



# SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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#1/1 SOUTH CAROLINA (0-0) vs. BENEDICT (0-0)  
OCTOBER 31, 2022 – 7 P.M. – COLUMBIA, S.C. – COLONIAL LIFE ARENA (18,000)

## THE MATCHUP

### GAMECOCKS

0-0

Ranking: 1/1 (AP/Coaches)

Head Coach: Dawn Staley

Record at SC: 366-105 (13th)

Career Record: 538-185 (21st)

Top Returning Scorer: Aliyah Boston (16.8)

Top Returning Rebounder: Aliyah Boston (12.5)



### TIGERS

0-0

Ranking: -/- (AP/Coaches)

Head Coach: James Rice

Record at BC: 203-79 (11th)

Career Record: Same

Top Returning Scorer: Taylor Christmas (3.8)

Top Returning Rebounder: Taylor Christmas (3.5)



## GAMECOCK NOTABLES

### Theme Things

Head coach Dawn Staley will announce the theme for their 2022-23 season during tonight's Gamecock Walk as part of FAM Fest before the game. The walk around the outside of the arena from the College Street entrance to the team entrance along Gadsden Street will begin at approximately 5:10 p.m.

### Exhibition Action

Tonight's game marks the second time the Gamecocks have hosted Benedict in an exhibition game to open the season. The two met in last season's exhibition, a 98-41 South Carolina victory on Nov. 1.

Since it began playing other college teams in exhibitions in 2009-10, South Carolina has won those games by an average of 53.0 points. The Gamecocks have scored 100 points in five of their last seven exhibitions, the first of which was a 100-25 decision over Coker (Nov. 2, 2014) in the biggest exhibition win under head coach Dawn Staley.

### The 2022-23 Gamecocks

South Carolina returns four of its five starters among its 10 returning letterwinners from the 2022 National Championship team, and head coach Dawn Staley added a pair of top-20 signees in Ashlyn Watkins (No. 12) and Talaysia Cooper (No. 18) to this season's roster, along with Georgia Tech transfer Kierra Fletcher. The 2022-23 season is the senior campaign for Staley's first-ever No. 1 ranked signing class, headlined by 2022 National Player of the Year Aliyah Boston and two-time All-SEC and honorable mention All-America guard Zia Cooke. Stalwart defender Brea Beal, versatile forward Laeticia Amihere and local favorite Olivia Thompson are also part of that Class of 2019 signing class.

Fifth-year senior Victoria Saxton returned for her extra season of eligibility to shore up the Gamecocks' dominant frontcourt, which also features a more dominant Kamilla Cardoso. Sophomores Sania Feagin (forward) and Bree Hall (guard) look to make their mark more regularly in their second season, and redshirt freshman Raven Johnson will battle Fletcher to take over the point guard position left vacant by WNBA draft pick Destanni Henderson.

## SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Oct. 31	Benedict (Exh.)	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	ETSU (SECN)	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Maryland (ESPN2)	6 p.m.
Nov. 17	at Clemson	7 p.m.
Nov. 20	at Stanford (ABC)	3 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Cal Poly	8 p.m.
Nov. 27	Hampton (SECN+)	Noon
Nov. 29	UCLA (SECN)	7 p.m.
Dec. 3	Memphis (SECN+)	3 p.m.
Dec. 11	Liberty (SECN+)	2 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. South Dakota State (ESPN2)	7 p.m.
Dec. 18	Charleston Southern (SECN+)	2 p.m.
Dec. 21	Coastal Carolina (SECN+)	Noon
Dec. 29	Texas A&M* (ESPN2/SECN)	7 p.m.
Jan. 2	at Georgia* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Jan. 5	Auburn* (SECN+)	7 p.m.
Jan. 8	at Mississippi State* (ESPN2/SECN)	1 p.m.
Jan. 12	at Kentucky* (SECN+)	7 p.m.
Jan. 15	Missouri* (ESPN2/SECN)	1 p.m.
Jan. 19	at Vanderbilt* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Jan. 22	Arkansas* (ESPN2/SECN)	3 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Alabama* (ESPN2/SECN)	1 p.m.
Feb. 2	Kentucky* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Feb. 5	at UConn (FOX)	Noon
Feb. 9	at Auburn* (SECN+)	8 p.m.
Feb. 12	LSU* (Play 4 Kay) (SECN)	2 p.m.
Feb. 16	Florida* (SECN+)	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Ole Miss* (SECN)	4 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Tennessee* (ESPN)	7 p.m.
Feb. 26	Georgia* (ESPN2/SECN)	Noon

## 2022-23 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Last School
0	Olivia Thompson	G	5-8	Sr.	Lexington, S.C./Lexington
1	Zia Cooke	G	5-9	Sr.	Toledo, Ohio/Rogers
2	Ashlyn Watkins	F	6-3	Fr.	Columbia, S.C./Cardinal Newman
4	Aliyah Boston	F	6-5	Sr.	St. Thomas, U.S.V.I./Worcester (Mass.) Academy
5	Victoria Saxton	F	6-2	Gr.	Rome, Ga./Model
10	Kamilla Cardoso	C	6-7	Jr.	Montes Claros, Brazil/Syracuse
11	Talaysia Cooper	G	6-0	Fr.	Turbeville, S.C./East Clarendon
12	Brea Beal	G	6-1	Sr.	Rock Island, Ill./Rock Island
15	Laeticia Amihere	F	6-4	Sr.	Mississauga, Ontario, Canada/King's Christian Collegiate
20	Sania Feagin	F	6-3	So.	Ellenwood, Ga./Forest Park
23	Bree Hall	G	6-0	So.	Dayton, Ohio/Wayne
25	Raven Johnson	G	5-8	R-Fr.	Atlanta, Ga./Westlake
41	Kierra Fletcher	G	5-9	Gr.	Warren, Mich./Georgia Tech

Head Coach: Dawn Staley

Assoc. Head Coach: Lisa Boyer; Assistant Coaches: Fred Chmiel, Jolette Law

## QUICK FACTS

### The University

**Location:** Columbia, S.C.

**Founded:** 1801

**Enrollment:** 35,388

**Colors:** Garnet (PMS 202C) and Black

**Nickname:** Gamecocks

**Conference:** Southeastern

**University President:** Michael Amiridis

**Athletics Director:** Ray Tanner

**Facility:** Colonial Life Arena (18,000)

### Coaching Staff

**Head Coach:** Dawn Staley

**Alma Mater:** Virginia, 1992

**Overall Record:** 538-185 (23rd season)

**School Record:** 366-105 (54th season)

**Assoc. Head Coach, Alma Mater:**

Lisa Boyer, Ithaca, 1979 (15th season)

**Assistant Coaches, Alma Mater:**

Fred Chmiel, Excelsior, 2001 (8th season)

Jollette Law, Iowa, 1990 (6th season)

### Team Information

**2021-22 Record:** 35-2

Home: 16-0 Away: 9-1 Neutral: 10-1

**SEC Record (Finish):** 15-1 (1st)

Home: 8-0 Away: 7-1

**Letterwinners Returning/Lost:** 10/6

**Starters Returning/Lost:** 4/1

### Program History

**First Year of Women's Basketball:** 1974-75

**All-Time Record:** 946-534 (49th season)

**All-Time SEC Record:** 231-232 (32nd season)

**NCAA Appearances (Last):** 18 (2022)

**NCAA Tournament Record:** 40-16

**2022 NCAA Result:** National Champion

**WNIT Appearances (Last):** 4 (2011)

**WNIT Record:** 3-4

### Media Relations

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**Head Coach on Social Media**

**Twitter:** @DawnStaley

**Instagram:** @Staley05

**Athletics Department on the Web**

**Website:** GamecocksOnline.com

**Twitter:** @GamecocksOnline

**Instagram:** @GamecocksOnline

**Facebook:** Facebook.com/GamecocksOnline

**YouTube:** YouTube.com/GamecocksOnline

### The Watcher

Gamecocks are on four of the five positional award watch lists announced by the Naismith Hall of Fame and Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) in the preseason. The lists recognize the top 20 players in the nation at each of the five positions.

Zia Cooke is once again on the Ann Meyers Drysdale Award list, and she was a finalist for the award that honors the nation's top shooting guard in 2021.

Brea Beal was listed among those on the list for the best small forward in the nation, the Cheryl Miller Award.

Power forwards Victoria Saxton and Sania Feagin were selected to the watch list for the Katrina McClain Award.

Aliyah Boston is looking for a sweep of the Lisa Leslie Award as the top center in the country after winning the award each of her previous three seasons.

### Preseason Predictions

As the reigning national champion, the Gamecocks are atop both preseason polls by a near unanimous decision. South Carolina claimed all 30 No. 1 votes in the Associated Press Poll. In the USA Today Coaches Poll, 30 of the 32 votes went to the Gamecocks.

South Carolina opened and closed the 2021-22 season atop both polls. The Gamecocks have been No. 1 in the AP poll 33 times since the start of the 2019-20 season, more than three times as many weeks as second place on the list, Stanford. South Carolina has been in the AP top five for a nation-leading 52 of the 57 polls in that same time period.

The Gamecocks were also selected to repeat as SEC Regular-Season Champions by both the media and league coaches in preseason voting.

### Scouting Benedict

Head coach James Rice welcomed 10 newcomers to his roster for 2022-23. He led last season's veteran lineup to a 23-8 record that included a SIAC Tournament Championship and a No. 6 seed in the NCAA Div. II NCAA Tournament.

### Opponent Files

The Gamecocks' schedule includes six games against teams ranked in both the national preseason polls with four of those coming in non-conference action. The 2022-23 campaign also includes eight other opponents that received votes in one or both preseason polls.

### Rebounding Roundup

South Carolina was among the top rebounding teams in the country in 2021-22 and doesn't look to drop off this season. The Gamecocks' +17.7 rebounding margin led the nation last season, and they were third in rebounding average with a school-record 47.9 per game.

## NATIONAL RANKINGS

### Associated Press Poll (Preseason)

1. South Carolina	0-0
2. Stanford	0-0
3. Texas	0-0
4. Iowa	0-0
5. Tennessee	0-0
6. UConn	0-0
7. Louisville	0-0
8. Iowa State	0-0
9. Notre Dame	0-0
10. NC State	0-0
11. Indiana	0-0
12. North Carolina	0-0
13. Virginia Tech	0-0
14. Ohio State	0-0
15. Oklahoma	0-0
16. LSU	0-0
17. Maryland	0-0
18. Baylor	0-0
19. Arizona	0-0
20. Oregon	0-0
21. Creighton	0-0
22. Nebraska	0-0
23. South Dakota State	0-0
24. Princeton	0-0
25. Michigan	0-0

### USA Today/WBCA Coaches' Poll (Preseason)

1. South Carolina	0-0
2. Stanford	0-0
3. Texas	0-0
4. Tennessee	0-0
5. Louisville	0-0
6. Iowa	0-0
UConn	0-0
8. NC State	0-0
9. Iowa State	0-0
10. Notre Dame	0-0
11. Indiana	0-0
12. North Carolina	0-0
13. Virginia Tech	0-0
14. LSU	0-0
15. Ohio State	0-0
16. Oklahoma	0-0
17. Baylor	0-0
18. Maryland	0-0
19. Arizona	0-0
20. Oregon	0-0
21. Creighton	0-0
22. Nebraska	0-0
23. Michigan	0-0
24. South Dakota State	0-0
25. Princeton	0-0



## 2021-22 South Carolina Women's Basketball Combined Team Statistics All games

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as of May 10, 2022

### Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	35-2	16-0	9-1	10-1
CONFERENCE	15-1	8-0	7-1	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	20-1	8-0	2-0	10-1

### Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
South Carolina	693	634	692	599	5	2623
Opponents	451	435	474	509	6	1875

### Team Box Score

No.	Player	Overall			Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				Other				PTS	AVG		
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-3FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO			BLK	STL
4	BOSTON, Aliyah	37-37	1056:48	28.6	239-441	.542	14-48	.292	131-170	.771	150	312	462	12.5	51	0	75	57	90	45	623	16.8
3	HENDERSON, Destanni	34-34	1052:50	31.0	144-357	.403	55-138	.399	49-68	.721	23	84	107	3.1	37	0	133	72	4	46	392	11.5
1	COOKE, Zia	36-36	975:19	27.1	139-406	.342	45-157	.287	62-88	.705	15	61	76	2.1	33	0	60	76	2	22	385	10.7
15	AMIHERE, Laeticia	31-3	520:06	16.8	68-156	.436	5-11	.455	54-83	.651	45	68	113	3.6	33	0	37	57	25	19	195	6.3
5	SAXTON, Victoria	37-37	796:02	21.5	86-171	.503	0-1	.000	43-67	.642	118	98	216	5.8	59	1	43	44	48	26	215	5.8
10	CARDOSO, Kamilla	32-0	424:16	13.3	68-123	.553	0-0	.000	38-53	.717	61	103	164	5.1	49	0	31	39	46	11	174	5.4
12	BEAL, Brea	37-37	890:12	24.1	72-189	.381	15-63	.238	28-47	.596	65	121	186	5.0	65	0	47	38	20	26	187	5.1
24	GRISSETT, LeLe	25-1	308:55	12.4	30-71	.423	1-1	1.000	20-40	.500	29	21	50	2.0	21	0	14	19	8	7	81	3.2
23	HALL, Bree	36-0	334:05	9.3	32-102	.314	14-46	.304	19-30	.633	12	41	53	1.5	43	0	1	23	1	5	97	2.7
11	LITTLETON, Destiny	31-0	278:41	9.0	25-70	.357	21-61	.344	9-12	.750	6	33	39	1.3	17	0	7	15	2	9	80	2.6
2	RUSSELL, Eniya	23-0	177:08	7.7	19-45	.422	5-12	.417	10-17	.588	5	25	30	1.3	18	0	19	16	2	4	53	2.3
44	RIVERS, Saniya	27-0	351:44	13.0	24-98	.245	1-31	.032	12-24	.500	5	38	43	1.6	37	0	38	27	13	13	61	2.3
20	FEAGIN, Sania	31-0	132:04	4.3	21-34	.618	0-0	.000	16-28	.571	14	31	45	1.5	19	0	6	18	12	5	58	1.9
0	THOMPSON, Olivia	13-0	47:14	3.6	3-13	.231	3-13	.231	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0.7
32	WESOLEK, Elysa	21-0	71:18	3.4	5-12	.417	0-3	.000	3-4	.750	4	9	13	0.6	7	0	4	7	0	0	13	0.6
25	JOHNSON, Raven	2-0	08:19	4.2	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Team											83	88	171				25					
Total		<b>37</b>	<b>7425</b>		<b>975-2289</b>	<b>.426</b>	<b>179-585</b>	<b>.306</b>	<b>494-731</b>	<b>.676</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>1771</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>70.9</b>
Opponents		<b>37</b>	<b>7425</b>		<b>728-2191</b>	<b>.332</b>	<b>138-518</b>	<b>.266</b>	<b>281-427</b>	<b>.658</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1875</b>	<b>50.7</b>

### Team Statistics

	USC	OPP
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>1875</b>
Points per game	70.9	50.7
Scoring margin	+20.2	-
<b>Field goals-att</b>	<b>975-2289</b>	<b>728-2191</b>
Field goal pct	.426	.332
<b>3 point fg-att</b>	<b>179-585</b>	<b>138-518</b>
3-point FG pct	.306	.266
3-pt FG made per game	4.8	3.7
<b>Free throws-att</b>	<b>494-731</b>	<b>281-427</b>
Free throw pct	.676	.658
F-Throws made per game	13.4	7.6
<b>Rebounds</b>	<b>1771</b>	<b>1117</b>
Rebounds per game	47.9	30.2
Rebounding margin	+17.7	-
<b>Assists</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>335</b>
Assists per game	13.9	9.1
<b>Turnovers</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>503</b>
Turnovers per game	14.4	13.6
Turnover margin	-0.8	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.0	0.7
<b>Steals</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>229</b>
Steals per game	6.5	6.2
<b>Blocks</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>153</b>
Blocks per game	7.4	4.1
<b>Winning streak</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>
Home win streak	16	-
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>196286</b>	<b>54779</b>
Home games-Avg/Game	16-12268	10-5478
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	11-7376

### Team Results

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
11/09/2021	at NC State	W 66-57	5533
11/12/2021	vs South Dakota	W 72-41	2845
11/17/2021	Clemson	W 76-45	13363
11/20/2021	vs Buffalo	W 88-60	667
11/21/2021	vs Oregon	W 80-63	545
11/22/2021	vs UConn	W 73-57	1171
11/26/2021	Elon	W 79-38	11360
11/29/2021	N.C. A&T	W 79-42	12020
12/03/2021	Kansas St.	W 65-44	11657
12/12/2021	Maryland	W 66-59	12862
12/15/2021	at Duke	W 55-46	5451
12/21/2021	Stanford	W 65-61	13079
12/30/2021	at Missouri	Lot 69-70	6139
01/02/2022	Mississippi St.	W 80-68	11403
01/06/2022	at LSU	W 66-60	9190
01/09/2022	Kentucky	W 74-54	12327
01/13/2022	Texas A&M	W 65-45	12169
01/16/2022	at Arkansas	W 61-52	4265
01/24/2022	Vanderbilt	W 85-30	11329
01/27/2022	Ole Miss	W 69-40	13973
01/30/2022	at Florida	W 62-50	5319
02/03/2022	Alabama	W 83-51	11875
02/10/2022	at Kentucky	W 59-50	4317
02/13/2022	at Georgia	W 72-54	5461
02/17/2022	Auburn	W 75-38	12574
02/20/2022	Tennessee	W 67-53	18000
02/24/2022	at Texas A&M	W 89-48	5883
02/27/2022	at Ole Miss	W 71-57	3221
03/04/2022	vs Arkansas	W 76-54	6880
03/05/2022	vs Ole Miss	W 61-51	9072
03/06/2022	vs Kentucky	L 62-64	7997
03/18/2022	Howard	W 79-21	8478
03/20/2022	Miami (FL)	W 49-33	9817
03/25/2022	vs North Carolina	W 69-61	8811
03/27/2022	vs Creighton	W 80-50	6579
04/01/2022	vs Louisville	W 72-59	18268
04/03/2022	vs UConn	W 64-49	18304