

GamecockCentral.com's

GAMEDAYGUIDE

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GAMECOCKS

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AROUND THE SEC

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Welcome to the inaugural issue of Gamecock Central's **GAMEDAY GUIDE**. We're very excited to offer this new feature to the Gamecock Nation. Since Gamecock Central was founded in 1998, it's been our goal to provide the very best coverage of Gamecock sports and

recruiting, and this guide is another way to continue doing that. You can download and print the guide to take to the game or download the guide to your tablet, computer, or smartphone for viewing at home. Visit GamecockCentral.com on Fridays before each game

-- home and away -- this season to get the newest issue. Or you can text *USC* to **42828** to be added to our distribution list. Thanks for making Gamecock-Central.com your home for Gamecock sports!

See you Thursday!

- Brian Shoemaker
GC PUBLISHER



Has Arkansas improved?

The Razorbacks hope Year 2 of the *Bret Bielema* era goes much better than the first as Arkansas is still looking for its first SEC win under his tutelage. Arkansas gets a huge test early on as it travels to Auburn. Just keeping it close would be a moral victory.

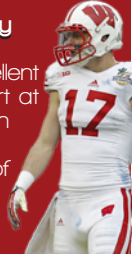


Does Tennessee get upset?

Utah State QB *Chuckie Keeton* returns from a knee injury and is an absolute beast. Tennessee obviously hopes to be improved this year, but could be on upset alert in Week 1.

How does Tanner McEvoy fare?

The former South Carolina QB gets an excellent test in his first career start at QB as Wisconsin takes on LSU. This is one of the most intriguing matchups of the day.



TOP MATCHUP

Georgia O-Line vs. Clemson D-Line



UGA left tackle **John Theus** (waving?) will have his hands full with Clemson rush end **Vic Beasley**.

Last season Clemson's defensive line was very active against Georgia up front and registered four sacks. Defensive end Corey Crawford even had an interception. Crawford is suspended for game one, and Tavaris Barnes steps in for him. UGA wants to win up front and run Todd Gurley, but protecting Hutson Mason at quarterback will be big too.

ALEX COLLINS

Arkansas Soph. RB

Plenty of things went wrong for the Razorbacks in Bret Bielema's first season at the helm, but Alex Collins was not one of them. The former Rivals250 tailback enjoyed a stellar freshman campaign, where he rushed for 1,026 yards and 4 TDs. He will once again join fellow RB Jonathan Williams to form a solid 1-2 punch that accounted for over 1,900 yards in 2013. Collins certainly has his work cut out for him to start 2014, as he faces an Auburn defense full of talent led by former Gamecock mastermind Ellis Johnson. With another season of Brandon Allen (49.6 comp%, 10 INTs) at quarterback, Arkansas looks to go as far as Collins can carry them.

SEC PLAYER YOU SHOULD KNOW



JAMES W. SMITH REAL ESTATE Co.

VIEWING GUIDE

PREPARE LIKE A CHAMPION

OTHER NOTABLE GAMES

Ohio State at Navy	12:00 PM	
UCLA at Virginia	12:00 PM	
Cal at Northwestern	3:30 PM	
Fresno St. at Southern Cal	7:30 PM	
USM at Miss. State	7:30 PM	
FSU vs. Oklahoma State*	8:00 PM	

WHO WE'LL BE WATCHING



RIXON LANE



CHRIS CLARK



WES MITCHELL



AVERY WILKS



5:30 ON

"Is there any game that South Carolina fans will care more about on Saturday than this one? The Tigers and Bulldogs will both be breaking in new starting quarterbacks. Georgia is looking for revenge after last year's 38-35 loss at Clemson."



9:00 ON

"If you like 'grown man football' then this is the game for you. Wisconsin and LSU are both physical teams that like to run the football, so there will be plenty of helmets clashing in this one. An added bonus: former Gamecock Tanner McEvoy is starting at QB for the Badgers."



8:30 AM ON

"Forget waiting until College GameDay ends to watch some football. How can you beat football with breakfast? Plus, surprisingly, UCF is actually favored in this game, so it could be a good one."



3:30 ON

"It will be interesting to see how Alabama's quarterback situation plays out. Is the Tide the team to beat in the SEC this year? Maybe this game gives us an indication."

TAILGATING, TATER SALAD AND 'OL' NATHAN PEPPER

by: Ann Thrash

Photo by Bill Thrash



INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. small red potatoes, quartered
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp ground red pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 4 strips bacon
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley leaves
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
 - peeled & coarsely chopped
- 3/4-1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 tbsp Creole or whole-grain mustard

Ever since we turned the calendar page over to August, my husband and I have been kicking around ideas for our first game day tailgating feast. Bill graduated from Carolina in 1985 and has been a fan his whole life, but since I went to Davidson, I've become a Gamecock fan more recently by marriage. In the decade we've been together, Bill has taught me a lot about Joe Morrison, the Fire Ant Defense, the lean years in the late 1990s, and the magic of "2001." I've been to two of Coach Spurrier's Ladies Clinics, so I've run screaming through the tunnel and "scooped and scored" a touchdown—and

when an assistant coach one year told us sternly, "Don't be like ol' Nathan Pepper," I knew who and what he was talking about.

Despite all that I've picked up so far about Gamecock football, I've still got a lot to learn about the technical side of the game, like the merits of the 4-3 vs. the 3-4 defense and which linebacker is MIKE. But I do know something about the culinary side of game day. Six years as the food editor at The Post and Courier in Charleston put me in touch with a lot of great cooks and great recipes, and

I know one thing for sure: With food just as with football, there's always something worth talking about.

Here's our favorite potato salad recipe, which we refer to as "tater salad" in honor of "that big orange team from the Upstate," as the Head Ball Coach once said. Maybe ol' Nathan Pepper wouldn't have slowed down if there had been a bowl of this in the end zone. The recipe is from Emeril Lagasse but with a few tweaks. This is great anytime, but it's ideal for the beginning of tailgating season because it's still so hot outside and this is good late-summer fare.

DIRECTIONS

Put the potatoes in a saucepan and add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook, partially covered, until fork-tender, about 10 minutes. Drain potatoes and transfer to a large mixing bowl. While the potatoes are still warm, season with the salt, red and black pepper, and lemon juice, tossing well to combine.

In a skillet on top of the stove, cook the bacon until crisp, then remove from pan and set aside. Drain off all but about 2 tablespoons of the bacon drippings in the pan, then add the chopped onion and cook until tender and translucent. Add the onions to the bowl with the potatoes. Add the celery, parsley and eggs, stirring gently to mix.

In a smaller bowl, combine the mayo and mustard, then stir the mixture into the potatoes. Crumble the bacon and sprinkle it over the salad, then toss gently but thoroughly to mix. Serve immediately while slightly warm, or refrigerate and serve slightly chilled. Makes about 6 servings.

Chicken Supper to Go!

Call Ahead... No Waiting Tailgating

PHONE NUMBERS AT RUSHS.NET

8 PIECES \$16.50
Includes:
● potato salad, cole slaw, ●
rolls & iced tea
12 PIECES \$20.50



STATCHECK

NUMBERS DON'T LIE

SEC Rankings

(1st) 44.2 pts/gm
 (10th) 185.1 yds/gm
 (1st) 353.3 yds/gm
 (1st) 538.4 yds/gm
 (14th) 32.2 pts/gm
 (14th) 222.3 yds/gm
 (12th) 253.5 yds/gm
 (14th) 475.8 yds/gm

SCORING OFFENSE	34.1 pts/gm (7 th)
RUSHING OFFENSE	198.5 yds/gm (6 th)
PASSING OFFENSE	253.8 yds/gm (4 th)
TOTAL OFFENSE	452.3 yds/gm (8 th)
SCORING DEFENSE	20.3 pts/gm (2 nd)
RUSHING DEFENSE	153.8 yds/gm (8 th)
PASSING DEFENSE	196.2 yds/gm (3 rd)
TOTAL DEFENSE	350 yds/gm (5 th)



VS

% RUSHING YARDS RETURN 46.6%	% RUSHING YARDS RETURN 77.7%
% PASSING YARDS RETURN 4.0%	% PASSING YARDS RETURN 25.6%
% RECEIVING YARDS RETURN 30.9%	% RECEIVING YARDS RETURN 74.8%

PHOTO: USATSI



GAMECOCK CEREAL

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GAMEPREVIEW

ARE YOU READY?



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

by: Avery Wilks

PHAROH COOPER

Sophomore Wide Receiver

I'm keeping an eye on sophomore wide receiver **Pharoh Cooper** in this one. Cooper became a major part of USC's offense last season and gave the Gamecocks some stability in the return game as well. I'll be interested to see how much USC relies on him in the passing game, as well as what he can do against a vulnerable Aggies secondary. Cooper emerged as a freshman last year, but he could become one of the team's brightest stars this season. The first game could allow a glimpse into whether he will.

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

by: Rixon Lane

KENNY HILL

Sophomore Quarterback

The era of "Kenny Football" begins in Columbia. A true sophomore who only attempted 22 passes last season, Hill threw for 183 yards and a touchdown in four games. Hill was the Texas Gatorade Player of the Year following his senior season of high school in 2012. However, he has never played a collegiate snap on the road. We'll see how he handles a packed house and one of the toughest venues in the nation.



VEGAS REPORT

Most betting shops opened South Carolina as an 11-point home favorite for its season opener vs. Texas A&M. The total started at 57. A few books had the number at 10 for a brief time, before it settled at 10.5. The 'over/under' has steadily climbed to 60, where it was as of Tuesday night.

PREDICTIONS

Wes Mitchell

Even without Johnny Football, Texas A&M's offense is going to be good. But I don't think the Aggies defense can stop Carolina. It's hard to bet against the Gamecocks at home. South Carolina wins this one.

🏈 38-28 🏈

Avery Wilks

This one has the chance to turn into a shootout, but I expect the Gamecocks defense and the home crowd at Williams-Brice to get the best of new Texas A&M starter Kenny Hill.

🏈 35-21 🏈

Jeff Tyner

I expect Spurrier to go to the air early and often, then realize it's in his best interest to ride Mike Davis and Co. against a very porous A&M defense. Time of possession will be huge, similar to the past few Clemson games.

🏈 31-17 🏈

Aaron Weiss

This isn't going to be pretty. A&M's secondary is out to prove something, so expect Davis, Wilds, and Carson to get the ball placed firmly in their hands. Wouldn't be surprised if Vegas had the over/under on USC rushing yards at 220.

🏈 29-22 🏈

*Per annual subscription

THIS IS THE DAILY COST FOR UNRIVALED GAMECOCK COVERAGE



GamecockCentral.com

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RECRUITINGSCOOP

HOW'S THE CLASS LOOKING?

3

NO. 3 CLASS
NATIONALLY

13

FOUR-STAR
PROSPECTS

9

RIVALIS250
PROSPECTS

3.48

AVERAGE
STAR RATING

2015 Commitment List

Name	Pos	Ht/Wt	Rating	Count
Jaire Alexander	DB	5-11/170	★★★★	64
Damon Arnette	DB	6-2/185	★★★★	49
Zack Bailey	OL	6-5/300	★★★★★	5
Shameik Blackshear	DE	6-4/245	★★★★★	5
Michael Bowman	WR	5-11/196	★★★★	NR
Joseph Charlton	K	6-5/180	★★★★	NR
Jalen Christian	ATH	5-10/173	★★★★★	11
Austin Clark	OL	6-5/297	★★★★★	9
Mon Denson	RB	5-10/215	★★★★	40
Davon Durant	LB	6-2/240	★★★★★	NR
Mark Fields	DB	5-10/186	★★★★★	10
Jalen Henry	LB	6-1/215	★★★★	NR
Octavis Johnson	DB	6-0/183	★★★★★	19
Arden Key	DE	6-6/228	★★★★★	10
Marquavius Lewis	DE	6-4/270	★★★★★	NR
Kyle Markway	TE	6-4/219	★★★★	NR
Jozie Milton	OL	6-2/291	★★★★	NR
Dexter Neal	WR	6-2/197	★★★★★	28
Lorenzo Nunez	QB	6-2/190	★★★★★	6
Paris Palmer	OL	6-9/305	★★★★★	NR
Christian Pellige	OL	6-6/291	★★★★	40
Sherrod Pittman	LB	6-0/215	★★★★★	3
Connor Redmond	TE	6-4/220	★★★★	NR
AJ Turner	RB	5-10/180	★★★★	33
Jerad Washington	WR	5-8/150	★★★★	NR
Quandeski Whitlow	DE	6-4/228	★★★★	19
Antoine Wilder	DB	5-11/172	★★★★	NR

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT



Mark Fields

Cornerback
5'10" 186 lbs.
#109 on Rivals250

North Carolina defensive back **Mark Fields** is one of the best prospects in a top-5 2015 recruiting class for the Gamecocks. Capable of playing anywhere in the secondary in college, this son of a former NFL linebacker got his season started with a bang, helping lead his Hough High team to a victory by excelling on offense and defense. Fields' combination of size, speed, and physicality makes him one of the top cornerbacks in the country.

VISITOR LIST 8/28

*List is subject to change

Name	Rating	Pos	Class	Location
James Valdez	★★★★	DB	2016	Santee, SC
John Simpson	★★★★★	OL	2016	N. Charleston, SC
Brad Hawkins	★★★★★	WR	2016	Camden, NJ
Ron Johnson Jr.	★★★★★	DE	2016	Camden, NJ

For an updated list, visit GamecockCentral.com

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TO BE ADDED TO OUR GAMEDAYGUIDE DISTRIBUTION LIST

South Carolina Numerical Roster

1	Damiere Byrd	WR	5-9/170	Slickerville, NJ
1	Rico McWilliams	CB	5-11/184	Hampton, GA
3	Nick Jones	WR	5-7/168	Moore, SC
3	Chris Lammons	CB	5-10/172	Sunrise, FL
4	Bryson Allen-Williams	LB	6-1/231	Ellenwood, GA
4	Shaq Roland	WR	6-1/176	Lexington, SC
5	Darius English	DE	6-6/241	Powder Springs, GA
5	Brendan Nosovitch	QB	6-1/221	Allentown, PA
6	Chris Moody	S	6-1/210	McDonough, GA
6	Connor Mitch	QB	6-3/211	Raleigh, NC
7	Shon Carson	RB	5-8/201	Scranton, SC
7	Wesley Green	CB	5-10/176	Lithonia, GA
8	Kaiwan Lewis	LB	6-0/228	Pleasantville, NJ
8	Shamier Jeffery	WR	6-1/198	St. Matthews, SC
9	Sharrod Golightly	LB	5-10/187	Decatur, GA
9	Tyshun Samuel	WR	6-0/192	Inman, SC
10	Perry Orth	QB	6-1/204	Ponde Verda, FL
10	Skai Moore	LB	6-2/213	Cooper City, FL
11	Pharoh Cooper	WR	5-11/201	Havelock, NC
11	T.J. Holloman	LB	6-2/234	Stone Mountain, GA
12	Brison Williams	CB/S	5-11/208	Warner Robbins, GA
12	Michael Scarnecchia	QB	6-4/189	Fleming Island, FL
13	Grant Davitte	QB	6-3/180	Columbia, SC
13	Tyler Hull	P	6-2/207	Mount Airy, NC
14	Ali Groves	CB	5-10/187	Stone Mountain, GA
14	Shaq Davidson	WR	5-11/170	Gaffney, SC
15	Austin Halls	QB	6-2/220	Collinsville, IL
16	Zach Cimaglia	P	6-1/170	Charlotte, NC
17	Chaz Elder	S	6-2/195	Union City, GA
17	Dylan Thompson	QB	6-3/218	Boiling Springs, SC
18	Cedrick Cooper	DE	6-2/225	Lithonia, GA
18	Patrick Fish	P	6-0/194	Shelby, NC
19	Landon Ard	K	5-9/178	Rock Hill, SC
19	Terry Googer	WR	6-4/210	Atlanta, GA
20	T.J. Gurley	S	5-10/194	Cairo, GA
21	Andrew Bunch	WR	5-11/173	Mt. Pleasant, SC
21	Marcquis Roberts	LB	6-1/216	Powder Springs, GA
22	Brandon Wilds	RB	6-2/222	Blythewood, SC
22	Jamari Smith	CB	5-10/197	Jacksonville, FL
23	Larenz Bryant	LB	6-0/220	Charlotte, NC
24	D.J. Smith	CB	5-11/189	Marietta, GA
25	Kadatrix Marcus	S	6-1/194	Stone Mountain, GA
26	Jasper Sasser	S	6-0/203	Jacksonville, FL
28	Jonathan Walton	LB	6-0/228	Daphne, AL
28	Mike Davis	RB	5-9/223	Atlanta, GA
29	Elliot Fry	K	6-0/165	Frisco, TX
29	Matrick Benson	WR	6-4/215	Columbia, SC
30	Darius Paulk	FB	5-8/199	Columbia, SC
30	Sidney Rhodes	CB	5-10/182	Easley, SC
31	Al Harris Jr.	CB	5-11/162	Fort Lauderdale, FL
31	Jordan Diaz	FB	6-1/236	Hamilton, NJ
32	Rod Talley	RB	5-10/201	Laurens, SC
33	David Williams	RB	6-1/214	Philadelphia, PA
34	Jonas Price	K	6-2/165	Cockeysville, MD
34	Mason Harris	DE	6-3/235	Fort Oglethorpe, GA

35	Shannon Jones	DB	5-7/153	Florence, SC
39	Demetrius Smalls	DB	5-11/170	Bluffton, SC
40	Jacob August	TE	6-6/247	Columbia, SC
41	Connor McLaurin	FB	6-0/243	Raleigh, NC
41	Kyle Morini	LB	5-10/221	Warner Robbins, GA
42	Jordan Diggs	LB	6-0/217	Fort Myers, FL
43	Benjamin Russel	DB	6-0/175	Atlanta, GA
43	Garrison Gist	FB	5-10/260	Rock Hill, SC
44	Gerald Dixon	DE	6-2/274	Rock Hill, SC
44	Gerald Turner	FB	6-2/250	Goose Creek, SC
45	Brandon Sturdivant	FB	6-2/218	Fort Mill, SC
46	Cedrick Malone	LB	6-0/201	Camden, SC
47	Drew Williams	LS	6-2/201	Irmo, SC
48	Nick McGriff	TE	6-0/220	Gainesville, FL
49	Devin Potter	RB	5-10/203	Granite Falls, NC
49	Garrett Shank	S	6-0/203	Marietta, GA
50	A.J. Cann	G	6-4/311	Bamberg, SC
51	Cody Waldrop	C	6-2/309	Seffner, FL
51	Devin Washington	DE	6-3/221	Orlando, FL
52	Phillip Dukes	DT	6-3/323	Manning, SC
53	Corey Robinson	T	6-8/344	Havelock, NC
54	Clayton Stadnik	C	6-3/273	Greensboro, NC
55	David Johnson	DE	6-1/275	Lithonia, GA
55	Na'Ty Rodgers	T	6-5/280	Waldorf, MD
58	Ryland Culbertson	LS	6-4/267	Laurens, SC
59	Coleman Harley	LS	6-1/246	Aiken, SC
65	Brock Stadnik	G	6-5/294	Greensboro, NC
69	D.J. Park	T	6-4/328	Dillon, SC
70	Alan Knott	C	6-4/280	Tyrone, GA
71	Brandon Shell	T	6-6/333	Goose Creek, SC
72	Donell Stanley	G	6-4/346	Floydale, SC
74	Mason Zandi	T	6-9/301	Irmo, SC
75	Will Sport	G	6-5/291	Milton, FL
76	Mike Matulis	G	6-5/307	Boynton Beach, FL
77	Malik Young	G	6-4/290	Piedmont, SC
78	Cody Gibson	T	6-7/278	Tallahassee, FL
80	K.J. Brent	WR	6-4/192	Waxhaw, NC
81	Rory Anderson	TE	6-5/227	Powder Springs, GA
82	Caleb Hines	WR	5-11/160	Cornelius, NC
83	Carlton Heard	WR	6-0/188	Athens, GA
84	Matthew Harvey	WR	6-8/228	Rock Hill, SC
85	Kane Whitehurst	WR	5-11/169	Duluth, GA
86	Kevin Crosby	TE	6-1/230	Bamberg, SC
87	Sean Odom	WR	6-0/190	Orangeburg, SC
88	Drew Owens	TE	6-6/238	Charlotte, NC
89	Jerell Adams	TE	6-6/242	Pinewood, SC
90	Taylor Stallworth	DT	6-2/293	Mobile, AL
91	Blake McCain	DE	6-3/265	Jacksonville, FL
92	Gerald Dixon Jr.	DT	6-3/323	Rock Hill, SC
93	Deon Green	DE	6-4/289	Windermere, FL
94	Kelsey Griffin	DT	6-2/310	Buford, GA
95	Michael Washington	DE	6-3/237	Allendale, SC
97	J.T. Surratt	DT	6-2/310	Winston-Salem, NC
99	Abu Lamin	DT	6-4/302	Fayetteville, NC

THIS SPOT COULD BE YOURS

CONTACT SHOEPUB@GAMECOCKCENTRAL.COM FOR MORE INFO