Back in action

Carolina baseball coach Bobby Richardson shows the form which made him a perennial All-Star while with the New York Yankees. Catching for the Gamecocks is Drew Choate.

USC baseball team faces new season

BY STEVE PARKER

The baseball season officially opens on March 3 for the Gamecocks, but the team is already preparing for the season with daily workouts. "We're looking real good so far in practices. We've been working a lot on our hitting, running and pitching and we should be ready when the season starts in five more weeks," said assistant Coach June Raines.

"In a couple more days we'll be in shape," Raines continued. "That's where we'll pick the starting ball team. That's when the players start battling for the jobs and, we hope, the cream will rise to the top.

The squad will play a longer schedule than any USC team has ever previously played, when they play in the expanded 37-game schedule. The 37 games represent an increase of 15 games from last season.

"The increase in games is great," said Raines. "We'd rather play every day than just once or twice a week.

"Most teams which make the College World Series play expanded schedules. Arizona State plays close to 50 games and so does Florida State. The schedule will definitely be helpful.

This season the team will play outside of the Atlantic Coast Conference for the first time, and as a result the team will no longer be competing for the ACC bid to the Eastern Regionals, but will instead be attempting to gain one of three at-large bids.

"In the ACC, we always tried to save our best pitchers for the conference games. Now we have to depend on the pitching for every game," another change in this year's schedule from those of past years.

Newman sparks freshmen, team

BY BILL GRANT

One of the big reasons for the improvement of the Carolina swimming team this season has been the added abilities of a talented group of freshmen. Making their presence felt on the USC swimming scene are newcomers Casey Cluffin, Bob Corliss, Kim Douglas, Paul Gray, Mike Hiller and Roger Rice and others.

These swimmers are perhaps overshadowed by the exploits of still another freshman, Chip Newman, who competed in the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events and is already a force to be reckoned with.

To take the last two meets, against Florida State and Georgia as an example, one could see the proficiency with which Newman swam. He has competed in four individual events, won all four of those, while leading the 400-yard freestyle relay team to victory both times.

Newman, who hails from Anderson Estates, Ga., feels that the swimming program at USC is definitely on the upswing. "Yes, the people are starting to respond to swimming. We've noticed more spirit at the meets. We wish that more people would show up for the meets, personally I like to swim before big audiences. The attendance was pretty good and last two meets, but one was Parents' Day. Of course, it all ties in with the new pool we're supposed to be getting. If we had the new pool, maybe more people would show up at the meets. It would also help the overall swimming program," said Newman.

The new USC pool, still stalled by administrative hassles, is planned as an addition to the PE complex.

"I'd like to get into the nationals, and then do well in them," said Newman, explaining his goals. "As a team, we beat Florida State which finished twelfth in the nationals last year--but they lost almost all of swimmers through graduation. We still should finish somewhere in the top 25, though."

Whatever the outcome, Chip Newman and his fellow freshmen have given swimming fans something to watch this season.

Cindermen take second

BY JIM HERSH

Sports Writer

Auburn spoiled Carolina's attempt to win their initial meet of the indoor track season when the Tigers edged the Gamecocks, 60.57-59. 97, Saturday afternoon at Auburn's Memorial Coliseum. Clemson was third in the triangular meet with 32 points.

Late in the afternoon, Auburn took 1-2 in the triple jump to take control of the close meet. After Brian Hyder gave USC a win in the pole vault, the Tigers sealed their victory by winning the mile relay.

"For our first competition of the year I thought we did well as a whole," Gamecock coach John West said. "With a couple of good performances in a few events we could have won. It was a real good meet."

Even though the Gamecocks did not win, they took more first places, 6-5, than the host team. Two of these wins came from distance star Jim Schaper.

The sophomore from Ft. Lauderdale set a Coliseum record when he won the mile in 4:18.4, almost four seconds faster than the previous track record.

Freshman Wayne Thomas, who finished third in the mile, also finished the mile under the old record and only a little more than a second slower than Schaper's record time.

Schaper came back later to break the tape in the 1000 yard run in 2:00.1, and then capped his day by running the fastest split (51.2) in USC's mile relay.

Auburn's outstanding performance for Carolina was supplied by Newcomer Mike Raines. He leaped with a 53-2 heave in the shot put, three feet better than he had ever thrown before, to win that event. Forrest Broom, with an effort of 53-2, was second in the shot put.

Freshman McCloud Reid sprinted to victory in the 60 yd, 4.2 dash. His 6.5 clocking was just one-tenth of a second in front of Guy Hornsby. Hornsby also leaped 21-2 in the long jump, good enough for third place.

In the 60 yard hurdles, Carolina picked up a first place from Bill Novo, whose winning time was 7.5. Joe McCulloch (8.1) was fourth in the hurdles.

Mike Shely, another USC freshman, was runner-up in the 880, less than a second behind the winner, at 2:00.6 Don Brown was only one-fifth of a second in back of Shely.

Paul McCloud (1:16.3) and Bob Dempsey (1:17.6) finished just behind. Keith Eidson (53.8) picked up fourth in the 440 and Jack Miller (9:58.8) settled for the same spot in the two mile. The USC mile relay (Dempsey, Schaper, McCloud, Reid) ran 3:04 to finish second to Auburn's 3:29.5 clocking.

Aquamen meet Tigers

BY JIM HERSH

Sports Writer

Wetherhold combined for 30 of the Carolina 74 total.

Newman, continuing his utter domination of the short freestyle events, won both the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard medleys. Both were in Georgia-USC meet record times. Click also set a new record, won comparatively easy victories in both of his specialties, the 500-yard individual medley and the 200-yard individual medley.

Wetherhold put on an outstanding performance in capturing both evening events, the one and three meters.

Also contributing wins in the big USC victory were: the 400-yard medley relay team consisting of Cluffin, Jeff Neuber, Paul Greer and John Poole. Roger Rice in the exciting 200-yard freestyle content; Kim Douglass in the 200-yard breaststroke, the event which decided the meet for Carolina; and the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Newman, Glenn Spears and Poole.

The next home meet, the first one for the 71-72 season, will be a triangular contest versus Georgia Southern and Clemson on February 10. Carolina has already met Georgia Southern earlier this year and lost. But the battles between Georgia Southern and Clemson should be a good one. As for ourselves, we have some swimmers that haven't been swimming, so we're going to try and get them in this one," said Genry.