

2008 South Carolina Softball

Quick Facts

Location.....	Columbia, S.C.
Founded.....	1801
Enrollment.....	27,272
Colors.....	Garnet (PMS 201) & Black
Nickname.....	Gamecocks
Affiliation.....	NCAA Division I
Conference.....	Southeastern (Eastern Division)
President.....	Dr. Andrew Sorensen
Athletics Director.....	Eric Hyman
Senior Associate AD/SWA.....	Val Sheley
Faculty Athletics Representative.....	Dr. Bill Bearden

Facility

Home Field.....	Beckham Field
Capacity.....	1,500
Dimensions.....	L-200, C-220, R-200, Alleys-210
Record.....	415-123-1 (.771)

Softball Staff

Head Coach.....	Joyce Compton (Trenton State, 1972)
Career Record (Years).....	1106-492-3, .692 (32 years)
Division I Record (Years).....	1013-473-3, .681 (25 years)
Record at Carolina (Years).....	898-396-3, .688 (21 years)
Assistant Coaches.....	Angela Thompson (Austin Peay, 1995) Adrianna Baggetta (South Carolina, 2002)
Athletic Trainer.....	Erin Thomas (South Carolina, 2004)

History

First Year of Softball.....	1974
Program Record.....	1163-512-6, .694 (34 years)
NCAA Tournament Record.....	29-27 (.518)
NCAA Tournament Appearances.....	15 (1982, 1983, 1988, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007)
NCAA Super Regional Appearances.....	1 (2007)
NCAA College World Series Appearances.....	3 (1983, 1989, 1997)
AIAW World Series Appearances.....	5 (1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981)
SEC Record (Years).....	167-138 (11 years)
SEC Championships.....	1 (1997)
SEC Eastern Division Championships.....	4 (1997, 1999, 2001, 2002)
SEC Tournament Championships.....	2 (1997, 2000)
SEC Tournament Record.....	15-15 (.500)

Team Information

2007 Record.....	38-26
2007 SEC Record.....	12-16
Postseason.....	SEC Tournament Quarterfinals; NCAA Super Regionals
Final Rankings.....	21 NFCA/USA Today; 24 ESPN.com/USA Softball
Letterwinners Returning/Lost.....	12/3
Position Starters Returning/Lost.....	8/2
Pitchers Returning/Lost.....	2/0
Newcomers.....	5

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Note To Media

The South Carolina athletic media relations office is ready to assist members of the media in their coverage of Gamecock athletics. Any questions concerning South Carolina softball should be directed to Koby Padgett, who can be reached by calling (803) 777-8017. Interviews, statistics or general information concerning student-athletes or coach Joyce Compton and/or her staff should be handled through the media relations office. If you will be attending a home game, please inform the office at least 24 hours in advance. Thank you for your interest in South Carolina softball. Please let us know if we can assist you in your coverage of the Gamecocks.

Credentials

Credentials are not required to attend a softball game; however, please notify Koby Padgett in the media relations office at least 24 hours in advance of a home contest to assure having your name placed on the pass list.

Media Services

Box scores will be available at the conclusion of each game, and a complete play-by-play will be distributed when the game is finished. Fax service is available as well for those media members needing it. At the present time, high-speed Internet access is not available at Beckham Field. Several phone lines are available for a dial-up connection.

Visiting Radio

Visiting radio should notify the media relations office at least one week in advance of the games so that arrangements can be made for the broadcast. Visiting radio typically will be seated under a canopy just outside of the Beckham Field press box, with phone lines available to be run out to the broadcast position.

On The Web

All media members are encouraged to visit GamecocksOnline.com for all the latest news releases, statistics, notes and other information pertaining to Gamecock

softball as well as all other sports sponsored by the school. South Carolina conducts Internet radio broadcasts of all home games and select road games. Delayed video broadcasts will also be available for all home games. Additionally, members of the media may visit the official Web site of the Southeastern Conference, www.SECsports.com, for current standings, statistics and weekly releases.

Post-Game Interviews

Following a 10-minute cooling-off period, student-athletes and coaches will be available for interviews conducted on the field.

Mid-Week Interviews

The Gamecocks typically practice in the early afternoon at Beckham Field during the week. Interviews can be conducted with Coach Compton and any players either before or after practice. Please call Koby Padgett in the media relations office to arrange these.

MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

The 2008 South Carolina softball media guide was written, designed and edited by Koby Padgett. Editing assistance provided by Steve Fink. The front and back outside covers were designed by Tyler Trout. The inside back cover was designed by Grant Hawkins. Research assistance provided by Trey Bloomer, Ashley Keyes, Emily Steele and Clary Wright. Printing was done by the R.L. Bryan Company in Columbia, S.C.

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South Carolina Media Outlets

Newspapers

The Post-Courier, 134 Columbus St., Charleston, SC 29403

The Daily Gamecock, 1400 Greene St., Columbia, SC 29208

The Greenville News, 1611 Hollywood, Columbia, SC 29201

The State, Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202

The Morning News, P.O. Box 100528, Florence, SC 29501

Rock Hill Herald-Journal, Box 11707, Rock Hill, SC

Spartanburg Herald-Journal, Box 1657, Spartanburg, SC 29304

Wire

Associated Press, 1311 Marion St., Columbia, SC 29201

Radio

Citadel Broadcasting, PO Box 1506, Columbia, SC 29205

S.C. News Network, 3710 Landmark Dr., Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29204

WCOS-AM, Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29204

WVOC Radio, Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29221

Television

WIS-TV (NBC Channel 10) 1111 Bull St., Columbia, SC 29202

WOLO-TV (ABC Channel 25) Box 4217, Columbia, SC 29204

WLTX-TV (CBS Channel 19) Drawer M, Columbia, SC 29205

Specialty Outlet

Spurs & Feathers, Box 8055, Columbia, SC 29202

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National Fastpitch Coaches Association

USA Softball

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329-4021

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790-4309

654-3300

798-5255

758-1278

691-4015

776-1791

256-1789

320-2283

424-4734



Beckham Field

There is a plot of land that is nestled just off of Marion Street in Columbia, S.C. that for 22 years has served as the home to Gamecock softball. Although the actual field has been altered a couple of times, the area where Beckham Field sits has been the site of many memorable Gamecock softball moments over the years.

Opened in 1986 as Lady Gamecock Field, the site is the oldest Southeastern Conference and among the oldest in the sport. Softball is a tradition at South Carolina and the Gamecocks are known for its solid reputation throughout the country.

"We are grateful to Dave and Mitzi Beckham for their support of our program through their donation that allowed us to build a new facility in 1997," said head coach Joyce Compton. "Having such a facility affords our players the opportunity to play on a quality field and our fans a chance to enjoy a first class venue."

Beckham Field has seen changes over the years. In 1997, lights were added for the enjoyment of night games and in 1999, renovations expanded seating capacity from 1,000 to 1,500. In 2004, Beckham Field continued to expand with the addition of a 42' x 100' covered hitting facility. Landscaping projects now greet spectators at the entrance of the field and new asphalt was placed to improve walkways, which are now more handicap accessible. And fans will be able to enjoy a new Daktronics scoreboard in 2008.

Beckham Field was dedicated in April of 1999 honoring David and Mitzi Beckham, who are longtime supporters of Gamecock softball. The Beckhams are at every home softball game and sit on the top row in front of the press box.

Five NCAA Regionals have been hosted at Beckham Field since 1994, including one in 2007 that saw fourth-seeded Carolina take out top-seeded North Carolina State and nationally-ranked Oregon to advance to Super Regionals for the first time since that round was introduced. In 2002, the Gamecocks compiled a record of 28 wins at Beckham Field, their best home record ever. In 2002, the Gamecocks claimed the program's 1,000th win as they defeated top-ranked UCLA in NCAA Regional action.

In 22 years, the Gamecocks have posted an impressive 415-123-1 home record for a winning percentage of .771. In the 1997 NCAA Championship Regional, a record 2,250 fans watched the Gamecocks capture the Regional Championship. The attendance number was the highest single-game crowd of any of the eight NCAA Regionals that year.

Since 1997, Beckham Field has hosted several large crowds of softball spectators. There are six games in which attendance has surpassed the 1,000 mark.

Beckham Field has not only been home to many of Carolina's softball elite players, but it has been the only field that head coach Joyce Compton has called home during her Gamecock tenure.



Beckham Field's Top Attendance Records

1.	2,250	Kansas	05/18/97-
2.	1,711	UNC-Greensboro	05/16/97-
3.	1,600	Kansas	05/17/97-
4.	1,400	Georgia	05/18/02-
5.	1,076	Tennessee	04/05/97
6.	1,038	North Carolina	02/02/03

- = NCAA Regional

--Attendance records were not kept until 1997



Beckham Field All-Time Record

1986	15-10
1987	21-2
1988	16-0
1989	20-3
1990	15-2
1991	18-3
1992	23-1
1993	22-6-1
1994	20-5
1995	26-5
1996	10-2
1997	27-1
1998	16-8
1999	21-8
2000	14-8
2001	17-8
2002	28-5
2003	19-7
2004	16-7
2005	11-13
2006	17-8
2007	23-11
TOTALS	415-123-1 (.771) (22 years)

Beckham Field Records

Most Games Played in a Season	34 (2007)
Most Wins in a Season	28 (2002)
Most Consecutive Wins	21 (1995)
Most Losses	13 (2005)
Most Consecutive Losses	6 (2005)
Best Home Record (by percentage)	16-0 (1988)
Worst Home Record	11-13 (2005)
Most Runs Scored by Carolina	17 (1990, vs. UNC-W)
Most Runs by Opponent	12 (1998, by LSU; 2000-Florida; 2005-Tennessee)
Most Combined Runs Scored	20 (2005, USC vs. Gardner-Webb)



HOW THE TEAMS AT THE TOP GET THERE

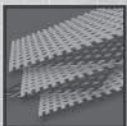
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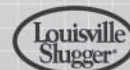
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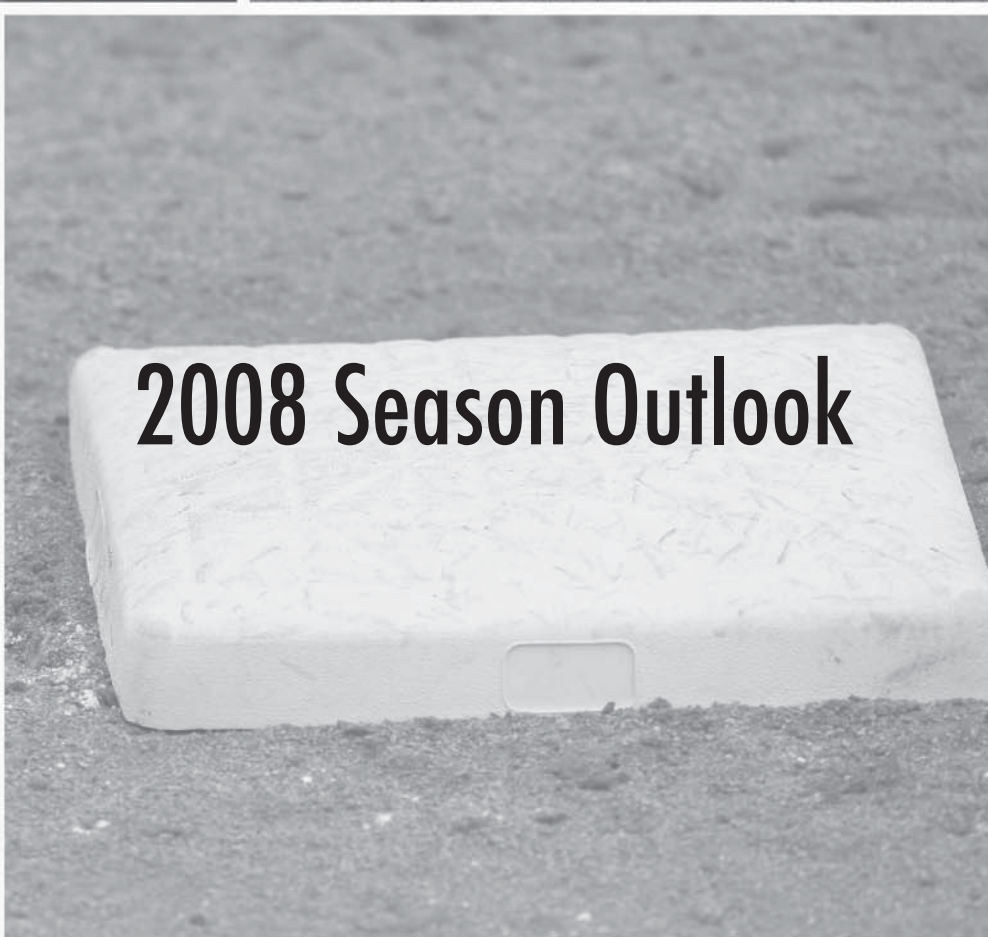
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Numerical Roster

No	Name	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Class	Hometown/Previous School
1	Adele Voigt	OF	5-7	L/R	So.	Dacula, Ga./Dacula
2	P.J. Fulmer	C	5-7	R/R	Fr.	Blythewood, S.C./Spring Valley
3	Lisa Longo	U	5-3	R/R	Sr.	Valley Stream, N.Y./Central
4	Kate Pouliot	P	5-8	R/R	Sr.	Fountain Inn, S.C./Hillcrest
5	Cagney Davis	OF	5-4	R/R	So.	Bostic, N.C./East Rutherford
6	Sarah Conwell	OF	5-6	R/R	Fr.	Cayce, S.C./Brookland-Cayce
7	Ashton Payne	U	5-6	L/R	Jr.	Richmond, Va./Godwin
8	Cassie Gogreve	C	5-3	R/R	Fr.	South Pasadena, Calif./South Pasadena
9	Krystle Robinson	P	5-8	R/R	R-Fr.	Valdosta, Ga./Lowndes
10	Laura Mendes	U	5-6	L/L	Fr.	Loxahatchee, Fla./Palm Beach Gardens
11	Chrissy Schoonmaker	U	5-7	R/R	R-Sr.	Sebastian, Fla./Sebastian River
12	Lindsay Walker	SS	5-5	R/R	So.	Fayetteville, Ga./Starrs Mill
13	Melissa Hendon	P	5-5	R/R	Sr.	Ringgold, Ga./Chattanooga State
15	Jacqueline Wetherbee	1B	5-10	R/R	Jr.	Acworth, Ga./Harrison
20	Whitney Wierzbicki	OF	5-10	L/R	Sr.	Beaufort, S.C./Battery Creek
22	Becky Martinez	3B	5-6	R/R	Sr.	Weston, Fla./Western
35	Jessica Josker	OF	5-6	L/L	Sr.	San Jacinto, Calif./Hemet
44	Jill Semento	INF	5-6	R/R	Fr.	Umatilla, Fla./Umatilla

Alphabetical Roster

No	Name	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Class	Hometown/Previous School
6	Sarah Conwell	OF	5-6	R/R	Fr.	Cayce, S.C./Brookland-Cayce
5	Cagney Davis	OF	5-4	R/R	So.	Bostic, N.C./East Rutherford
2	P.J. Fulmer	C	5-7	R/R	Fr.	Blythewood, S.C./Spring Valley
8	Cassie Gogreve	C	5-3	R/R	Fr.	South Pasadena, Calif./South Pasadena
13	Melissa Hendon	P	5-5	R/R	Sr.	Ringgold, Ga./Chattanooga State
35	Jessica Josker	OF	5-6	L/L	Sr.	San Jacinto, Calif./Hemet
3	Lisa Longo	U	5-3	R/R	Sr.	Valley Stream, N.Y./Central
22	Becky Martinez	3B	5-6	R/R	Sr.	Weston, Fla./Western
10	Laura Mendes	U	5-6	L/L	Fr.	Loxahatchee, Fla./Palm Beach Gardens
7	Ashton Payne	U	5-6	L/R	Jr.	Richmond, Va./Godwin
4	Kate Pouliot	P	5-8	R/R	Sr.	Fountain Inn, S.C./Hillcrest
9	Krystle Robinson	P	5-8	R/R	R-Fr.	Valdosta, Ga./Lowndes
11	Chrissy Schoonmaker	U	5-7	R/R	R-Sr.	Sebastian, Fla./Sebastian River
44	Jill Semento	INF	5-6	R/R	Fr.	Umatilla, Fla./Umatilla
1	Adele Voigt	OF	5-7	L/R	So.	Dacula, Ga./Dacula
12	Lindsay Walker	SS	5-5	R/R	So.	Fayetteville, Ga./Starrs Mill
15	Jacqueline Wetherbee	1B	5-10	R/R	Jr.	Acworth, Ga./Harrison
20	Whitney Wierzbicki	OF	5-10	L/R	Sr.	Beaufort, S.C./Battery Creek

Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Joyce Compton (Trenton State, 1972) 22nd Year at South Carolina
Assistant Coach	Angela Thompson (Austin Peay, 1995) Eighth Year at South Carolina
Assistant Coach	Adrianna Baggetta (South Carolina, 2002) Sixth Year at South Carolina

Pronunciation Guide

Adrianna BAGGETTABah- GHET -ta
Kate POULIOTPool- YOT
Chrissy SCHOONMAKER SKOON -mak-er
ADELE VOIGTAh- DELL VOYT
Whitney WIERZBICKI WEERZ -bik-ki

Roster by Class

Senior (7): Melissa Hendon, Jessica Josker, Lisa Longo, Becky Martinez, Kate Pouliot, Chrissy Schoonmaker, Whitney Wierzbicki
Junior (2): Ashton Payne, Jacqueline Wetherbee
Sophomore (3): Cagney Davis, Adele Voigt, Lindsay Walker
Freshman (6): Sarah Conwell, P.J. Fulmer, Cassie Gogreve, Laura Mendes, Krystle Robinson, Jill Semento

Roster by Height

5-10	Jacqueline Wetherbee, Whitney Wierzbicki
5-8	Kate Pouliot, Krystal Robinson
5-7	P.J. Fulmer, Chrissy Schoonmaker, Adele Voigt
5-6	Sarah Conwell, Jessica Josker, Becky Martinez, Laura Mendes, Ashton Payne, Jill Semento
5-5	Melissa Hendon, Lindsay Walker
5-4	Cagney Davis
5-3	Cassie Gogreve, Lisa Longo

Roster by State

Georgia (5): Melissa Hendon, Krystle Robinson, Adele Voigt, Lindsay Walker, Jacqueline Wetherbee
Florida (4): Becky Martinez, Laura Mendes, Chrissy Schoonmaker, Jill Semento
South Carolina (4): Sarah Conwell, P.J. Fulmer, Kate Pouliot, Whitney Wierzbicki
California (2): Cassie Gogreve, Jessica Josker
New York (1): Lisa Longo
North Carolina (1): Cagney Davis
Virginia (1): Ashton Payne



Radio/TV Spotting Chart



1 Adele Voigt
L/R - 5-7 - So. - OF
Dacula, Ga.



2 P.J. Fulmer
R/R - 5-7 - Fr. - C
Blythewood, S.C.



3 Lisa Longo
R/R - 5-3 - Sr. - U
Valley Stream, N.Y.



4 Kate Pouliot
R/R - 5-8 - Sr. - P
Fountain Inn, S.C.



5 Cagney Davis
R/R - 5-4 - So. - OF
Bostic, N.C.



6 Sarah Conwell
R/R - 5-6 - Fr. - OF
Cayce, S.C.



7 Ashton Payne
L/R - 5-6 - Jr. - U
Richmond, Va.



8 Cassie Gogreve
R/R - 5-3 - Fr. - P
S. Pasadena, Calif.



9 Krystle Robinson
R/R - 5-8 - R-Fr. - P
Valdosta, Ga.



10 Laura Mendes
L/L - 5-6 - Fr. - U
Loxahatchee, Fla.



11 Chrissy Schoonmaker
R/R - 5-7 - R-Sr. - U
Sebastian, Fla.



12 Lindsay Walker
R/R - 5-5 - So. - SS
Fayetteville, Ga.



13 Melissa Hendon
R/R - 5-5 - Sr. - P
Ringgold, Ga.



15 Jacqueline Wetherbee
R/R - 5-10 - Jr. - 1B
Acworth, Ga.



20 Whitney Wierzbicki
L/R - 5-10 - Sr. - OF
Beaufort, S.C.



22 Becky Martinez
R/R - 5-6 - Sr. - 3B
Weston, Fla.



35 Jessica Josker
L/L - 5-6 - Sr. - OF
San Jacinto, Calif.



44 Jill Semento
R/R - 5-6 - Fr. - IF
Umatilla, Fla.



Joyce Compton
Head Coach
22nd Year



Adrianna Baggetta
Assistant Coach
Sixth Year



Angela Thompson
Assistant Coach
Eighth Year



The South Carolina softball team made large strides in 2007 in becoming a force on the national level again. The Gamecocks rebounded from their first losing season since 1984 to post 38 wins and garner a postseason bid for the first time since 2003. This year's squad hopes to continue its climb up the ladder in the Southeastern Conference and go a step farther in the NCAA Tournament, to the Women's College World Series.

The expectations are high for 2008. Eight starting position players return from last year's group along with an outstanding pitching staff that ranked in the SEC top five in team earned run average a year ago.

Of course, returning players is not enough. The group, led by seven seniors, is hungry to leave behind a storied legacy as the team that turned South Carolina softball back into a player on the national scene.

Catchers

The lineup that NFCA Hall of Fame head coach **Joyce Compton** includes eight returning starters but has one big hole to fill from last season. Gone is catcher McKenna Hughes, who led the squad in home runs and runs batted in during a historic season when she broke the program's career (21) and single-season (11) long-ball marks. Her 38 RBI accounted for 25 percent of the team's output in 2007. Possibilities abound on who could fill that role among the freshmen, but the leading candidates are **P.J. Fulmer, Cassie Gogreve, Laura Mendes** and **Jill Semento**. All four had storied high school careers and could fill in the run-producing gap left behind by Hughes.

Fulmer, Gogreve, Mendes and Semento are all competing to take over Hughes' spot behind the plate. Fulmer, from nearby Blythewood, is a two-time AAAA all-state performer at Spring Valley High School. Gogreve hails from South Pasadena, Calif., where she earned All-Rio Honda League accolades as a junior. Mendes, from the softball hotbed of south Florida, led her Palm Beach Gardens squad to back-to-back state titles while hitting .484 as a senior. Semento, another Florida product, was a first-team Florida Sports Writers Association 3A All-State selection as a junior and senior and hit .609 with 10 doubles, six homers and 27 RBI last year. All four are capable receivers.

Infielders

The Gamecocks return a veteran infield that committed only 17 errors among the returning starters. Senior third baseman **Becky Martinez** and sophomore shortstop **Lindsay Walker** will hold down the left side of the infield. Walker is the second-leading hitter returning, after batting .267 and adding 20 RBI, second-best on the team a year ago. Martinez ranked second on the squad with seven sacrifices while hitting .221 in SEC play.

Jacqueline Wetherbee returns at first base, where she provided perfect defense during the SEC season. Wetherbee also hit three home runs and ranked third on the squad with 18 RBI. The junior could step up and fill in part of Hughes' spot as a middle-of-the-



A solid defensive first baseman, Jacqueline Wetherbee did not commit an error during SEC play as a sophomore in 2007.

lineup threat.

Second base will be the lone spot with competition. **Lisa Longo** held down the keystone for most of the season, but she will be challenged by the returning **Chrissy Schoonmaker**. Both are versatile enough to contribute elsewhere on the diamond. Longo hit .217 during SEC play a year ago, while Schoonmaker could add a little pop to the lineup as well. The redshirt senior, who missed all of the 2007 season with a neck injury, stands tied for 18th on Carolina's all-time home run charts.

Many players are capable of filling in at any spot on the infield. Longo has played some first base, while Schoonmaker has also drawn starts at the hot corner. Junior **Ashton Payne** played some at second base and shortstop a year ago, while Semento could also see some time in the infield.

Outfielders

There will likely be two givens in the Gamecock outfield this spring. Senior **Jessica Josker** and Payne project as starters, though their positions are not set in stone. Payne ranked as Carolina's second-best



Senior outfielder Jessica Josker will start in one of the corner spots in the outfield and should provide a solid bat in the middle of the lineup.

hitter by average with a .308 mark in 2007. Her five triples were the most for a Gamecock since 1999. Josker, meanwhile, will look to regain her earlier form when she hit .363 with three home runs and 26 RBI as a freshman. Josker did rank second on the squad a year ago with 11 doubles and 16 walks. Josker seemed to have found herself at the plate in the NCAA Tournament, hitting .333 with two doubles, three runs and five RBI.

A trio of players could be penciled in for that final spot in the outfield. Sophomore **Adele Voigt** started 63 games last season in left field and could earn the starting spot again. An excellent fielder, she made some highlight-reel catches in 2007.

Senior **Whitney Wierzbicki** could also compete for a spot this season. The slap-hitter from Beaufort, S.C., drew 11 starts last season and will challenge for playing time in center field this year.

Mendes could also get a look in the outfield, either in center or right field.

Sophomore **Cagney Davis** and freshman **Sarah Conwell** adds depth to this group. Davis scored 12 runs in 2007 while being used mainly as a pinch runner. The Cayce, S.C., native Conwell helped Brookland-Cayce to the AAA state title in 2003 and the lower-state crown in 2004.

2008 South Carolina Softball

Pitching

The top two starters from 2007 return for the Gamecocks this season. Seniors **Melissa Hendon** and **Kate Pouliot** pitched well from the circle last year and will get the chance again against some top competition. Hendon was a strikeout machine, mowing down 277 hitters a year ago, ranking fourth in the SEC with that number. That ranked sixth on Carolina's single-season K's chart. Her 265 inning pitched stood third last season in the SEC, but hopes are



After missing most of her true freshman season, Krystle Robinson could be a valuable contributor for Carolina from the circle in 2008.

that she will not have to duplicate her stamina this spring.

Pouliot ranked sixth in the SEC with a 1.48 ERA and held hitters to a .201 batting average, eighth-best in the league in 2007. Pouliot made impressive strides last year and will be given the opportunity to perform and put her name among the program's best in the record books this season.

The pitching load could be shared a third way this season for Carolina. **Krystle Robinson** comes back after an arm injury took her out of action in late February. The Valdosta, Ga., native picked up two wins before the injury put her on the shelf.

The former Georgia AAAAA all-state pitcher could prove valuable for Compton and her staff this spring.

Schedule

The Gamecocks face a tough slate year in and year out, and this is far from an exception. Four SEC squads are ranked among the nation's top 15 to start the season, with three of those in the top 10. Before Carolina gets to the league schedule, however, they will already have been tested. Five of USC's opponents in the first three tournaments are among the preseason top-25. Overall, 18 teams that played in the 2007 NCAA Tournament appear on Carolina's schedule.

The first weekend at the Florida Atlantic Kick-Off Classic will be tough, as No. 12 Michigan looms on the second day. But the Gamecocks cannot look past the host Owls, who they face on Friday night. Joan Joyce's squad has made numerous tourney appearances over the years and won the Sun Belt Conference tournament, just a year before the league qualified for an automatic bid. UMass, last year's Atlantic-10 winner, also takes on Carolina on Saturday.

After a mid-week home opener against Western Carolina, the Gamecocks will head west for the UNLV Louisville Slugger Desert Classic. All five opponents in Sin City made the NCAA Tournament in 2007, including perennial powerhouse and No. 14 UCLA. Saturday's schedule is daunting as well, with a date against No. 5

Oklahoma preceding a rematch of last season's Columbia Regional final competitors Carolina and No. 20 Oregon slated for Feb. 16.

The USF Louisville Slugger Tournament will be challenging as well, as No. 17 Georgia Tech will open the weekend's action for the Gamecocks. Colonial champ Hofstra is also among the opposition for USC in Tampa.

The Garnet and Black host the Carolina Classic to kick off March, as the Gamecocks welcome Gardner-Webb and Bucknell to Beckham Field. A battle for Carolina will be the last test for the Gamecocks prior to the SEC slate, as the team heads to Chapel Hill for a single game against the Tar Heels of North Carolina.

The SEC lid-lifter comes at home for Carolina against Arkansas, while the Gamecocks travel to Georgia for the second weekend of conference play. Defending SEC champ Tennessee comes to Columbia for a mid-week doubleheader before South Carolina heads to the Sunshine State for the third time to face Florida. From Gainesville, the Gamecocks head to Kentucky to battle the Wildcats in a three-game set.

April begins with an out-of-conference battle with the Big South defending champion Winthrop. Auburn comes to Beckham Field for a three-game series, with SEC-TV on hand for the game on April 6. The final mid-week game for Carolina comes in Conway, as the Gamecocks face the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina.

The league slate gets rough for the last four weekends. Mississippi State comes to Columbia to start the final month of action. A trip to Tuscaloosa to battle No. 4 Alabama comes next for the Gamecocks, followed by another trip, this time to Oxford to battle the Rebels of Mississippi. The regular season concludes with a series against No. 9 LSU at the friendly confines of Beckham Field. From there, Carolina will likely go to Baton Rouge, La., for the 2008 SEC Softball Tournament, where the Gamecocks look to capture the crown for a third time.



Shortstop Lindsay Walker had a fine freshman campaign for the Gamecocks. One of only three players in 2007 to start every game, Walker will once again be counted on for quality play in the field and at the plate.