

CAROLINA



2005-06 SEASON IN REVIEW

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TENNIS



2005-06 SEASON IN REVIEW

With two outstanding freshmen added to the Gamecocks' roster, the 2005-06 season was set up to become one of the more memorable years for South Carolina women's tennis. Numerous injuries, however, plagued the Gamecocks during the fall and spring seasons, but Carolina had plenty of experience among its reserves. USC managed to make its 12th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance and with a 12-11 record marked its 13th-straight year with a winning percentage of .500 or better.

South Carolina's two freshmen, Gira Schofield and Natasa Vuckovic, played the top two singles positions during the spring, and Schofield played every doubles match at the No. 1 slot. Vuckovic led the team in singles wins with 26 and Schofield tallied 25 while both players had 19 doubles triumphs. Schofield and Vuckovic both earned places on the All-SEC Second Team, and Schofield also picked up SEC Co-Freshman of the Year honors. Schofield earned the ITA Southeast Region Rookie of the Year award as well.

In the rankings, Schofield was the lone Gamecock to hold a national billing at season's end at No. 54. She was ranked the entire spring and ascended as high as No. 46 at one point, which came in late February. Schofield's constant presence in the rankings helped her earn an at-large berth to the NCAA Singles Championship, making her just the second Gamecock freshman to qualify for the national event.

Sophomore Megan McGavock made significant contributions to the squad, as she led the Gamecocks in dual match victories with a 16-5 record. Along with Schofield and Vuckovic, McGavock was South Carolina's other 20-match winner thanks to an overall slate of 21-10. She became nearly an automatic point for the Gamecocks while holding down the No. 5 singles spot with a 12-3 record.

Miranda Gutierrez came back from an injury that kept her out of fall competition and put together an 11-8 ledger in duals. The junior ended the year as USC's regular starter at four singles but found greater success at five and six where she was a combined 9-4. Gutierrez proved to be one of the Gamecocks' stronger doubles players with a 5-4 record in SEC matches.

Gutierrez's classmate Christyn Lucas had the same misfortune of missing the fall season with an injury, although Lucas' prevented her from returning to singles play until March. She saw some action in doubles in February, but it was not until South Carolina's trip to Mississippi State and Mississippi over the first weekend in March that she played a singles match. Lucas finished the season with a 7-6 record in singles and was 8-9 in doubles. She tied for the team lead in SEC doubles victories with six.

The remaining member of Carolina's junior class, Laura Ganzer, was hoping for her most productive season with the Gamecocks, but her season was cut short against Georgia in March. Ganzer was leading Caroline Basu on court four when she charged the net and came up limping after rolling her ankle. The sprain kept Ganzer out of the singles lineup the remainder of the year, putting her final record at 11-9. She played a couple doubles matches two weeks later but decided it would be best if she were removed from competition for the rest of the year.

Sophomore Grace Blakely saw limited playing time in the spring but did finish the year with a 14-7 singles record while going 3-2 in dual matches. Blakely won her first career SEC match by defeating Daisi Espinal from LSU in straight sets to help the Gamecocks to a 6-1 victory. She also won contests with players from College of Charleston and Davidson.

Senior Danielle Wiggins missed the fall because of a shoulder injury, but was primed for a strong finish to her career. Following the Tennessee match in mid-March, Wiggins suffered a severe ankle sprain during practice that kept her off the court for the remainder of 2006. She ended the season with an 8-4 singles record and was 7-6 in doubles. Wiggins likely would have held the No. 3 singles position had she stayed healthy.

South Carolina's other senior, Justine Walsh, split time in dual matches with Grace Blakely following the injuries to Ganzer and Wiggins. She filled the No. 6 singles slot and went 2-5 while finishing 8-11 overall. Walsh also played doubles and tallied a 6-7 record in all matches and was 3-4 in duals.

The Gamecocks entered SEC play with a 6-2 slate with the two losses coming by 4-3 scores to Maryland and Harvard. In addition to College of Charleston, Davidson, Furman, Michigan and Brown, South Carolina knocked off rival Clemson by a 4-3 margin for its first victory against the Tigers since the 2002 campaign. USC trailed 1-0 after losing the doubles point but countered with victories at one, two, four and five singles to pick up the win.

A trip to Mississippi State started the conference season for Carolina, and the match ended 6-1 in the Gamecocks' favor. Two days later, South Carolina emerged victorious over the Ole Miss Rebels to run its record to 8-2 and 2-0 in the SEC. It helped the Gamecocks jump from No. 24 to 19 in

the following week's national rankings, which would mark USC's high place for the year.

A pair of home matches versus Georgia and Tennessee awaited the Gamecocks upon their return from the Magnolia State. After losing the doubles point to the Bulldogs, USC lost Ganzer and later the match by a 6-1 score. Against the Lady Vols, failing to win the doubles point proved to be South Carolina's undoing, as Tennessee's Blakeley Griffith won in three sets over Wiggins on court three to give UT a 4-3 triumph.

South Carolina rebounded with a 6-1 win over Winthrop a week later before hosting LSU and Arkansas. The Tigers suffered the same fate as Winthrop, but the Lady Razorbacks were not as generous. The doubles point again was the difference, as South Carolina could only muster wins at two, three and five singles after losing the top two doubles positions.

USC cruised in its next match at Auburn, winning 6-1 to improve to 11-5 and 4-3 in the league. The next four matches, however, were not met with the same result. South Carolina went on to lose its final four regular-season tilts to Alabama, Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Florida.

Coach Arlo Elkins knew that his Gamecocks probably would need a win at the SEC Tournament in Gainesville, Fla., to be assured of their 12th NCAA appearance in a row. South Carolina held the No. 8 seed and faced ninth-seeded Mississippi in the first round. The Gamecocks won the previous match against the Rebels thanks to the doubles point, but they entered the tournament having lost it in five of their last six matches.

Carolina dug itself in a hole by losing the doubles, but its singles play proved to be far superior to the Rebels. Schofield registered the first win, downing the person with whom she shared SEC Co-Freshman of the Year honors, Kseniia Tokarieva, by scores of 6-1, 6-1. McGavock next snagged a 6-4, 6-3 decision from Virginia Tomatis at five, and Gutierrez pulled USC within a point after a 6-4, 7-6(6) win over Preethi Subramanian on court four. Vuckovic provided the clincher with a 7-5, 6-4 triumph against Ilona Somers at No. 2 singles.

While South Carolina was unable to take a match from the Florida Gators the next day, it did receive an invitation to the NCAA Tournament two weeks later. The selection show revealed the Gamecocks would head one state to the north and take on Wake Forest in the first round in Chapel Hill, N.C.

USC lost a tightly contested doubles point to the Demon Deacons and soon afterward in singles, Gutierrez had to retire on court four due to a virus she had been fighting several days prior to the match. The 2-0 deficit was too much for the Gamecocks to overcome, but they did manage to take a point from Wake Forest with McGavock's 6-1, 6-1 victory over Sierra Poske at the No. 5 spot. The Demon Deacons also won matches at three and six singles, while Schofield and Vuckovic's matches at the top two positions could have favored either team had they been played to completion.



Gira Schofield was tabbed SEC Co-Freshman of the Year, as well as ITA Southeast Region Rookie of the Year. She became just the second Gamecock freshman to earn a bid to the NCAA Singles Championship.



2006 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT (RANKINGS) ¹	W-L	SCORE	RECORD (SEC)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	D1	D2	D3
Jan. 25	Charleston (22-NR)	W	7-0	1-0	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Jan. 29	Davidson (22-NR)	W	7-0	2-0	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Jan. 31	Furman (24-60)	W	7-0	3-0	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	L
Feb. 3	@ Maryland (24-31)	L	3-4	3-1	L	L	W	W	W	L	L	L	L
Feb. 4	vs. Michigan (24-35) ²	W	6-1	4-1	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	W	W
Feb. 19	Clemson (26-27)	W	4-3	5-1	W	W	L	W	W	L	L	W	L
Feb. 25	@ Brown (24-NR)	W	5-2	6-1	W	W	W	W	L	W	L	W	L
Feb. 26	@ Harvard (24-13)	L	3-4	6-2	W	L	W	L	W	L	L	L	W
March 3	@ Mississippi State (24-75)*	W	6-1	7-2 (1-0)	L	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
March 5	@ Mississippi (24-32)*	W	4-3	8-2 (2-0)	W	L	L	L	W	W	W	L	W
March 10	Georgia (19-32)*	L	1-6	8-3 (2-1)	L	L	W	L	L	L	L	L	W
March 12	Tennessee (19-31)*	L	3-4	8-4 (2-2)	W	W	L	L	W	W	L	L	W
March 19	Winthrop (30-NR)	W	6-1	9-4 (2-2)	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	W
March 24	LSU (34-48)*	W	6-1	10-4 (3-2)	W	W	W	W	L	W	L	W	W
March 26	Arkansas (34-68)*	L	3-4	10-5 (3-3)	L	W	W	L	W	L	L	L	W
March 31	@ Auburn (34-NR)*	W	6-1	11-5 (4-3)	L	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	L
April 2	@ Alabama (34-36)*	L	3-4	11-6 (4-4)	W	L	L	W	W	L	L	W	L
April 7	@ Kentucky (38-22)*	L	2-5	11-7 (4-5)	L	W	L	W	L	L	L	L	W
April 9	Vanderbilt (38-7)*	L	2-5	11-8 (4-6)	W	L	L	L	W	L	W	L	L
April 15	Florida (40-3)*	L	0-4	11-9 (4-7)	L	L	—	—	—	L	—	L	L
April 20	vs. Mississippi (39-50) ³	W	4-1	12-9 (4-7)	W	W	—	W	W	—	L	L	W
April 21	at Florida (39-4) ³	L	0-4	12-10 (4-7)	—	L	L	L	—	—	—	L	L
May 12	vs. Wake Forest (36-21) ⁴	L	1-4	12-11 (4-7)	—	—	L	L	W	L	W	L	L

1 — Rankings are listed as USC-opponent
2 — Played in College Park, Md.

3 — SEC Tournament (Gainesville, Fla.)
4 — NCAA Regionals (Chapel Hill, N.C.)

* SEC match
Home matches in **bold**

2005-06 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

SINGLES

PLAYER	OVERALL	FALL	DUAL (SEC)	#1 (SEC)	#2 (SEC)	#3 (SEC)	#4 (SEC)	#5 (SEC)	#6 (SEC)
Grace Blakely	14-7	9-4	3-2 (1-2)	—	—	—	—	2-0	1-2 (1-2)
Laura Ganzer	11-9	5-4	5-4 (1-2)	—	—	1-0	4-4 (1-2)	—	—
Miranda Gutierrez	11-8	—	11-8 (4-3)	—	—	0-1 (0-1)	2-3 (2-1)	4-1 (1-1)	5-3 (1-0)
Christyn Lucas	7-6	—	7-6 (6-4)	—	—	4-4 (3-2)	1-1 (1-1)	0-1 (0-1)	2-0 (2-0)
Megan McGavock	21-10	5-1	16-5 (6-4)	—	—	2-0	2-1 (1-1)	12-3 (5-2)	0-1 (0-1)
Gira Schofield	25-11	10-2	14-7 (5-6)	14-7 (5-6)	—	—	—	—	—
Natasa Vuckovic	26-15	11-5	14-7 (6-5)	—	11-7 (6-5)	2-0	1-0	—	—
Justine Walsh	8-11	5-5	2-5 (1-3)	—	—	—	—	—	2-5 (1-3)
Danielle Wiggins	8-4	—	8-4 (2-2)	—	3-1	4-3 (2-2)	1-0	—	—

DOUBLES

PAIR	OVERALL	FALL	DUAL (SEC)	#1 (SEC)	#2 (SEC)	#3 (SEC)	INDIVIDUAL (DUAL, SEC)
Blakely/Gutierrez	0-2	—	0-2 (0-1)	—	—	0-2 (0-1)	Blakely: 6-9 (2-4, 0-2)
Blakely/Lucas	0-1	—	0-1	—	—	0-1	Ganzer: 10-12 (7-4, 3-2)
Blakely/McGavock	1-1	—	1-1 (0-1)	—	0-1 (0-1)	1-0	Gutierrez: 10-10 (9-9, 5-4)
Blakely/Vuckovic	1-2	1-2	—	—	—	—	Lucas: 8-9 (8-9, 6-4)
Blakely/Walsh	4-3	3-3	1-0	—	—	1-0	McGavock: 15-15 (12-11, 3-8)
Ganzer/Gutierrez	2-0	—	2-0 (2-0)	—	—	2-0 (2-0)	Schofield: 19-17 (10-11, 4-6)
Ganzer/McGavock	6-6	2-3	4-3 (1-2)	—	4-3 (1-2)	—	Vuckovic: 19-17 (10-10, 6-4)
Ganzer/Schofield	1-2	1-2	—	—	—	—	Walsh: 6-7 (3-4, 0-3)
Ganzer/Vuckovic	1-2	0-1	1-1	—	1-1	—	Wiggins: 7-6 (7-4, 3-1)
Ganzer/Wiggins	0-2	—	—	—	—	—	
Gutierrez/Lucas	1-4	—	1-4 (1-2)	—	0-4 (0-2)	1-0 (1-0)	
Gutierrez/McGavock	2-1	—	1-0 (1-0)	—	—	1-0 (1-0)	
Gutierrez/Walsh	1-1	—	1-1 (0-1)	—	—	1-1 (0-1)	
Gutierrez/Wiggins	4-2	—	4-2 (1-0)	—	2-0	2-2 (1-0)	
Lucas/Vuckovic	4-2	—	4-2 (3-1)	—	4-2 (3-1)	—	
Lucas/Wiggins	3-2	—	3-2 (2-1)	—	0-1 (0-1)	3-1 (2-0)	
McGavock/Schofield	5-4	—	5-4 (1-3)	5-4 (1-3)	—	—	
McGavock/Walsh	1-3	—	1-3 (0-2)	—	—	1-3 (0-2)	
Schofield/Vuckovic	13-11	7-2	5-7 (3-3)	5-7 (3-3)	—	—	

RANKINGS

PLAYER/PAIR/TEAM	9/6	1/10	1/31	2/7	2/14	2/22	2/28	3/7	3/14	3/21	3/28	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25	5/1	6/2
Laura Ganzer	107	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Christyn Lucas	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gira Schofield	—	T59	T59	T59	T59	T59	46	60	60	68	68	53	53	51	48	48	54
Natasa Vuckovic	—	62	62	62	62	62	—	88	88	115	115	122	122	—	—	—	—
Danielle Wiggins	121	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	—	22	24	27	26	24	24	19	30	34	34	38	40	39	38	36	41



2005-06 SEC REVIEW

FINAL STANDINGS

Eastern Division

Place	Team	SEC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
1.	Florida	11-0	1.000	25-2	.926
2.	Vanderbilt	10-1	.909	23-5	.821
3.	Kentucky	8-3	.727	19-10	.655
	Georgia	8-3	.727	13-10	.565
5.	Tennessee	6-5	.545	12-13	.480
6.	SOUTH CAROLINA	4-7	.364	12-11	.522

Western Division

Place	Team	SEC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
1.	Alabama	6-5	.545	11-12	.478
2.	Arkansas	5-6	.455	10-11	.476
3.	Mississippi	4-7	.364	11-9	.550
4.	LSU	3-8	.273	12-12	.500
5.	Mississippi State	1-10	.091	3-16	.158
6.	Auburn	0-11	.000	6-18	.250

SEC TOURNAMENT RECAP

**Ring Tennis Complex
Gainesville, Fla. • April 20-23**

First Round • Thursday, April 20

#8 SOUTH CAROLINA DEF. #9 MISSISSIPPI, 4-1

#5 Tennessee def. #12 Auburn, 4-0

#10 LSU def. #7 Arkansas, 4-2

#6 Alabama def. #11 Mississippi State, 4-0

Quarterfinals • Friday, April 21

#1 FLORIDA DEF. #8 SOUTH CAROLINA, 4-0

#5 Tennessee def. #4 Georgia, 4-3

#2 Vanderbilt def. #10 LSU, 4-0

#3 Kentucky def. #6 Alabama, 4-1

Semifinals • Saturday, April 22

#1 Florida def. #5 Tennessee, 4-0

#3 Kentucky def. #2 Vanderbilt, 4-0

Final • Sunday, April 23

#1 Florida def. #3 Kentucky, 4-0



Gira Schofield earned second-team All-SEC honors and shared the SEC Freshman of the Year award.

SEC AWARDS

First Team

Ashley Bentley, UA
Robin Stephenson, UA
Whitney Benik, UF
Alexis Gordon, UF
Diana Srebrovic, UF
Nina Suvak, UF
Caroline Basu, UG
Natalie Frazier, UG
Joelle Schwenk, UK
Kseniia Tokarieva, UM
Taka Bertrand, VU
Amanada Fish, VU
Amanda Taylor, VU

Second Team

Mari Muller, UA
Alex Lies, UF
Keri Robison, UF
Kelley Hyndman, UG
Darya Ivanov, UG
Evgenia Subborvina, UG
Kim Coventry, UK

Carolina Escamilla, UK
Jessica Guiggioli, UK
Lara Maurer, UK
Danielle Petrisko, UK
Ilona Somers, UM
GIRA SCHOFIELD, SC
NATASA VUCKOVIC, SC
Caroline Ferrell, VU
Courtney Ulery, VU

Coach of the Year

Roland Thornqvist, UF

Player of the Year

Taka Bertrand, VU

Freshman of the Year

GIRA SCHOFIELD, SC
Kseniia Tokarieva, UM

Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Ashley Bentley, UA

SEC ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Ashley Bentley, UA	Tiffany Tucker, LSU
Andrea Brenes, UA	Preethi Subramanian, UM
Melissa Day, UA	Vicki Tomatis, UM
Shelley Godwin, UA	Nika Koukhartchouk, UM
Matalie McElveen, UA	Mimi Renaudin, UM
Melissa Minor, UA	Ilona Somera, UM
Maria Muller, UA	Carlin Cochran, UM
Robin Stephenson, UA	Martina Banikova, MSU
Audrey Bordeleau, ARK	Elna DeVilliers, MSU
Lindsey Brown, ARK	Tatiana Feit, MSU
Melissa Cornett, ARK	Renee Joseph, MSU
Vlatka Jovanovic, ARK	Daniela Juskova, MSU
Ela Kaluder, ARK	Polina Kokoulina, MSU
Allison Linden, ARK	Anastasia Kugakolova, MSU
Aurelija Miseviciute, ARK	GRACE BLAKELY, SC
Rachel Wilhelm, ARK	LAURA GANZER, SC
Whitney Chappell, AU	CHRISTYN LUCAS, SC
Ashley Cowart, AU	MEGAN MCGAVOCK, SC
Erin Gray, AU	GIRA SCHOFIELD, SC
Whitney Benik, UF	JUSTINE WALSH, SC
Boglarka Berecz, UF	Blakeley Griffith, UT
Lolita Frangulyan, UF	Victoria Jones, UT
Alex Liles, UF	Ghizela Schutte, UT
Keri Robison, UF	Taka Bertrand, VU
Nina Suvak, UF	Caroline Ferrell, VU
Caroline Basu, UG	Amanada Fish, VU
Natalie Frazier, UG	Liberty Sveke, VU
Kelly Sandefer, UG	Amanda Taylor, VU
Joelle Schwenk, UK	Courtney Ulery, VU
Caroline Winebrenner, UK	Maggie Yahner, VU
Camila Caliar, LSU	
Marina Chiarelli, LSU	
Daysi Espinal, LSU	
Staten Spencer, LSU	