

Introduction

Jenna Pearson

Senior • Wheaton, Ill.



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Taylor Barrett



Arliss Hoy



Camila Mori



Jenna Pearson



Laura Raffo



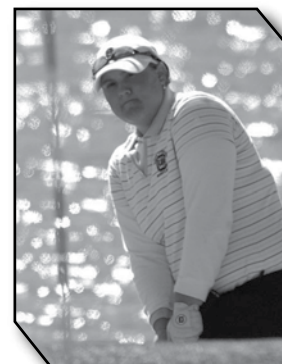
Whitney Simons



Meredith Taylor



Bénédicte Toumpsin



Blythe Worley

2006-07 South Carolina Women's Golf Media Guide

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EXPECTING EXCELLENCE IN 2006-07

With a core group of experienced veterans mixed with an up-and-coming batch of underclassmen, the South Carolina women's golf team will be one to watch in 2006-07.

E3. It looks simple -- maybe even a little strange -- but for the South Carolina women's golf team, it means everything as the Gamecocks head into the 2006-07 season.

Expect excellence everyday. Under 13th-year head coach **Kristi Coggins**, the Gamecocks have not only expected excellence in recent years, but have achieved excellence, winning the NGCA All-Scholar Team GPA Award in both 2005 and 2006 for posting the highest team grade point average in the nation both years. Former Carolina standouts **Adrienne Gautreaux** and **Erica Battle** are two of the three most recent winners of the LPGA Foundation's prestigious Dinah Shore Trophy, which recognizes the top women's collegiate golfer in the nation who combines success on the golf course with success in the classroom, service to the community and extraordinary leadership. Gautreaux won the award in 2004, with Battle earning the recognition in 2006. **Whitney Simons** was honored as the 2006 Southeastern Conference Women's Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

So what does the 2006-07 season have in store? "I expect this team to be very competitive in what will be one of the toughest tournament schedules in the country," Coggins said. "Through regular-season tournament successes, I am confident that this team can emerge as a favorite contender for the SEC title and a top NCAA Championship finish."

For the Gamecocks to achieve that kind of success, they will need a strong showing from veterans **Jenna Pearson** and **Whitney Simons**. The lone senior on the roster, Pearson has been a mainstay for Carolina throughout her career, appearing in every tournament for the Gamecocks in the last two years. A player with professional potential, Pearson has the ability to do great things, evidenced by the fact that she posted two top-10 finishes as a junior in 2005-06 and has fired a round as low as 69 during her Carolina career. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that she finished seventh at the 2006 SEC Championship with a 75-74-72=221.

"Jenna is very driven to play in the LPGA," Coggins said. "She is a strong ball striker with a work ethic for success."

As for Simons, the reigning SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year led the team a year ago with a 75.90 stroke average and was ranked among the top 100 players in the nation according to the Golfweek rankings late in the season. Simons also bagged a pair of top-10 finishes a year ago and figures to be a

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key player again this year. She finished 16th at last year's SEC Championship.

"Whitney is a true competitor with the confidence to play against anyone," Coggins said.

Beyond Pearson and Simons, Coggins will need a couple other players to step up this year if the Gamecocks are to challenge for SEC supremacy. Among the most likely candidates to fill that role are freshman **Bénédicte Toumpsin** and juniors **Camila Mori**, **Blythe Worley** and **Laura Raffo**.

Though Toumpsin may not have any collegiate experience, she is no stranger to major events, where she has enjoyed a good deal of success as a junior player. Included on Toumpsin's résumé is an appearance in the 2005 Ping Junior Solheim Cup (top juniors in Europe vs. the top juniors in the USA), a win at the 2005 Belgian Master's and a win at the International Junior Ladies of Sweden. She won more than 10 tournaments as a junior and was the No. 1 ranked player in the Belgian Women's Rankings. A member of the Belgian National Team since she was 13 years old, Toumpsin was twice selected as the Belgian Player of the Year for her age group, earning the honor in 2002 and 2006.

"Bénédicte brings a level of competition experience and success among the best in the country for all NCAA incoming freshmen," Coggins said. "She has a strong overall game with great course management skills."

Worley and Raffo have both seen significant action during their respective careers at Carolina, but are looking to break through in 2006-07. Worley finished strong last year, posting a 74.00 stroke average in her final two rounds at the SEC Championship and her three rounds played at the NCAA East Regional Championship. In fact, Worley was Carolina's top finisher at the East Regional. Raffo, who is at her best when it comes to her short game, was the top-ranked collegiate player in the nation in terms of short game in 2005-06. If she can blend her complete game with her success around the green, she can be a player who fires low scores with some regularity.

Mori, who transferred to Carolina a year ago after earning Atlantic Sun Freshman of the Year honors at Campbell University in 2005, competed in six tournaments for the Gamecocks as a sophomore, posting a 77.72 stroke average.

"Camila is a talented and determined player with all the tools to make it to the next level," Coggins said.

Though Toumpsin should command a good deal of attention, she is not the only freshman who figures to see action in 2006-07, as **Taylor Barrett** can also work her way into the lineup. The Beth Daniel Award Winner as the top prep golfer in the state of South Carolina, Barrett comes to Carolina as a back-to-back state champion and winner of 14 junior tournaments.

"Taylor has solid experience of winning," Coggins said. "She is a confident player that should make an immediate impact as a freshman."

Fellow freshman **Ariss Hoy** is a native of San Antonio, Texas, where she was a two-time city and district champion. Coggins points out her natural ability as one of her biggest strengths and said that she has an outstanding feel for the game.

An interesting player to watch will be redshirt freshman **Meredith Taylor**. A native of nearby Lexington, S.C., Taylor hits the ball as long as any player on the team. She came to South Carolina in 2004 but was forced to sit out due to injury.

Multiple knee surgeries in 2005 sidelined her again, but she is healthy and is expected to see some action in 2006-07.

"Meredith is a long ball striker with the heart and drive of a winner," Coggins said.

As has become the norm under Coggins, the Gamecocks once again will face one of the most difficult schedules in the nation.

"Our past successes afford us the opportunity to compete at the highest level in every event we enter," Coggins said. "I take pride in giving our Gamecock players the opportunity to compete against the best. After all, to be the best, you have to play the best."

Coggins said steady play at a high level will go a long way in determining the Gamecocks' fortunes in 2006-07.

"The biggest key for us will be consistency in low scoring for the four counter scores every day," Coggins said. "We need to show growth and maturity in expecting excellence every day...E3. We have to stay in each shot every day we compete and practice as to not make one shot, round or tournament more important than another. Continued short game improvement will be a factor and of course, like all champions...more good kicks than bad!"



Whitney Simons

Top Row (L-R)

Camila Mori, Laura Raffo, Jenna Pearson, Taylor Barrett, Arliss Hoy

Bottom Row (L-R)

Bénédicte Toumpsin, Meredith Taylor, Blythe Worley, Whitney Simons



South Carolina Quick Facts

GENERAL INFORMATION

University of South Carolina
 Nickname: Gamecocks
 Location (City, State): Columbia, S.C.
 Conference: Southeastern
 Year School Founded: 1801
 Enrollment: 27,065
 Colors: Garnet and Black
 President: Dr. Andrew Sorensen
 Athletics Director: Eric Hyman
 Home Course: University Club at Cobblestone Park

WOMEN'S GOLF STAFF

Head Coach: Kristi Coggins
 Alma Mater, Year: Southwest Texas State, 1984
 Years as Coach at School: 13th year
 Assistant: Marci Kornegay
 Alma Mater, Year: Ole Miss, 2001
 Years as Coach at School: Third Year

TEAM INFORMATION

2006 Conference Finish: Eighth
 2006 NCAA Finish: N/A
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 5/2

MEDIA INFORMATION

Golf SID: Gavin Lang
 SID Phone: 803-777-7743
 SID Email: glang@gwm.sc.edu
 Website: uscsports.com

2006-07 South Carolina Women's Golf Roster

Name	Class	Hometown/Previous School
Taylor Barrett	FR	York, S.C./York Comprehensive
Arliss Hoy	FR	San Antonio, Texas/Judson
Camila Mori	JR	Santiago, Chile/Campbell University
Jenna Pearson	SR	Wheaton, IL/Wheaton Warrenville South
Laura Raffo	JR	Rio Cuarto, Argentina
Whitney Simons	JR	Aiken, S.C./Aiken
Meredith Taylor	RS FR	Lexington, S.C./Lexington
Bénédicte Toumpsin	FR	Sombreffe, Belgium
Blythe Worley	JR	Greenville, N.C./J.H. Rose

Coaches

Kristi Coggins - Head Coach
 Marci Kornegay - Assistant Coach
 Clarissa Childs - Volunteer Assistant Coach

2006-07 South Carolina Women's Golf Schedule

Sept. 11-12	Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational	Albuquerque, N.M.
Oct. 6-8	Lady Tar Heel Invitational	Chapel Hill, N.C.
Oct. 27-29	The Derby Invitational	Auburn, Ala.
Nov. 3-5	NGCA Match Play Championships	Orlando, Fla.
Feb. 23-25	Lady Puerto Rico Classic	San Juan, Puerto Rico
March 9-11	The "Mo" Morial Invitational	Bryan, Texas
March 16-18	LSU Cleveland Classic	Baton Rouge, La.
March 23-25	Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic	Athens, Ga.
April 6-8	Bryan National Collegiate	Browns Summit, N.C.
April 20-22	SEC Championship	West Point, Miss.