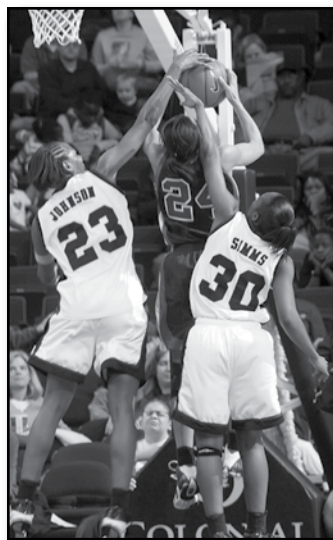


introduction



The Gamecock roster is dotted by seven native South Carolinians in 2006-07. Included among the Palmetto State natives starring for their homestate school are a pair of former SEC All-Freshman selections in Lauren Simms and Demetress Adams, an All-SEC pick in Melanie Johnson, a walk-on whose work ethic and desire earned her a scholarship in Ebony Jones, a USC Honors College student in Brionna Dickerson and the Carolina freshman blocked shots record holder in Lakesha Tolliver.





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Credits

The 2006-07 South Carolina Women's Basketball Media Guide is a publication of the University of South Carolina Athletics Media Relations Office. The guide was written, edited, designed and layed out by Associate Director Gavin Lang with assistance from Christy Lang, Taylor McCabe, Jenny Lacus and Miquel Jacobs.

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South Carolina led the SEC with seven women's basketball players on the 2006 SEC Winter Sports Academic Honor Roll.



Front Row (L-R) - Stacy Booker, Ilona Burgrova, Lauren Simms, Lea Fabbri, Shannel Harris, Larissa Kulcsar
Middle Row (L-R) - Athletic Trainer Jennifer Herod, Support Staff Freddy Ready, Ebony Jones, Brionna Dickerson, Melanie Johnson, Lauren Falohun, Director of Basketball Operations Robin Muller
Top Row (L-R) - Assistant Coach Tammy Holder, Head Coach Susan Walvius, Kellindra Zackery, Iva Sliskovic, Demetress Adams, Lakesha Tolliver, Assistant Coach Michelle Marciniak, Assistant Coach Ken Griffin

2006-07 South Carolina Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Hgt.	Class	Position	Hometown/Previous School
2	Stacy Booker	5-8	Sr.	Guard	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill
3	Lauren Falohun	5-8	Fr.	Guard	Atlanta, Ga./Pace Academy
5	Lea Fabbri	5-7	Sr.	Guard	New Zagreb, Croatia
11	Shannel Harris	6-0	Sr.	Guard	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill
14	Iva Sliskovic	6-5	Sr.	Forward	Zagreb, Croatia
15	Ilona Burgrova	6-6	Jr.	Center	Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic
23	Melanie Johnson	6-2	Sr.	Forward	Barnwell, S.C./Barnwell
24	Demetress Adams	6-4	So.	Forward	Bishopville, S.C./Lee Central
25	Ebony Jones	5-6	Jr.	Guard	Aiken, S.C./Aiken
30	Lauren Simms	5-9	Sr.	Guard	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley
31	Kellindra Zackery	5-11	Fr.	Forward/Guard	Newark, N.J./Malcolm X Shabazz
32	Brionna Dickerson	5-9	So.	Guard	Columbia, S.C./Heathwood Hall
41	Lakesha Tolliver	6-3	R-Jr.	Forward	Columbia, S.C./Dreher
55	Larissa Kulcsar	6-2	Sr.	Forward	Cluj, Romania

Head Coach: Susan Walvius

Assistant Coaches: Tammy Holder, Michelle Marciniak, Ken Griffin

Pronunciation Guide

Lauren Falohun	foul-LOAN
Lea Fabbri	lay-uh fab-BREE
Iva Sliskovic	EE-va SLIZ-ko-VICH
Ilona Burgrova	il-LOAN-uh ber-GROVE-uh

Demetress Adams	de-MEET-riss
Brionna Dickerson	bree-AWN-uh
Lakesha Tolliver	la-KEESH-uh
Larissa Kulcsar	KOOL-char

University Information

Location	Columbia, S.C.
Enrollment	23,700
Founded	1801
Team Name	Gamecocks
University President	Dr. Andrew Sorensen
NCAA Faculty Representative	Dr. Bill Bearden
Athletics Director	Eric Hyman
Senior Woman Administrator	Val Sheley
Colors	Garnet and Black
Conference	Southeastern

Arena Information

Arena/Capacity	Colonial Center/18,000
Press Row Phone	803-777-6182

Team Information

Head Coach	Susan Walvius
Alma Mater, Year	Virginia Tech, 1986
Record At South Carolina/Years	131-129/9 years
Overall Record/Years	229-230/16 years
Assistant Coaches	Tammy Holder Michelle Marciniak Ken Griffin
Director of Basketball Operations	Robin Muller
Administrative Assistants	Kaye Hunke
Basketball Office Phone	803-777-0371

2005-06 Overall Record	17-12
2005-06 SEC Record/Finish	7-7/8th
Postseason	WNIT First Round
Letterwinners R/L	12/2
Starters R/L	5/0

2006-07 South Carolina Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Wed	Nov. 8	Lake Truck (Exhibition)	7:00 p.m.
Sun	Nov. 12	East Tennessee State	3:00 p.m.
Tue	Nov. 14	at Penn State	7:00 p.m.
Fri	Nov. 17	North Carolina A&T	7:00 p.m.
Mon	Nov. 20	Clemson	7:00 p.m.

South Carolina Thanksgiving Classic

Fri	Nov. 24	Bethune-Cookman vs. La.-Lafayette	5:00 p.m.
Fri	Nov. 24	Mercer	7:00 p.m.
Sat	Nov. 25	Consolation Game	5:00 p.m.
Sat	Nov. 25	Championship Game	7:00 p.m.

Wed	Nov. 29	at North Carolina State	7:00 p.m.
Sun	Dec. 3	Fordham	1:30 p.m.
Thu	Dec. 7	Oklahoma	TBA
Wed	Dec. 20	High Point	6:00 p.m.
Sat	Dec. 23	South Carolina State	2:00 p.m.
Thu	Dec. 28	Samford	8:00 p.m.
Sat	Dec. 30	at UNC-Wilmington	2:00 p.m.
Mon	Jan. 1	Winthrop	7:00 p.m.
Thu	Jan. 4	at Kentucky*	7:00 p.m.
Mon	Jan. 8	at Stanford	TBA
Thu	Jan. 11	Vanderbilt*	7:00 p.m.
Sun	Jan. 14	Alabama*	3:00 p.m.
Thu	Jan. 18	at Ole Miss*	8:00 p.m.
Sun	Jan. 21	at Mississippi State*	3:00 p.m.
Thu	Jan. 25	Florida*	7:00 p.m.
Sun	Jan. 28	Kentucky*	3:00 p.m.
Thu	Feb. 1	at Tennessee*	7:00 p.m.
Sun	Feb. 4	LSU*	3:00 p.m.
Thu	Feb. 8	at Arkansas*	8:00 p.m.
Sun	Feb. 11	at Georgia*	2:30 p.m.
Thu	Feb. 15	Auburn*	7:00 p.m.
Sun	Feb. 18	at Vanderbilt*	3:00 p.m.
Sun	Feb. 25	Mississippi State*	3:00 p.m.
Thu-Sun.	Mar. 1-4	SEC Tournament (Duluth, Ga.)	TBA

2007 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship

Sat-Tue	Mar. 17-20	NCAA First/Second Rounds	TBA
Sat-Tue	Mar. 24-27	NCAA Regionals	TBA
Sun-Tue	April 1-3	NCAA Final Four (Cleveland, Ohio)	TBA

* SEC Opponent

All times listed as Eastern Standard and are subject to change

First Year of Basketball	1974-75
Overall Record	546-398
SEC Record	54-140
NCAA Tourney Appearances/Last	Eight/2003
NCAA Tournament Record	8-8
WNIT Appearances/Last	Two/2006
WNIT Record	3-1

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Web Site	www.uscsports.com

SIZE, EXPERIENCE, DEPTH

Boasting one of the most experienced teams in the Southeastern Conference for the 2006-07 season, South Carolina is capable of accomplishing big things in Head Coach Susan Walvius' 10th year at the helm of the program. The Gamecocks return all five starters and 12 letterwinners from the 2005-06 team that finished 17-12 overall and was 7-7 in the SEC.

Taking a look at the 2006-07 Carolina roster from a statistical standpoint, Walvius welcomes back 97 percent of her team's scoring from a year ago, 96 percent of her team's rebounding, 95 percent of her team's assists, 94 percent of her team's blocked shots and 95 percent of her team's steals.

"This team is going to be fun to coach," Walvius said. "They know our staff and they know each other very well. The chemistry of our team is there and they know the system. We should execute better than we have in the past, we should defend better and we should just be better on so many levels because of experience. Then you throw in the factor that we should be so much stronger physically, I think you're going to see a team that is fun to watch."

Though the numbers are nice, perhaps the biggest asset that the Gamecocks return is a winning attitude. To win 17 games overall and break even in the toughest conference in America after entering the 2005-06 season picked to finish last in the league, this group of Carolina players knows how to defy the odds and claim victories when victories aren't expected.



Lauren Simms had a productive off-season.

"We're coming off a good year and our team is experienced and now has a taste of success, and I think we can build on that," Walvius said. "We have beefed up our schedule a little bit and I think we've got a team that has an opportunity to compete at a very high level."

To continue to improve on the foundation laid last year, Walvius will need similar production defensively, as the Gamecocks set new single-season school records for fewest points allowed per game (56.8), field goal percentage defense (.347 pct.), and blocked shots (193) in 2005-06.

The group of veterans on this year's roster is easily one of the best defensive units ever to come through the Carolina women's basketball program, evidenced by the fact that in the span of the last two years, the Gamecocks have surrendered only 59.4 points per game to the opposition, a mark that ranks as the best two-year mark in school history. In addition, Carolina has blocked 369 shots in the last two years, far and away surpassing the previous two-year mark of 228, set in 2000-01 and 2001-02. Lastly, the Gamecocks have suffocated opposing offenses from the field at a pace never before seen in school history, holding the opposition to 35.7 percent shooting from the field.

Part of Carolina's success on the defensive end of the floor is a result of sheer size, as the Gamecocks boast one of the tallest teams in the nation. The Gamecocks' size and experience provide ample reason to think that there is no reason for a defensive letdown in 2006-07. Add new strength and conditioning coach Pat Moorer into the mix, and increased toughness should also factor into Carolina's arsenal this year. Moorer, recently christened a Master Strength and Conditioning Coach, has earned the highest honor that can be received as a strength and conditioning coach and Walvius feels that he will make a noticeable difference.

"We still have great size. We have depth and we have experience, but the biggest difference in our team this year from last year in addition to experience is leadership because kids have vested time," Walvius said. "Also, the impact that Pat Moorer has had. You're going to see a lot more confident women's basketball team because physically our team looks better and feels better about themselves and that is going to translate into success on the court, individually and as a team."

"Physically we will be stronger and that translates to picking up loose balls, rebounding and finishing. I thought we missed a lot of easy baskets last year and I expect to make those this year. We had a lot of balls taken out of our hands last year and the past two years and we'll come up with those this year. I think you'll see a different toughness and a level of confidence from our team. I'm real excited about Pat. If you talk to any coach who has had success, our program included, the coach will give credit to the strength coach and the work that they do and I'm real happy about Pat and the job that he has done so far. Our kids have volunteered to work extremely hard this summer. This is the first time in a couple of years that our players have made a commitment to their bodies and to being an athlete. If you want to be a high-level athlete, you have to be an athlete first and our players are developing themselves physically, which will help them to be better basketball players."

Leading the way for players who have spent time working on their strength and their overall game this summer are senior guard Lauren Simms, along with sophomore forward Demetress Adams and sophomore guard Brionna Dickerson. Along with fellow senior Shannel Harris, Simms will be counted on to provide steady leadership throughout the sea-

son, but the level-headed and sometimes soft-spoken Simms has the luxury of being just one of a group of seniors who all have demonstrated leadership ability during their respective careers.

"We've got really good leadership by committee," Walvius said. "We have young players also that have shown an interest in wanting to lead. Brionna Dickerson has taken on a real leadership role this summer. Lauren Simms has really stepped up her game. She has been a player that has been real flashy in the past but hasn't been consistent shooting the ball, scoring, not hitting shots when we need them. She's worked really hard on her game and we are very excited about her."

Another player who can help lead by example is senior forward Iva Sliskovic, who along with being one of the team's top defensive players, will likely finish her career as the first player in school history to score 1,000 points, grab 650 rebounds and have 150 assists.

"Iva is very much a leader," Walvius said. "She is quietly productive. She's somebody that I'm not sure people are going to look at and say 'wow, what an impact player,' but she is so smart. She can go out and guard anyone and she plays every game differently based on the scouting report. She knows how to play to her strength and understands opponents' individual weaknesses. She's one of the smartest players on our teams when it comes to taking a scouting report and putting it into action on the floor."

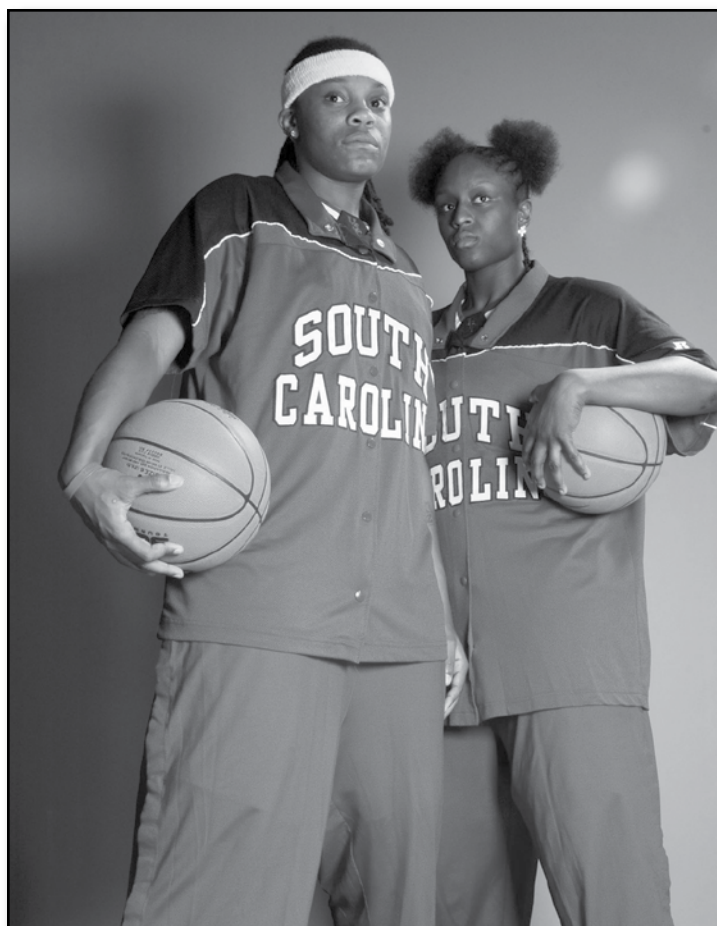
Perhaps the team's best on-court leader is Harris, who is not called upon to put up big numbers on the stat sheet, but shows her true worth by defending the opposing team's top perimeter player night in and night out.

"Shannel is a great leader," Walvius said. "She knows how to demand excellence from her teammates and brings a lot of

"We're coming off a good year and our team is experienced and now has a taste of success, and I think we can build on that," Walvius said. "We have beefed up our schedule a little bit and I think we've got a team that has an opportunity to compete at a very high level."

emotion to practice every day. She's a competitor and became very consistent for us when we needed a basket later in the season especially. She's been our defensive stopper. She's long, she works hard and can run any set, any system. She passes the ball well and has been very solid."

The senior backcourt tandem of Lea Fabbri and Stacy Booker provides Walvius with two good offensive options, as Fabbri has run the Carolina offense from the point guard position full-time in each of the last two years and Booker is one of the most productive scorers on the team.



Freshmen Kellindra Zackery and Lauren Falohun.

"With the experience that she has, Lea had some fabulous games last year," Walvius said. "She continues to grow in her confidence and as her confidence grows along with her physique, she will be even more consistent. She's so intelligent. She knows the system extremely well. She's a competitor and I think she's looking forward to having a great year.

"Stacy has worked out a lot this summer and is going to come back physically stronger. She wants to be a shooter. The one thing I want to see Stacy do is take a look at the rim. She is a great passer and I want to see her do more in the area of passing the basketball. She likes to compete and get after it. She has one of the better pull-up jump shots and is one of the more consistent scorers off the dribble for our team."

With the work that she has put in during the off-season combined with her now full recovery from a knee injury sustained while in high school, Dickerson could also factor into the rotation at shooting guard.

"Brionna is working on shooting off the catch," Walvius said. "Her speed looks a lot better right now. Her knee looks completely healed. She has a nose for the rim. Brionna knows how to put the ball in the basket. She is brilliant academically and there is always some carry-over there. She is a student of the game and is a lot more confident today than she was a year ago, even halfway through the season. We saw her have some strong minutes for us and we need her to be a scorer and I think we'll see her do that this year.

A second-team all-SEC performer last year, small forward Melanie Johnson returns as the team's top statistical performer from a year ago.

"With her athleticism, her ability to put the ball in the basket and her ability to get steals defensively, Melanie makes a lot happen," Walvius said. "She rebounds the basketball and is a good scorer. Statistically, she was our MVP last year and we hope that she's hungry and hasn't settled and is ready to compete."

Johnson wasn't the only Gamecock to receive SEC recognition a year ago, as Demetress Adams was a Player of the Week honoree and earned a spot on the SEC All-Freshman team. In addition to her SEC honors, Adams was invited by USA Basketball to try out for the Under-20 National Team during the summer, and though she did not make the team, she gained a valuable experience and returned to Columbia with a renewed desire to improve her strength and her game.

"From what I heard from the summer, Demetress was a superstar," Walvius said. "She has gotten physically stronger, is posting big, is putting the ball in the basket. She had the opportunity to try out for USA Basketball. The strength she has gotten will really help her. She is a phenomenal athlete and was a leader in the SEC in field goal percentage last year and that for a freshman is special. She hurt her hand last year and we are looking forward to a great year from Demetress. I think we'll see great things from her."

Junior Ilona Burgrova is the lone true center on the Carolina roster, and as a former major college center herself, Walvius recognizes good potential from the Czech Republic native.

"Ilona is very mobile and she jumps very well and plays at the rim," Walvius said. "She can catch on the run and finish, which is where she's best. Ilona does a good job of getting big asking for the ball, and we need to get her the ball where she is in a position to score. Ilona's potential is endless. If we can just get her to finish around the basket, she does everything else extremely well, from execution to her size to her mobility."

Junior Lakesha Tolliver should continue to be a factor in Carolina's interior game and senior Larissa Kulcsar should add some depth at the power forward spot.

The freshman duo of point guard Lauren "Cocoa" Falohun and forward/guard Kellindra Zackery is one that appears game-ready heading into the season and both players will have the luxury of developing as part of an experienced team while still logging substantial minutes.

"We like Cocoa's size at the point guard position and she is going to create some problems for other teams defensively because she is so strong and she likes to get after a point guard with defense," Walvius said. "Though we have not been the prettiest team out there offensively the last couple years, we have really grown defensively and we take a lot of pride in where we are defensively. I think that Cocoa is going to add to our defensive style. The point guard sets the tone and is the catalyst defensively and I think she is going to be real good there.

"Kellindra is a really good basketball player," Walvius said. "She rebounds the basketball. She wants to guard the best player on the other team. She's got a tenacity to her and a physique to back it up. She's a competitor. She lives the game, she loves the game. She is a scorer. We watched her play in an all-star game with a lot of the best players in the country and she put up 40 against the best out there. She's got some juice to her game and is going to be fun for people to watch. She's a physical three-guard who would really prefer to bang and rebound the basketball."

In addition to facing the always-grueling SEC opposition, Walvius has ramped up the non-conference schedule as well, with the slate highlighted by games against teams from each of the power conferences. The Gamecocks make an early-season trip to traditional Big Ten power Penn State and face the reigning Big 12 and Pac-10 champions in Oklahoma and Stanford, respectively. ACC squads Clemson and NC State are also on the docket.

"When we picked up teams like Stanford, Oklahoma and NC State, that's where you find out where you are in the non-conference schedule," Walvius said. "When we went to the Elite Eight in 2002, we had a big win over Duke early in the season that got us in the polls and really helped build our confidence. Games like these help you gauge where you are and give you the chance to make a name for yourself nationally.

"We have a lot of quality talent on our team and the players will have to compete to get into the playing rotation every day in practice and I think that will help us to be a better team," Walvius said. "Where we are right now, we should be a good team this year and should be good the next couple years as well. It's an exciting position to be in and we as a staff know what you have to have to be able to play at a very high level. I think we've got the majority of those ingredients right now. The chemistry on the team is real good. If we can be consistent and come to practice every day and stay focused on what our purpose is as a basketball team and not get distracted, I think we have a chance to be very good. I think every coach going into a year wants a chance to be successful and I think we'll have that opportunity this year."

Carolina Capsule



Percentage of Points Returning From 2005-06	96.5*
Percentage of Rebounds Returning From 2005-06.....	95.8*
Percentage of Assists Returning From 2005-06.....	95.0*
Percentage of Blocks Returning From 2005-06.....	94.3*
Percentage of Steals Returning From 2005-06.....	94.8*

Career Games Played Among Returners.....	697*
Career Games Started Among Returners	327*

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* Leads SEC