Leary. Continued from page 1

"I think The Gamecock's lack of consistency...on the campaign has contributed to the lackluster attitude about the campaign by the athletes," Leary said.

Maryfield also said The Gamecock has had enough coverage of the campaign.

"Just as the media...sets the agenda in everyday life outside of campus, The Gamecock sets the agenda for student life," Maryfield said. "We always hope the newest...will be better and hope the students will take the election seriously."

Benjamin. Continued from page 1

Benjamin said his campaign has been a 24-hour-a-day job, with the exception of three hours for sleep and three hours for school work.

"My average days during this campaign have been phenomenal. It's not unusual for me to go to work over 12 meetings in one night," he said. "It's good to meet with different, service, social and Greek organizations because they reflect the wide-range of...involvement at USC."

Benjamin said he hopes there will be a high voter turnout for the Students Government elections because it helps the Student Government represent the students more effectively.

"It shows the administration that we have the support of the students," he said.

Benjamin, who is currently a S.C. senator, a Resident Advisor at Bates House and an active leader in USC's NAACP chapter, Minority Assistance Program, the Student Alumni Association and the Lead Mentor Program, said dedication is essential for anyone who wants to be involved on campus.

"You get accustomed to all the work, but you have to be dedicated to keep doing a good job and keep up your grades," he said. "All the different jobs I've held on campus have developed my sense of responsibility."

Benjamin said he wants to compete more students to get involved with the student government. "I want them to be able to play an active role in increasing the quality of life here," he said.

Carolina outsmarts Clemson

By The Associated Press

In the battle of the books, South Carolina sacrificed academic standards last fall.

Eighty percent of South Carolina's athletes had at least a C average last fall, compared to 65 percent at Clemson, school records show.

Of the Gamecock's 344 athletes, 142, or 41.3 percent, earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Nine athletes earned a 4.0.

Of 418 athletes at Clemson, 266, or 63.9 percent, failed to achieve a 2.0, while 75, or 17.9 percent, managed a 3.0 or better. The State University newspaper reported in Tuesday's edition.

At South Carolina, members of women's teams led the way academically, with 60.4 percent of 11 athletes maintaining a 3.0 average and 5.5 percent averaging less than 2.0. Of 293 male athletes, 34.4 percent had a 3.0 average or better and 18.5 percent produced a GPA less than 2.0.

The football team showed a significant increase in GPA from the previous year, turning in a 2.27 after compiling a 1.98 in the fall of 1988. Twenty members, or 17.4 percent, of the 115-man squad maintained a 2.0. Thirty-six, or 29.6 percent, were below a 2.0, representing about 15 percent of the male athletes who failed to achieve a 2.0.

Among women's sports, seven of eight members of the tennis team and eight of 10 golfers produced a 3.0 average, while men's swimming had 11 members, or 25.8 percent, of 43 total athletes above the 2.0. The tennis team was the exception of the top ten GPA, 3.39, which was down from the previous year (3.44). The golf team had a GPA of 2.99 after a 3.02 in 1988.

Soccer and swimming pointed the way made among men's sports, with 19 of 26 members of the soccer team producing a 3.0 or better and 15 of 21 swimmers at least equaled it. Soccer had three players below a 2.0, swimming only one.

Clemson's football team had an especially tough time academically. According to school figures, 77 of the 139 members of the team, or 55.4 percent, scored less than a 2.0 grade-point average. Ninety, or 64 percent, compiled a GPA of 3.0 or better. The total GPA was 1.96, compared to 2.07 for the fall of 1988.

B. J. Skiles, associate vice president for student affairs at Clemson, said the school is not satisfied with the football team's accomplishments.

"There's no question that the's was...any more than 2.0," Skiles said. "We certainly are working to improve their...academic performance. I don't think isolating a single season is a good indicator of how a group is doing cumulatively. The two seasons...are just one semester, so I suppose there's...down the road.

Clemson expects to break ground in the near future on a training center for athletes. The center will serve as an additional mechanism in the support system for athletes with classroom difficulties.

Overall, the picture was not much brighter for the rest of Clemson's athletes.

More than a third of the soccer team - 10 of 29 members - and the wrestling squad - nine of 25 members - had less than a 2.0.

The news wasn't all bad. The women's swimming team produced an athlete, department head 102 GPA, and 10 members of the 16-member squad compiled a 3.0 or better. Only one reload below a 2.0.

"Our conference is very high," Skiles said of the ACC. "The new standards that have come with the conference..."