

INSIDE

10

pages of exclusive game
preview content

3

key storylines to watch
for Saturday

GamecockCentral.com

GAMEDAY

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WATCH & LISTEN

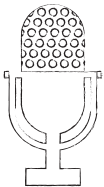
→ ON TV...



Saturday's game will kick off at 7:30 ET and will be broadcast on SEC Network.

Tom Hart and Jordan Rodgers will be on the call with Cole Cubelic on the sidelines.

→ ON THE RADIO...



Locally, 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. The game is also on Sirius 108/XM 190.

→ 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.



SEEKING REVENGE

By Chris Clark

From 2014-2017, Kentucky has opened up a four-game winning streak against South Carolina football that's felt downright unfathomable at times to Gamecock fans.

One or two of those contests may not have felt like an upset, illustrating that there's been ample work for Will Muschamp and his staff to do in building the roster back up in Columbia. Now both head coaches have their best teams, respectively, since each has been at his post.

This will be the strongest Kentucky team top to bottom that South Carolina has faced during its losing streak, with experience and legitimate talent. The Gamecocks, likewise, have future NFL players on the roster and have gained valuable experience the past couple seasons. In particular, South Carolina's offense is healthy and more capable than in past seasons of causing Kentucky some issues on the scoreboard.

There has been plenty of talk about "the streak" leading up to this week, but the reality is that all that talk goes out the window once the teams strap their helmets and the game begins. This one will be determined by the play on the field.

This is a key contest for the Gamecocks, not only to get back in the win column against this SEC adversary that's been so difficult for them, but to also score a road win against a ranked opponent.



"All gas, no brakes..."

Are there are any particular statistical benchmarks that South Carolina needs to hit - rushing yards, turnovers, etc. - in order to win this game?

I'm not a huge stats guy, but I will steal this one that our own Collyn Taylor pointed out this week: South Carolina is 14-2 under Muschamp when rushing for at least 100 yards and 11-1 when going for over 150. When you look at that stat and the weapons that Carolina has in its passing game, then it seems clear that if they can hit 100 yards they'll have a great chance to win this game.

That type of balance means that the Gamecocks' receivers will have room to operate on the outside and that's when this offense has been able to produce its needed explosive plays..

TWO KEY QUESTIONS FOR KENTUCKY...

WITH GCC's

WES MITCHELL



GamecockCentral.com

"Effort, toughness, discipline..."

How much stock do you put into Kentucky's streak of wins in terms of how it may have an effect on the outcome of this contest?

Last year prior to this matchup, South Carolina players talked about the streak - a lot. They seemed to take the losing streak personally and, while they opened the game strong with a TD to Deebo Samuel on the first offensive play, they seemed to put too much pressure on themselves and didn't perform well in a big-game atmosphere. This year they've taken the opposite approach, doubling down on Will Muschamp's "Every week is a season" mantra that we've heard prior to every game.

Motivation is never a bad thing. Motivation can serve to get in that extra rep during practice or that extra hour of film study or that decision to eat the right things on game week. But once the game is kicked off and the first whistle blows, the winner is the one who executes best. The streak needs to be the furthest thing from the minds of the players at that point.

TWO KEY QUESTIONS FOR KENTUCKY...

WITH GCC's WES MITCHELL

**WEEK
4**

KENTUCKY



CREDIT: Kim Klement/USA Today

TOP PLAYERS

- RB Benny Snell
- LB Josh Allen
- S Mike Edwards
- OL Logan Stenberg
- S Darius West
- OL Bunchy Stallings

KEY NOTES

Kentucky is 4-0, having jumped into the top 25 with a home defeat of a ranked Mississippi State squad. Mark Stoops has his best team since he's been in Lexington, one with an undervalued level of talent and ample experience. This will be the toughest team USC has faced during the Gamecocks' losing streak to the Cats.

LAST TIME...

South Carolina jumped out to an early start in last season's game, with the first offensive play of the game resulting in a Deebo Samuel TD. Later, Samuel and BUCK LB Bryson Allen-Williams went down with injuries and USC suffered a 23-13 loss at home.

CRITICAL GAMECOCKS



"They're another team on the schedule."

KINLAW ON UK



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

WILL MUSCHAMP

JAVON KINLAW

DT

TJ BRUNSON

LINEBACKER

ENTERING THIS GAME...

The team's second-leading tackler (13), with 4.5 TFL, 2 sacks, a pair of forced fumbles, and and 3 quarterback hurries.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

Kinlaw was a one-man wrecking crew against Vanderbilt, and USC needs another stout performance for him in this contest. He'll be tasked with helping to blow up plays in the backfield and to contain talented Wildcat RB Benny Snell, in addition to providing some pass-rush.

ENTERING THIS GAME...

USC's leading tackler with 15; also has 1.5 tackles for loss and half a sack on the season through three games.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

Brunson is responsible for getting the defense set and making calls, and it will be important for USC to be in the proper positions against UK. In addition to that, Brunson will be facing some one-on-one tackle opportunities against Snell and others that he will need to win on the second level.



"We're focusing on dominating the line of scrimmage."

DOWDLE



"We're not getting wrapped up in anything that happened before."

BENTLEY

RICO DOWDLE

RUNNING BACK

JAKE BENTLEY

QUARTERBACK

ENTERING THIS GAME...

Dowdle has tallied 235 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns through three games this season, averaging 5.6 yards per carry and scoring twice.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

USC's balance on offense is important in this game, and Dowdle has been the team's top ball-carrier so far this season. He will be counted on to move the chains, win some one-on-ones, and protect the football so that the Gamecock offense can control tempo and put up points.

ENTERING THIS GAME...

Through three games, Bentley has completed 68 percent of his passes for 780 yards and 6 touchdowns.

WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?

In what should be a loud road atmosphere, Bentley will be a needed veteran presence for the offense. He will consistently have important choices to make in the RPO game, as well as in distributing the football. USC should have some man-to-man opportunities down the field; Bentley needs to hit some of those, protect the ball, and be sound in his decision-making.

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➔ RUN MARGINS



In each of the latest two games of this series, Kentucky has outgained USC on the ground by over 100 yards. The Gamecocks managed just 54 rushing yards in 2016.

Kentucky is likely to get yardage with Snell and company at the helm of the offense. USC has to make sure it is having success running the ball as well as keeping the chains moving to get into scoring position.

➔ SCOREBOARD



Muschamp has talked a lot about "changing the scoreboard" offensively against opposing teams, and USC's in better position to do that this season against UK.

Kentucky wants to keep it close or grab a lead and hold on, but the pressure is on the Wildcats if USC can seize some early scores and stay away from a frantic fourth quarter.

➔ CHANGE UK'S STRATEGY



As mentioned, it's no secret how Kentucky wants to play. The formula is run the ball, play defense, and put away the other team late in the game. USC is aware of this and needs to force Kentucky's hand.

It's easier said than done, but the Gamecocks need to make Kentucky quarterback Terry Wilson and the Wildcat receivers beat them, not Benny Snell. Changing the scoreboard, as noted above, will certainly help in that strategy.



KEYS TO THE GAME

By Chris Clark & Wes Mitchell

The Gamecocks' first order of business will be to slow Kentucky's efforts in running the football with Benny Snell. The Wildcat offensive line is undervalued, and Snell is one of the best backs in the country with his power and vision. USC has to rally to the football and minimize Snell's bull yardage and missed tackles by the defense. Getting Kentucky into a more unbalanced team that's throwing the ball more than running seems the best recipe for success.

On the other side of the ball, USC must achieve the type of offensive balance it enjoyed against Vanderbilt. This will be a much stiffer road challenge than the Commodores because Kentucky is more talented, experienced on the back end, and has a couple excellent players in linebacker Jordan Jones and rush end Josh Allen up front. If USC can control the tempo when it has the ball and convert points when given red zone opportunities, it will give the Gamecock defense a much bigger cushion.

This game is about South Carolina's offense continuing to create explosive plays as it did against Vanderbilt and keep the pressure on its opponent to score. Kentucky quarterback Terry Wilson is the biggest question mark on Kentucky's squad and forcing him to play keep-up with a Carolina offense could be just what the Gamecocks need to go win the game.

If Carolina can play from a position of power, it also keeps Kentucky's talented front from being able to pin its ears back and rush Jake Bentley as it did late in the game last week against State.

JAYLEN NICHOLS

Although listed by Rivals.com as a defensive tackle, Nichols is an offensive lineman all the way for the Gamecocks. He could play guard or tackle with his size and skill set and is a very intriguing talent. Nichols is one of the more physically impressive prospects on the commitment list. Nichols is mild-mannered, but on the field he plays with some violence. He has a big frame and moves his feet well, giving USC quite a canvas with which to work.

MARK FOX

This four-star prospect was a surprise early commitment for the Gamecocks, showing the program's rising stature in snagging a talented prospect out of Miami. He plays top-level competition down in south Florida and seems more advanced at this stage in run blocking. Fox may not look like the biggest OL in person, but he will be able to get movement in the run game and to the second level of the defense to take on LBs.

VINCENT MURPHY

It's rare that St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the top programs in the country, votes underclassmen as team captains. Murphy got that honor before his senior season, though. He's a probable center for the Gamecocks, but could otherwise play on the interior. He's a no-nonsense, tough character who's an intelligent and heady player on the inside of the line.

“

It's really a gut feeling....

”

Q&A: JAYLEN NICHOLS

The three-star offensive lineman goes on the record...

ON COMMITTING TO USC...

"It's kind of hard to explain. Every time I went out there I felt good, like something good was going to happen. Everybody was happy all the time."

ON OFFENSIVE LINE COACH ERIC WOLFORD...

"He's a real person. He's very direct. That's the way I like it. He tells it straight up,"

RIVALS.COM'S ADAM FRIEDMAN ON NICHOLS' GAME...

"He's got length, a really good frame to fill out, and plays with aggression."





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 Pellation 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!

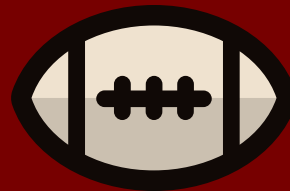
Join us now for great information and tons of fun!

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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