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CREDITS

The 2008 South Carolina baseball media guide is a publication of the USC Media Relations Office. Written and edited by Andrew Kitick. Layout and design by Andrew Kitick. Editorial assistance provided by Steve Fink. Recruiting section provided by Christy Lang. Cover design by Grant Hawkins.

The guide was produced using Adobe In-Design CS2 and Adobe Photoshop CS2. Thank you to head coach Ray Tanner for his assistance and time in the production of this brochure.

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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Individual mug shots by Jason Ayer. Action photos provided by Allen Sharpe. Other photos from USC Media Relations files. Special thanks to MLB organizations for use of professional players photos.

QUICK FACTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location	Columbia, S.C.
Enrollment.....	27,065
Founded.....	1801
University President.....	Dr. Andrew Sorensen
Athletics Director.....	Eric Hyman
Faculty Representative.....	Dr. Bill Bearden
Conference.....	Southeastern
Nickname.....	Gamecocks
Colors.....	Garnet & Black
Mascot.....	Cocky

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach.....	Ray Tanner
Alma Mater.....	NC State, 1980
Record at South Carolina.....	500-220 (12th year)
Career Record.....	895-393-3 (21st year)
Assistant Coaches.....	Mark Calvi, Monte Lee
Volunteer Assistant.....	Sammy Esposito
Administrative Assistant.....	Kristi Davis
Director of Operations.....	Kyle Lipsey
Strength & Conditioning Coach.....	Billy Anderson
Associate Athletics Trainer.....	Brainard Cooper
Academic Advisor.....	Steve Bondurant

2007 SEASON IN REVIEW/2008 OUTLOOK

2007 Overall Record.....	46-20
2007 SEC Record/Finish.....	17-13/2nd East
2007 Postseason Finish.....	Chapel Hill Super Regional (1-2)
Starters Returning/Lost.....	.6/3
Pitchers Returning/Lost.....	.8/5
Letterwinners Returning/Lost.....	17/12

PROGRAM HISTORY

First Year of Baseball.....	1892
First Year in SEC.....	1992
All-Time Record.....	2,130-1,331-17
All-Time SEC Record.....	249-203
SEC Championships.....	2 (2000, 2002)
SEC Conference Tournament Titles.....	1 (2004)
SEC East Titles.....	4 (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003)
NCAA Appearances/Last.....	23/2007
NCAA Tournament Record.....	88-51 (.633)
College World Series Appearances/Last.....	8/2004
College World Series Record.....	17-16 (.515)

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION STAFF

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Associate A.D.	Charles Waddell
Associate A.D.	Chris Wyrick
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Marketing Director	Jeff Crane
Media Relations Director	Steve Fink
Academic Services Director	Raymond Harrison
Sports Medicine Director	John Kasik
Chief Financial Officer	Jeff Tallant
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Assistant A.D.	Bryan Risner
Director of Major Gifts.....	
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Assistant A.D.	Jennifer Stiles
Compliance.....	



T.P.

IN MEMORY OF TOM PRICE
1926-2008

The 2008 South Carolina Baseball Media Guide is dedicated to the memory of former South Carolina Sports Information Director Tom Price, who passed away on Feb. 1, 2008. Price was 81.

Price was affiliated with the University of South Carolina since 1962 and served as sports information director for 30 years and in an emeritus capacity from 1992 to 2008. He was inducted into the University of South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

Price enrolled as a student at South Carolina in 1948 following four years in the United States Navy. He graduated the University of South Carolina in 1951 with a degree in journalism and joined the athletic department in 1962 after 11 years in wire service journalism. He served as sports information director from 1962 to 1985 and as assistant athletics director/media relations until 1992. He continued to serve the athletic department until his passing in an emeritus capacity and as athletic department historian. Price also was the official scorer for the South Carolina baseball home games and served as analyst on the Gamecock Radio Network for road games.

Price was inducted into College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame in 1981. He received the CoSIDA Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992 and, in 1993, won the CoSIDA Arch Ward Award, presented annually to a CoSIDA member who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of college sports information and who by his or her activities, has brought dignity and prestige to the profession.

Price was a former president of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and received the Wilbur Snynn Award from the NCBWA in 1982 for promotion and service to college baseball. Price was also the author of several books on Carolina football, basketball, baseball and other sports. His most recent work was "Tales from the Gamecock Roost" published in the fall of 2001.

"T.P." was a true friend and mentor to many of us at South Carolina and beyond. His devotion to the Gamecocks will always be remembered. We will miss him.

MEDIA INFORMATION

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CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

STAFF

PLAYER PROFILES

OPPONENTS

SEASON IN REVIEW

HISTORY & RECORDS

2007 - A LOOK BACK

CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

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SEASON IN REVIEW

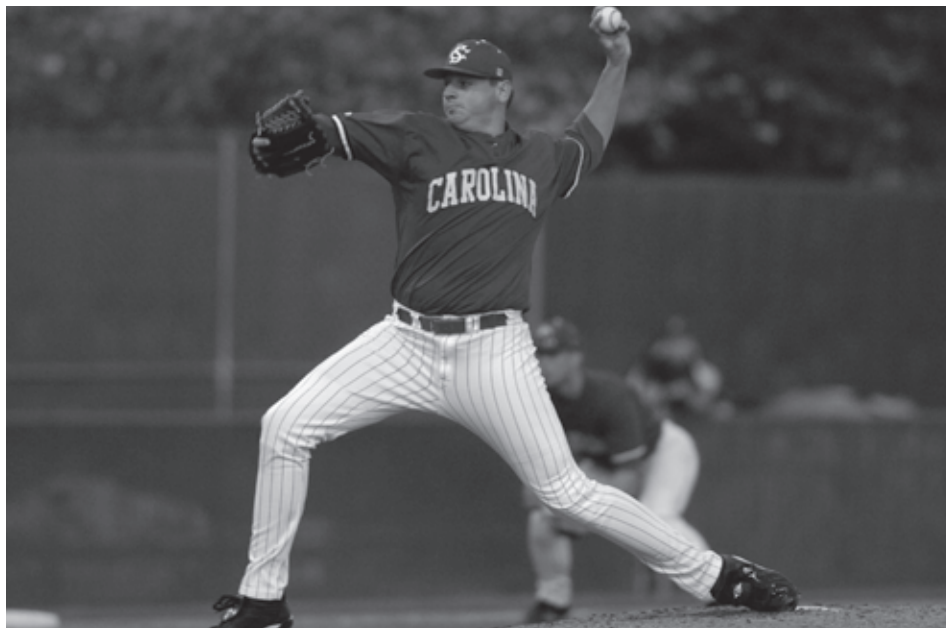
HISTORY & RECORDS

South Carolina recorded its eighth consecutive 40-plus win season in 2007 and achieved a ranking as high as No. 1 in the nation during the year. Carolina earned a trip to the postseason and won the NCAA Columbia (S.C.) Regional before falling one win shy of a trip to Omaha and the College World Series by winning one game in the NCAA Super Regional in Chapel Hill.

The Super Regional appearance was Carolina's seventh in the past eight seasons, making the Gamecocks one of only two teams in the nation to achieve that feat in that timespan. Under head coach Ray Tanner's leadership, Carolina owns eight consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament, the longest current streak among the 12 SEC schools.



Blake Cooper earned Freshman All-America honors from *Collegiate Baseball* after posting a 7-2 record.



Arik Hempy went 7-3 in 2007 including postseason wins vs. Charlotte and North Carolina in the NCAA Regional and NCAA Super Regional. Hempy also earned SEC Pitcher of the Week after a win vs. Auburn in April.



Harris Honeycutt was SEC Pitcher of the Week following a two-hit, seven scoreless inning performance in a 12-0 win at Clemson on March 3. Honeycutt earned eight wins in the 2007 season with 105 strikeouts.



Jeff Jeffords came up big in the bullpen for the Gamecocks in the 2007 season with a 6-1 record as well as six saves in 24 relief appearances. Jeffords struck out 60 batters in 49 innings pitched with opponents batting only .177 against him. One of his key relief performances came at Florida in a nationally televised game on ESPN. Jeffords went 6.2 innings of relief and did not allow an earned run as USC rallied to defeat Florida.

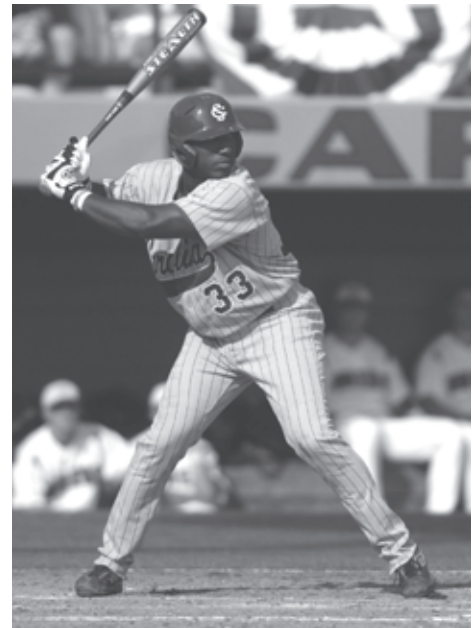
2007 - A LOOK BACK

South Carolina led the nation in total home runs for the 2007 season with 112 round trippers, the fifth highest total in school history. Four different Gamecock players finished with 10 or more home runs (Justin Smoak (22), James Darnell (19), Travis Jones (18) and Phil Disher (15)). Carolina hit at least one home run in 52 of 66 games in the season.

The Gamecocks played well at home at Sarge Frye Field finishing with a 27-6 record including an undefeated mark of 18-0 in non-conference games on the home turf. Carolina also drew incredible crowds with a total of 159,545 fans for an average of 4,985 per game. South Carolina ranked fourth in the nation in average attendance for the 2007 season. South Carolina has eight consecutive seasons of total attendance of 100,000-plus fans.



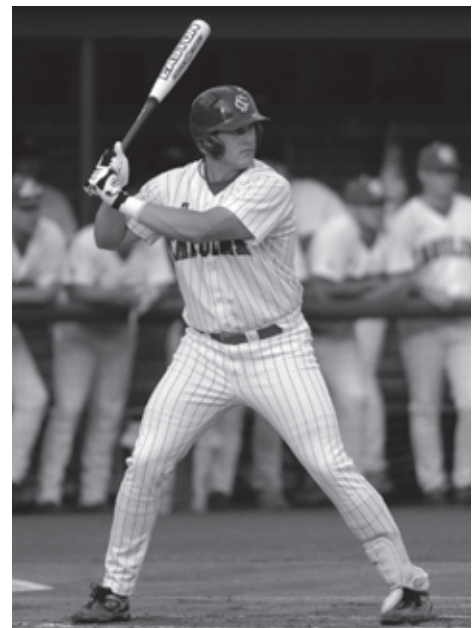
South Carolina welcomed back members of all eight College World Series teams in March including former head coaches Bobby Richardson and June Raines. Pictured above are both coaches with Coach Tanner.



Second basemen Travis Jones was first team All-SEC after hitting .318 with 18 HR and 68 RBI.



Reese Havens started 65 of 66 games at shortstop for the Gamecocks. He tied a South Carolina single-season record at Mississippi State when he tallied three doubles in a 20-3 win over the Bulldogs. He also set a career-high for hits in the game with five and had eight hits in the weekend series victory over MSU. Havens also earned All-Star honors this past summer for Cotuit in the Cape Cod Baseball League.



Phil Disher was a third team All-America selection at designated hitter. He hit .328 with 15 HR and 63 RBI and was also named to the NCAA Columbia (S.C.) Regional All-Tournament team.

CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

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2007 NCAA COLUMBIA (S.C.) REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2007 NCAA REGIONAL

South Carolina went 3-0 to win the NCAA Regional in Columbia, S.C. at Sarge Frye Field.

Carolina opened the weekend with a 9-1 win over Wofford that featured a multi-home run game from Justin Smoak as well as seven innings of work from right-handed pitcher Harris Honeycutt, who allowed just one run in the ballgame.

After a washout of action on day two, the Gamecocks put themselves in the driver's seat with a 12-8 win over Charlotte on Sunday. Carolina erupted for the 12 runs in the first five innings that featured home runs from Smoak, Trent Kline and Andrew Crisp and a solid start by junior left-hander Arik Hempy, who went 5.1 innings to pick up the win.

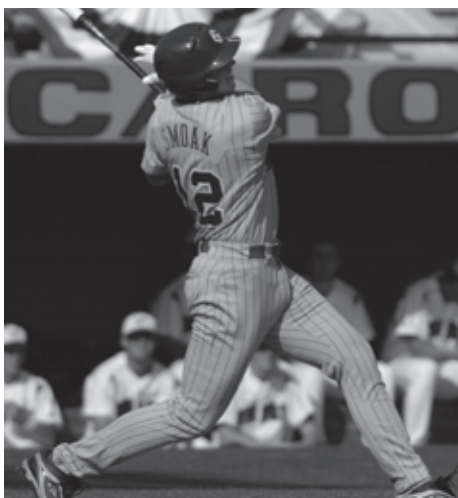
South Carolina met the 49ers one more time and closed out the Regional with an 11-6 victory that saw designated hitter Phil Disher connect with a grand slam and 4.2 quality innings out of the bullpen by reliever Curtis Johnson. Jeff Jeffords came on in the eighth inning to earn a save as well.

COLUMBIA (S.C.) REGIONAL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- Justin Smoak - NCAA Regional MVP
- Andrew Crisp - OF
- James Darnell - 3B
- Phil Disher - DH
- Curtis Johnson - P
- Trent Kline - C
- Justin Smoak - 1B



Curtis Johnson earned both a save and a win to help Carolina clinch the 2007 NCAA Regional.



Justin Smoak was NCAA Regional MVP after hitting .667 (6-for-9) with three home runs.

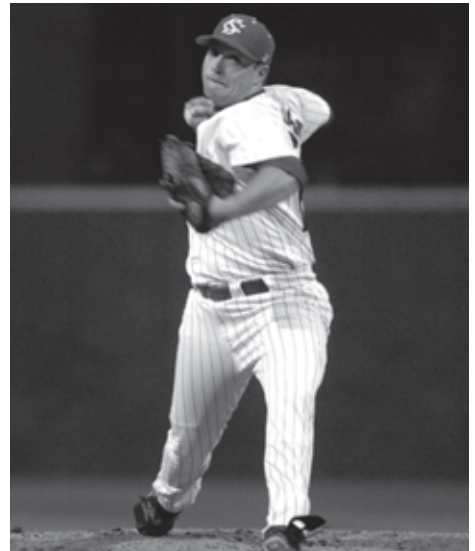


Andrew Crisp hit .417 with a homer and four RBI to make the All-Tournament team.



Trent Kline made the All-Tournament team after batting .556 with a home run and four RBI.

2007 NCAA COLUMBIA (S.C.) REGIONAL CHAMPIONS



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HISTORY & RECORDS

SOUTH CAROLINA IN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

**South Carolina Players
Currently in Pro Baseball
(at the end of the 2007 season)**

Player	Organization
--------	--------------

Major Leagues

Billy Buckner	Kansas City
Brian Buscher	Minnesota
Jon Coutlangus	Cincinnati
Adam Everett	Houston
Marcus McBeth	Cincinnati
Steve Pearce	Pittsburgh
Brian Roberts	Baltimore

Triple - A

Lee Gronkiewicz	Toronto
Kevin Melillo	Oakland
Drew Meyer	Texas
Landon Powell	Oakland

Double - A

Kip Bouknight	Pittsburgh
Chris Hernandez	Pittsburgh
John Wesley	Chicago (AL)

High Class A

Chad Blackwell	Toronto
Matt Campbell	Kansas City
Andrew Cruse	Philadelphia
Steven Tolleson	Minnesota

Low Class A

Travis Jones	Atlanta
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Short-Season

Arik Hempy	Chicago (NL)
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Rookie

Harris Honeycutt	Cincinnati
Jeff Jeffords	Cincinnati

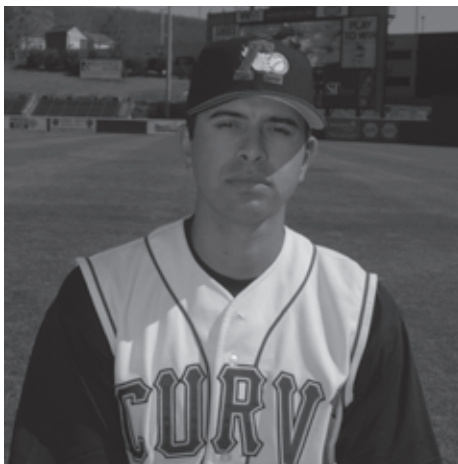
South Carolina's current list of professional baseball players includes one Golden Spikes Award winner, one SEC Player of the Year, five MLB Draft first round picks, 10 All-America recipients and 13 All-SEC selections.



Kip Bouknight (1998-99-00-01)
Altoona - Double A (Pittsburgh)



Matt Campbell (2002-03-04)
Wilmington - High A (Kansas City)



Chris Hernandez (2002-03)
Altoona - Double A (Pittsburgh)



Drew Meyer (2000-02-02)
Oklahoma City - Triple A (Texas)



Landon Powell (2001-02-03-04)
Sacramento - Triple A (Oakland)



Steven Tolleson (2003-04-05)
Fort Meyers - High A (Minnesota)

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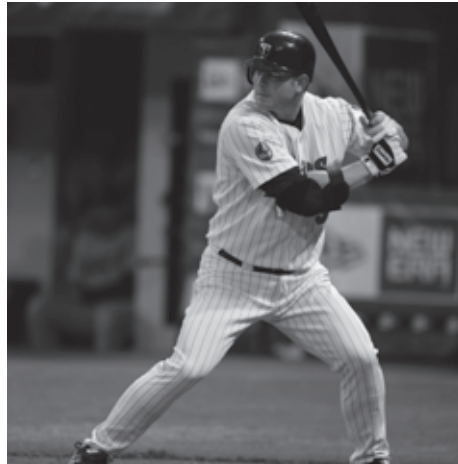
HISTORY & RECORDS

SOUTH CAROLINA IN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

South Carolina had 22 former players in pro baseball at the end of the 2007 season including nine former Gamecock players that appeared in Major League baseball games, the largest single-season group of former Gamecock players to compete at the Major League level. Those players are listed below, including their years lettered at Carolina.



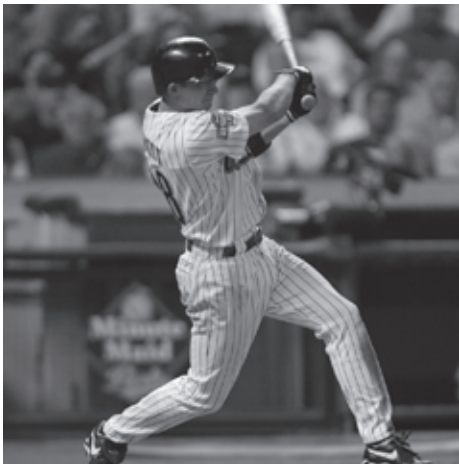
Billy Buckner (2004)
Kansas City Royals



Brian Buscher (2002-03)
Minnesota Twins



Jon Coutlangus (2002-03)
Cincinnati Reds



Adam Everett (1997-98)
Houston Astros



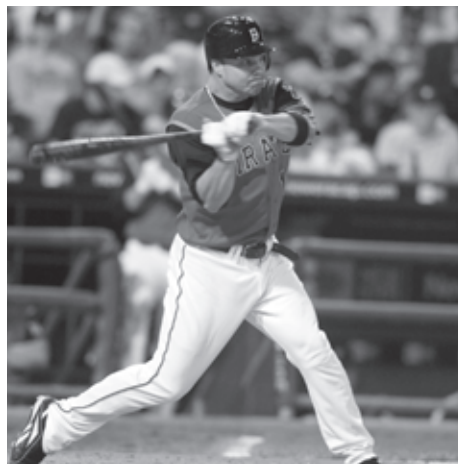
Lee Gronkiewicz (2000-01)
Toronto Blue Jays



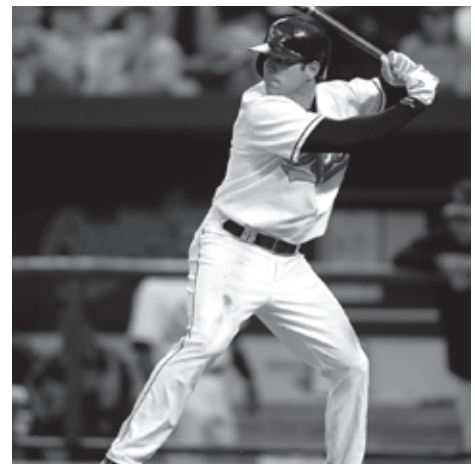
Marcus McBeth (1999-2000-01)
Cincinnati Reds



Kevin Melillo (2002-03-04)
Oakland Athletics



Steve Pearce (2004-05)
Pittsburgh Pirates



Brian Roberts (1999)
Baltimore Orioles

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SARGE FRYE FIELD

The University of South Carolina lost a legend, an icon and a friend on Sept. 3, 2003, when Weldon B. "Sarge" Frye died at the age of 90, ending more than half a century of service to the Gamecock athletics program.

Sarge officially retired July 1, 1997, after 45 years of service. That was 20 years after he retired from full-time employment but remained on board to supervise maintenance of athletic facilities.

For the next six plus years, until a few days prior to his death, Sarge was on hand almost daily as a consultant and advisor regarding the maintenance of playing fields and other athletic facilities.

Those facilities included Sarge Frye Field, the baseball stadium that University trustees named for Sarge on May 11, 1980.

A native of Medon, Tenn., Frye was a master sergeant when he retired from the U.S. Army in 1953 after more than 23 years of service. A combat veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, Frye participated in the allied invasion of Europe, was wounded in action and decorated with the bronze star. He received a second bronze star in Korea.

Frye came to work for the University of South Carolina in 1953 and was placed in charge of athletic facilities. His duties were soon expanded to include supervision of grounds for the entire campus. He retired from full-time employment in 1977 but continued to supervise the maintenance of athletic facilities through the 1996-97 academic year.

Three Generations

His wife, the former Ruby Howard of Anniston, Ala., passed away during the spring of 1997. Their son, Jerry, was a standout end on the South Carolina football squad, 1958-60, and was co-captain his senior year. Jerry's son Jay - Sarge's grandson - was a Gamecock football letterman, 1983-84.

Frye was honored in January 1993 when the American Baseball Coaches Association named him National Groundskeeper of the Year.

Sarge Frye Field is part of a 30-acre complex of athletic fields and buildings at the Rex Enright Athletic Center, named for the late University of South Carolina director of athletics and head football coach. Other facilities include the "Roundhouse" office building and the George Terry Olympic Sports building which houses dressing and sports medicine facilities.

The latest improvements in on-going renovations of Sarge Frye Field included the addition of 400 chairback seats on the first base side before the 2001 season; installation of 1800 chairback seats and a new rest room equipped visitor's dugout were completed prior to the 1999 season.

A new baseball player's lounge and locker room was added to this facility in 1997. The first stage of extensive renovations scheduled for Sarge Frye Field included the locker room, lounge, which features a 60" big screen television, and enlargement of the home dugout.

A two-tier press box was completed in 1987. A 10-foot fence surrounds the outfield and there is a large batter's background, 20 feet high and 40 feet side behind the center field fence. A computerized scoreboard and message center was installed in 1984.

Dimensions

Sarge Frye Field currently seats 6,000, but overflow crowds in excess of capacity are common.

Dimensions are 325 feet at the left field foul pole, 360 feet in the power alleys, 390 feet in center field and 325 feet at the right field pole. The facility is well lit for night baseball.

The New Roost, a residence hall for students adjacent to Sarge Frye Field, was completed in 1989 and replaced the original Roost



Weldon B. "Sarge" Frye

built 20 years earlier. Originally a dormitory exclusively for scholarship athletes, the New Roost now houses both student-athletes and non-athletes.

A portion of the original Roost has been remodeled into an academics enrichment center.

The Weems Baskin Track, Sam Daniel Tennis Center, the Eugene Stone Soccer Stadium, Beckham Softball field, practice fields and a golf green and practice area are also part of the Enright Athletic Center complex.

A field house containing indoor practice facilities for football, baseball, track, tennis and soccer was completed in 1991 and replaced a "Bubble" that was destroyed by Hurricane Hugo in 1989.



South Carolina set school records for total and average attendance in the 2007 season. The Gamecocks had a total attendance mark of 159,545, for an average of 4,985 fans per contest.

Tournaments

Sarge Frye Field was the site of the 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2007 NCAA Regional Tournament as well as the 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004 NCAA Super Regional. In 1993 the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division Baseball Tournament was held at Sarge Frye Field.

South Carolina ranked sixth in the nation in attendance for the 2004 season and has been ranked among the top 15 in the country over the last eight seasons.

Prior to that, the facility hosted six NCAA Regional baseball tournaments (1975-76-77-81-82-85) and the Metro Conference championship tournaments in 1987 and 1989. The South Carolina High School league often uses the facility for state championships and all-star games.

SARGE FRYE FIELD ATTENDANCE

Year	Dates	Total	Avg.
2007	32	159,545	4,985
2006	35	133,652	3,818
2005	33	112,984	3,423
2004	41	159,142	3,881
2003	35	105,220	3,086
2002	41	151,521	3,695
2001	37	145,616	3,935
2000	41	134,207	3,273
1999	35	57,829	1,652
1998	38	54,416	1,424
1997	36	41,197	1,153
1996	26	34,657	1,333
1995	32	37,351	1,167
1994	35	55,572	1,588
1993	32	47,439	1,482
1992	25	41,251	1,650
1991	30	41,780	1,393
1990	30	44,026	1,468
1989	31	38,049	1,227
1988	28	48,232	1,786
1987	33	55,968	1,696
1986	29	43,375	1,496
1985	37	84,000	2,270
1984	29	38,550	1,329
1983	24	37,100	1,546
1982	35	87,350	2,496
1981	33	76,432	2,316
1980	26	67,650	2,602
---Name officially changed May 11, 1980---			
1979	33	71,000	2,152
1978	28	37,550	1,341
1977	30	52,400	1,747

CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

STAFF

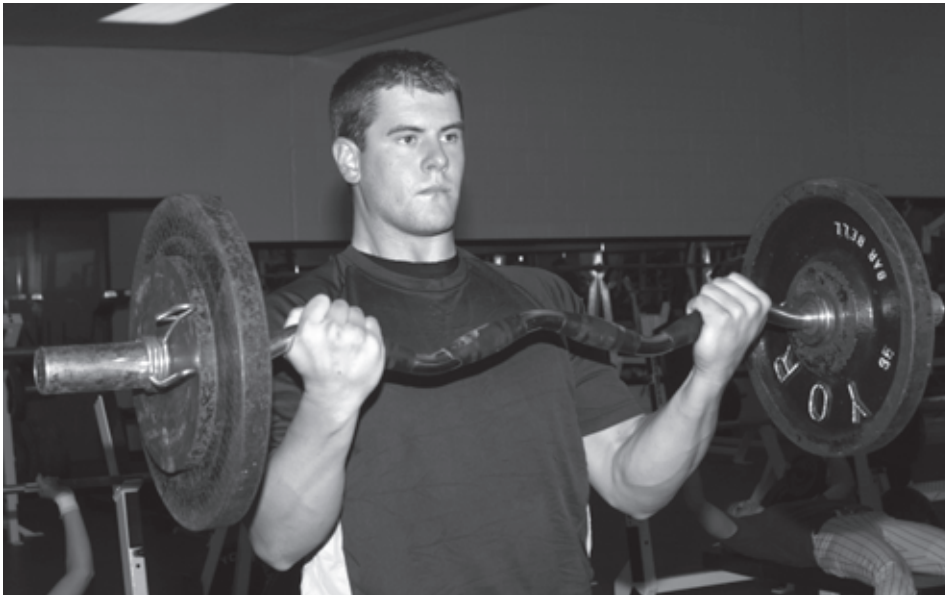
PLAYER PROFILES

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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING PROGRAM



“The South Carolina strength and conditioning program is used to help develop stronger, more competitive baseball players. It ensures that each athlete gets the maximum benefit from resistance training, speed development, injury prevention, and sports specific conditioning. Players train year round using various methods of strength training and conditioning to challenge them not only physically but mentally.”

USC strength & conditioning coach Billy Anderson



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SOUTH CAROLINA RETURNS EXPERIENCED TEAM FOR THE 2008 SEASON

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SEASON IN REVIEW

HISTORY & RECORDS

The South Carolina baseball team is gearing up to compete for an NCAA berth and a possible trip back to Omaha, Neb. for the College World Series. With a majority of upper classmen on the 2008 roster including six returning position starters in the lineup, head coach Ray Tanner and the Gamecocks are hoping to be in position to be among the last teams playing in June.

“We have expectations in this program. We want to earn the opportunity to play in the postseason and hopefully get hot at the right time,” said South Carolina head coach Ray Tanner. “We’ve had a consistent program (here at South Carolina). The last two years we haven’t been to Omaha and a majority of the guys back are (upperclassmen). There is no question in my mind that going through fall practice there was an inherent presence that we need to do more. I don’t think there is any question that these guys want to make sure, if it is their last year at Carolina, that it ends in Omaha.”

Tanner cites the returning players work ethic and leadership as two important aspects of the fall that he recognized and hopes translates into the spring with the younger players as well.

“I felt like we had a really good fall practice,” said Tanner. “I’m especially proud of the older guys and their work ethic. These are guys that have been in the program for awhile and they’ve been out playing in the summer. They didn’t have to come out and prove themselves this fall. I felt like they worked hard and played with the type of enthusiasm and work ethic that we needed to have because of the younger players that we have in the program. Overall I thought it was a good fall for us.”

POSITION PLAYERS

The Gamecocks boast one of the nation’s top returning offenses with six position starters back from last year’s team. Veterans anchor the infield with four juniors returning this season to lead the way. The corner spots at first and third base feature two of *Baseball America’s* top 30 college prospects for the 2008 draft in first baseman Justin Smoak and third baseman James Darnell.

Smoak, who earned All-America honors last year as a sophomore, batted .315 with 22 HR and 72 RBI. He has 39 home runs in two seasons for Carolina and is just eight shy of the school record of 48 set by Hank Small (1972-73-74-75). He also played last summer on the USA Baseball National Team.

Darnell earned second team All-SEC honors at third base last year and was the team’s leading hitter at a .331 clip with 19 HR and 63 RBI. Darnell also earned All-Star accolades this summer in his second season in the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League, where he was among the leaders in home runs with eight round trippers.

The middle infield also returns a pair of starters with Andrew Crisp at second base and Reese Havens at shortstop. Crisp moves to second base after a year at starting center field. Havens has been a staple at shortstop over the last two years and also picked up All-Star honors in the Cape Cod League. Both are also expected to be selected as juniors in the 2008 MLB Draft.

The offense also features a pair of returning seniors in right fielder Harley Lail and catcher/designated hitter Phil Disher. Both players served as coaches/captains for the fall intrasquad Garnet & Black World Series. Disher was an All-America selection last year at DH, where he hit 15 HR and 63 RBI to go along with a .328 batting average (second best on the team). Lail nabbed a starting spot in right field and was a .291 hitter with four HR and 25 RBI to go along with nine doubles and two triples.

“There are a lot of ingredients in the mix and it is a veteran team on offense and defense,” said Tanner. “I expect our returning players to be better than a year ago. A lot of people identify our offense with Justin Smoak but

there is a supporting cast,” said Tanner. “We are going to have guys in front and behind of him that can hit. Reese Havens is much improved offensively, James Darnell continues to get better and Phil Disher was our Player of the Fall.”

The six returning starters look to blend well with a mix of veterans and newcomers, who are fighting it out for the last few spots on the lineup card. Catching Tanner’s eye over the fall was a pair of freshmen, who put up strong offensive numbers in their first semester on a college campus. Both Whit Merrifield and Justin Hopper are looking to nail down spots in center and left field respectively before the season opener.

“We have two guys that are true freshmen that could get a chance to play right away,” said Tanner. “Merrifield came in being an infield/outfield guy that looks to have the early nod to play center field for us. Also Justin Hopper who we recruited as a pitcher/position player. We gave him an opportunity to see what he could do as a position player. He has been a pretty successful hitter at every level he’s played at, and had a good fall for us offensively. He’s a guy that if we had to start today would probably start in left field. Those are the two freshmen that stand out who could get some immediate time. Merrifield, if he can stay in the lineup, I think will lead the team in stolen bases. He’s an exciting player. Hopper is a guy that surprised us. He’s a good runner as well.”

Returning lettermen expected to be competing for playing time as well in the outfield include junior Adam Crisp and sophomore DeAngelo Mack. With Disher expected to spend a majority of time at the catcher’s position, a designated hitter will be needed and a veteran bat is a possibility in that spot. Sophomore catcher Kyle Enders came up with several key pinch-hits last year and may compete for time as well as freshmen Parker Bangs and Sam Mahoney.

“I think we’re going to hit some home runs. We have 74 home runs returning,” said Tanner. “I don’t expect Darnell, or Smoak to miss a beat. (Phil) Disher at this point is better than he was a year ago. He had, the best fall out of all the position players.”

PITCHING STAFF

Along with veterans in the lineup, the Gamecocks also bring back several letterwinners to the mound for the 2008 season. Despite the loss of left-hander Arik Hempy and right-hander Harris Honeycutt, the Gamecocks figure to have several upperclassmen on the hill to begin the year with a few also returning from injury.

“I think we have a quality pitching staff,” said Tanner. “There are certainly some candidates to have a stellar staff. I have confidence in them and I am hoping that we can be as good as I think we are offensively and defensively to take some pressure off this staff. We have a lot of guys that don’t have a lot of numbers next to their names. Guys like Parker Bangs have burst onto the scene, Craig Thomas getting an opportunity, Nick Godwin a senior guy that wants to make a mark on this program. They will go along with (Will) Atwood, (Mike) Cisco and (Blake) Cooper.

Junior right-hander Mike Cisco is back after a 6-2 record with a 3.84 ERA. Cisco hurled 86.2 innings last year, the team’s second highest total. Sophomore Blake Cooper also was a *Collegiate Baseball* Freshman All-America after posting a 7-2 record in his first season with the Garnet & Black. Both Cisco and Cooper took time off in the fall after pitching in the summer and are expected to be back and to contribute in time for opening day in the spring.

“Some of our veteran guys took time off this fall,” said Tanner. “Cisco never threw a pitch. Blake Cooper never threw a pitch. (Reliever) Curtis Johnson threw one inning. Will Atwood threw two innings. (Jordan) Costner

did not throw. He's coming off an injury. (Sam) Dyson didn't throw a bullpen until late in the fall. We've got some guys that have been in the program and we expect to do good things for us that we didn't see. It gave the other guys the opportunity to pitch in scrimmages a lot. We've got to count on those guys when the season starts."

In forecasting the rotation for the 2008 season, Tanner notes that the players that step up their games will be the ones on the mound when the game is on the line. Cisco and Cooper figure to be among the first couple in the rotation with junior left-handers Will Atwood and Craig Thomas competing for spots as well as freshman Parker Bangs.

"Pitching-wise, we need to make some jumps," said Tanner. "Mike Cisco has won some big games for us here. He figured in the two Clemson wins at home last year. He's got to elevate his game. Will Atwood, he's got to elevate his game. Curtis Johnson, 31 appearances last year, did a nice job in the bullpen. He's got to be back there again for us. Craig Thomas, a wildcard, is a guy that's pretty good. He was hurt early in his career, but will get a chance to prove what he can do now. We need for him to be good. I don't think it's a situation those guys have to have ERA's under 2.00. I think offensively we'll give them run support, but we need for our pitching staff to elevate individually and as a group. We need (Jordan) Costner down there, Alex Farotto has to elevate his game with consistency and could be dominating at times."

"We have guys that give you a lot of different looks plus a lot of left-handers that pitch on this staff," added Tanner. "All good pitching staffs normally have a few lefties down there."

SCHEDULE

Things are a little different in college baseball this season, as a mandatory start date has all of college baseball opening up on February 22, the latest a season has started for South Carolina since the 1988 season. Teams will continue to play a 56-game schedule though, as most schools will adopt a weekly schedule of five games.

"I wish we had a few more weekends of non-conference play but it is the same for everybody," said Tanner. "I like the fact that there is a common start date. It is the same for everybody. Over the years in college baseball,

we have had a lot of programs do things different ways and now I think the uniformity will be good for our game."

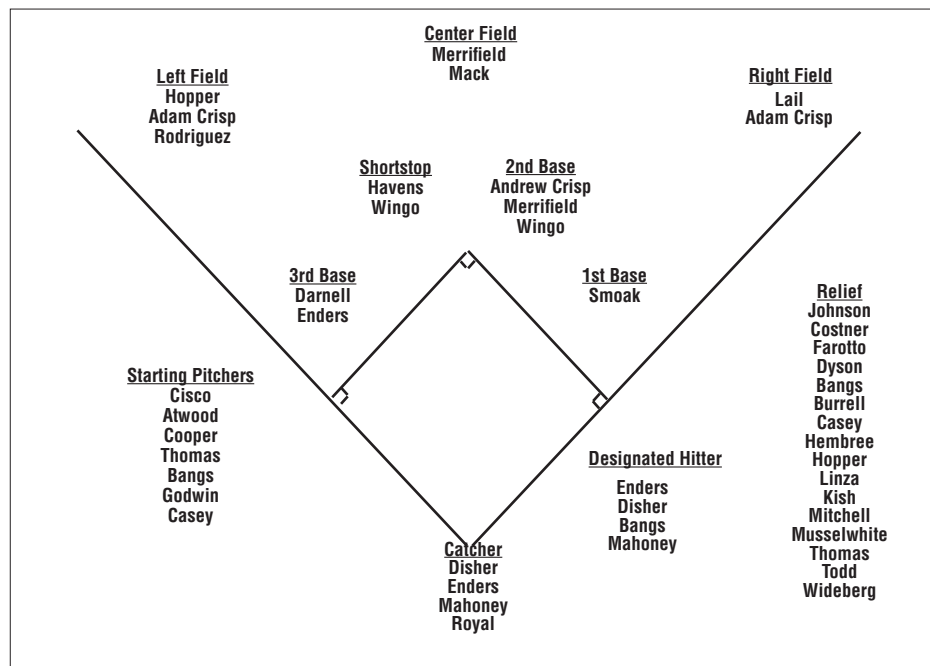
The Gamecocks open up the 2008 season on hosting the East Carolina Pirates in a three-game series at Sarge Frye Field. South Carolina and Clemson will again meet four times next season beginning with a home and home series on Mar. 1 and Mar. 2. The first game is scheduled in Columbia at Sarge Frye Field with the return game at Clemson. Both teams will also meet twice in April with Carolina hosting on Wednesday, April 9 and Clemson hosting the final game on Wednesday, April 16. Other in-state contests for the Gamecocks include College of Charleston (March 18, March 26), USC-Upstate (March 19), Furman (March 25, April 22), The Citadel (April 1, May 13) and Wofford (April 23, May 7).

"It's a little bit of a difference because you are playing five games a week versus maybe four in the past," said Tanner. "I think it is going to develop your pitching staff a little bit and some guys are going to get opportunities that might not have other-wise. I think you are going to use more people on offense and defense than you used in the past. I think we are prepared for five games a week because we do have depth on our pitching staff. We will go as deep as 11 or 12 so I think we are prepared for the five game-a-week schedule."

This year's 30-game SEC schedule begins on Friday, Mar. 14 with South Carolina traveling to Nashville, Tenn. for a three-game series with defending SEC champion Vanderbilt. The Gamecocks will return home the next weekend on Friday, Mar. 21 the SEC home opener, a three-game series vs. 2007 CWS participant Mississippi State.

"There is no question that opening up against two of the more successful teams of 2007 will be a tremendous challenge but there are no easy weekends in the SEC to begin with," said Tanner. "I don't think it matters who you play, when you play. Everybody is going to be good and we are in the No. 1 conference in the country. You know you are going to have to play well and be consistent to survive successfully in this league."

The Gamecocks will also host Kentucky, Ole Miss, Florida and Tennessee. Other SEC road contests include Georgia, Auburn, LSU and Arkansas. The Saturday, April 19 home game between South Carolina and Ole Miss will be televised on SEC-TV.



MEDIA INFORMATION



Andrew Kitick - Baseball SID



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Media Relations Director



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Assistant Director



Koby Padgett
Assistant Director



Lynne Beattie
Administrative Assistant



Emily Feeney
Assistant Director



Diana Koval
Assistant Director



Michelle Schmitt
Assistant AD/Assistant Director



Miquel Jacobs
Graduate 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@gwm.sc.edu

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Media Relations Office	803-777-5204
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Andrew Kitick's Office	803-777-5257
Andrew Kitick's Cell	803-240-4150
Ticket Office	803-777-4274
Kristi Davis Baseball Administrative Assistant	803-777-7830
Press Box Lower Level	803-777-6648 803-777-6691

**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

CollegeBaseball.Rivals.Com
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

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.

SCORE UPDATES

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

CREDENTIALS

Accredited news media are admitted on a pass list basis through the breezeway entrance located near home plate and The Roost. 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 INFORMATION

Gamecock Sports Properties, a partnership between the University of South Carolina Athletic Department and two of the country's leaders in the collegiate sports industry, ISP Sports and Learfield Communications, Inc., is the originating medium for radio coverage of the 2008 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 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.

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. Coach Tanner is also available during the conference season on the SEC Teleconference.

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 on the field following the game. After a cooling-off period, South Carolina head coach Ray Tanner and requested players will be brought to the interview area. 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.

CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

STAFF

PLAYER PROFILES

OPPONENTS

SEASON IN REVIEW

HISTORY & RECORDS

LOCAL SOUTH CAROLINA MEDIA OUTLETS

NEWSPAPERS

Associated Press

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

Anderson Independent-Mail

Greg Wallace
 Phone: (864) 260-1238
 E-mail: wallacegc@independentmail.com

The (Charleston) Post & Courier

Travis Haney
 Phone: (803) 201-8998
 E-mail: thaney@postandcourier.com

The (Florence) Morning News

Mark Haselden
 Phone: (843) 317-7271
 E-mail: mhaselden@florencenews.com

The Gamecock

Alex Riley
 Phone: (803) 777-7182
 E-mail: gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

The Greenville News

Rick Scoppe
 Phone: (803) 256-2588
 E-mail: rscoppejr@sc.rr.com

The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News

Terry Massey
 Phone: (843) 626-0200
 E-mail: tmassey@thesunnews.com

The (Rock Hill) Herald

David Cloninger
 Phone: (803) 329-4034
 E-mail: DCloninger@heraldonline.com

The (Spartanburg) Herald-Journal

Matt Cobbs
 Phone: (864) 562-7242
 E-mail: mccobbs@yahoo.com

Spurs & Feathers

Dexter Hudson
 Phone: (803) 256-1789
 E-mail: spursusc@aol.com

The State Newspaper (Columbia)

Seth Emerson
 Phone: (803) 771-8470
 E-mail: semerson@thestate.com

The (Sumter) Item

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

RADIO

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS NETWORK

Phil Kornblut, Kevin McCrarey
 Phone: (803) 790-4300
 E-mail: philtalk@aol.com
 kmac00@aol.com

WCOS AM 1400

Teddy Heffner
 Phone: (803) 343-1100
 E-mail: talkingsports1@aol.com

WOIC FM 93.1

Rich Taylor
 Phone: (803) 361-2309
 E-mail: richtaylor@espn.columbia.com

WNKT FM 107.5

Mike Morgan & Jay Phillips
 Phone: (803) 796-9975
 E-mail: primetime1320@aol.com

WVOC AM 560

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

TELEVISION

WIS-TV (Channel 10)

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

WLTX-TV (Channel 19)

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

WOLO-TV (Channel 25)

Tim Hill
 Phone: (803) 754-7525
 E-mail: thill@wolo.com

INTERNET

Gamecock Anthem

Doug Jolley
 Phone: (803) 318-3684
 E-mail: dougjolley@earthlink.net

Gamecock Central

Scott Hood
 Phone: (803) 606-3261
 E-mail: scotthood@juno.com

The Big Spur

JC Shurburt
 Phone: N/A
 E-mail: jcshurburt@gmail.com

2008 TRAVEL PLANS

MARCH 3 - CLEMSON

Hotel:
 Hampton Inn Anderson
 120 Interstate Blvd.
 Anderson, SC 29621
Telephone: (864) 375-1999

MARCH 14-16 - VANDERBILT

Hotel:
 Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt
 2613 West End Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37203
Telephone: (615) 327-4707

APRIL 4-6 - GEORGIA

Hotel:
 Hilton Garden Inn
 390 East Washington Street
 Athens, GA 30601
Telephone: (706) 353-6800

APRIL 11-13 - AUBURN

Hotel:
 The Hotel at Auburn University
 241 South College Street
 Auburn, AL 36830
Telephone: (334) 821-8200

APRIL 25-27 - LSU

Hotel:
 Marriott Baton Rouge
 5500 Hilton Avenue
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Telephone: (225) 924-5000

MAY 9-11 - ARKANSAS

Hotel:
 Cosmopolitan Hotel
 70 North East Avenue
 Fayetteville, AR 72701
Telephone: 479-442-5555

CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

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GAMECOCK 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 2008 Carolina baseball games.

WNKT (107.5 FM) in Columbia will be the flagship stations 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. Games can also be heard on www.gamecocksonline.com.

In addition, for the fourth consecutive season live audio broadcast for the additional 22 regular season games will be available on-line at gamecocksonline.com.

Mike Morgan enters his ninth year as the voice of Carolina Baseball on the Gamecock 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 telecasts for CSS as well as Pay Per View.

In addition, Morgan co-hosts "The Show" on The Game (107.5 FM), Monday-Friday from 4-7 pm, as well as "Carolina Calls" featuring Gamecock coaches.

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 2002 National Championship.

While behind the mic for basketball, he's called NCAA tournament games and two NIT championships from Madison Square Garden.

Morgan recently earned the 2005 & 2006 South Carolina Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association (NSSA).

Tommy Moody, also in his ninth year, will join Morgan as analyst for the SEC contests. Along with his work as analyst, Moody will be play-by-play announcer for the additional 22 contests available at gamecocksonline.com. 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 "The Pregame Show" on the Game (107.5 FM), Monday-Friday from 6-9 am.

2008 Network Affiliates

Allendale	WDOG	93.5 FM
Anderson	WRIX	103.1 FM
Charleston	WTMA	1250 AM
Charleston	WNKT	107.5 FM
Columbia	WNKT	107.5 FM
Columbia	WOMG	103.1 FM
Greenwood	WLMA	1350 AM
Newberry	WKDK	1240 AM



Tommy Moody & Mike Morgan

2008 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

22	East Carolina@	3 pm
23	East Carolina @	1:30 pm
24	East Carolina @	1:30 pm
27	UNC Asheville @	3 pm

MARCH

1	Clemson #	1:30 pm
2	at Clemson #	2 pm
4	Gardner Webb @	7 pm
5	Charlotte @	7 pm
7	Duquesne @	7 pm
8	Duquesne @	4 pm
9	Duquesne @	1 pm
11	Yale @	7 pm
12	Yale @	7 pm
14	at Vanderbilt* #	7 pm
15	at Vanderbilt* #	3 pm
16	at Vanderbilt* #	2 pm
18	at College of Charleston* @	7 pm
19	USC-Upstate @	7 pm
21	Mississippi State* #	7 pm
22	Mississippi State* #	4 pm
23	Mississippi State* #	1:30 pm
25	Furman @	7 pm
26	College of Charleston @	7 pm
28	Kentucky* #	7 pm
29	Kentucky* #	4 pm
30	Kentucky* #	1:30 pm

APRIL

1	at The Citadel @	7 pm
2	Davidson @	7 pm
4	at Georgia* #	6:30 pm
5	at Georgia* #	3 pm
6	at Georgia* #	2 pm
8	Western Carolina @	7 pm
9	Clemson #	7 pm
11	at Auburn* #	7 pm
12	at Auburn* #	4 pm
13	at Auburn* #	3 pm
16	at Clemson #	7:15 pm
18	Ole Miss* #	7 pm
19	Ole Miss* # (SEC-TV/FSN South)	4 pm
20	Ole Miss* #	12 noon
22	at Furman @	7 pm
23	Wofford #	7 pm
25	at LSU* #	8 pm
26	at LSU* #	4 pm
27	at LSU* #	2 pm

MAY

2	Florida* #	7 pm
3	Florida* #	4 pm
4	Florida* #	1:30 pm
7	at Wofford @	7 pm
9	at Arkansas* #	7:35 pm
10	at Arkansas* #	3:05 pm
11	at Arkansas* #	1:05 pm
13	The Citadel @	7 pm
15	Tennessee* #	7 pm
16	Tennessee* #	7 pm
17	Tennessee* #	4 pm
21-25	at SEC Tournament (Hoover, Ala.) #	

JUNE

30-2	NCAA Regionals #
6-9	NCAA Super Regionals #
14-25	College World Series (Omaha, Neb.) #

* - denotes SEC game
 @ - denotes Internet Broadcast only
 # - denotes Gamecock Radio Network and Internet Broadcast