

# Gamecocks spoil Tigers' Gator hopes

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
**CLEMSON, S.C.** — Duce Staley had a little pain in his ankle, his 1,000-yard season and a victory at Death Valley.  
 "This is what it's all about. What could be better than this?" Staley said. "Except a bowl game."  
 With a 34-31 victory over No. 22 Clemson, the Gamecocks (6-5) kept themselves alive for the Southeastern Conference's slot in the Independence Bowl.  
 South Carolina was ahead by 17 points with 7:16 left and appeared to be in good shape after Staley's second TD run.  
 But the Tigers (7-4) drew within a field goal on Brian Wofford's 11-yard scoring catch and Raymond Priester's 10-yard touchdown reception. Clemson drove from its 29 to South Carolina's 20 on its final drive, but Matt Padgett missed a 32-yard field-goal attempt with six seconds left.  
 "As soon as I hit the ball I knew it went wide left," Padgett said.  
 Staley's 133 yards, his seventh 100-yard game this season, gave him 1,117 yards, making him the first South Carolina runner with 1,000 in a season since Harold Green in 1987.



### 'Noles pound Terps

**MIAMI** — Florida State kept rolling, even with its quarterback limping, and set up a 1-2 showdown next week against top-ranked Florida.  
 In their final tuneup Saturday, the unbeaten Seminoles beat Maryland 48-10 but lost quarterback Thad Busby. The junior QB sat out the second half with a mild knee sprain.  
 Warrick Dunn led the charge against Maryland with 109 yards rushing, including touchdowns of 13 and 9 yards, to break Greg Allen's school career rushing record.  
 The Seminoles' defense started slowly but finished with eight sacks and held Maryland to minus-8 yards rushing.  
 Maryland finished 3-5 and 5-6. The status of fifth-year coach Mark Duffner is in doubt, and he'll meet next week with athletic director Debbie Yow.  
 The game drew a crowd of only 31,989 at Pro Player Stadium. Maryland, the home team, moved it to Miami when the Carquest Bowl guaranteed the school \$1 million.

### Wolfpack adds to Wake's misery

**RALEIGH** — Jamie Barnette threw for a touchdown and ran for another score, and Tremayne Stephens added a 69-yard scoring run as North Carolina State knocked off Wake Forest 37-22 on Saturday.  
 Barnette was a lackluster 13 of 32 for 187 yards with two interceptions, but he added 57 yards rushing for the Wolfpack (3-7, 3-5 Atlantic Coast Conference).  
 The loss brought an end to Wake Forest's fourth straight losing season under coach Jim Caldwell. The Demon Deacons (3-8, 1-7 ACC) haven't won more than three games under Caldwell.

### Navy sinks slumping Jackets

**ATLANTA** — Navy and Georgia Tech had similar goals entering the season — go to a bowl game.  
 After Saturday's 36-26 win, the Midshipmen's hopes are still alive. The Yellow Jackets will likely sit it out.  
 Navy (8-2) has one regular season game left, against Army. Tech (5-5) plays Georgia next week, hoping to end a three-game losing streak and a skid that has reached four losses in five games.  
 The Yellow Jackets were victimized Saturday by Navy junior quarterback Chris McCoy, who became a Midshipman because none of the larger schools in Georgia recruited him.  
 McCoy, who leads Navy in rushing with 1,181 rushing yards, was held to a mere 51 in 21 attempts by Tech. He managed to score three touchdowns, though, two on the ground and another on a flea-flicker pass reception.

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### AP Football Top 25

Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Florida (5-0)	10-0	1,667	1
2. Florida State (5)	10-0	1,601	3
3. Arizona State (3)	11-0	1,564	4
4. Nebraska	9-1	1,476	5
5. Colorado	9-1	1,382	6
6. Ohio State	10-1	1,326	2
7. Brigham Young	12-1	1,207	8
8. Penn State	10-2	1,206	7
9. Tennessee	9-2	1,042	9
10. Notre Dame	8-2	1,020	10
11. Northwestern	9-2	950	11
12. Washington	9-2	870	12
13. North Carolina	9-2	851	13
14. Kansas State	9-2	793	14
15. Alabama	9-2	758	15
16. Syracuse	8-2	700	16
17. Virginia Tech	9-1	677	17
18. Michigan	8-3	625	21
19. Louisiana State	8-2	576	18
20. Virginia	7-3	418	19
21. Wyoming	10-1	380	20
22. Iowa	9-3	237	24
23. Miami	7-3	203	26
24. Army	9-1	73	-
25. West Virginia	8-3	51	23

Others receiving votes: Southern Mississippi 31, Auburn 30, East Carolina 29, Navy 22, Texas 13, Clemson 8, Texas Tech 8, Houston 7, Ball State 2, Stanford 2, Michigan State 1, Rice 1, Utah 1.

# LJ completes career with league yardage title

BY ROBBI PICKERAL  
 SPORTS EDITOR

**DURHAM** — Yards, yards, yards. Points, points, points.  
 So went the theme for senior Leon Johnson's swan song Saturday.  
 Johnson, who became North Carolina's most prolific tailback when he broke the school record for all-purpose yardage against Houston several weeks ago, entered Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium knowing he needed three yards to break the league record for all-purpose yardage and four touchdowns to break UNC's record for TDs scored.

He went 1 for 2, failing to tie the TD record by one score but becoming the league's most prolific tailback scant seconds into the contest.

"I (wanted) to go out there and accomplish a lot of my personal goals as far as try to get close to getting 1,000 yards, the all-purpose yardage and the touchdowns," said Johnson, a native of Morganton. "We came out with the win, and I gave it my best shot, and I'm just

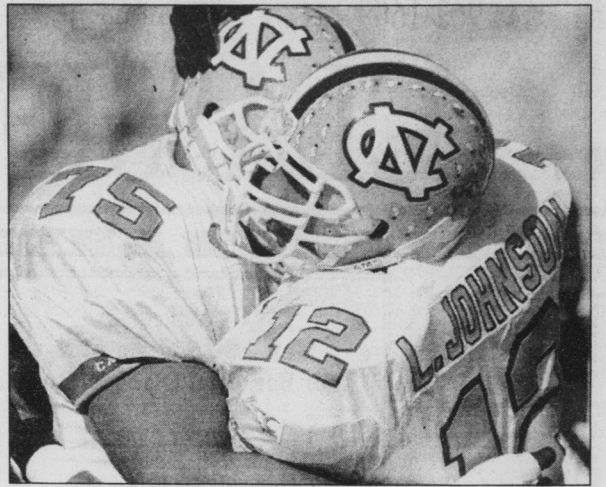
proud for the performance that I had."  
 LJ broke the conference record on the game's first play. Johnson took Blue Devil Sims Lenhardt's kick at the 14 and returned in 16 yards.

Deed done.  
 "He was determined, and you could see it in the way he ran," said Duke linebacker Billy Granville. "Their line was talking — they're really enthusiastic after plays whenever he makes a big gain. They're really enthusiastic, trying to get him more yards."  
 When the congratulations receded, LJ went back to work, this time intent on the scoring record.

But it was a twist of fate — in the form of quarterback Chris Keldorf's ankle — that pushed LJ.  
 When Keldorf, UNC's starting QB all season, was toted out of the game with a dislocated left ankle, LJ got the call — and the ball — five straight times before rumbling in the end zone for the first score of the game.  
 "Coach Brown told me to pick up my game," Johnson said. "I had to carry the load, and in that situation, all I want to do is do the best for our team. The more I got the football, the more I was just out there making big plays for us."  
 Early in the second quarter, it looked as if LJ might net a passing score when he hit Na Brown for a 40-yard pass on a halfback option. No dice.  
 "I just wanted to get the ball off, and hopefully Na would have scored so I had another touchdown pass, but he got it down on the 6 (before being tackled)," Johnson said.  
 That forced LJ to take it in the old-fashioned way — on the ground, for the 51st time in his career. Johnson finished the game with 265 all-purpose yards, including 167 rushing. He finished his career with 5,828 all-purpose yards.



Senior tailback LEON JOHNSON leads the ACC with 5,878 career yards.



Tar Heel lineman Byron Thomas (75) congratulates senior tailback Leon Johnson (20) after LJ rushed for his second touchdown Saturday.

## Stallings announces resignation, urges school to hire from staff

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — When he announced his resignation, Alabama coach Gene Stallings suggested the school look at his staff for a replacement.  
 "There are some well-qualified people on our staff and I hope and pray that they will be given some consideration," Stallings said after No. 15 Alabama clinched the SEC West title with a thrilling 24-23 win over Auburn on Saturday.

Defensive coordinator Mike Dubose, in his 11th year with the Tide, would be the most likely candidate on the staff to replace Stallings. Offensive coordinator Woody McCorvey is another consideration, as is secondary coach Curley Hallman, the former coach at LSU and Southern Mississippi.

Others mentioned are Colorado's Rick Neuheisel, Miami's Butch Davis and former UCLA coach Terry Donahue.  
 Bockrath declined comment on the selection process. The school has called a news conference for Monday to discuss the search.  
 "This night belongs to Gene Stallings and rightfully so," Bockrath said after the game.  
 Stallings, 61, will coach two more games with the Crimson Tide (9-2, 6-2 in the SEC). Alabama's win put the Tide in the SEC title game Dec. 7 against Florida. A bowl game will follow that.  
 He said he had made the decision to retire before last week's game against Mississippi State but didn't want to tell anyone until after the Auburn game. Stallings made the announcement after one of the most exciting victories in his seven years with Alabama.  
 Quarterback Freddie Kitchens led the Tide on a 76-yard touchdown drive at game's end. It was capped by a 7-yard pass to Dennis Riddle with 26 seconds left. Riddle caught the ball, juiced two defenders and made it into the end zone. Jon Brock kicked the extra point for the one-point margin.  
 "I don't have the vocabulary to express what this team has accomplished," Stallings said. "It was a dream for me to coach at the University of Alabama."



Alabama coach GENE STALLINGS will step down after the Crimson Tide's bowl game.

## Midfielders' tenacity destroys Dukes

BY JEFF STENCEL  
 STAFF WRITER

Lots of credit goes to the forwards who score and to defenders who limit it. But for the North Carolina women's soccer team, the midfield deserves credit for doing both.

Tar Heel midfielders Tiffany Roberts, Sarah Dacey, Laurie Schwoy and Aubrey Falk dazzled on offense while dismantling James Madison's attack in a 5-0 UNC victory on Saturday. Their contributions have sparked the UNC's play in its two tournament wins.

"They're very fast, technically and tactically," JMU captain Kristi Palmaccio said. "They put up a fight and win every ball that's in play."  
 UNC's midfield lived up to its reputation as a group of players who attacks with a ferocious intensity on offense and excel on sharp and efficient passing.

Early in the first half, Roberts showed off her lightning-quick speed as she repeatedly beat defenders down the sideline. She created the opportunity for Robin Confer to score the first goal of the

game with clever maneuvering around several JMU defenders.

The midfield continued its offensive onslaught later in the half when Schwoy headed in a goal off a corner kick. But putting the ball in the back of the net shouldn't have been too tough for the Tar Heel midfielders.

After all, they launched 15 of UNC's 35 shots.

One of those came off the strong foot of Falk. Dribbling away from the goal, she booted the ball with a leftward arcing curve into the top right shelf. At that point, the Tar Heels had four goals — two from the midfield.

In order to shut down UNC's midfield, JMU coach David Lombardo tried to stack his midfield with four people to open up chances for his team. But when



UNC midfielder SARAH DACEY has sparked the Tar Heels' defense in her final season.

all was done, the Tar Heel midfielders had their way offensively.

UNC's midfielders also stifled the Dukes' offense throughout the match, rarely allowing the ball into UNC territory. When clearing the ball, JMU backs found it impossible to advance the ball past the Tar Heels' aggressive play.

"I think our midfield plays with a wonderful defensive fury," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "It's hard for (opponents) to playmake anywhere in the middle of the field with Sarah and Laurie diving all over the place putting on pressure."  
 Dacey proved instrumental in limiting the Dukes' opportunities. She cut off several clearing attempts and calmly helped the Tar Heels' offense establish a rhythm.

She has stepped up her game a notch late in the season, playing with a high level of intensity that the JMU offense and defense found troublesome.  
 "I have a motivation because it's my last few games and any one could be the last one of the year since it's my senior season," Dacey said.

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