



SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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#4/6 SOUTH CAROLINA (0-0) VS. RUTGERS (0-0)
OCTOBER 22, 2023 – 1 P.M. – COLUMBIA, S.C. – COLONIAL LIFE ARENA (18,000)

THE MATCHUP

GAMECOCKS

Ranking: 4/6 (AP/Coaches)
Head Coach: Dawn Staley
Record at SC: 402-106 (16th)
Career Record: 574-186 (24th)
Top Ret. Scorer: Kamilla Cardoso (9.8)
Top Ret. Rebounder: Kamilla Cardoso (8.5)



SCARLET KNIGHTS

Ranking: -/- (AP/Coaches)
Head Coach: Coquese Washington
Record at RU: 12-20 (2nd)
Career Record: 221-189 (14th)
Top Ret. Scorer: Kaylene Smikle (17.9)
Top Ret. Rebounder: Chyna Cornwell (8.6)



THE SERIES

South Carolina Record: 2-1
H: 1-0 A: 0-1 N: 1-0

SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Oct. 22	Rutgers (Exhibition)	1 p.m.
Nov. 6	vs. Notre Dame (ESPN) (Paris)	1 p.m.
Nov. 12	Maryland (ABC)	1 p.m.
Nov. 16	Clemson (SECN)	7 p.m.
Nov. 20	South Dakota State (SECN+)	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	Mississippi Valley State (SECN+)	1 p.m.
Nov. 30	at North Carolina (ESPN)	7 p.m.
Dec. 3	at Duke (ABC)	1 p.m.
Dec. 6	Morgan State (SECN+)	7 p.m.
Dec. 10	vs. Utah (ESPN) (Uncasville, CT)	2:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Presbyterian (SECN+)	1 p.m.
Dec. 19	at Bowling Green	7 p.m.
Dec. 30	at East Carolina (ESPN2)	Noon
Jan. 4	at Florida* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Jan. 7	Mississippi State* (ESPN)	1 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Missouri* (SECN+)	8 p.m.
Jan. 15	Kentucky* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Texas A&M* (SECN)	5 p.m.
Jan. 25	at LSU* (ESPN)	8 p.m.
Jan. 28	Vanderbilt* (SECN) We Back Pat	3 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Auburn* (SECN+)	8 p.m.
Feb. 4	Ole Miss* (ESPN2) Play 4 Kay	2 p.m.
Feb. 8	Missouri* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	Connecticut (ESPN)	2 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Tennessee* (ESPN)	7 p.m.
Feb. 18	Georgia* (ESPN2/SECN)	2 p.m.
Feb. 22	Alabama* (SECN)	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	at Kentucky* (SECN)	3 p.m.
Feb. 29	at Arkansas* (SECN)	9 p.m.
Mar. 3	Tennessee* (ESPN)	Noon
Mar. 6-8	SEC Tournament (Greenville, SC)	

GAMECOCK NOTABLES

Exhibition Exception

Today's rare exhibition against another NCAA Div. I team is courtesy of an exception to the usual rule, which allows teams to play if raising money for a cause. South Carolina and Rutgers joined together to celebrate the legacy of Nikki McCray-Penson, an assistant coach at both schools who passed away this summer after battling breast cancer twice. The game is raising money for In the Middle, a Columbia organization that assists breast cancer patients and families with expenses, including scholarship opportunities for their children.

The Rutgers Series

While today's game will not figure into the official series record, it is the fourth all-time meeting between the two squads. South Carolina is 2-1 against the Scarlet Knights, winning the first and last games of the series. The two met in a top-10 battle in Columbia to kick off the series on Jan. 6, 1982, with #2 South Carolina claiming an 84-74 win over #6 Rutgers. The Scarlet Knights returned the favor in Piscataway the following year, ranked #19 with a 90-69 upset of then-#14 South Carolina. In the Staley era, the #3 Gamecocks pushed past Rutgers 78-68 in the Gulf Coast Showcase in Estero, Fla., on Nov. 24, 2017.

Preseason Predictions

The Gamecocks enter the season without the #1 ranking in the preseason polls for the first time since 2019-20, but remain a national presence. The Associated Press Poll has South Carolina ranked sixth in the nation, while the USA Today Coaches Poll slots the Gamecocks in at #4.

In a poll of SEC coaches and media, South Carolina is predicted to finish second in the league's regular-season standings. The Gamecocks have not finished outside the SEC's top two teams since a fourth-place showing in the 2012-13 season.

Expect the Unexpected

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley starts her 16th season in Columbia with an 11-player roster that features just six returners from last season's NCAA Final Four squad, all of whom came off the bench

2023-24 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Last School
0	Te-Hina Paopao	G	5-9	Sr.	Oceanside, Calif./Oregon
2	Ashlyn Watkins	F	6-3	So.	Columbia, S.C./Cardinal Newman
5	Tessa Johnson	G	6-0	Fr.	Albertville, Minn./Saint Michael Albertville
10	Kamilla Cardoso	C	6-7	Sr.	Montes Claros, Brazil/Syracuse
12	MiLaysia Fulwiley	G	5-10	Fr.	Columbia, Ga./W.J. Keenan
20	Sania Feagin	F	6-3	Jr.	Ellenwood, Ga./Forest Park
21	Chloe Kitts	F	6-2	So.	Oviedo, Fla./DME Academy
23	Bree Hall	G	6-0	Jr.	Dayton, Ohio/Wayne
24	Sahnnya Jah	F	6-0	Fr.	Montverde, Fla./Montverde Academy
25	Raven Johnson	G	5-9	So.	Atlanta, Ga./Westlake
35	Sakima Walker	C	6-5	Sr.	Columbus, Ohio / Northwest Florida State

Head Coach: Dawn Staley
Assoc. Head Coach: Lisa Boyer
Assistant Coaches: Jolette Law, Winston Gandy, Mary Wooley, Khadijah Sessions

QUICK FACTS

The University

Location: Columbia, S.C.

Founded: 1801

Enrollment: 36,200

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: 574-186 (24th season)

School Record: 402-106 (16th season)

Assoc. Head Coach, Alma Mater:

Lisa Boyer, Ithaca, 1979 (15th season)

Assistant Coaches, Alma Mater:

Jollette Law, Iowa, 1990 (6th season)

Winston Gandy, Maryland, 2003 (1st season)

Mary Wooley, USC Aiken, 2002 (1st season)

Khadajah Sessions, South Carolina, 2016 (1st season)

Team Information

2022-23 Record: 36-1

Home: 17-0 Away: 13-0 Neutral: 6-1

SEC Record (Finish): 16-0(1st)

Home: 8-0 Away: 8-0

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 6/8

Starters Returning/Lost: 5/0

Program History

First Year of Women's Basketball: 1974-75

All-Time Record: 982-535 (50th season)

All-Time SEC Record: 247-232 (33rd season)

NCAA Appearances (Last): 19 (2023)

NCAA Tournament Record: 44-17

2023 NCAA Result: Final Four

WNIT Appearances (Last): 4 (2011)

WNIT Record: 3-4

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throughout their Gamecock careers. Among the 11 players are nine McDonald's High School All-Americans. The returning group includes 2023 SEC Sixth Woman of the Year Kamilla Cardoso and SEC All-Freshman selection Raven Johnson. Leading the group of five newcomers are three-time All-Pac-12 selection Te-Hina Paopao and 2023 NJCAA National Player of the Year Sakima Walker.

The Watcher

Three Gamecocks are on positional award preseason watch lists, as announced by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Senior Te-Hina Paopao grabbed a spot among the top 20 points guard in the country on the Nancy Lieberman Award. Junior Sania Feagin made the watch list for the Katrina McClain Power Forward of the Year Award for the third time in as many seasons. Senior center Kamilla Cardoso is on the Lisa Leslie Award list, looking to continue the Gamecocks' dominance of that award, winning it five of the previous six seasons.

Opponent Files

As usual, South Carolina's schedule does not lack big games. The Gamecocks are slated to play 11 games against teams ranked in at least one of the two national polls, including five games in the season's first five weeks.

Those 11 games include five at home, four on the road and two at a neutral site.

Scouting Rutgers

The Scarlet Knights return six letterwinners from last season's 12-20 team, including their top four scorers and rebounders. Sophomore Kaylene Smikle drew second-team All-Big Ten honors last season after leading Rutgers with 17.9 points per game, including 19.5 in Big Ten action. Senior Chyna Cornwell led the Scarlet Knights on the glass last season, reeling in 8.6 boards per game to go with her 9.5 points per contest.

Let There Be Love

South Carolina's 2023-24 season theme "Love" has many meanings, all of which are rooted in loving the game of women's basketball. Staley often notes that "If you love the game, it will love you back," which applies to those who support the game as much as those to coach and play it.

For the program, loving basketball is more than loving the wins, the trophies and the cheers from fans; it's also loving the commitment, the sacrifice and the discipline required to pursue those goals. It even means loving the doubt and criticism of others, using it as fuel.

For the FAMS, loving basketball means investing their time, money and energy in the program's success; and, in return, they are part of a community that puts aside differences to share their love of the game and being an integral part of the program.

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Associated Press Poll (Preseason)

1. LSU	0-0
2. UConn	0-0
3. Iowa	0-0
4. UCLA	0-0
5. Utah	0-0
6. South Carolina	0-0
7. Ohio State	0-0
8. Virginia Tech	0-0
9. Indiana	0-0
10. Notre Dame	0-0
11. Tennessee	0-0
12. Ole Miss	0-0
13. Texas	0-0
14. Maryland	0-0
15. Stanford	0-0
16. North Carolina	0-0
17. Louisville	0-0
18. Florida State	0-0
19. Baylor	0-0
20. Colorado	0-0
21. Southern Cal	0-0
22. Creighton	0-0
23. Illinois	0-0
24. Washington State	0-0
25. Mississippi State	0-0

USA Today/WBCA Coaches' Poll (Preseason)

1. LSU	0-0
2. UConn	0-0
3. Iowa	0-0
4. South Carolina	0-0
5. Virginia Tech	0-0
6. Ohio State	0-0
7. Utah	0-0
8. UCLA	0-0
9. Indiana	0-0
10. Notre Dame	0-0
11. Maryland	0-0
12. Tennessee	0-0
13. Stanford	0-0
14. Texas	0-0
15. Louisville	0-0
16. Ole Miss	0-0
17. North Carolina	0-0
18. Colorado	0-0
19. Duke	0-0
20. Baylor	0-0
21. Southern Cal	0-0
22. Florida State	0-0
23. Oklahoma	0-0
Creighton	0-0
25. Miami (Fla.)	0-0
Michigan	0-0



2022-23 South Carolina Women's Basketball Combined Team Statistics All games

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as of Apr 01, 2023

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	36-1	17-0	13-0	6-1
CONFERENCE	16-0	8-0	8-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	20-1	9-0	5-0	6-1

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
South Carolina	718	720	764	746	24	2972
Opponents	490	417	480	516	12	1915

Team Box Score

No.	Player				Total			3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds										
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-3FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
1	COOKE, Zia	37-37	987:12	26.7	196-484	.405	63-182	.346	114-144	.792	27	50	77	2.1	45	0	71	67	3	31	569	15.4
4	BOSTON, Aliyah	37-37	968:32	26.2	185-331	.559	2-19	.105	110-146	.753	124	240	364	9.8	58	1	70	45	73	18	482	13.0
10	CARDOSO, Kamilla	36-0	677:45	18.8	138-247	.559	0-0	.000	77-111	.694	134	173	307	8.5	69	1	33	39	70	14	353	9.8
15	AMIHERE, Laeticia	36-0	572:49	15.9	91-187	.487	2-19	.105	71-106	.670	46	75	121	3.4	64	0	48	57	38	30	255	7.1
12	BEAL, Brea	37-37	933:58	25.2	85-204	.417	38-100	.380	30-52	.577	41	118	159	4.3	52	2	100	34	39	25	238	6.4
23	HALL, Bree	35-0	486:54	13.9	66-163	.405	23-64	.359	19-31	.613	23	42	65	1.9	37	0	10	16	11	11	174	5.0
2	WATKINS, Ashlyn	32-0	341:56	10.7	67-119	.563	1-3	.333	23-49	.469	41	58	99	3.1	31	0	14	28	25	22	158	4.9
5	SAXTON, Victoria	37-37	595:58	16.1	68-149	.456	1-2	.500	45-65	.692	64	51	115	3.1	42	0	21	34	21	18	182	4.9
20	FEAGIN, Sania	27-0	212:45	7.9	54-90	.600	1-1	1.000	22-30	.733	29	36	65	2.4	31	0	7	22	19	4	131	4.9
41	FLETCHER, Kierra	36-34	573:60	15.9	63-153	.412	5-21	.238	29-37	.784	31	84	115	3.2	35	0	71	36	10	22	160	4.4
25	JOHNSON, Raven	36-3	674:28	18.7	60-163	.368	14-58	.241	17-26	.654	20	74	94	2.6	38	0	123	52	13	40	151	4.2
11	COOPER, Talaysia	24-0	201:03	8.4	28-72	.389	5-21	.238	8-21	.381	17	27	44	1.8	24	0	30	18	3	9	69	2.9
21	KITTS, Chloe	18-0	124:27	6.9	12-32	.375	1-4	.250	4-8	.500	9	20	29	1.6	11	0	12	8	1	4	29	1.6
0	THOMPSON, Olivia	25-0	98:11	3.9	7-31	.226	7-31	.226	0-0	.000	1	7	8	0.3	2	0	4	0	0	0	21	0.8
Team											72	96	168					12				
Total		37	7450		1120-2425	.462	163-525	.310	569-826	.689	679	1151	1830	49.5	539	4	614	468	326	248	2972	80.3
Opponents		37	7450		704-2192	.321	154-579	.266	353-498	.709	367	709	1076	29.1	729	24	310	515	146	214	1915	51.8

Team Statistics

	USC	OPP
Scoring	2972	1915
Points per game	80.3	51.8
Scoring margin	+28.6	-
Field goals-att	1120-2425	704-2192
Field goal pct	.462	.321
3 point fg-att	163-525	154-579
3-point FG pct	.310	.266
3-pt FG made per game	4.4	4.2
Free throws-att	569-826	353-498
Free throw pct	.689	.709
F-Throws made per game	15.4	9.5
Rebounds	1830	1076
Rebounds per game	49.5	29.1
Rebounding margin	+20.4	-
Assists	614	310
Assists per game	16.6	8.4
Turnovers	468	515
Turnovers per game	12.6	13.9
Turnover margin	+1.3	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.3	0.6
Steals	248	214
Steals per game	6.7	5.8
Blocks	326	146
Blocks per game	8.8	3.9
Winning streak	0	-
Home win streak	17	-
Attendance	220010	80550
Home games-Avg/Game	17-12942	13-6196
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	7-10834

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
11/07/2022	ETSU	W	101-31	12779
11/11/2022	at Maryland	W	81-56	9244
11/17/2022	at Clemson	W	85-31	3051
11/20/2022	at Stanford	Wot	76-71	7287
11/22/2022	at Cal Poly	W	79-36	2384
11/27/2022	Hampton	W	85-38	11659
11/29/2022	UCLA	W	73-64	12501
12/03/2022	Memphis	W	79-54	11943
12/11/2022	Liberty	W	88-39	11787
12/15/2022	vs South Dakota St.	W	62-44	2369
12/18/2022	Charleston So.	W	87-23	11267
12/21/2022	Coastal Carolina	W	102-39	11649
12/29/2022	Texas A&M	W	76-34	13003
01/02/2023	at Georgia	W	68-51	6225
01/05/2023	Auburn	W	94-42	11552
01/08/2023	at Mississippi St.	W	58-51	5776
01/12/2023	at Kentucky	W	95-66	4016
01/15/2023	Missouri	W	81-50	15444
01/19/2023	at Vanderbilt	W	96-48	3028
01/22/2023	Arkansas	W	92-46	13349
01/29/2023	at Alabama	W	65-52	4255
02/02/2023	Kentucky	W	87-69	12743
02/05/2023	at UConn	W	81-77	15564
02/09/2023	at Auburn	W	83-48	2860
02/12/2023	LSU	W	88-64	18000
02/16/2023	Florida	W	87-56	13943
02/19/2023	at Ole Miss	Wot	64-57	6563
02/23/2023	at Tennessee	W	73-60	10297
02/26/2023	Georgia	W	73-63	18000
03/03/2023	vs Arkansas	W	93-66	7481
03/04/2023	vs Ole Miss	W	80-51	10471
03/05/2023	vs Tennessee	W	74-58	12203
03/17/2023	Norfolk St.	W	72-40	10056
03/19/2023	South Fla.	W	76-45	10335
03/25/2023	vs UCLA	W	59-43	12879
03/27/2023	vs Maryland	W	86-75	11144
03/31/2023	vs Iowa	L	73-77	19288