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### CDENITO

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Also special thanks to the late Tom Price for his tireless efforts in research over the years that have made this guide possible.

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Special thanks to MLB organizations for use of professional players' photos.

# **QUICK FACTS**

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Location	Columbia, S.C.
Enrollment	25,077
	1801
University President	Dr. Harris Pastides
	Eric Hyman
, ,	Dr. Bill Bearden
	Southeastern
	Gamecocks
Colors	Garnet & Black
Mascot	Cocky
TEAM INFORMATION	
Head Coach	Ray Tanner
	NC State, 1980
Record at South Carolina	580-266 (.686) (13 years)
	975-439-3 (.689) (23 years)
	Chád Holbrook
	Mark Calvi
	Sammy Esposito
	Kristi Davis
	Kyle Lipsey
	Billy Anderson
Associate Athletics Trainer	Brainard Cooper
2009 SEASON IN REVIEW/2010 OU	
2009 SEC Record/Finish	17-13/2nd East
2009 Postseason Finish	NCAA Greenville (N.C.) Regional (2-2)
Starters Returning/Lost	6/3
Pitchers Returning/Lost	12/6
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	20/10
DDOOD AND LUCTORY	
PROGRAM HISTORY	
	1002
First Year in SEC	1992
First Year in SEC	
First Year in SEC	1992 2,210-1,377-17 281-231 2 (2000, 2002) 1 (2004) 4 (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003) 25/2009 92-55 (.626) 8/2004 17-16 (.515)  Steve Fink
First Year in SEC	
First Year in SEC	1892



### TEAM INFORMATION

**Starters Returning (6):** Parker Bangs, Jackie Bradley Jr., Nick Ebert, Bobby Haney, Whit Merrifield, Scott Wingo

Starters Lost (3): Andrew Crisp, Justin Dalles, DeAngelo Mack

**Pitchers Returning (11):** Parker Bangs, Nolan Belcher, Jay Brown, Will Casey, Blake Cooper, Sam Dyson, Steven Neff, Matt Price, Jordan Propst, Michael Roth, Adam Westmoreland

**Pitchers Lost (7):** Jordan Costner, Alex Farotto, Justin Hopper, Curtis Johnson, Grimes Medlin, Brandon Miller, James Rawls

**Letterwinners Returning (19):** Parker Bangs, Nolan Belcher, Jackie Bradley Jr., Jay Brown, Will Casey, Blake Cooper, Sam Dyson, Nick Ebert, Kyle Enders, Bobby Haney, Jeffery Jones, Adam Matthews, Whit Merrifield, Steven Neff, Jordan Propst, Michael Roth, Brady Thomas, Scott Wingo, Adam Westmoreland

**Letterwinners Lost (11):** Jesse Barbaro, Jordan Costner, Andrew Crisp, Justin Dalles, Alex Farotto, Justin Hopper, Curtis Johnson, DeAngelo Mack, Grimes Medlin, Brandon Miller, James Rawls

**Newcomers (17):** Robert Beary, Ethan Carter, Brison Celek, David de la Chapelle, Greg Harrison, Al Hentz, Colby Holmes, Anthony Iacomini, Evan Marzilli, Jose Mata, Adrian Morales, Logan Munson, Jimmy Revan, John Taylor, Christian Walker, Tyler Webb, Jake Williams

# ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION

University President	Eric Hyman
Deputy Athletics Director	Kevin OʻConnell Val Sheley Jeff Davis Jeff Tallant
Director of Media Relations  Director of Ticket Operations  Director of Academic Services  Director of Sports Medicine  Director of Marketing	Lance Grantham Raymond Harrison John Kasik
Assistant Athletics Director/Event Management	

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# 4

# Carolina Gamecocks

# **2009 - A LOOK BACK**

For the 10th consecutive season, the South Carolina Gamecocks earned a berth in the NCAA Regionals. South Carolina finished with a 40-23 record marking the 10th straight year with 40 or more victories.

South Carolina owns the longest current streak of NCAA Regional appearances among the 12 SEC schools.

In that span, Carolina has seven NCAA Super Regional appearances (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007) and three trips to the College World Series (2002, 2003, 2004). South Carolina is one of only seven schools in the nation to make at least seven NCAA Super Regionals in the last 10 years and one of only eight schools in the country to have reached the NCAA Regionals every season in the last decade.

The program's 10-year total record of 468-201 is the fourth highest win total among NCAA Division I schools.



Sam Dyson compiled a 9-4 record as a sophomore. He is a Preseason All-America selection for 2010.



Whit Merrifield was among the team's leading hitters in 2009 with 91 hits and a .340 average.



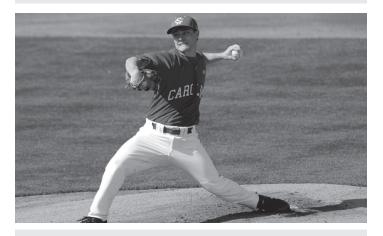
South Carolina players celebrate after a 7-6 victory over Clemson on April 7 at Carolina Stadium.

South Carolina holds a 23-17 edge in games played the last 10 years as well as nine victories in the last 12 contests vs. the Tigers.

# **2009 - A LOOK BACK**

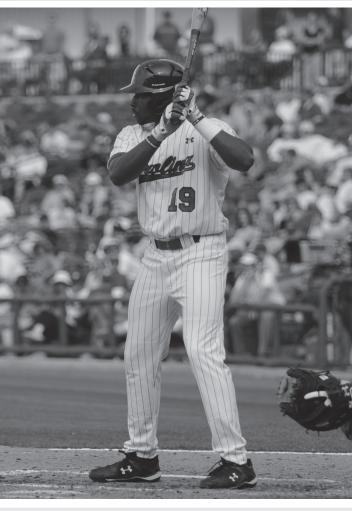


Blake Cooper compiled a 9-4 record including a complete game win over East Carolina in the NCAA Regional.



Nolan Belcher was a SEC All-Freshman selection after picking up four victories in conference play.

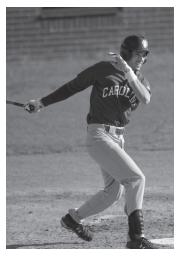
Jackie Bradley Jr. earned consensus Freshman All-America honors after batting .349 with 11 HR and 46 RBI.



The Gamecocks had four players earn second-team All-SEC honors. Junior catcher Justin Dalles, junior first baseman Nick Ebert, junior shortstop Bobby Haney and junior outfielder DeAngelo Mack received conference recognition. Dalles hit .324 with 15 HR and 47 RBI. Ebert was among the league leaders with 23 HR and 72 RBI. Haney hit .291 and also was named to the SEC All-Defensive Team. Mack was the team's leading hitter at .361, 14 HR and 60 RBI.









# February 21, 2009 South Carolina 13 Duquesne 0

Three South Carolina pitchers combined for a onehitter as the Gamecocks opened Carolina Stadium with a 13-0 victory over Duquesne in front of 8,153 fans on Opening Day of the 2009 season. DeAngelo Mack and Justin Dalles added homers as Carolina christened its new facility with a big win in front of the Garnet & Black faithful.

Carolina starting pitcher Sam Dyson was effective in five innings of work allowing just one hit and two walks while striking out six batters to earn the win. He is now 1-0 on the year and 9-0 in his career for the Gamecocks. Carolina freshman left-hander Adam Westmoreland followed with three hitless innings striking out four and walking one. Junior right-hander Jordan Propst closed the game out with one perfect inning in which he struck out two batters. Carolina last allowed just one hit in a game on February 17, 2006 in a 7-0 win over Radford.

Duquesne starter Gary Pierpont went three innings and allowed four runs, three earned on three hits with six walks and three strikeouts to take the loss.

Carolina's offense looked strong in the first game of the season as they tallied 11 hits while drawing 12 walks as well. Freshman Jackie Bradley, Jr. and sophomore Whit Merrifield each tallied two hits to lead the offense.

South Carolina batted around to take a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Merrifield drew a one-out walk, stole second base and scored on a two-out RBI single courtesy of Parker Bangs. After a second walk to Mack, the Gamecocks scored their second run on Andrew Crisp's RBI single to left field. Consecutive walks to Dalles and Scott Wingo increased the lead to three runs.

The lead extended to 4-0 in the second as Bradley, Jr. reached base on an error and scored on a sacrifice fly from Bangs. Mack's three-run homer in the fourth inning and a leadoff homer by Dalles in the fifth put South Carolina ahead 8-0. Mack's blast went off the batter's eye in center field with Dalles launching one to left center. Carolina would reach double-digits in the fifth inning as they loaded the bases with Jones driving in a run on a walk followed by another sacrifice fly from Bangs.

Up 10-0, the Gamecocks scored the final three runs of the game in the eighth inning with both junior Casey Rihn and freshman Michael Roth recording RBI base hits. Bangs and Mack each had three RBI to lead the Gamecocks at the plate. The three RBI for Bangs was a new career-high.

Saturday's game included many pre-game festivities including the ceremonial first pitches by former Gamecock coaches Bobby Richardson and June Raines and South Carolina president Dr. Harris Pastides. The national anthem was sung by recording artist Darius Rucker.

# **CAROLINA STADIUM**



South Carolina begins a new start with the first pitch at Carolina Stadium. Starting pitcher Sam Dyson struck out the first two Duquesne batters he faced in the first inning of the 13-0 victory.



Jusin Dalles and Bobby Haney celebrate after a solo home run from Dalles in the fifth inning.



2009 Opening Day Ticket



Athletics Director Eric Hyman, former head coach Bobby Richardson, President Dr. Harris Pastides, former head coach June Raines and head coach Ray Tanner before the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

# TRADITION HAS A NEW HOME



The opening game at Carolina Stadium drew 8,153 fans on February 21, 2009. South Carolina finished the 2009 season with a total attendance of 231,360 for an average of 6,804 fans per game on the year. The Gamecocks ranked fourth in the nation in attendance.



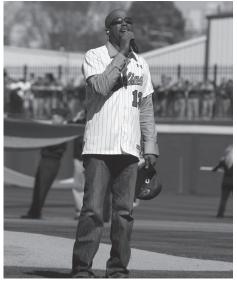
Scott Wingo got the start at second base for the Gamecocks.



Whit Merrifield celebrates with his teammates after scoring the first run in Carolina Stadium history.



Sam Dyson was the starting pitcher for Carolina on Opening Day 2009. Dyson allowed just one hit in five scoreless innings of work and struck out six batters to pick up the victory.



National recording artist and loyal Gamecock fan Darius Rucker helped kick off Opening Day 2009 with the singing of the National Anthem.



DeAngelo Mack hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning and scored three runs in the victory over Duquesne.



Adam Westmoreland hurled three scoreless innings. He did not allow a hit and tallied four strikeouts.

7

No.

2000 Statistics

# 8

# Carolina Gamecoc

Yr.

Pos.



2000 Numerical Roster

Name

# 2000 SEC CHAMPIONS **10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

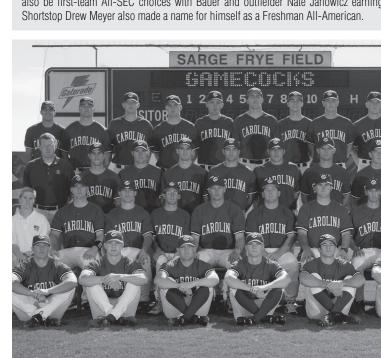
It was 10 years ago that South Carolina made its way back on to the national stage in collegiate baseball.

Under head coach Ray Tanner, the Gamecocks put together as dominant of a regular season as any in the modern era wth a 56-10 record. Carolina won the overall Southeastern Conference championship by six and a half games and reached the NCAA Super Regional for the first time in school history.

The Gamecocks opened the year with a record 22-game winning streak that was followed up by an impressive run in the SEC that saw the Gamecocks sweep seven of 10 conference series played. Carolina finished 25-5 in the SEC with a 14-1 record in home games and an 11-4 mark on the road.

Head coach Ray Tanner earned National Coach of the Year honors, junior right-handed pitcher Kip Bouknight was tabbed National Player of the Year by several publications and was recipient of USA Baseball's prestigious Golden Spikes Award, as the top amateur baseball player.

Bouknight was a consensus first-team All-America selection with Scott Barber and Peter Bauer also receiving All-America accolades. The triumvirate of Bouknight, Barber and Bauer were nicknamed the Killer B's and the trio combined for a 39-5 record on the mound along with 15 saves from Barber. Bouknight and Barber would also be first-team All-SEC choices with Bauer and outfielder Nate Janowicz earning second-team honors.

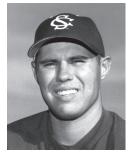


1	Chris Plummer	INF	Jr.
2	Nate Janowicz	OF	Sr.
3	Matt Riddle	0F	Fr.
4	Brett Price	LHP	So.
6	Jamie Poston	RHP	Sr.
7	Drew Meyer	SS	Fr.
8	Marcus McBeth	0F	So.
9	Marcos Rios	С	Sr.
10	Clint Collins	RHP	Jr.
12	Brennan Dees	0F	Jr.
13	Steven Bondurant	LHP	So.
14	Kip Bouknight	RHP	Jr.
15	Steve Thomas	INF	So.
17	Trey Dyson	1B	So.
18	Bryon Jeffcoat	INF	Jr.
19	Rico Bravo	С	Fr.
20	John Wesley	RHP	So.
21	Brandon Pack	С	Jr.
22	Jeremy Plexico	LHp	Fr.
23	Lee Gronkiewicz	RHP	Sr.
25	Chris Spigner	RHP	So.
26	Tim Whittaker	С	Jr.
27	John McHenry	INF	Jr.
29	Shane Nelson	OF	Sr.
32	Ernie Bascuas	RHP	Jr.
34	Steven Whetstone	RHP	So.
36	Scott Barber	RHP	Jr.
38	Peter Bauer	RHP	Jr.
41	Bo Mobley	C	Fr.
43	Tripp Kelly	1B	Jr.
46	Matt Wilson	RHP	So.

# 2000 Statistics

Player Bouknight, K. 2.81 Barber, S. 2.96 Bauer, P. 3.11 Price, B. 3.78 Spigner, C. 3.91 Wilson, M. 4.34 Poston, J. 4.60 (less than 25.0 IP)	W-L 17-1 9-2 13-2 3-1 2-0 1-0 3-0	APP 19 32 19 17 7 12 25	<b>GS</b> 19 8 18 6 5 3 0	<b>CG</b> 4 3 2 0 0 0 0	0 15 0 0 0 0	144.0 106.1 124.1 33.1 25.1 29.0 31.1	H 121 99 120 27 23 28 39	8 51 40 60 21 11 15 18	45 35 43 14 11 14 16	<b>BB</b> 34 20 36 32 12 15 5	143 100 99 32 21 13 24	WP 10 13 9 2 2 3 2
Collins, C. 4.29 Wesley, J. 4.43 Whetstone, S. 5.30 Bascuas, E. 5.48 Bondurant, S. 9.00 Plexico, J. 9.00 Bravo, R. 18.00 Totals Opponents 7.22	3-1 2-1 0-1 2-1 0-0 0-0 0-0 <b>56-10</b>		0 0 3 3 0 0 66 66	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 9	0 3 0 2 0 0 0 2 <b>2</b> 4	21.0 20.1 18.2 23.0 2.0 1.0 1.0 <b>592.2</b> <b>562.0</b>	12 18 17 21 4 1 3 <b>538</b> <b>694</b>	10 11 15 15 2 1 2 <b>276</b> <b>537</b>	10 10 11 14 2 1 2 <b>231</b> <b>451</b>	18 12 9 22 2 0 0 0 <b>220</b> <b>301</b>	23 23 9 26 2 1 1 <b>530</b> <b>484</b>	3 3 3 0 1 0 <b>56</b> <b>58</b>

694 538 140 85 RBI



**Kip Bouknight** was the anchor. In a record-setting season, Bouknight compiled a 17-1 record that saw him tie an individual mark for wins in a season by a Carolina pitcher as well as tie the Southeastern Conference single season record for victories.

Bouknight turned in one solid performance after another and was awarded the Golden Spikes Award, presented by USA Baseball to the top amateur player in the nation. He also earned Southeastern Conference Male Student-Athlete of the Year honors.

"To think that it's been ten years is amazing. I do believe that our group of guys expected to win every single game. If you just go out and expect to win every single game, more times than not you are going to be fully prepared, you are going to believe in what you are coached to do, and we accomplished that. We did some amazing things, but it was a total team effort. That was the best part of the whole year, that it wasn't just one person. It just literally was somebody different every single game. We had a solid base.



**Trey Dyson** was a sophomore in the 2000 season. Dyson became one of Carolina's clutch hitters that year on his way to a .314 batting average. He tallied 11 home runs and had 49 RBI as well.

Dyson finished his career with two SEC championship rings from both the 2000 and 2002 seasons. At the conclusion of the 2001-02 academic year, he earned SEC Boyd McWhorter Scholar Athlete of the Year honors.

"The best asset that we had was not our talent, but our togetherness to fight for each other every single time we took the field. Everyone truly pulled for each other and we had an awesome time together. We loved practice. Coach Tanner led the best practices that I have ever taken part of during my entire baseball career. We worked extremely hard during practice and got better every day. I remember Marcus McBeth and Nate Janowicz crashing into the walls during practice because they wanted to make every single play. Drew Meyer virtually "threw out" his back every practice diving for balls and hosing it across the infield to simulate a game situation. And this was just practice!! Our attitude during practice translated into positive results when game time came. Everyone looked forward to going to practice because it was so much fun being around energetic, competitive guys, just like Coach Tanner. A true family atmosphere."



Ray Tanner was in his fourth season as head coach at the University of South Carolina.

"It was hard to comprehend when we went through it. It was incredible the roll we were on. 50-6 in the regular season, we just did not lose games. It was a group with a lot of great leadership that refused to lose. It was an honor to be their head coach. It was fun. You always felt that if a couple of guys had bad days, so what, it didn't matter, we were going to win anyway. That group was able to come from behind, maintain leads, they could do whatever needed to win the game."

"The thing that that I remember about that group was passion and enthusiasm. As a coach, I think that we all try to instill that and try to have our teams prepared and ready to go. That team was flowing on a daily basis with great energy and a desire to win. I can remember on numerous occasions being concerned sometimes by the amount of enthusiasm that we might have displayed in a particular game and worried if it would be there the next day or days to come and that team never wavered. It was a cast of characters but a team that played extremely hard. There are lot of talented baseball teams, especially in the SEC, but that was a group that was able to gel and there was great leadership on the team. 'Winning today,' was a theme with that group and it propelled us to special heights in the SEC."

"It was a group that the passion and enthusiasm never died. It was there all the time. I think that team loved when I challenged them. They thrived on it and never took anything negative or personal and just came ready to go. They loved being part of the program and accomplished great things."

2000 (	56-10, 25-5 S	EC; Runs	537, Opp	. 276)
Coach	: Ray Tanner			
Doto	Onnonent	Caara	M/I T	Cito

Date	Opponent	Score	WLT	Site
2/4	Charleston So.	13-5	W	Columbia
2/5	Charleston So.	10-2	W	Columbia
2/11	Old Dominion	3-1	W	Charleston
2/12	East Carolina	12-1	W	Charleston
2/13	The Citadel	4-2	W	Charleston
2/18	Delaware State	19-0	W	Columbia
2/19	Delaware State	16-1	W	Columbia
2/20	Delaware State	9-1	W	Columbia
2/22 2/25	Campbell Charleston	10-2 4-0	W	Columbia
2/25	Charleston	4-0 5-2	W	Columbia Columbia
2/27	Charleston	10-3	W	Columbia
3/3	Radford	8-4	W	Columbia
3/4	Radford	7-4	W	Columbia
3/5	Radford	13-1	W	Columbia
3/8	Furman	13-2	W	Columbia
3/10	Auburn	12-6	W#	Auburn
3/11	Auburn	10-9	W#	Auburn
3/12	Auburn	8-7	W#	Auburn
3/14	UNC-Asheville		W	Columbia
3/17	Florida	5-2	W#	Columbia
3/18 3/19	Florida Florida	7-3 8-17	W#	Columbia
3/22	Wofford	0-17 17-2	L# W	Columbia Columbia
3/24	Louisiana St.	6-8	L#	Baton Rouge
3/25	Louisiana St.	6-7	L#	Baton Rouge
3/26	Louisiana St.	9-7	W#	Baton Rouge
3/28	Charleston	4-1	W	Columbia
3/29	Elon	5-7	L	Columbia
3/31	Alabama	4-1	W#	Columbia
4/1	Alabama	2-0	W#	Columbia
4/2	Alabama	3-1	W#	Columbia
4/5	The Citadel	6-5	W	Columbia
4/7	Mississippi St.		W#	Columbia
4/8 4/9	Mississippi St. Mississippi St.		W# W#	Columbia Columbia
4/12	Clemson	6-3	W	Clemson
4/14	Vanderbilt	14-5	W#	Nashville
4/15	Vanderbilt	2-1	W#	Nashville
4/16	Vanderbilt	7-3	W#	Nashville
4/18	Davidson	15-0	W	Columbia
4/19	Clemson 9	9-8 (12)	W	Columbia
4/22	Kentucky	15-5	W #	Lexington
4/22		-10 (10)	W#	Lexington
4/23	Kentucky	18-6	W#	Lexington
4/26 4/28	UNC-Asheville	7-3 9-5	W W#	Asheville Columbia
4/29	Georgia Georgia	9-5 7-5	W#	Columbia
4/30	Georgia	9-5	W#	Columbia
5/5	Arkansas	8-2	W#	Fayetteville
5/6	Arkansas	10-11	L#	Fayetteville
5/7	Arkansas	3-9	L#	Fayetteville
5/9	Duke	10-9	W	Durham
5/12	Tennessee	14-3	W#	Columbia
5/13	Tennessee	9-1	W#	Columbia
5/14	Tennessee	11-7	W#	Columbia
5/17	Kentucky	4-6	L*	Hoover
5/18	Auburn	11-4	W* W*	Hoover
5/19 5/20	Kentucky Florida 4	12-5	L*	Hoover
5/26	Liberty	4-12 (8) 6-4	W\$	Hoover Columbia
5/27	Wake Forest	6-1	W\$	Columbia
5/28	Wake Forest	8-4	W\$	Columbia
6/2	LaLafayette	6-3	W @	Columbia
6/3	LaLafayette	1-7	L@	Columbia
6/4	LaLafayette	2-3	L@	Columbia
	utheastern Confe			
* — Soi	utheastern Confe	rence Tou	rnamer	it Game

— NCAA Regional

# **GAMECOCK BASEBALL TRADITION**

South Carolina is blessed with a rich tradition in baseball. Over 114 former players, coaches and support staff returned in late October 2009 to Columbia, S.C. for Alumni Weekend. Among the festivities included a golf outing as well as an Alumni Game later that evening at Carolina Stadium. The Alumni also attended Saturday's Homecoming football victory for South Carolina over Vanderbilt.



Steven Tolleson takes a few swings in the batting cage before the start of the Alumni Game. Tolleson completed his fourth year in professional baseball in Rochester,the Triple-A affiliate of the Twins.



Trey Dyson and Blake Taylor share a laugh on the driving range before the start of the golf outing. Dyson and Taylor were teammates on the 2002 team that won an SEC Championship, reached the College World Series, earned National Runner-Up honors and finished the season with a 57-18 overall record.



Brian Buscher & Coach Tanner. Buscher just finished his second year in the Major Leagues. He is now with the Cleveland Indians organization.



Delleney Ruff, Larry Jewell, Pete Fisher and Pete Stokes take in the festivities. Jewell was a two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection in the 50's.

# **2009 ALUMNI WEEKEND**



Steven Bondurant pitched one inning. Bondurant serves as Academic Advisor for the baseball team.



Coach Tanner & Justin Smoak. Smoak ended his first professional season in Triple-A with the Rangers.



Art "The Blade" Finley at shortstop. Finley played on both the 1981 and 1982 CWS squads.



Former Gamecock assistant coach Johnny Hunton and Coach Tanner share a laugh before the start of the Alumni Game. Hunton served as assistant for both Bobby Richardson and June Raines from 1972-1989.



Landon Powell speaks with the media. Powell completed his first MLB season with the Oakland A's.



Gamecock players just before the start of the shotgun. Letterwinners from left to right include Kevin Melillo, Blake Taylor, Steven Tolleson, Rocky Evans, Matt Campbell and Gary Bell.



Rocky Lewis hit a home run and is greeted by Matt Riddle and Steven Reinhold.

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# TALENTED TEAM SET TO TAKE THE FIELD FOR CAROLINA IN 2010

With a strong corps of returning players and a stout recruiting class, there is optimism and high expectations for the University of South Carolina in 2010. A consistent winner, the South Carolina baseball program expects to compete for a conference championship this upcoming season along with a berth in the 64-team field for the NCAA Tournament and an opportunity for a trip to Omaha and the College World Series.

"It doesn't matter what year it is, how much experience you have, how many starters are returning, expectations remain the same at South Carolina," said head coach Ray Tanner. "We expect to battle for championships in the SEC and be a nationally competitive program. That will never change here."

A comforting feeling for Tanner though is the return of a majority of position starters along with the squad's top four starting pitchers from last season. Adding to that is a dynamic group of newcomers.

"I watch these guys practice, I watch them in the weight room and I watch how they go about their business," said Tanner. "I'm excited about this group and I look forward to watching them play. We do have more experience to open the season in 2010 than a year ago and than in some years past. I think it's a talented group and it's a deep group. We have depth on the mound, we have depth at positions, we can match up offensively and we can match up pitchingwise."

# **POSITION PLAYERS**

As noted by Tanner, the Gamecocks appear to have a deep group of position players heading into Opening Day. Three-quarters of the infield and a nucleus of outfielders from last year return as well as some versatile athletes that can fill in at two or three different spots. It is a veteran group with a lot of stripes on their shoulders.

All-Southeastern Conference standouts *Nick Ebert* and *Bobby Haney* return at first base and shortstop, respectively, for their senior year. Ebert finished with a .321 average, 23 HR and 72 RBI last season; only one player in the nation returns that hit more home runs last year. Haney returns to the middle infield after starting all 63 games at shortstop last year. Haney hit .291 (66-for-227) with four HR and 30 RBI and, along with earning All-SEC accolades, was a 2009 SEC All-Defensive team choice.

"Ebert was our home run leader for 2009 and I'm ecstatic that he chose to return to school," said Tanner. "He's a tremendous worker and will be in the middle of the lineup as a run producer. Bobby Haney is an extremely underrated player, a good player and has shown some leadership skills (in the offseason). He has improved offensively and has made some strides in the weight room."

A third senior returning to the mix is catcher *Kyle Enders*, who shared duties with Justin Dalles in 2009 behind the plate. With Dalles now in the Baltimore Orioles organization, Enders was voted by his teammates as a captain and will get the nod to anchor the pitching staff. Another senior behind the plate is *Brady Thomas*, who expects to see action and gives the Gamecocks another option with a left-handed bat.

"Enders is a fifth-year guy and he said from day one this fall that he was going to be a better on-base percentage guy, strike out less than walk and I think he had two strikeouts on the fall," said Tanner. "He's a mature player. He would be (the starter at catcher), he earned it. Brady Thomas, certainly, narrowed the gap though. Thomas was a guy I thought going into the fall would be our backup catcher, I don't view him that way (now). He's a left-handed stick that has shown his skills are better behind the plate. I certainly feel better about our catching situation."

Jackie Bradley Jr. and Whit Merrifield were staples in the outfield in 2008 and figure to hit at the top of the order in the everyday lineup again. Now a junior, Merrifield returns after batting .340 (91-for-268) in the 2009 season and spending the summer in the Cape Cod Baseball League with the Chatham Anglers. Merrifield's 91 hits are the most hits by a returning SEC player from

last year. He had 11 homers and 49 RBI as well. Jackie Bradley Jr. hit .349 (89-for-255) in his first collegiate season and was a consensus Freshman All-America selection. He tallied 11 homers and 46 RBI. Bradley also spent the summer on the Cape with the Hyannis Mets.

There will be a small change with the duo as Bradley has made the move to center field with Merrifield the starter now in right field. The move gives Tanner more flexibility should he need the versatile Merrifield for the late innings in the infield.

"Whit Merrifield has been our starter in center field for two years and Jackie Bradley Jr. is an outstanding player," said Tanner. "When we looked at our team, I think it became apparent early on that there was a possibility that Whit could end up in the infield either full-time or on occasion. As we sit here at this time, I think it is going to be on occasion. Because of that, we didn't want to have to make more moves than necessary. If Whit was in center, Jackie was in right, then Jackie has to move to center, have to put a new right fielder in, it just causes more of a domino effect. I think Jackie is very good in center field as Whit was and I talked to Whit about it and he understood why we made that move and I think he will probably show up at third base sometimes, and possibly even at second base. He's a well-conditioned athlete and he will be fine. He was an infielder by trade (in high school), I'm confident with wherever we have to put him. He can play third, he looked good over there for me in the fall, and he can play second (base) as well."

Despite the loss of outfielder DeAngelo Mack to the New York Yankees organization, Tanner has some choices in left field with *Adam Matthews* returning and the addition of junior college transfer *Robert Beary*. Both are right-handed bats and will receive opportunity to win the job in the spring. Matthews finished the 2009 season on a high note with reps at designated hitter and in his final start tallied four hits and a pair of homers in the 12-2 win over East Carolina at the NCAA Regional. Beary proved to be one of the top hitters in the junior college ranks in Florida, where he was the 2008 Panhandle Conference Player of the Year. Beary may also see time at first base.

"It is going to be a preseason battle between (Robert) Beary and (Adam) Matthews," said Tanner. "They are both good players. Beary is good enough to provide some depth for us behind the plate (also). He hit 17 homers (one year in junior college). He had screws in his wrist but he got back on the field in the end (of the fall) as Matthews did. I told them when they got back, what you do in the rest of the fall, doesn't count, we are just glad to have you back out here healthy. They are both good players. I think the talent that Adam Matthews has and brings to the table; it's hard to think that he might not get a chance to play. He finished the season for us in a big way in 2009, but Robert Beary is a good player too."

Another position battle to watch in the spring is at second base. Junior infielder *Scott Wingo* is back after fielding a crisp .969 in 61 games and made just eight errors on the year. He had 48 starts last season and has worked to improve at the plate. Junior college transfer *Adrian Morales*, who earned NJCAA All-Region accolades at Miami-Dade CC, is challenging him.

"I think when you look at second base, you have two very good players there in (Scott) Wingo and (Adrian) Morales," said Tanner. "Morales is potentially probably a little better hitter than Wingo, although Wingo out-hit him by a little this fall. It is going to be a decision decided in the preseason as well."

Rounding out the infield is freshman *Christian Walker*. The newcomer from Pennsylvania showed a promising bat in the fall and is the heir apparent at third base replacing Andrew Crisp.

"He was everything we thought he would be and more offensively," said Tanner. "He swung the bat extremely well; he ended up leading our team in hitting this fall, over .400, he was impressive. Not only a guy with some power, but he used both sides of the field, a great two-strike hitter. It is obviously very early in his career, but as a true freshman entering in the fall, he is one of the

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best hitters that I have coached. Defensively, it is a work in progress but he has made some strides. We just need to get him a little more polished defensively, and he understands that and is willing to put forward the work necessary."

Tanner also is pleased with the selections and choices he can make at the designated hitter spot. Utility player *Parker Bangs* hit. 328 last season and is a right-handed bat option along with freshman *Brison Celek*, who showed a lot of power in fall practice. Senior first baseman *Jeffery Jones* also could be selected, as he gives the team another left-handed bat in the lineup.

"Parker (Bangs') average last year against lefties was impressive," said Tanner. "Certainly that is important to us. Jeffery Jones had a great fall, he swung the bat very well and is much stronger than he was a year ago. He spent the summer here conditioning and lifting, so he's trying to get some opportunities as a senior. Brison Celek, although he is a true freshman, (was productive) in the fall. The first night of our Garnet & Black (World Series), he had two home runs into the bleachers. He is an extremely strong young man. There have been some guys that have made some noise."

## **PITCHING STAFF**

The Gamecock pitching staff boasts a lot of experience with a group returning that earned 34 of the team's 40 wins last year. Junior right-handed pitcher *Sam Dyson* and senior right-handed pitcher *Blake Cooper* both tallied nine victories last season. The nine-win total by each pitcher is tied for the second highest win total from last year returning to the Southeastern Conference for the 2010 season. Along with sophomore left-handed pitcher *Nolan Belcher*, the Gamecocks return the entire weekend rotation from last year's squad. Belcher earned 2009 SEC All-Freshman team honors.

"Dyson and Cooper are guys at the front," said Tanner. "(They) combine to form a very experienced 1-2 punch in the rotation. Blake had a strong fall and looked as good in the fall as he had in his entire career here. He worked hard in the summer to improve his conditioning and we are looking for him to become a double-digit winner in 2010. We look for Sam to improve on his nine wins from a year ago. Belcher got a lot of innings as a true freshman and is a tremendous competitor. We had some thoughts of possibly using him out of the bullpen but he could be back in the rotation like last year."

Another option to start is senior right-hander *Jay Brown*. After missing the 2008 season, Brown returned to the mound and made eight starts and compiled a 3-0 record with a 3.35 ERA in 48.2 innings pitched with 35 strikeouts and 23 walks allowed. He had a productive fall and has the respect of his team-

mates as he was voted as one of the two captains for this year's squad.

"Brown finished the 2009 season strong for us and he is a candidate for a spot in the rotation," said Tanner.

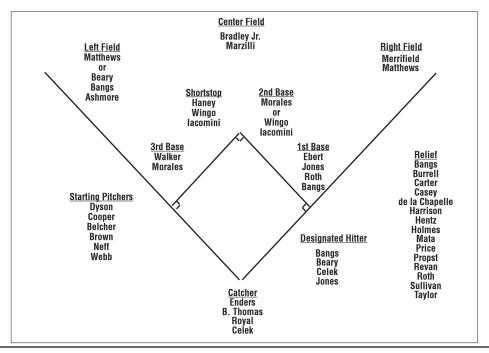
Beyond the top four starting pitchers returning from last year, the Gamecocks have a mix of talent from the right and left that provide options. A pair of freshmen from Virginia have caught the eye of Tanner in fall practice. Righthander *Ethan Carter* was a 2009 HS All-American and left-hander *Tyler Webb* earned All-State honors and both seem to figure in for the upcoming year. Tanner is also happy to have a healthy *Steven Neff* back in the mix. All three may get some opportunities to start in addition to time out of the bullpen.

"I was really impressed with what Webb did in the fall and Carter made some noise," said Tanner. "Having Neff healthy for the first time is important."

A closer look to the bullpen sees a pair of veterans returning with more experience. Junior right-hander *Parker Bangs* and sophomore left-hander *Michael Roth* made several appearances and figure to be on the bump again during the late innings. Bangs showed positive signs at times vs. opposing batters last year. He hurled 33.2 innings in 15 appearances and is determined to be a key component in closing out a game. Roth emerged in his freshman year, as he made 16 appearances and figures to see a lot of time on the mound as well

Carolina also has three junior college transfers that Tanner can mix and match. Right-hander **Jose Mata** is a submarine thrower that earned Fireman of the Year honors in the Southern Conference of the FCCAA last year for Broward CC. Left-hander **Jimmy Revan** helped lead Spartanburg Methodist JC to the NJCAA World Series and he rode that momentum to a solid fall that saw him among the leaders in earned run average for the staff. Right-hander **John Taylor** also comes from a submarine slot. After two seasons at Florence Darlington Tech, he had a solid summer in the Coastal Plain League that saw him earn All-Star honors. Hard-throwing freshman **Colby Holmes** will figure in.

"Some of the guys I am really excited about haven't thrown an inning (in the spring) yet," said Tanner. "I like Webb, I like Carter, I like Taylor, I like Jose Mata, and he gives you a different look. Parker Bangs, he could emerge as being one of the best bullpen guys we've got. He is in the low-to-mid 90's with a pretty good slider. He has had some command issues at times but he has also shown that he can be dominant. Roth is going to pitch. He is very competitive, a situational lefty and his arm strength is better (than last year). We have to plug these guys into the right spot. There are some choices. There are some battles. I like that. It is important what they do in the preseason."



# **MEDIA INFORMATION**



Andrew Kitick Baseball SID/Asst. Director



Emily Feeney Assistant Director



Miquel Jacobs Media Relations Assistant



Koby Padgett Assistant Director



Cory Burkarth Graduate Assistant



Steve Fink Media Relations Director



Matt Freed Assistant Director



Diana Koval Assistant Director



Wes Todd Assistant Director



Lynne Beattie Administrative Assistant

The South Carolina Media Relations Office would like to thank you for your interest in Carolina Baseball. This guide has been prepared to assist you in your coverage of the team. If you have any questions or requests, please reach South Carolina baseball contact Andrew Kitick at (803) 777-5257 or via e-mail - kitick@mailbox.sc.edu

## INTERVIEWS

South Carolina head coach Ray Tanner, staff and all Gamecock players are available for media interviews. Interviews can be conducted on Thursdays before practice from 1:45-2:30 p.m. or at other times arranged through the South Carolina Media Relations Office.

It is requested that all interviews be arranged through Andrew Kitick. Players and coaches have been instructed to not agree to interviews not arranged by the Media Relations Office.

# POST-GAME INTERVIEWS

Post-game interviews are conducted in the media room at Carolina Stadium. After a brief cooling-off period, requested players will be brought to the interview area followed by head coach Ray Tanner. A mult box is available for use. The South Carolina locker room is closed to the media. Media who wish to interview opposing coach or players should make requests through the Visiting SID.

### **MEDIA GAME DAY SERVICES**

At home and on the road, notes and statistics will be provided in the press box and on-line at www.gamecocksonline.com. Complete box scores will be available shortly after each contest. A game story and box score following each game will be faxed and e-mailed to outlets requested. Scores will be reported to area broadcast outlets.

Wireless internet and telephone lines are available for use on the print media level. Updated SEC and other scores of interest are provided throughout the game.

Each media member will receive (1) food coupon per game to purchase food at the concessions stand. Soft drinks and water are also available in the press box.

## SCORE UPDATES

Media who wish to retrieve home score updates can call the press row phone at (803) 777-6648 or log on to gamecock-sonline.com for live GameTracker stats.

### **CREDENTIALS**

Accredited news media are admitted on a game-by-game basis through the main entrance located near center field. Personnel assigned to cover games should contact Andrew Kitick at least one day before the game to arrange for proper credentials.

### PARKING

Media personnel assigned to cover games should contact Andrew Kitick at least one day before the game to arrange for parking passes. Parking at the stadium is limited.

### RADIO INFORMATION

Gamecock Sports Properties, a partnership between the University of South Carolina Athletic Department and ISP Sports is the originating medium for radio coverage of the 2010 Carolina baseball games.

The Gamecock Radio Network occupies the booth at the far right (facing the field) of the press box. Visiting radio occupies the space at the far left with the two center booths reserved for television and video streaming coverage.

The University of South Carolina provides a telephone line as well as ISDN line at both the visitor's radio position and at the home section. Anyone who needs special assistance with phone lines may call the Gamecock Sports Properties office at (803) 777-7895.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS**

 Media Relations Office
 803-777-5204

 Media Relations Fax
 803-777-2967

 Andrew Kitick's Office
 803-777-5257

 Andrew Kitick's Cell
 803-240-4150

 Press Box Phone
 803-777-6648

 Ticket Office
 803-777-4274

 Kristi Davis - Baseball Office
 803-777-7830

# COLLEGE BASEBALL MEDIA OUTLETS

# Baseball America

Aaron Fitt

Phone: 1-800-845-2726

E-mail: aaronfitt@baseballamerica.com

## Collegiate Baseball

Lou Pavlovich Jr. Phone: (520) 623-7815 E-mail: lou@baseballnews.com

# Rivals Network

Kendall Rogers

Phone: (979) 229-4092

E-mail: kendall@rosenblattreport.com

## Southeastern Baseball (SEBaseball.com)

Mark Etheridge

Phone: (205) 886-7978 E-mail: mark@sebaseball.com

# Sports Weekly

Craig Bennett

E-mail: cbennett@usatoday.com

# 010 Baseba

# **LOCAL SOUTH CAROLINA MEDIA OUTLETS NEWSPAPERS RADIO**

### Associated Press

Pete lacobelli Phone: (803) 799-5510 E-mail: piacobelli@ap.org

# Anderson Independent-Mail

Brad Senkiw (Beat) Phone: (864) 260-1283

senkiwb@independentmail.com E-mail:

# The (Charleston) Post & Courier

(Beat) Travis Haney (Columnist)Gene Sapakoff (803) 201-8998 Phone:

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## The (Florence) Morning News

(Editor) Mark Haselden (843) 317-7271 Phone:

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### The Gamecock

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## The Greenville News

(Beat) Willie T. Smith (Columnist)Bart Wright (864) 325-3682 Phone: E-mail: nflscribe@aol.com

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# The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News

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E-mail: sbowen@thesunnews.com

# The (Spartanburg) Herald-Journal

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### Spurs & Feathers

(Beat)

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### The State Newspaper (Columbia) Neil White

(Columnist)Ron Morris (Editor) Rick Millians (803) 771-8470 Phone: E-mail: nwhite@thestate.com rmorris@thestate.com rmillians@thestate.com

## The (Sumter) Item

(Editor) Dennis Brunson (803) 774-1241 Phone: E-mail: dennisb@theitem.com

## South Carolina News Network

(Hosts) Phil Kornblut, Kevin McCrarey, Tom Hayes

Phone: (803) 790-4300 E-mail: philtalk@aol.com kmac00@aol.com

# **WCOS AM 1400**

(Hosts) Eric Guimaraes, Teddy Heffner, Corey Miller, Mike Morgan, Carey Rich, J.C. Shurburtt

Phone: (803) 343-1100 teddy@1400theteam.com E-mail:

## **WNKT FM 107.5**

(Hosts) Heath Cline, Brent Johnson, Michael Haney,

George Kearns, Benji Norton, Tommy Moody,

Jay Philips, Duce Staley

(803) 796-9975 Phone: E-mail: biohnson@b106fm.com

## **WVOC AM 560**

(Director) Christopher Thompson Phone: (803) 343-1100 F-mail· tophsports@aol.com

# TELEVISION

# WACH-TV (Fox)

(Anchor) Brian McConchie Phone: (803) 252-5757

# WIS-TV (NBC)

(Director) Rick Henry Phone: (803) 758-1288 E-mail: rhenry@wistv.com

# WLTX-TV (CBS)

(Director) Bob Shields (803) 776-9508 Phone: sports@wltx.com E-mail:

## WOLO-TV (ABC)

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# Gamecock Anthem

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# The Big Spur

(Writer) John Whittle Phone: (803) 727-4254 iwhittle6@sc.rr.com E-mail:

# **2010 TRAVEL PLANS**

## FEBRUARY 25-27 - EAST CAROLINA

### Hotel:

Hilton Greenville 207 SW Greenville Blvd. Greenville, NC 27834

**Telephone:** (252) 355-5000

## **MARCH 5 - CLEMSON**

# Hotel:

Hilton Greenville 45 West Orchard Park Drive Greenville, SC 29615

**Telephone:** (864) 298-6841

# MARCH 25-27 - AUBURN

## Hotel:

The Hotel at Auburn University 241 South College Street Auburn, AL 36830

**Telephone:** (334) 821-8200

## APRIL 8-10 - VANDERBILT

# Hotel:

Marriott Nashville at Vanderbilt University

2555 West End Avenue Nashville, TN 37203

**Telephone:** (615) 321-1300

# APRIL 22-24 - GEORGIA

# Hotel:

The Classic City Hilton Garden Inn 390 East Washington Street Athens, GA 30601

**Telephone:** (706) 353-6807

# MAY 6-8 - KENTUCKY

# Hotel:

**Double Tree Guest Suites** 2601 Richmond Road Lexington, KY 40509

**Telephone**: (859) 268-0060

# MAY 13-15 - ARKANSAS

## Hotel:

Courtyard Marriott Fayetteville 600 E. Van Asche Drive Fayetteville, AR 72703 **Telephone:** (479) 571-4900

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 is the originating medium for radio coverage of the 2010 Carolina baseball games.

WNKT (107.5 FM), "The Game," in Columbia will be the flagship stations for originations of all 56 regular season games plus all post-season play. Games can also be heard on www. gamecocksonline.com.

Andy Demetra enters his first year as the voice of Carolina Baseball on the Gamecock Baseball Radio Network. Demetra also serves as the radio play-by-play announcer for the USC Men's Basketball team and the television announcer for the Gamecock football telecasts for Sport South as well as Pay Per View.

In addition, Demetra hosts "Carolina Calls" during men's basketball and baseball season featuring head coaches Darrin Horn and Ray Tanner.

Demetra is a familiar name to those who follow Gamecock Athletics closely, as he served as the play-by-play voice for Carolina women's basketball and selected men's basketball games from 2003-06.

Since his time in Columbia, Demetra has worked for ISP Sports in Winston-Salem, N.C. He has done basketball play-by-play for the Big East National Game of the Week, football play-by-play for the ACC National Game of the Week and baseball play-

# **GAMECOCK RADIO NETWORK**

by-play for the 2008 and 2009 ACC Tournaments for XM Radio. In addition, he has provided play-by-play work in basketball for the University of Pittsburgh, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech, Villanova, UCF and Furman. He has also done play-by-play broadcasting for the Syracuse Chiefs, the Triple-A baseball affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays.

Demetra, who graduated summa cum laude from Syracuse University, was the 2005 and 2006 South Carolina Broadcasters Association Radio Sportscaster of the Year. He was the youngest recipient of the award in the organization's 60-year history.

Tommy Moody is in his 11th year calling Gamecock baseball contests. Moody is the chairman of the USC Athletic Hall of Fame and was a past president of the USC Association of Lettermen in 1992. Moody played under head coach Bobby Richardson on the Gamecock baseball team from 1970-72 as an infielder.

Moody co-hosts a talk show, "The Early Game" on The Game (107.5 FM), Monday-Friday from 6-9 am.

# **2010 Network Affiliates**

Allendale	WDOG	93.5 FM
Anderson	WRIX	103.1 FM
Camden	WPUB	102.7 FM
Charleston	WTMA	1250 AM
Clinton	WPCC	1410 AM
Columbia	WNKT	107.5 FM
Greenwood	WLMA	1350 AM



**Andy Demetra & Tommy Moody** 

20	2010 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHEDULE					
FEBRU	ΛDV					
FEBRU	19	Duquesne	3 p.m.			
	20	Duquesne	3 p.m.			
	21	Duquesne	1:30 p.m.			
	26 27	at East Carolina at East Carolina	3 p.m.			
	28	at East Carolina	2 p.m. 1 p.m.			
MARCH		at Last Oatollila	1 p.iii.			
	2	Presbyterian	7 p.m.			
	5	at Clemson	6:30 p.m.			
	6 <b>7</b>	vs. Clemson (Fluor Field) Clemson	2 p.m. <b>2 p.m.</b>			
	9	Valparaiso	2 μ.m. 7 p.m.			
	10	Valparaiso	7 p.m.			
	12	Brown	7 p.m.			
	13	Brown	4 p.m.			
	<b>14</b> 16	Brown at Furman (Fluor Field)	<b>1:30 p.m.</b> 7 p.m.			
	17	Davidson	7 p.m.			
	19	Tennessee*	7 p.m.			
	20	Tennessee*	4 p.m.			
	<b>21</b>	Tennessee*	1:30 p.m.			
	23 26	at Georgia Southern at Auburn*	7 p.m. 7:30 p.m.			
	27	at Auburn*	4 p.m.			
	28	at Auburn*	2 p.m.			
	30	The Citadel	7 p.m.			
APRIL	0	Mississinni Ctata*	7 n m			
	2	Mississippi State* Mississippi State*	7 p.m. 4 p.m.			
	4	Mississippi State*	1:30 p.m.			
	7	College of Charleston	7 p.m.			
	9	at Vanderbilt*	7 p.m.			
	10 11	at Vanderbilt* at Vanderbilt*	3 p.m. 2 p.m.			
	14	at The Citadel	7 p.m.			
	16	Ole Miss*	7 p.m.			
	17	Ole Miss*	4 p.m.			
	18 20	Ole Miss* USC Upstate	1:30 p.m. 7 p.m.			
	23	at Georgia*	6:30 p.m.			
	24	at Georgia*	3 p.m.			
	25	at Georgia*	2 p.m.			
MAY	30	Alabama*	7 p.m.			
WAT	1	Alabama*	4 p.m.			
	2	Alabama*	1:30 p.m.			
	5	Winthrop	7 p.m.			
	7	at Kentucky*	6:30 p.m.			
	8 9	at Kentucky* at Kentucky*	6:30 p.m. 1 p.m.			
	11	Wofford	7 p.m.			
	12	<b>Charleston Southern</b>	7 p.m.			
	14	at Arkansas*	7:35 p.m.			
	15 16	at Arkansas* at Arkansas*.	3:05 p.m. 2:05 p.m.			
	18	Furman	<b>7 p.m.</b>			
	20	Florida*	7 p.m.			
	21	Florida*	7 p.m.			
	22	Florida*	4 p.m.			
JUNE	26-30	SEC Baseball Tourn.	Hoover, Ala.			
UUIL	4-7	NCAA Regionals	TBA			
	11-14	NCAA Super Regionals	TBA			
	19-30	College World Series	TD 4			
		Omaha, Neb.	TBA			
all times Eastern unless noted. Dates and times subject to change * denotes SEC game						