecocks a 4-1 advantage.

The Gamecocks finished the game with seven hits and left seven runners on base. Kent State starter Tyler Skulina (11-3) was tagged with the loss after allowing four runs on six hits with four walks and nine strikeouts over 5.2 innings of work.

#### A NEW LEFT-HANDED HERO

The Gamecocks survived their second elimination game of the day and kept their national title hopes alive with a 2-0 win over the Arkansas Razorbacks to force a third contest between the two schools with the winner advancing to the CWS National Championship Series.

For the second consecutive game, the Gamecocks rode the stellar pitching of a left-handed starter. In Thursday's first game. In the nightcap, it was freshman southpaw Jordan Montgomery who was just as impressive in front of an announced attendance of 23,593. Montgomery, a 6-3, 215-pounder from Sumter, S.C., surrendered just three singles and a walk while fanning six over 8.0 scoreless innings. He threw 89 pitches, 56 for strikes. Matt Price fanned two in working around a one-out walk in the ninth for the save, his 13th of the season.

## 2012 SEASON IN REVIEW

For the first time in four games at the College World Series, the Gamecocks scored the game's first run. Erik Payne led off the Carolina second inning with a double down the leftfield line and Tanner English followed with another two-base hit to left, putting the Gamecocks on top 1-0. English moved to third on Grayson Greiner's groundout, and then scored on Chase Vergason's RBI single to center. Vergason, who finished the regular season with just five RBI, has collected eight in the postseason.

That was all the runs Montgomery (6-1) would need. He retired 12 consecutive batters during one stretch after allowing a first inning single to Joe Serrano. The streak ended with two out in the bottom of the fifth when Montgomery hit Bo Bigham with a pitch. Derrick Bleeker followed with a single to left, but English gunned down Bigham at third for the final out of the inning. Bigham was the only Razorback to reach second base in the contest. In both the sixth and eighth innings, Arkansas got the lead off man on base, but both times Carolina came up with a double play to quickly end the uprising.

#### **ADVANCING TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

arolina Gamecoc

The Gamecocks rallied from an early two-run deficit to defeat Arkansas 3-2 at the College World Series in front of an announced crowd of 22,184 at TD Ameritrade Park Friday night and advance to play Arizona in the best-of-3 championship series.

After both teams went down in order in the second, Arkansas got on the board again in the third. Jake Wise was hit by a pitch to lead off the frame and Carver doubled off the glove of Marzilli in center, ending Holmes' night. Wise scored on a Reynolds' sacrifice fly, his second RBI of the night, to make is 2-0 in favor of the Razorbacks.

South Carolina reliever Tyler Webb was outstanding in relief for the Gamecocks. He worked 4.0 scoreless frames, allowing just two hits and two walks with three strikeouts. In two games against the Razorbacks in Omaha, Webb hurled 9.1 shutout innings, allowing just four hits with three walks and seven strikeouts.

Trailing 2-0, the Gamecocks finally got on the board in the bottom of the fifth. Tanner English singled to center to lead off the inning. After a stolen base and a one-out walk to Chase Vergason, Joey Pankake delivered an RBI single to center. Marzilli walked to load the bases and Walker followed with another walk, forcing in Vergason with the tying run and ending the night for Razorback starter DJ Baxendale. Dantzler popped out in foul territory and Matthews fanned to end the Carolina uprising.

Carolina tallied the game-winning run in the seventh. With one out, Pankake and Marzilli coaxed walks. Walker popped out, but LB Dantzler kept the inning alive with a single off the pitcher's glove. Matthews, batting for the third time in the game with the bases loaded, walked on a 3-2 pitch to force in Pankake with go-ahead run. With Michael Roth pinch-hitting, Marzilli tried to score when the ball got away from the catcher, but was tagged out at the plate to keep the Razorbacks within one.

Matt Price (5-4) worked the final three frames for Carolina to earn the win. He allowed just one hit with no runs while fanning five. It was his fifth career CWS win, the most in history.

#### CWS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES GAME ONE

Arizona and South Carolina had never met on the baseball diamond until the 2012 National Championship Series. Arizona topped the Gamecocks, 5-1 in the first game of the series.

Arizona broke out in front with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first inning off Carolina starter Forrest Koumas. Johnny Field stroked a one-out single to left and scored on Robert Refsnyder's two-run homer into the right field bullpen, his eighth round tripper of the season. The Wildcats added to their lead in the third, scoring on an unearned run. Trent Gilbert reached on an error by Joey Pankake at short, moved to second on a single by Joey Rickard and scored on a single by Alex Mejia to make it 3-0 in favor of the Cats. Evan Beal replaced Koumas on the mound and forced Seth Meijas-Brean into an inning-ending double play with the bases loaded, preventing any further damage in the frame.

Arizona extended its lead to 4-0 in the fifth with another unearned run. Field walked with one out, went to second on a wild pitch and continued on to third when Grayson Greiner's throw sailed wide of the base and into centerfield. He scored on a two-out single from Mejias-Brean.

Carolina finally got on the board in the sixth when Greiner led off with a double into the left-centerfield alley and scored on Evan Marzilli's two-out RBI single to center. The Gamecocks had an opportunity to inch a little closer in the seventh when Adam Matthews and Kyle Martin opened the frame with back-to-back singles, but Matthews was gunned down trying to advance to third on Martin's hit to right to stymie the rally.

Arizona added an insurance run in the bottom of the seventh. Refsnyder reached base safely for the fourth time in the game with a one-out single, moved to second on a ground out and scored on Bobby Brown's RBI single to right.

#### **CWS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES GAME TWO**

Arizona Wildcats scored three times in the top of the ninth inning to defeat South Carolina 4-1 in game two of the best-of-3 College World Series Championship Series at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha. The hard-fought win in front of an announced attendance of 23,872 gave Arizona a sweep of the championship series and ended South Carolina's hopes of a third-straight title.

Robert Refsnyder started the ninth inning rally for the Wildcats by chopping a leadoff single to left off Carolina reliever Matt Price. After a sacrifice bunt and an intentional walk, Brandon Dixon doubled down the left field line, putting Arizona on top 2-1. Trent Gilbert capped the uprising with a key two-out, two-run single off Tyler Webb for a 4-1 Wildcat advantage.

The Gamecocks did not go down without a fight in the ninth. Christian Walker singled and LB Dantzler walked to start the frame. After Adam Matthews struck out, Kyle Martin walked to load the bases. Tanner English lined to second for the second out and Grayson Greiner flied to right to end the contest.

For the second straight night, Arizona struck first. Joseph Maggi led off the third inning with a double past the third base bag, snapping Michael Roth's string of consecutive batters retired at 28, dating back to Thursday's win over Kent State. Maggi was sacrificed to third and scored on Gilbert's ground out, putting the Wildcats on top 1-0.

Michael Roth, making his final pitching appearance as a Gamecock, allowed just three hits and one run with one intentional walk and three strikeouts in 6.2 innings of work. He threw 85 pitches, 59 for strikes. Arizona starter James Farris matched Roth out-for-out, keeping the Gamecocks off balance and off the scoreboard for most of the night. Through the first six innings, Carolina had just two baserunners, a first inning two-out walk by Walker and a fourth inning two-out single by Dantzler.

But the Gamecocks (49-20) finally came up with the game-tying run in the bottom of the seventh. Walker led off the inning with a walk, his second of the game and record-tying eighth in this CWS. After Dantzler popped out, Matthews executed a perfect hit-and-run single to right, advancing Walker to third. Martin's groundout plated Walker to even the score at 1-1. Carolina also had a chance to tally in the bottom of the eighth. Greiner was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning but was thrown out at second on Chase Veragson's bunt attempt. Vergason swiped second and continued on to third when the throw sailed into centerfield as Evan Marzilli fanned for the second out, the final batter Farris would face. Joey Pankake was called out on strikes to end the threat.

Roth ended his stellar career with three CWS records including career starts (8), career innings pitched (60.1) and career hit batsmen (7). Matt Price tied the record for career appearances in the CWS with 13. Christian Walker tied a single season CWS record with eight walks and tied career marks with 73 at-bats and 28 hits.

## **2012 STATISTICS**

## **Overall Batting & Fielding**

Overall Record: 49-20; Home: 32-7; Away: 11-8; Neutral:6-5

(More than 120 pla	te anne	arance	es)		Ū	voran no	ooru.	73 L	, 1101	110. 02	7, A	vuy. I	1 0, 1	iculiai.	, 0							
(more than 120 pia		GP-S	AB	R	H 2B	3B	HR	RBI	ТВ	SLG	ВВ	НВР	SO	OB%	SF	SH	SB	-ATT	PO	) A	Е	FLD
Christian Walker	-	67-66	240		77 12	-	11	55	126	.525	51	8	24	450	3	0		3-5	558		6	.990
Tanner English		69-68	248		74 6		0	23	88	.355	14	3	71	.341	2	10	1	12-15	124		2	.985
Evan Marzilli		69-69	268		76 14		2	32	104	.388	30	9	57	.365	8	8		13-17	176		2	.989
Joey Pankake		66-62	239		63 15		2	27	90	.377	31	4	40	.355	2	9		3-7	91		17	.940
LB Dantzler		69-69	263		69 15		10	48	114	.433	30	2	37	.339	3	3		0-2	47		5	.972
Chase Vergason		54-43	128		33 8		1	13	44	.344	25	8	18	.402	3	8		2-4	77		4	.979
Adam Matthews		66-64	225		53 6		5	26	74	.329	24	3	48	.314	3	10		7-10	120		3	.976
Grayson Greiner		62-53	194		43 13		6	32	76	.392	30	5	48	.336	3	1		0-1	381		2	.995
Kyle Martin	.295	40-22	78	11	23 5	0	1	12	31	.397	10	0	16	.363	3	1		0-0	37	' 1	0	1.000
TJ Costen	.275	38-10	51	13	14 4	1	1	2	23	.451	8	1	19	.383	0	0		1-5	g	3	1	.923
Erik Payne	.265	37-30	98	10	26 5	3	3	19	46	.469	3	4	31	.303	4	4		2-2	35	46	2	.976
Connor Bright	.228	32-22	79	8	18 2	0	0	9	20	.253	6	1	19	.291	0	2		1-2	10	21	1	.969
Brison Celek	.224	29-12	58	3	13 5	0	0	8	18	.310	8	0	12	.313	1	0		0-1	4	0	0	1.000
Michael Roth	.211	17-3	19	0	4 2	0	0	2	6	.316	3	0	7	.318	0	1		0-0	13	28	1	.976
Dante Rosenberg	.209	31-22	67	7	14 3	0	0	7	17	.254	5	1	13	.274	0	7		0-0	179	23	3	.985
Sean Sullivan	.161	18-6	31	3	5 0	1	0	5	7	.226	2	0	9	.212	0	4		0-0	4	0	0	1.000
Colby Holmes	.000	1-1	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	.000	0	0		0-0	4	16	1	.952
Joel Seddon	.000	2-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	.000	0	0		0-0	1	1	0	1.000
Patrick Harrington	.000	2-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	.000	0	0		0-0	C	0	0	.000
Tanner Lovick	.000	1-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	.000	0	0		0-0	1	0	0	1.000
Tyler Webb	.000	1-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	.000	0	0		0-0	C	10	1	.909
Totals	.265	69-69	2286	351 6	05 115	19	42	320	884	.387	280	49	469	.352	35	68	4	14-71	1881	680	53	.980
Opponents	.221	69-69	2272	227 5	03 67	5	37	219	691	.304	209	45	564	.298	13	55	4	10-64	1812	652	86	.966
									P	itchin	ıg											
	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CB	SV		IP	Н	R	EF	R B	B SO	2	2B	3B	HR	BK	B/AVG.	WP	HBP
Michael Roth	2.43	9-1	20	20	1	0/3	0	13	37.0	101	41	37	7 4	1 93		14	2	5	0	.209	5	9
Colby Holmes	3.05	7-2	16	16	0	0/2	0	7	9.2	66	30	27	7 1	7 65		10	0	7	0	.226	3	7
Matt Price	3.48	5-5	28	5	0	0/3	13	7	7.2	55	32	30	0 3	1 94	•	11	1	2	0	.198	3	10
Jordan Montgomery	3.62	6-1	15	13	0	0/1	0	7	4.2	69	34	30	) 1	0 57		11	1	4	0	.248	2	2
(Fewer Then 70 Inn	ings)																					
Ethan Carter	0.00	1-0	5	0	0	0/1	0	1	0.0	3	0	(	)	2 10		0	0	0	0	.088	0	0
Tyler Webb	1.56	6-1	39	0	0	0/5	3	5	7.2	44	12	10	) 1	8 58		8	0	0	0	.211	3	3
Hunter Privette	1.86		15	0	0	0/1			9.2	9	2	4	2	2 14		0	1	1	0	.243	1	3
Nolan Belcher	2.12	4-2	19	2	0	0/3	2	2	29.2	22	7	7	7 1	3 35		2	0	5	0	.210	1	1
Joel Seddon	2.76				0	0/1			6.1	9	5	į	5	6 13		2	0	2	0	.164	2	
Adam Westmoreland	2.86		7	4	0	0/1	0	2	22.0	20	7	7	7	4 14		2	0	1	1	.238	1	2
Patrick Sullivan	3.52				0	0/2			23.0	25	9	Ć		1 16		1	0	2	0	.284	2	
Evan Beal	3.81				0	0/1			52.0	39	23	22		2 55		2	0	3	0	.220	6	
	4 E O	0-0	11	0	0	0/1	0		8.0	8	4	4	4	2 8		2	0	1	0	.250	0	0
Logan Munson	4.50	0-0	' ''	0	Ü	-				Ü												
Forrest Koumas	4.82				0	0/0		2	28.0	31	19	15	5 1	7 31		1	0	4	1	.277	0	4
Forrest Koumas Drake Thomason		2-3	18	3 4			3		28.0 1.0					7 31 1 1		1	0	4 0	1		0	
Forrest Koumas Drake Thomason Vince Fiori	4.82 9.00 13.50	2-3 0-0 0-0	18	3 4 2 0	0	0/0	3			31	19		1 1	1 1 2 0		-	-		-	.277 .250 .333	0	0
Forrest Koumas Drake Thomason	4.82 9.00 13.50	2-3 0-0	18	3 4 2 0 2 0	0	0/0 0/0	3 0 0		1.0	31 1	19 1		1 1	1 1 2 0		1	0	0	0	.277 .250	0	0 0 45

2 26 15 EX 8 5 3 41 TOTAL 42 27 21 32 **South Carolina** 33 45 52 39 44 351 33 24 18 28 16 227 **Opponents** 29

## **2012 SEC REVIEW**

## 2012 SEC Standings

olina Gameco

Team	SEC	PCT	Overall	PCT
South Carolina*	18-11	.621	49-20	.710
Florida	18-12	.600	47-20	.701
Kentucky	18-12	.600	45-18	.714
Vanderbilt	16-14	.533	35-28	.556
Georgia	14-15	.483	31-26	.544
Tennessee	8-22	.267	24-31	.436
WESTERN DIVISION				
Team	SEC	PCT	Overall	PCT
LSU @%	19-11	.633	47-18	.723
Arkansas	16-14	.533	46-22	.676
Mississippi State#	16-14	.533	40-24	.625
Ole Miss	14-16	.467	37-26	.587
Auburn	13-17	.433	31-28	.525
Alabama	9-21	.300	21-34	.382

\* — SEC Eastern Division Champion

@ — SEC Western Division Champion

% — SEC Champion

**EASTERN DIVISION** 

# — SEC Tournament Champion

#### **2012 SEC Tournament Results**

#### Tuesday, May 22

GAME 1 - #4 Kentucky (2) vs. #9 Ole Miss (0)

GAME 2 - #7 Mississippi State (9) vs. #6 Arkansas (1)

GAME 3 - #3 Florida (6) vs. #10 Auburn (1)

GAME 4 - #5 Vanderbilt (4) vs. #8 Georgia (1)

## Wednesday, May 23

GAME 5 - Ole Miss (2) vs. Arkansas (0)

GAME 6 - Mississippi State (3) vs. #1 LSU (2)

GAME 7 - Auburn (3) vs. Georgia (2)

GAME 8 - Vanderbilt (3) vs. #2 South Carolina (2)

## Thursday, May 24

GAME 9 - LSU (11) vs. Ole Miss (2)

GAME 10 - Kentucky (5) vs. Mississippi State (1)

GAME 11 - South Carolina (5) vs. Auburn (3)

GAME 12 - Vanderbilt (2) vs. Florida (1)

## Friday, May 25

GAME 13 - Mississippi State (4) vs. LSU (3) (10 innings)

GAME 14 - Florida (7) vs. South Carolina (2)

#### Saturday, May 26

GAME 15 - Mississippi State (2) vs. Kentucky (1)

GAME 16 - Vanderbilt (8) vs. Florida (6)

#### Sunday May 27

GAME 17 - Mississippi State (3) vs. Vanderbilt (0)

## 2012 All-SEC Team

#### **FIRST TEAM**

1B	Christian Walker, South Carolina
2B	Alex Yarbrough, Ole Miss
3B	Matt Reynolds, Arkansas
SS	Anthony Gomez, Vanderbilt
C	Mike Zunino, Florida
0F	Raph Rhymes, LSU
0F	Preston Tucker, Florida
0F	Taylor Dugas, Alabama
DH	Brian Johnson, Florida

P Chris Stratton, Mississippi State P Kevin Gausman, LsU

RP Steven Rodriguez, Florida

#### **SECOND TEAM**

Matt Snyder, Ole Miss Bo Bigham, Arkansas 2B 3B Curt Powell, Georgia SS Nolan Fontana, Florida С Luke Maile, Kentucky 0F Austin Cousino, Kentucky 0F Ryan Tella, Auburn 0F Mason Katz, LSU DH Drew Steckenrider, Tennessee Р Alex Wood, Georgia

P Alex Wood, Georgia
P Corey Littrell, Kentucky
P Sonny Gray, Vanderbilt
P Bobby Wahl, Ole Miss

RP Matt Price, South Carolina

SEC Player of the Year - Raph Rhymes, LSU

SEC Pitcher of the Year - Chris Stratton, Mississippi State

SEC Freshman of the Year - Austin Cousino, Kentucky

SEC Scholar Athlete of the Year - Michael Roth, South Carolina

SEC Coach of the Year - Gary Henderson, Kentucky

#### **ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM**

1B	A.J. Reed, Kentucky
2B	Will Maddox, Tennessee
3B	Josh Tobias, Florida
SS	Joey Pankake, S.Carolina
C	Grayson Greiner, S. Carolina
0F	Austin Cousino, Kentucky
0F	Tanner English, S. Carolina
0F	Hunter Cole, Georgia
0F	Ben Moore, Alabama
DH	A.J. Reed, Kentucky
Р	Aaron Nola, LSU
Р	Tyler Beede, Vanderbilt
RP	Jonathan Holder, Miss. State

ALL-	DEFENSIVE TEAM
Р	Ryan Eades, LSU
Р	Kendall Graveman, Miss. State
Р	Michael Roth, S. Carolina
1B	Dominic Fiociello, Arkansas
2B	Alex Yarbrough, Ole Miss
SS	Nolan Fontana, Florida
3B	Matt Reynolds, Arkansas
C	Mike Zunino, Florida
0F	Evan Marzilli, S. Carolina
0F	Taylor Dugas, Alabama
OF	Austin Cousino, Kentucky