

GamecockCentral.com's

# GAMEDAY GUIDE

WEEK ONE: NORTH CAROLINA



**WHAT'S  
INSIDE**

POSITION BATTLES | VIEWING GUIDE  
PLAYER SPOTLIGHT | OPPONENT FOCUS  
COMMITMENT LIST | MARQUEE MATCHUP  
GAME NOTES | PROSPECT SPOTLIGHT

LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY JEFF TYNER



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Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sept. 3	North Carolina*	6:00	
Sept. 12	Kentucky	7:30	
Sept. 19	at Georgia	6:00	
Sept. 26	UCF	TBA	TBA
Oct. 3	at Missouri	TBA	TBA
Oct. 10	LSU	TBA	TBA
Oct. 17	Vanderbilt	TBA	TBA
Oct. 31	at Texas A&M	TBA	TBA
Nov. 7	at Tennessee	TBA	TBA
Nov. 14	Florida	TBA	TBA
Nov. 21	The Citadel	TBA	TBA
Nov. 28	Clemson	TBA	TBA

\*at Bank of America Stadium (Charlotte)



# WHAT'S ON GC?

Just the two best recruiting analysts in Gamecock sports in Chris Clark and Wes Mitchell. They work tirelessly to bring GC subscribers the inside scoop from an array of sources. GC is packed with the best subscriber content \$0.27/day can buy, but what kind of content does a subscription get you?

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## CHRIS CLARK



### True or false?

Chris and Wes take turns giving their thoughts on three intriguing questions about the North Carolina game.

### The Insider Report

A regular feature on GC's The Insiders Forum, Chris gives a detailed report on the status of Gamecock commitments in the 2016 cycle.

## WES MITCHELL



### No jobs safe

The Gamecocks released their Week 1 depth chart on Sunday, but that doesn't mean the competition to be a starter in the UNC game is over.

### Defensive details still unknown

Wes looks closer that USC's opening matchup with North Carolina and how Jon Hoke will make an impact.



## WHO WE'RE WATCHING

No. 15 ARIZONA STATE

TEXAS A&amp;M



Chris Clark

VS.

7 P.M. ET ON **ESPN**

It's a matchup of a top-15 team that made noise last season in Arizona State against an Aggie squad that seems to have high expectations this year. A&M has John Chavis at the helm of a defense that features one of the best players in the country potentially in Myles Garrett, and the offense is expected to be explosive, as always, under Kevin Sumlin. Gamecock fans will want a good look at A&M, but regardless this should be an entertaining game.

No. 20 WISCONSIN

No. 3 ALABAMA



Rixon Lane

VS.

8 P.M. ET ON **abc**

The Crimson Tide are in a terrible two-year national championship drought, while the Badgers are in year one of the Paul Chryst Era. The quarterback situations are the main storylines. One team can't decide on a QB, the other has Joel Stave. You should always pick against Joel Stave.



## WHO WE'RE WATCHING

LOUISVILLE

No. 6 AUBURN



Wes Mitchell

VS.

3:30 P.M. ET ON **CBSSPORTS**

Auburn is a double-digit favorite in what will essentially be a home game for the Tigers, but Week 1 games are notoriously big unknowns and Louisville could play early season spoiler. The Cardinals are talented on defense and Bobby Petrino will have a few tricks up his sleeve on offense against Auburn's revamped Will Muschamp defense. Throw in the fact that this will be our first look at Tigers starting quarterback Jeremy Johnson as the guy, and it's an intriguing matchup to me.

BOWLING GREEN

No. 25 TENNESSEE



Jeff Tyner

VS.

4 P.M. ET ON **SEC ESPN NETWORK**

With a lion's share of recruiting momentum and preseason hype, the Volunteers will be looking to make a leap in the SEC's competitive hierarchy. Don't sleep on the Falcons though, who have made three straight bowl appearances and hung with their last SEC foe (L 27-14 to UF in 2012).



# PLAYERSPOTLIGHT

by Wes Mitchell

## ISAIAH JOHNSON

Photo by C.J. Driggers



Photo by USATSI



[CLICK HERE](#) to see GC's in-depth video feature on Johnson

SEC fans may not know Kansas safety transfer Isaiah Johnson's name yet, but I expect that to change soon for the former Big 12 Newcomer of the Year. Johnson is an important addition to a South Carolina safety corps that had its share of struggles last season, and he quickly ascended the depth chart this fall. Johnson is a ballhawk with a knack for making the big play and he showed that by picking off six passes in his two seasons against pass-happy Big 12 offenses.

Johnson will have special motivation in the season opener as the Cary, North Carolina, native will be playing in his home state. Look for him to make a major impact on the Gamecocks' new-look Jon Hoke defense in 2015.

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## LANDON TURNER

A fourth-year starter on the Tar Heel offensive line, Turner was named to multiple preseason All-American teams. North Carolina has one of the country's most experienced offensive lines, and Turner enters the 2015 season with 28 career starts. The Gamecock interior defensive line will face a stiff challenge.



(L to R) Senior OL Landon Turner | Senior LB Jeff Schoettmer | Photos by USATSI

## JEFF SCHOETTNER

UNC's leader in tackles last season, Schoettmer is expected to thrive under new defensive coordinator Gene Chizik. In his first career start, Schoettmer posted seven total tackles against the Gamecocks in 2013. Connor Mitch must beware of the senior's pass-coverage skills; he returned two interceptions for touchdowns last year.



by Chris Clark

## SKAI MOORE vs. MARQUISE WILLIAMS



Junior LB Skai Moore | Photo by Chris Gillespie

At first glance, this may not make a lot of sense as the pick. It's not receiver on defensive back or lineman on lineman. However, Moore will be key to disrupting the UNC attack - whether it's reading Williams in the passing game, trying to tackle him when he breaks the pocket on scrambles, keying on him in the zone read game, or pressuring him on blitzes. Both will also quarterback their teams on each side of the ball, one literally and the other figuratively. It will be a team effort for the Gamecocks to slow down UNC, but Moore is huge for multiple reasons.



Senior QB Marquise Williams | Photo by USATSI



## WHO

North Carolina (0-0) vs. South Carolina (0-0)

## WHEN

Thursday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m.

## WHERE

Bank of America Stadium (73,778)

Charlotte, North Carolina

## UNIFORMS

Garnet jerseys, white pants

## VEGAS

USC by 2, over/under is 64

## TV

ESPN with Joe Tessitore (play-by-play), Jesse Palmer (analysis), David Pollack (analysis) and Kaylee Hartung (sideline)

## RADIO

107.5 FM in Columbia with Todd Ellis (play-by-play), Tommy Suggs (analysis) and Langston Moore (sideline); complete list of radio affiliates: <http://gcentr.al/gcradioaffiliates>

## SATELLITE RADIO

Sirius 84/XM 84

## SERIES HISTORY

North Carolina leads 34-18-4; In Columbia, UNC leads 14-10-1; in Chapel Hill, UNC leads 18-8-3; at neutral site, UNC leads 2-0-0; South Carolina has won 5 of the last 6 meetings



# COMMITMENTLIST

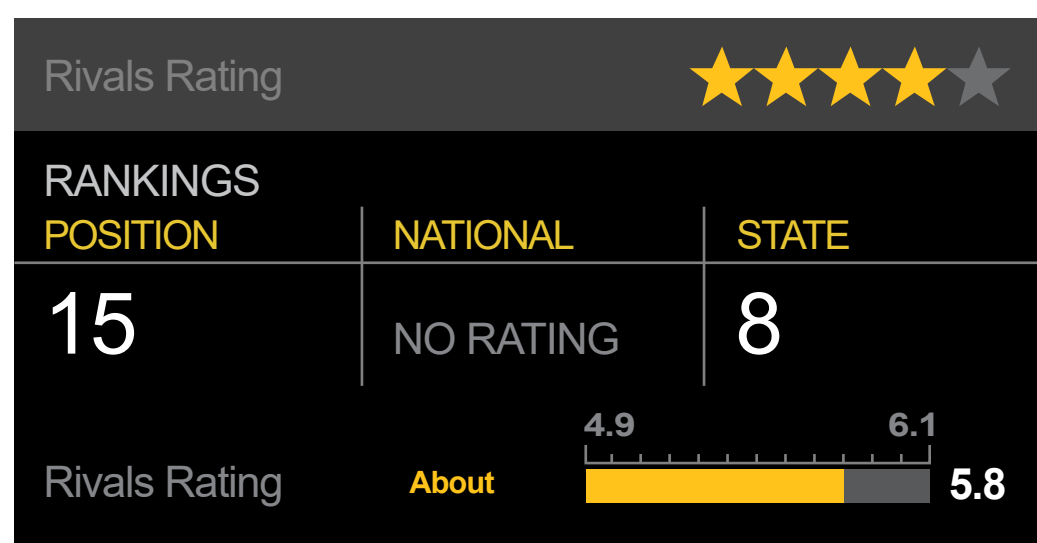
Name	Pos	Ht/Wt	Stars	Rank
P.J. Blue	LB	6-4/201	★★★★	12
Marlon Character	DB	6-0/173	★★★★	13
Akeem Cooperwood	OL	6-8/340	★★★	NR
Lloyd Cushenberry	OL	6-4/310	★★	NR
Bryan Edwards	WR	6-3/205	★★★★	48
C.J. Freeman	RB	5-11/195	★★★	19
JJ Givens	DB	6-1/165	★★★	41
Tre Jackson	DB	5-10/178	★★★	44
Brandon McIlwain	QB	6-0/188	★★★★	15
Jacorey Morris	LB	6-3/220	★★★	58
Will Putnam	OL	6-5/270	★★	NR
Chris Smith	WR	5-10/168	★★	NR
Jordan Smith	DE	6-6/220	★★★	32
Cecil Stallings	DE	6-4/250	★★★	NR

# PROSPECTSPOTLIGHT



**Brandon McIlwain**

Dual-threat QB  
 Newtown, PA  
 6'0"  
 188 lbs.



The four-star product was an early commitment to the Gamecocks and has been key in helping recruit other prospects to Columbia. Aside from that, McIlwain is one of the top quarterbacks in the country. He has an arm, can run, and his intangibles are off the charts whether it's his on-field smarts or leadership abilities. He's also a standout baseball player and could choose to play both sports at USC.