

SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

Carolina Baseball's All-Time Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll Members (since USC joined in 1992)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
Brian Adams.....	1995
James Badolato.....	1994
Joe Biernat.....	1993
Chad Blackwell.....	2004
Steven Bondurant.....	2000, 01, 02, 03
Ryan Bordenick.....	1996-97-98
Kip Bouknight.....	2000, 01
Rico Bravo.....	2000, 01, 02, 03
Billy Buckner.....	2004
Brennan Dees.....	2001, 02
Craig Dour.....	1996-97
Trey Dyson.....	2000, 01, 03
Jeff Easterling.....	1993
Adam Everett.....	1998
Davy Gregg.....	2004
John Gregory.....	2004
Garris Conce.....	2003
Lee Gronkiewicz.....	2001, 02
Oliver Harwas.....	1996
Brian Hucks.....	1995-96
Nate Janowicz.....	2000
Brett Jodie.....	1997-98
Tripp Kelly.....	1999-2000
Brian Kirby.....	1998
Conor Lalor.....	2004
Wally Maynard.....	1993-94-95
Tim McCarty.....	2004
Kevin Melillo.....	2003, 04
Brent Moore.....	1996
Shane Nelson.....	2000
Scott Pace.....	1994
Hank Parks.....	2004
Yaron Peters.....	2003
Jeremy Plexico.....	2000, 01, 02
Chris Plummer.....	2001, 02
Jamie Poston.....	2000
Landon Powell.....	2003, 04
Aaron Rawl.....	2004
Matt Riddle.....	2000, 01, 03
Stacy Stokes.....	1993-94
Rob Streicher.....	1996-97
Ryan Szjwebka.....	1996-97
Steve Thomas.....	2000, 01, 02
Steven Tolleson.....	2004
Bryan Triplett.....	2004
Rob Watson.....	1995-96-97
Mac White.....	1993-94
Matt Wilson.....	1999, 2000, 01, 02

Carolina Baseball on the 2003-2004 Dean's List



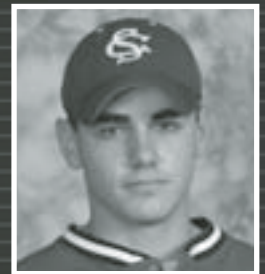
Andrew Cruse



Phil Disher



Davy Gregg



John Gregory



Conor Lalor



Dan Luczak



Landon Powell



Aaron Rawl



Steven Reinhold



Steven Tolleson

Baseball 2005

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Athletics Director Dr. Mike McGee		
Athletic Administration		
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Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn		
Florida, Georgia, Kentucky		
LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State		
Tennessee, Vanderbilt		
Brown, Charleston Southern, The Citadel		
Clemson, Davidson, Furman		
Longwood, Minnesota, New Orleans		
Niagara, Pepperdine, Radford		
Wofford & Series Records		
Series Records		

Credits

The 2005 South Carolina baseball media guide is a publication of the USC Sports Information Office. Written and edited by Tom Price and Andrew Kitick. Composition and design by Cindy Baldwin. Special thanks to head coach Ray Tanner and associate head coach Jim Toman. The guide was produced using In-Design and Photoshop 7.0. Printed by Professional Printers of West Columbia, S.C.

Individual mug shots by Jason Ayer. Action photos by Allen Sharpe and Paul Collins. 2004 College World Series Photos by Mark Johnson. Other photos from USC Sports Information files. Special thanks to MLB teams for use of professional players photos.

The University of South Carolina offers equal opportunity in its employment and educational activities in compliance with Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other civil rights laws.

If you require special accommodations, please contact the Gamecock Athletics Ticket Office at (803) 777-4274.



South Carolina

Media Services

At home and on the road, statistics and notes will be provided in the press box. Complete box scores will be available shortly after each contest. A game story and line score following each game will be faxed and e-mailed to the Associated Press, South Carolina daily newspapers, and visiting team outlets as requested. Scores will be reported to area broadcast outlets and *USA Today*.

Two telephones, one equipped with a fax machine, are available on the print media level of the press box. Fax service is provided free of charge and the telephones are available for filing after home games.

Updated SEC and other scores of interest are provided throughout home games.

Credentials

Accredited news media are admitted on a pass list basis through the breezeway entrance (between the Roost and the George Terry Spring Sports Building) on the first base side of Sarge Frye Field. Personnel assigned to cover games should contact Andrew Kitick at least one day before the game.

Parking

There is no reserved media parking for regular season home games but there is parking available in the Roost lot near the breezeway entrance (off Heyward Street). For SEC and Clemson games, media are advised to arrive early.

Radio

Gamecock Sports Properties, a partnership between the University of South Carolina Athletic Department and two of the country's leaders in the collegiate sports marketing industry, ISP Sports and Learfield Communications, Inc., is the originating medium for radio coverage of the 2005 Carolina baseball games. The Gamecock Radio Network occupies the booth at the far right (facing the field) of the upper level of the press box. Visiting radio occupies the space at the far left with the center area reserved for television. The University of South Carolina provides two telephone lines at the visitors' radio position and two at the home section. Anyone who needs special assistance with phone lines may call Scott Powers at (803) 777-7895.

Interviews

Coach Ray Tanner, his staff, and all Gamecock players are available for media interviews, print and electronic. It is requested that all interviews be arranged through Andrew Kitick in the sports information office. Post game interviews are conducted on the field. Interviews between games of doubleheaders are not permitted.

Key Phone Numbers

Sports Information Office.....	(803) 777-5204
Sports Information Fax.....	777-2967
Broadcast Level (Lower).....	777-6648
.....	777-6691
Broadcast Level (Home).....	777-6614
Broadcast Level (Visitors).....	777-6665
.....	777-9029
Andrew Kitick's Home.....	240-4150
Andrew Kitick's Office.....	777-5257
Tom Price's Home.....	787-2395
Baseball Office.....	777-1704
Baseball Coaches Locker Room.....	777-3864
Baseball Training Room.....	777-7100
Ticket Office.....	777-4274

BASEBALL CONTACTS



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Mark Haselden (mhaselden@florencenews.com), Asst. Sports Editor, <i>The Morning News</i> , P.O. Box 100528, Florence, SC 29501	(843) 317-7271	317-7292
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Travis Haney (thaney@hotmail.com), <i>Augusta Chronicle-Herald</i> , P.O. Box 2507, Anderson, SC 29622	(864) 224-4321	260-1276
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Paul Strelow (paul.strelow@shj.com), <i>The Herald-Journal</i> , P.O. Box 1657, Spartanburg, SC 29304	(864) 582-5673	594-6350
Steve Wiseman (swiseman@thestate.com), <i>The State</i> , P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202	(803) 771-8470	771-8613

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Tim Hill (thill@fox18wccb.com), <i>WOLO-TV</i> , Box 4217, Columbia, SC 29204	(803) 754-7525	691-4015
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Bob Shields (sports@wltx.com), <i>WLTX-TV</i> , P.O. Drawer M, Columbia, SC 29205	(803) 776-9508	783-2971

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Christopher Thompson (tophsports@aol.com), Sports Director <i>WVOC</i> , P.O. Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29221	(803) 343-1102	256-5255
Mike Morgan (kramermm@aol.com), <i>WISW-AM Radio</i> , P.O. Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29221	(803) 796-9975	407-2409
Lane Wofford (cheapseats1400@hotmail.com), <i>WCOS-AM Radio</i> , P.O. Box 21567, Columbia, SC 29221	(803) 343-1100	256-5255

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Will Kimmey (willkimmey@baseballamerica.com), <i>Baseball America</i> , P.O. Box 2089, Durham, NC 27702	1-800-845-2726	682-2880
Lou Pavlovich (lou@baseballnews.com), <i>Collegiate Baseball</i> , P.O. Box 50566, Tucson, AZ 85703	(520) 623-7815	624-5501

Baseball 2005

2005 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

11	LONGWOOD.....	3 pm
12	LONGWOOD.....	1:30 pm
13	LONGWOOD.....	1:30 pm
18	RADFORD	3 pm
19	RADFORD	1:30 pm
20	RADFORD	1:30 pm
25	NIAGARA.....	3 pm
26	NIAGARA.....	1:30 pm
27	NIAGARA.....	1:30 pm

MARCH

2	WOFFORD	7 pm
4-6	at Dairy Queen Classic (Minneapolis, Minn.)	
4	vs. Pepperdine.....	1:15 pm
5	at Minnesota.....	7:30 pm
6	vs. New Orleans.....	12 pm
9	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN ...	7 pm
12	at Clemson	2 pm
13	CLEMSON.....	1:30 pm
16	at Wofford	7 pm
18	ARKANSAS*.....	7 pm
19	ARKANSAS*.....	4 pm
20	ARKANSAS*.....	1:30 pm
23	DAVIDSON.....	7 pm
25	at Florida*.....	6:30 pm
26	at Florida*.....	4 pm
27	at Florida*.....	1 pm
29	Brown	7 pm
30	at The Citadel	7 pm

APRIL

1	GEORGIA*.....	7 pm
2	GEORGIA*.....	4 pm
3	GEORGIA*.....	1:30 pm
6	THE CITADEL.....	7 pm
8	at LSU*.....	7:30 pm
9	at LSU*.....	3 pm
10	at LSU*.....	1 pm
13	at Clemson*.....	7:15 pm
15	VANDERBILT*.....	7 pm
16	VANDERBILT*.....	4 pm
17	VANDERBILT*.....	1:30 pm
20	CLEMSON.....	7 pm
22	at Alabama*.....	7:30 pm
23	at Alabama*.....	4 pm
24	at Alabama*.....	3 pm
29	AUBURN*.....	7 pm
30	AUBURN*.....	4 pm

MAY

1	AUBURN*.....	1:30 pm
4	at Furman	7 pm
6	at Tennessee*.....	7 pm
7	at Tennessee*.....	4 pm
8	at Tennessee*.....	2 pm
10	WOFFORD	7 pm
11	FURMAN	7 pm
13	at Ole Miss*.....	7:30 pm
14	at Ole Miss*.....	5 pm
15	at Ole Miss*.....	2:30 pm
20	KENTUCKY*.....	7 pm
21	KENTUCKY*.....	4 pm
22	KENTUCKY*.....	1:30 pm
25-29	at SEC Baseball Tournament (Hoover, Ala.)	

JUNE

3-5 at NCAA Regionals
 10-12 at NCAA Super Regionals
 17-27 at College World Series

*Denotes SEC Game All Times Eastern

2005 GAMECOCK TRAVEL PLANS

MARCH 4-6

DAIRY QUEEN CLASSIC

Depart Thursday, March 3 by commercial plane. Return to Columbia after Sunday game, March 6.

Hotel:

Four Points Sheraton MN
 1330 Industrial Blvd.
 Minneapolis, MN 55413

Telephone: (612) 331-1900

MARCH 12

CLEMSON

Depart Friday, March 11 for Clemson, S.C., by chartered bus. Return to Columbia after Saturday game, March 12.

Hotel:

Hampton Inn Anderson
 120 Interstate Blvd.
 Anderson, SC 29621

Telephone: (864) 375-1999

MARCH 25-27

FLORIDA

Depart Thursday, March 24 for Gainesville, Fla., by chartered bus. Return to Columbia after Sunday game, March 27.

Hotel:

Hilton University of Florida
 1714 SW 34th Street
 Gainesville, FL 32607

Telephone: (352) 371-3600

APRIL 8-10

LSU

Depart Thursday, April 7 for Baton Rouge, La., by commercial plane. Return to Columbia after Sunday game, April 10.

Hotel:

Marriott Baton Rouge
 5500 Hilton Avenue
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Telephone: (225) 924-5000

APRIL 22-24

ALABAMA

Depart Thursday April 21 for Tuscaloosa, Ala., by chartered bus. Return to Columbia after Sunday game, April 24.

Hotel:

Courtyard by Marriott
 4115 Courtney Drive
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Telephone: (205) 750-8384

MAY 6-8

TENNESSEE

Depart Thursday, May 5 for Knoxville, Tenn., by chartered bus. Return to Columbia after Sunday game, May 8.

Hotel:

Radisson Summit Hill Knoxville
 401 Summit Hill Drive
 Knoxville, TN 37902

Telephone: (865) 522-2600

MAY 13-15

OLE MISS

Depart Thursday, May 12 for Oxford, Miss., by chartered bus. Return to Columbia after Sunday game, May 15.

Hotel:

Downtown Inn
 400 North Lamar Blvd.
 Oxford, MS 38655

Telephone: (662) 234-3031



South Carolina

The Gamecock Baseball Radio Network

Gamecock Sports Properties, a partnership between the University of South Carolina Athletic Department and two of the country's leaders in the collegiate sports marketing industry, ISP Sports and Learfield Communications, Inc., is the originating medium for radio coverage of the 2004 Carolina baseball games.



Mike Morgan

WISW (1320 AM) in Columbia will be the flagship station for originations of 34 regular season games plus all post-season play. The schedule will include 30 SEC games and the four game set with Clemson.

All games will be carried by WISW and a network of other South Carolina stations. In addition, WOMG (103.1 FM) will broadcast the four games with Clemson and all Friday night SEC games. Games can also be heard on www.uscsports.com.

Mike Morgan enters his sixth year as the voice of Carolina Baseball on the Gamecocks Baseball Radio Network. Morgan also serves as the radio play-by-play announcer for the USC Men's Basketball team and the television announcer for the Gamecock football.

In addition, Morgan co-hosts "PrimeTime Sports" on News/Talk WIS (1320 AM), Monday-Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m., as well as "Carolina Calls" featuring Gamecock coaches.

Tommy Moody, also in his sixth year, will again join Morgan as analyst for the home games with Tom Price joining Morgan on road games.

Before coming to Columbia, Morgan performed various play-by-play stints for football, basketball and baseball in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. He also performed play-by-play for the single-A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, the Columbus Redstixx, for two seasons. Morgan has been called upon to broadcast college and minor league baseball for television outfits including CSS as well.

As the voice of the Gamecocks, Morgan has called 14 College World Series games from Omaha including the National Championship game in 2002.



Network Affiliates (as of 12/5/2004)

Abbeville.....	WZLA	92.9....	FM
Allendale.....	WDOG	93.5....	FM
Charleston	WTMZ	910....	AM
Columbia	WISW	1320....	AM
Florence	WWFN	100.1....	FM
Greenwood	WLMA	1350....	AM
Manning.....	WYMB	920....	AM
Newberry	WKDK	1240....	AM

Some stations will carry a partial schedule. All Gamecock broadcasts can be heard on the internet (www.uscsports.com).

This season two South Carolina baseball games will be televised on Fox Sports Net South as the SEC Game of the Week. Carolina's game vs. Georgia on April 2 will be broadcast at 4 p.m. ET and South Carolina's road game at Alabama on April 23 will be broadcast at 4 p.m. ET.

2005 RADIO SCHEDULE

March		
12 Sat.	at Clemson	1:50 pm
13 Sun.	Clemson	1:20 pm
18 Fri.	Arkansas*	6:50 pm
19 Sat.	Arkansas*	3:50 pm
20 Sun.	Arkansas*	1:20 pm
25 Fri.	at Florida*	6:20 pm
26 Sat.	at Florida*	3:50 pm
27 Sun.	at Florida*	12:50 pm

April		
1 Fri.	Georgia*	6:50 pm
2 Sat.	Georgia*	3:50 pm
3 Sun.	Georgia*	1:20 pm
8 Fri.	at LSU*	7:20 pm
9 Sat.	at LSU*	2:50 pm
10 Sun.	at LSU*	12:50 pm
13 Wed.	at Clemson	7:05 pm
15 Fri.	Vanderbilt*	6:50 pm
16 Sat.	Vanderbilt*	3:50 pm
17 Sun.	Vanderbilt*	1:20 pm
20 Wed.	Clemson	6:50 pm
22 Fri.	at Alabama*	7:20 pm
23 Sat.	at Alabama*	3:50 pm
24 Sun.	at Alabama*	2:50 pm
29 Fri.	Auburn*	6:50 pm
30 Sat.	Auburn*	3:50 pm

May		
1 Sun.	Auburn*	1:20 pm
6 Fri.	at Tennessee*	6:50 pm
7 Sat.	at Tennessee*	6:50 pm
8 Sun.	at Tennessee*	1:50 pm
13 Fri.	at Ole Miss*	7:20 pm
14 Sat.	at Ole Miss*	4:50 pm
15 Sun.	at Ole Miss*	2:20 pm
20 Fri.	Kentucky*	6:50 pm
21 Sat.	Kentucky*	3:50 pm
22 Sun.	Kentucky*	1:20 pm
25-29	SEC Tournament (at Hoover, AL)	TBA

June		
3-5	NCAA Regionals (Site TBA)	
10-12	NCAA Super Regional (Site TBA)	TBA
17-27	College World Series (at Omaha, NE)	TBA

***Denotes SEC Game
All Times Eastern**

Carolina Quick Facts

President: Dr. Andrew Sorensen
Director of Athletics: Dr. Mike McGee
Location: Columbia, S.C. (State capital, metropolitan population, 430,000)
Mailing Address: Rex Enright Athletic Center; 1300 Rosewood Drive, University of South Carolina; Columbia, SC 29208
Founded: 1801
Enrollment: 23,700
Nickname: Gamecocks
Colors: Garnet (PMS 201) and Black
Faculty Representative: Dr. Russ Pate
Senior Associate AD/Senior Women's Athletic Administrator: Val Sheley

Senior Associate AD/Business and Development: Brad Edwards
Senior Associate AD/Admin.: Shawn Eichorst
Senior Associate AD/Ticket Operations: Chris Massaro
Associate AD/Gamecock Club Director: Jeff Barber
Associate AD/Facilities: Jeff Davis
Associate AD/Media Relations/SID: Kerry Tharp
Associate AD/Assistant SWA: Kim Abbott
Assistant AD/Event Management: Shawn Burke
Assistant AD/Ticket Manager: Julius Grant

Assistant AD/Compliance: Marlynn Jones
Assistant AD/Sports Medicine: Rod Walters
Assistant AD/Director of Planning and Special Projects: Michelle Schmitt
Assistant Sports Information Directors: Andrew Kitick, Gavin Lang, Noelle Orr and Ayanna Wakefield
Gamecock Historian: Tom Price

Baseball 2005

GAMECOCKS RELOAD FOR 2005 SEASON

Six members of South Carolina's 53-17 College World Series team of 2004 are now playing professional baseball but a solid nucleus of veterans return and Coach Ray Tanner has reloaded for perhaps a fourth consecutive trip to Omaha.

Over the past five seasons South Carolina has won more games (260) than any other NCAA Division I program and Tanner believes the ingredients are in place for another run at national honors.

"We have expectations," he began in analyzing prospects for the coming season. "There is no secret that a national championship is our ultimate goal."

The three previous seasons the Gamecocks came close. Last year's team won the Southeastern Conference tournament and finished third at Omaha. The Gamecocks were sixth in 2003 and second to Texas in 2002.

"I feel good," Tanner said of South Carolina's chances in 2005. "Our offense, defense and pitching staff are somewhat experienced. We need to prove we can continue to compete with the best in the country. Our fans, coaches and players have expectations. We are all on the same track."

Expanding on his view of the future, Tanner said "players that have been associated with this program and our fans are really proud of the consistency we have been able to achieve. We have been a nationally competitive program but we still want to win a national championship. In 2002 we played on the last day of the season and that was a very special feeling. You want to play on the last day and you want to win the last game. That is our ultimate goal."

PITCHING STAFF

Six veteran pitchers return. In 2004 they combined for 32 wins, led by senior right-hander Aaron Rawl who led the team with a 13-4 record and is currently 10th on the all time career list with 26 wins over the past three seasons. Rawl was voted the most outstanding pitcher in 2004 and is one of three team captains for the 2005 season.

"Rawl is the epitome of what you want from an upper classman," said Tanner. "He's been good since he got here."

Two other senior right-handers, Zac McCamie (7-0) and Jason Fletcher (6-1) combined to equal Rawl's 13 wins. Cliff Donald is a senior right-hander who has appeared in 47 games, mostly in relief, over three seasons. Donald was 2-0 in 2004 and has valuable experience under pressure, having pitched in College World Series games three consecutive seasons.

Sophomore left-hander Arik Hempy contributed as a freshman with a 3-1 record. His victories included two in relief over SEC rival Florida and a complete game shutout start 3-0 win over Ole Miss. Hempy rehabilitated

a tender arm and didn't pitch in the fall.

Sophomore right-hander Harris Honeycutt (1-0) had a big win over North Carolina and appeared in 10 games as a freshman. Tanner says he will be "fighting for time" this spring.

Two pitchers who were highly regarded freshmen two years ago missed the 2004 season rehabbing from Tommy John surgery. Tanner hopes right-hander Conor Lalor and left-hander Forrest Beverly will challenge for spots in the rotation by mid-season.

Lalor was undefeated in 2003 with a 5-0 record and 2.90 earned run average in 40 1/3 innings. Beverly was 0-2, 4.91 in 14 2/3 innings before injury shut him down. Lalor did not pitch during fall intrasquad games and Beverly worked briefly (3 1/3 innings, 2.70 ERA).

Junior left-hander John Gregory had a "pretty good" fall practice (12 IP, 3.00 ERA) and could help out of the bullpen.

Several promising newcomers from the junior college and high school ranks will compete with the veterans for innings.

Brent Marsh is a submariner (side arm delivery) from junior college who may become the appearance leader out of the bullpen. One of the biggest projects for new pitching coach Mark Calvi is developing a closer to replace national saves leader Chad Blackwell.

Andy Lambert pitched 13 innings in fall intrasquad games without allowing an earned run. He gave up 11 hits, struck out 9 and walked 3. Lambert had surgery and was a redshirt last season.

"He can make an impact for us this spring," Tanner believes.

Tanner believes his top freshman arm may belong to right-hander Wynn Pelzer from Holly Hill Roberts High School, saying he will "battle for a starting role." Other freshman prospects include left-handers Craig Thomas and Brandon White and right-hander Trey Delk.

Tanner said Pelzer "is a special talent and we want to get him some work as a freshman."

Three pitchers with 21 wins were lost from the 2004 team. Left-hander Matt Campbell (10-6, 3.05, 145 SO, 124 IP) was drafted in the first round. Right-hander Billy Buckner (7-2, 3.32, 105 SO, 84 IP) went in the second round. Chad Blackwell (4-3, 2.57, 80 SO, 63 IP, nation's saves leader with 20) was drafted in the sixth round.

CATCHER

Perhaps the most difficult replacement from 2004 will be at the catcher's position where All-American Landon Powell was behind the plate in every game over the past three seasons and departed as the most valuable 2004 player. Powell was drafted in the first round by the Oakland Athletics. He played a school record 265 games over four seasons

with .306-44-193 career numbers.

Nevertheless Tanner feels good about the catching position with four candidates, perhaps five, for the job.

Sophomore Ryan Mahoney backed up Powell last year and caught briefly in six games with one start. He became the left-handed designated hitter the second half of the season and Tanner says Mahoney has "proved he is good offensively." In 105 at bats he was .257-2-14.

Phil Disher is a redshirt freshman who "has made good strides" and could vie for the designated hitter role if he doesn't win the catcher's job. Ian Paxton and Cory Vanderhook are two junior college catchers. Tanner says Vanderhook, a switch hitter, has offensive potential and is a solid catcher.

A possibility for occasional duty behind the plate is senior Steve Pearce, last year's triple-crown winner. Pearce is slated to move from first to third base but also has some experience as a catcher. He led last year's team in batting average, home runs and runs batted in and didn't make an error in 50 games at first base. He also played third base in 21 games.

"Ian Paxton bats right and Cory Vanderhook is a switch hitter. Ian played a little better defensively (in the fall) and Cory hit a little better. I'm pleased with them," Tanner said. Mahoney is coming off arm surgery but is expected to be 100 percent when the season opens.

Mahoney "got some big hits for us" as last year's DH, Tanner remembered.

FIRST BASE

With Pearce moving to third junior college newcomer Neil Geisler looks to take over at first base. Tanner describes him as "a pure hitter" and at six feet five inches "a better target for our infielders."

Geisler throws right but bats left and hit above .400 two consecutive seasons at Okaloosa-Walton Community College. He was .417-6-43 as a freshman and .432-8-32 his sophomore season.

SECOND BASE

Tommy King (.235-2-8) played in 35 games as a freshman, 27 at second base, mostly when Kevin Melillo was injured, and is the most experienced candidate. King was off to a .440 start with 11 hits in his first 25 at bats last year but sprained an ankle in the second Clemson game and was sidelined for several weeks. Tanner said King "gained some valuable experience and has the edge at second base."

He adds that King "has the quickest pivot on the double play of any second baseman I have coached."

Chris Brown also figures in plans at second base. Brown batted .333-2-8 in intrasquad games and was voted newcomer of the fall.

South Carolina

Of Brown, Tanner says "I like this kid. He's a baseball player."

Melillo (.300-9-36) was drafted in the fifth round. In three seasons he hit .301-24-94 as a Gamecock.

THIRD BASE

Steve Pearce played 21 games at third base last year when departed Bryan Triplett moved to shortstop as injuries forced Tanner to play musical infielders. That experience should prove invaluable as the former record setting first baseman moves full time to the hot corner. A 10th round draft pick by the Boston Red Sox, Pearce spurned professional baseball to return for his senior season.

In two seasons as a Gamecock Triplett hit .291-15-86. He was drafted in the 12th round.

SHORTSTOP

Junior shortstop Steven Tolleson figures to be the only infielder starting at the same position that he manned in 2004. Tolleson broke into the starting lineup as a freshman right fielder in 2003 but took over the shortstop spot last year. He missed 18 games with a leg injury but started 51 at short and hit .316-4-25 and emerged as the team's most productive clutch hitter. Tolleson is one of three team captains, and the only non-senior captain, for 2005.

Joey Friddle, from junior college, is a speedster who will back up Tolleson and can also play other infield positions and the outfield. He stole eight bases in fall intrasquad games. Freshman Andrew Crisp is also a candidate at shortstop.

OUTFIELD

The starting outfield returns intact from 2004 and all three batted above .300 last year.

Junior left fielder Michael Campbell was .312-14-52 as a sophomore. Junior center fielder Davy Gregg was .325-0-26 and led the team in stolen bases with 14. Senior right fielder Brendan Winn was .305-19-69 and is one of the three 2005 captains. Winn was drafted in the 31st round by the Boston Red Sox but chose to return for his senior collegiate season.

Campbell underwent surgery to relieve a blood clot in his right (non-throwing) shoulder and took it easy in fall practice but should be full speed this spring. Tanner may flip flop Campbell and Gregg, possibly moving Campbell to center field and Gregg to left.

"I think Michael may see balls in front of him a little better than Davy does," Tanner said. "They are both plus outfielders and we'll be fine either way."

Campbell committed only one error in 70 games last year and led the team in outfield assists for the second consecutive season with six. He had nine assists as a freshman, one shy

of the school record for an outfielder.

While the starting outfield is stocked with veterans there are others waiting in the wings. Sophomore Steven Reinhold (.190-1-3) and junior Mark Stanley (.217-1-6) gained experience as reserves last year. Reinhold was often used as a pinch runner and stole five bases in five attempts. When Gregg was injured in the NCAA regional Stanley replaced him and made the all-tournament team.

Tanner said Stanley "seems to be our top replacement outfielder."

Chris Warner is a freshman outfielder who broke most of the offensive records set at Orchard Park, NY high school by former Gamecock (1985-87) and major league star Dave Hollins. A 6-3, 185 pound left-hander, Warner figures to start his collegiate career as a backup in the outfield and possibly at first base.

Jon Willard is another outfield candidate for the Gamecocks. He is described by Tanner as "a pretty good hitter, maybe a DH."

Infield candidate Joey Friddle can also play the outfield.

STAFF

One of the keys to Tanner's success has been continuity on his coaching staff but he lost long time pitching coach Jerry Meyers who was named head coach at Old Dominion University. Meyers and associate head coach and recruiting coordinator Jim Toman served Tanner throughout the first eight years of his Carolina tenure and Monte Lee is in his third year on the staff.

"We were fortunate in being able to keep our staff together as long as we did and I think that is very important," Tanner said. He tapped Florida International University pitching Coach Mark Calvi as Meyers' replacement.

In 11 seasons at Florida International Calvi

developed pitching staffs that finished among the nation's top 10 in earned run average five times. FIU went to the NCAA playoffs seven times and Calvi's 1998 staff led the nation in strikeouts with 675.

"He comes with great credentials and is also a great recruiter."

SCHEDULE

The 56 game schedule includes the usual 30 games in the Southeastern Conference which last year sent nine of its 12 members to the NCAA tournament with four of them advancing to comprise half the field in the College World Series. The Gamecocks meet all of the SEC members except Mississippi State.

The non-conference schedule features an early March trip to Minneapolis for three games in the Metrodome in the Dairy Queen Classic. Carolina will take on Pepperdine, Minnesota and New Orleans in the three-day event.

There is the usual three game series with Clemson. The February schedule includes three game series with Longwood, Radford and Niagara.

There are two home games and one away with Wofford, home and home with Furman and The Citadel and single home games with Charleston Southern, Brown and Davidson.

The SEC tournament begins May 25 at Hoover, AL, NCAA regionals are scheduled for June 3-5, super regionals June 10-12, and the College World Series dates in Omaha are June 17-27.

