

SPORTS

Shonda Cole named SEC, KM women beat Burns in tennis

Senior outside hitter Shonda Cole from the South Carolina volleyball team was named the Southeastern Conference's Offensive Player of the Week on Monday, and then was selected Sports Imports American Volleyball Coaches Association National Player of the Week.

It was the first time in Cole's career she garnered the awards and the first time ever that a South Carolina player has been named National Player of the Year.

Cole helped lead USC (9-4, 2-0 SEC) to a 2-0 record last week with a 3-2 victory

against Auburn and a 3-1 stunner over No. 6 Florida. The Kings Mountain native blasted 36 kills versus Auburn and had 35 in the win over the Gators. She posted double-doubles in both contests by adding a career-high 18 digs against Auburn and had 17 against Florida. Between the two matches, Cole ripped 71 kills, hit .382 (71-19-136) and averaged 7.89 kills and 3.89 digs per game.

Cole moved into sole possession of second place on USC's career list for kills after getting 36 against Auburn. She has 1,382 for her career. Her 35 kills versus Florida was a school record in a four-game match, surpassing the old standard of 28.

For the year, Cole has notched five 30-kill matches, which leads the nation. In the history of South Carolina

volleyball, only six 30-kill matches have occurred.

"Shonda's performance was deserving of the award," head coach Nancy Somera said. "Having that kind of performance against two quality conference opponents is impressive."

With Cole leading the way against No. 6 Florida, South Carolina managed to end a 25-match losing streak to the Gators and post just its second win against Florida since joining the SEC in 1991. USC's previous win over Florida came Nov. 13, 1994, when the Gators were ranked 11th. The loss for Florida was just its fifth during the SEC regular season under coach Mary Wise, who is now 215-5 (.977) in regular-season conference play. Florida also is the highest-ranked team USC has defeated since the American

Volleyball Coaches Association first conducted its poll in 1982.

Cole was a two-time North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year during her high school career in Kings Mountain. She led the Lady Mountaineers to the State Championship in 2001. She holds numerous school records at KMHS and at South Carolina and she also holds the KMHS women's basketball career scoring record.

She is the daughter of Otis and Joanne Cole of Kings Mountain. Her father is a former basketball star at KMHS and Florida State.

Cole and the Gamecocks take on No. 18 LSU on Friday at 8 p.m. EST in Baton Rouge, La. South Carolina then heads to Fayetteville, Ark., to face Arkansas at 2:30 p.m. EST on Sunday.

Kings Mountain High's women's tennis team defeated Burns 7-2 Tuesday.

Singles winners for the Lady Mountaineers were Hannah McGill, Nikita Scotland, Ariel Martin and Dominique Jager. Doubles winners were McGill/Martin, Diana Phanthalack/Scotland, and Jager/Jennifer Vassey.

The Lady Mountaineers are in second place in the Southwestern 2A/3A Conference with a 2-1 record. They are 2-2 overall. Kings Mountain travels to

R-S Central Thursday and Shelby Monday.

Singles

Hannah McGill (KM) d. Carrie Stinchcomb 7-5, 6-5; Kimberly Laughlin (B) d. Diana Phanthalack 6-2, 6-3; Nikita Scotland (KM) d. Haley Wilson 6-1, 7-5; Ariel Martin (KM) d. Cortney Morehead 6-4, 6-0; Dominique Jager (KM) d. Carrie Roberts 6-1, 6-2; Allison Klinck (B) d. Jennifer Vassey 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles

McGill/Martin (KM) d. Stinchcomb/Klinck 10-2; Phanthalack/Scotland (KM) d. Laughlin/Wilson 10-2; Jager/Vassey (KM) d. Morehead/Roberts 10-5.

Benefit basketball game slated in Gastonia

The With Friends Youth Shelter Services fall basketball tournament will be played Saturday from 5-8 pm. at Grier Middle School, Gastonia. The game will feature the City of Gastonia Fire Department against the Law Enforcement of Gaston

County. Advance tickets are \$3 for students, seniors and adults and \$1 for children under 12. Tickets at the door are \$5 and \$2. All children 2 and under will be admitted free.

For more information call 704-866-7774.

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