

INSIDE

10

pages of exclusive game
preview content

3

key storylines to watch
for Saturday



GAMEDAY

SEPTEMBER 8 2018 • ISSUE 2 • VOLUME 1

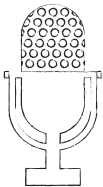
WATCH & LISTEN

→ ON TV...



Saturday's game will kick off at 3:30 ET and will be broadcast on CBS. Check your local listings for channel information.

→ ON THE RADIO...



Whether you are inside Williams-Brice Stadium or watching and listening at home, catch the Gamecock Radio Network's broadcast.

The station's feed is 107.5 FM; due to contractual stipulations, no USC athletic events have audio streaming online.

→ ONLINE...



While you are not able to actually watch the game on GamecockCentral, you can still hang out with thousands of other passionate fans on our site.

Head on over to The Insiders Forum to get our live updates and analysis, discuss the game as it happens with fellow Gamecocks, check the main page and forum for the latest recruiting scoop and news, and much more.



CLASH IN THE EAST

By Chris Clark

No time will be wasted on deciding which team is the one to beat in the SEC East in 2018.

Perhaps this game is not a must-win for Georgia or South Carolina to capture the divisional crown, but it's certainly vital to either team's chances. The fact that it's so early in the season, with unknowns surrounding both sides, makes it all the more intriguing.

Georgia will enter Williams-Brice with a team replacing some key pieces: a litany of seniors as well as couple of key early NFL Draft defections. Yet, it's still a roster stacked with talent on the second and third strings that would make most teams envious. There is a big offensive line, skill position talent, a stable of backs as usual, and an excellent quarterback in Jake Fromm.

The Gamecocks are hoping to turn the corner offensively, with some positive signs coming in week one, albeit against a lesser opponent in Coastal Carolina. This team is at full strength for the first time in a while against a major opponent on that side of the ball, and Will Muschamp typically fields a salty and opportunistic defense.

This is the SEC's marquee game this weekend, and there is plenty of anticipation. It should be a physical, highly-contested, fourth-quarter contest.

Williams-Brice Stadium should be fun on Saturday afternoon.



"All gas, no brakes..."

Can you break down one of the most important individual matchups in this contest?

Whether Deebo Samuel knows Deandre Baker's name or not, the battle between South Carolina's best wide receiver and Georgia's best defensive back should be a fun one.

Baker often lines up on one side of the field, so it will be interesting to see if the Bulldogs leave it that way or have Baker follow Samuel for most of the game.

If Baker doesn't follow Samuel to his side, then that could create a matchup where the Gamecocks' most explosive weapon is matched up with freshman defensive back Tyson Campbell. That would obviously seem to favor the Gamecocks, though I'm sure the scouts in attendance will want to see the two seniors battle it out.

**TWO KEY
QUESTIONS FOR
UGA...**

**WITH GCC's
WES MITCHELL**



"Effort, toughness, discipline..."

Are there any particular statistical marks that South Carolina has to hit in order to win this game?

It may be a bit of a cop out answer, but turnovers are almost always key and I expect that to definitely be the case Saturday, considering that both offenses will have chances to make plays.

I expect for each side to put up its share of big yardage and possibly even go up and down the field, but the offense that also protects the football is probably going to win the game. Scoring touchdowns instead of kicking field goals will also be a key in what I expect to be a high-scoring matchup.

TWO KEY QUESTIONS FOR UGA...

WITH GCC's
WES MITCHELL



Photo credit: Nelson Chenault - USA Today Sports

**WEEK
1**

GETTING TO KNOW GEORGIA

TOP PLAYERS

- QB Jake Fromm
- RB D'Andre Swift
- WR Mecole Hardman
- DT Tyler Clark
- S JR Reed
- CB Deandre Baker

KEY NOTES

Georgia lost a lot of experience from its national title runner-up team last season. The Dawgs walked 31 seniors last season, plus lost talented juniors Roquan Smith and Trenton Thompson. The squad is still talented and was picked by the media to finish first in the SEC East.

LAST TIME...

In Athens last season, Georgia was able to win a 24-10 contest against the Gamecocks. USC was able to muster just 43 net rushing yards, while Georgia had 242 as a team.
It was the third straight win for the Dawgs over the Gamecocks.

CRITICAL GAMECOCKS



"I think it's one of the great stories in college football"

WILL MUSCHAMP

JAVON KINLAW

DT

ENTERING THIS GAME...

Kinlaw is in the best shape of his life, up around 300 pounds with less than 10 percent body fat. He moved around very well in the home opener and tallied 5 tackles, 1.5 TFL, and a quarterback hurry.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

Georgia's offensive line is big and talented, and Kinlaw will provide an adequate counter with his size. He'll probably need to play a bunch of snaps too, and will be key to USC's efforts in slowing down the Georgia rushing attack.



"We have something special here."

BENTLEY

JAKE BENTLEY

QUARTERBACK

ENTERING THIS GAME...

Bentley completed 76 percent of his passes and tossed a career-high 4 touchdowns against Coastal Carolina, a strong start to his junior season.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

As the trigger man of a new-look offense, Bentley will have a lot on his shoulders facing a talented Georgia defense. The staff will try to make things easier by getting the running game going and having him distribute the ball in a variety of ways, but he will be tasked with taking care of the ball and making some big plays on Saturday.



"I'm glad he's our MIKE (linebacker)"

WILL MUSCHAMP

TJ BRUNSON

LINEBACKER

ENTERING THIS GAME...

Brunson, unsurprisingly, was USC's leading tackler against Coastal Carolina, adding 6 stops to his career tally. He's one of USC veteran presences on defense as a junior.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

As the MIKE, Brunson will get USC's front organized and make calls from his position. He'll also be vital in terms of tracking Georgia's stable of ball carriers out of the backfield and with making tackles in space. He's around the ball a lot and USC will need him to have a strong performance.



"Probably the most underrated player in college football."

KIRBY SMART

DEEBO SAMUEL

WR

ENTERING THIS GAME...

Samuel's highly anticipated return to the field was a good one, as he looked good carrying the ball, returning kicks, and catching passes. He had a one-handed touchdown grab and six other catches in game one.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

USC missed Samuel greatly in this contest last season. He can be a special teams threat, can take the top off a defense vertically, and make plays in space with the ball in his hands. He'll be counted on to create explosive plays and keep the chains moving.

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clark@gamecockcentral.com



➔ WIN THE LINE.



The SEC is a line of scrimmage league, Will Muschamp is fond of saying. That will ring especially true in this game.

UGA's offensive line is talented and big, and will try to wear down the Gamecocks over the course of the game. On the other side of the ball, the Dawgs have no shortage of talent of speed on the front seven. USC's improved offensive line will have to be up to the task.

➔ EXPLOSIVE PLAYS.



In a game that is expected to be at least closely contested heading into the fourth quarter, the difference could be just one or two big plays.

South Carolina has to create the better outcome on its side in terms of creating those big plays, and limiting Georgia's.

➔ THIRD DOWNS.



Here's an area in which Georgia held a significant advantage in last season's contest. The Dawgs were 8-13 on third downs and converted its lone fourth down attempt as well.

On the other side, USC was 4-12 converting third downs in that game. The Gamecocks' improved offense will need to create some manageable third downs and be able to stay on the march against Georgia in this contest. UGA also features plenty of talent on offense, so getting the Dawgs off the field will be key.



KEYS TO THE GAME

By Chris Clark

The 2017 contest between these two teams did not feel like it was in doubt for Georgia in the second half, but was still fairly close in terms of score. That was despite South Carolina managing under 50 rushing yards for the contest. Georgia head coach Kirby Smart pointed out that running backs Nick Chubb and Sony Michel were the difference in the game; the Dawgs accumulated nearly 200 more rushing yards than USC. Chubb and Michel are not around any longer, but Georgia still has a stable of good backs, a heady and talented quarterback, and plenty of offensive firepower. USC has to try to force UGA into some tough third down situations and then get off the field. South Carolina's depth on defense could be a question in this game, so limiting the amount of snaps for starters would be a huge boon to this team's chances of pulling the home upset.

The Gamecocks come into this game with more offensive firepower; with a new-look offense designed to get the ball to playmakers in easier fashion and a running game with signs of life. USC has Deebo Samuel, Bryan Edwards, and Shi Smith at receiver, a healthy group of backs, and some tight ends that can catch balls as well. There is more ability for balance and to move the football this season, but challenging the Dawgs horizontally and vertically and in both phases of the game will be important.

Georgia's front seven on defense and offensive line on the other side of the ball will present issues, but South Carolina has to find an effective counter.

ZACCH PICKENS

Pickens was a huge acquisition for the Gamecocks in more ways than one. He's a very talented prospect at a premium position - defensive line. The Gamecocks were also able to land him from under the nose of two power programs in Clemson and Georgia. Pickens' high school is less than a half hour from Clemson and very close to Georgia. Both those schools wanted him, but the Gamecocks will be able to unleash Pickens next season.

DJ DANIEL

Another head to head recruiting victory over Georgia, Daniel represented a surprise commitment for the Gamecocks at the time of his announcement. He's a long defensive back who's already advanced in terms of body composition. He has man to man coverage skills but is also a willing and able tackler in space. Daniel has three years to play two, but should make an immediate impact for the Gamecocks in the secondary next season.

CAM SMITH

This Midlands product blew up in the spring and summer, and both USC and Georgia offered him after turning in strong performances at camps in Columbia and Athens.

While still a bit raw, Smith has great length and can run and turn his hips in coverage. He plays with a huge competitive edge, which always tends to endear prospects to this Gamecock staff.

“ It was somewhere I felt like was home. I've known for a long, long time. ”

Q&A: ZACCH PICKENS

USC's 2019 quarterback pledge opens up about several topics...

ON COMMITTING TO USC

"It was just somewhere I felt like I was home and they took me in and I totally respect that. I've known for a long time, a long time."

ON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH WILL MUSCHAMP...

"It's a pretty tight relationship, we text like every day. He says he's going to play me right away when I'm a freshman and that made me want to jump on board."

ON THE DECISION TO END THE PROCESS EARLY...

"It feels better. It relieves all of the stress, everything is over and I feel confident in what I picked. I'm going to try to recruit all my boys there."





2018 ROSTER

MEET THIS YEAR'S
GAMECOCK SQUAD

1 Nick Harvey DB	26 Jaylin Dickerson DB	53 Ernest Jones LB	99 Jabari Ellis DL
1 Deebo Samuel WR	27 Ty'Son Williams RB	54 Jovaughn Gwyn OL	
3 KC Crosby TE	28 Joe Thomas DB	55 Christian Peltage OL	
3 Javon Kinlaw	29 JT Ibe DB	57 Jazuun Outlaw DL	
4 Bryson Allen-Williams LB	30 Damani Staley LB	59 Alex Deloach LB	
4 Darius Douglas QB	31 Jamel Cook DB	60 Chandler Farrell OL	
5 Rico Dowdle RB	31 Lavonte Valentine RB	61 Javion Duncan DL	
5 Keir Thomas DL	32 Kevin Pickens DB	61 Cameron Johnson OL	
6 TJ Brunson LB	32 Caleb Kinlaw RB	63 Blake Camper OL	
6 Josh Vann WR	33 Zay Brown DB	66 Will Putnam OL	
7 Jaycee Horn DB	33 Slade Carroll RB	68 Wyatt Campbell OL	
7 Dakereon Joyner QB	34 Mon Denson RB	70 Hank Manos OL	
8 Randrecous Davis WR	35 Trey Adkins WR	71 Eric Douglas OL	
8 DJ Wonnum DL	35 Daniel Fennell LB	72 Donell Stanley OL	
9 Keisean Nixon DB	36 Jonathan Gipson DB	73 Summie Carlay OL	
10 RJ Roderick DB	39 Dawson Hoffman DB	74 Dennis Daley OL	
10 Jay Urich QB	40 Jacob August TE	75 Jordon Carty OL	
11 Corbett Glick QB	40 Jason Senn DB	76 Jordon Rhodes OL	
11 Eldridge Thompson LB	41 Caleb Jenerette TE	77 Malik Young OL	
12 Michael Scarnecchia QB	42 Rosendo Louis LB	78 Zack Bailey OL	
13 Shi Smith WR	42 Alexander Woznick K	79 Dylan Wonnum OL	
14 Deshaun Fenwick RB	43 Parker White K	81 Darius Rush WR	
15 Evan Hinson TE	44 Sherrod Greene LB	82 Bailey Rogers WR	
15 Aaron Sterling DL	44 Ben Asbury LS	83 Chavis Dawkins WR	
16 Rashad Fenton DB	45 Spencer Eason-Riddle LB	84 Kyle Markway TE	
16 Bailey Hart QB	46 Patrick Reedy TE	85 Michael Almond P	
17 Javon Charleston DB	46 Noah Vincent LB	86 Chad Terrell WR	
17 Danny Gordon QB	47 Jaylan Foster DB	87 Kiel Pollard TE	
18 OrTre Smith WR	47 Cole Hanna K	88 Will Register TE	
19 Jake Bentley QB	48 Sean McGonigal LB	89 Bryan Edwards WR	
19 Brad Johnson DL	48 Will Tommie K	90 Rick Sandidge DL	
20 Joseph Charlton P	49 Matthew Smith LS	91 Shameik Blackshear DL	
21 Jamyest Williams DB	50 Griffin Gentry DL	92 Tyreek Johnson DL	
22 Steven Montac DB	50 Sadarius Hutcherson OL	93 Jesus Gibbs	
23 Korey Banks DB	51 Max Iyama OL	94 MJ Webb DL	
24 Israel Mukuamu DB	51 Donovan Wirt LB	95 Kobe Smith DL	
25 AJ Turner RB	52 Kingsley Enagbare DL	96 Josh Belk DT	



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

It's the best \$10/month I spend along with Netflix- If you are a true Gamecock fan or graduate, you need to have a membership!"

jamesleuscpte2013

There is literally no better source of content that covers USC across the board. The staff is world class and always has their ear to the ground to provide consumers the best, most accurate content possible. To top it, all of the forums provided are more than just forums. They are a community of knowledgeable fans, insiders and family. If you're looking for the best Gamecock content, then you've come to the right place.

Gyandle

First class folks run this site; they are helpful and even fun to talk with. I truly appreciate this site.

hopegousc

Totally worth the money.

mrbrentharmon

For the most accurate, thoughtful, dedicated and personally-tailored coverage of the South Carolina Gamecocks athletics program, there is one clear choice -- GamecockCentral.

-vogtne

"GamecockCentral has been and will continue to be the best site on the internet for Gamecock sports fans. Their in-depth and honest coverage is unmatched!"

ChucktownCock2001

This site is unquestionably the best sports site on the Internet. If you love the Gamecocks and are not a part of this site, you are making a huge mistake. If you aren't already a member, come join us. We are ready for another #SpursUp..... and that one is meant for you!

BreakinDownFilm

Love every minute I use it...

JBSC88

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ABOUT US

I very much believe the reason for our existence will always separate us from other media outlets

Gamecock Central's foundation -- our roots, our basic DNA -- will always be different than websites created with the sole intent of making a profit. Certainly, we have a bottom line, but all decisions aren't based on it. Of course, passion alone isn't going to satisfy our subscribers.

We have a tremendous team of insiders, analysts and photographers. They're all very skilled and nobody works harder. Together, they provide the most in-depth, accurate and professional coverage of Gamecock sports and recruiting.



"It's where the most passionate fans hang out..."

What do you get when you combine our unrivaled coverage and our passionate community?

An online home for thousands of hardcore Gamecock fans.

I'd like to personally invite you to join Gamecock Central so it can be Your Home for Gamecock Sports!

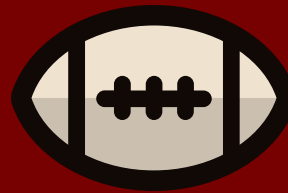
Join us now for great information and tons of fun!

Brian Shoemaker
Publisher

fun facts about GAMECOCK CENTRAL

* The site went online on August 27, 1998. We just celebrated our 20th anniversary earlier this month.

Over the course of the next two seasons, the Gamecock football team went 1-21. Our premium service went online on December 5, 2001.



The original name of the site was "CockFans.com".

We were the first online publication to be credentialed by USC's media relations department.



Each spring, we used to have a "I Love That Dang Chicken Golf Tournament."

We signed our agreement to join the Rivals.com network in December 2003 and moved over in January 2004.

r rivals

The website once had a group called the "12th Man Club", which was shut down after a cease and desist order from attorneys representing Texas A&M.

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