

SPORTS



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WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR



Coach Dawn Staley has led South Carolina to five straight Final Fours. The Gamecocks face Texas at 7 p.m. on Friday.

SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Playing through the mistakes

Staley unlikely to call timeout in Final Four, and players love it

Lulu Kesin
Greenville News
USA TODAY

TAMPA, Fla. — Cinder block walls, two twin beds, a closet and desks, posters plastered for decorations. A small fridge, a VCR and a TV were the perks.

Tuttle-Dunnington House, located in the center of a cluster of dorms on Virginia's campus, was where 18-year old Dawn Staley felt safe.

Staley had no desire to be the center of attention.

Charlottesville wasn't home, and it wasn't Philadelphia.

When the 5-foot-6 point guard arrived on campus to play college basketball in 1988, introversion swallowed her, though on the court, her fiery, competitive spirit could never be contained.

Grappling with a unbalanced mix of anxiety outside of the arena and dominance inside, Staley only felt true to herself on the court and in her dorm. There were nights spent laughing with roommates, breaking curfew and angering the resident hall director who

"Instead of using my verbal skills, my non-verbal skills, my observation, reading people, that skill set was heightened. I'm an expert in body language. So all of that plays a part. I have a real good observation of habits people form. Now I'm in a profession where you really have to, understand people, habits, you really have to understand body language, because it's telling."

Dawn Staley
South Carolina women's basketball coach

shared the suite's communal 1970s furniture but when she stepped

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

5 Clemson storylines to watch at Saturday's spring game

Derrian Carter

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

CLEMSON — Clemson football's spring game on Saturday at Memorial Stadium will look different.

The annual exhibition won't be broadcast live, so the only way to watch it is to attend in person for free. Clemson will have a live audio broadcast available and produce an hour-long spring football special that will provide an "inside look at the program," which will air on ACC Network at a later date.

Clemson's spring game teams also will be split up by offense (Orange team) and defense (White) this year because of injuries impacting the team. Still, this will be the Tigers' final chance to play in front of fans at Memorial Stadium (1 p.m. ET) before opening the season against LSU on Aug. 30.

Here are five storylines to watch during the annual game after 14 spring practice sessions.

How Clemson's defense looks under new coordinator Tom Allen

Saturday will be the first time fans can take in Tom Allen's defense. Clemson coach Dabo Swinney hired Allen away from Penn State to replace Wes Goodwin in January, and Allen has injected new life into the defense.

Allen led the Nittany Lions to top-10 finishes in scoring defense, total defense and rush defense in 2024. He joined Clemson and quickly identified some of its defensive woes last season, including tackling, gap vision and edge integrity.

Allen has worked to hold players and coaches accountable for their work ethic this spring to revert Clemson's defense back to prominence. It

See CLEMSON, Page 2C



Clemson defensive coordinator Tom Allen stands near defensive lineman Peter Woods during practice on March 5. KEN RUINARD/GREENVILLE NEWS

Drive players to watch as season starts tonight

Todd Shanesy

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

The Greenville Drive are set to begin their minor league baseball season Friday with a 6:45 p.m. opening game at Fluor Field in the first of a three-game weekend series against Bowling Green.

Greenville, a high-A team in the Boston Red Sox organization, has a new manager in Liam Carroll, who was promoted from low-A Salem.

It's sure to be another exciting season for the Drive as prospects in the Red Sox system work their way up toward the Major League.

Here are five players to watch:

Miguel Bleis

Position: Outfielder

Age: 21

Hometown: San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic

What to know: Bleis is listed by Baseball America as the best athlete and the fastest runner in the Boston Red Sox farm system. He was considered a top 100 overall prospect until being derailed by a shoulder injury in 2023. Bleis played 52 games last year for Greenville with seven home runs and 22 stolen bases, but it came with a .191 batting average.

For the season, including 43 games at Class A Salem, he hit .221 with 11 homers and 38 steals.

Noah Dean

Position: Left-handed pitcher

Age: 24

Hometown: Hackensack, N.J.

What to know: Dean, when he was picked in the fifth round of the 2022 draft out of Old Dominion, was called by Baseball America "fearsome" and "one of the more exciting pure relievers in the 2022 draft class." The Red Sox are turning Dean into a starter with mixed results so far. In 18 innings last year for Greenville, he walked 38 batters. However, he had a dominant June for Salem. In four starts during that month, he pitched 19.2 innings, had a 1.37 ERA.

See DRIVE, Page 3C



Miguel Bleis is listed by Baseball America as the best athlete and the fastest runner in the Boston Red Sox farm system.

KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

SCOREBOARD

All times Eastern				
MLB				
American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	5	2	.714	—
Tampa Bay	4	2	.667	½
N.Y. Yankees	3	2	.600	1
Baltimore	3	3	.500	1½
Boston	2	4	.333	2½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	2	4	.333	—
Chi. White Sox	2	4	.333	—
Cleveland	2	4	.333	—
Kansas City	2	4	.333	—
Detroit	2	4	.333	—
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	5	2	.714	—
L.A. Angels	4	2	.667	½
Seattle	3	4	.429	2
Houston	2	4	.333	2½
Athletics	2	5	.286	3
National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	4	1	.800	—
Miami	4	3	.571	1
N.Y. Mets	3	3	.500	1½
Washington	1	5	.167	3½
Atlanta	0	7	.000	5
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	4	2	.667	—
Chicago Cubs	5	4	.556	½
Cincinnati	2	4	.333	2
Milwaukee	2	4	.333	2
Pittsburgh	2	5	.286	2½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
L.A. Dodgers	8	0	1.000	—
San Diego	7	0	1.000	½
San Francisco	5	1	.833	2
Arizona	4	2	.667	3
Colorado	1	4	.200	5½

Wednesday's Scores

Texas 1, Cincinnati 0

Pittsburgh 4, Tampa Bay 2

Milwaukee 3, Kansas City 2

St. Louis 12, L.A. Angels 5

Minnesota 6, Chi. White Sox 1

Toronto 4, Washington 2

Chicago Cubs 10, Athletics 2

San Francisco 6, Houston 3

San Diego 5, Cleveland 2

Seattle 3, Detroit 2

N.Y. Mets 6, Miami 5

Boston 3, Baltimore 0

Philadelphia 5, Colorado 1

Arizona 4, N.Y. Yankees 3

L.A. Dodgers 6, Atlanta 5

Thursday's Games

Boston at Baltimore

Colorado at Philadelphia

Houston at Minnesota

Arizona at N.Y. Yankees

Cincinnati at Milwaukee

Friday's Games

Chi. White Sox (Cannon 0-0) at Detroit (Flaherty 0-0), 1:10 p.m.

St. Louis (Feddie 0-1) at Boston (Buehler 0-1), 2:10 p.m.

San Diego (Vasquez 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 1-0), 2:20 p.m.

Toronto (Gausman 1-0) at N.Y. Mets (Megill 1-0), 3:10 p.m.

Athletics (Bido 1-0) at Colorado (Feltner 0-0), 4:10 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Fried 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Keller 0-0), 4:12 p.m.

Seattle (Miller 0-1) at San Francisco (Verlander 0-0), 4:35 p.m.

Arizona (Pfaadt 0-1) at Washington (Irvin 0-0), 4:45 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 1-0) at Philadelphia (Luzardo 1-0), 6:45 p.m.

Miami (TBD) at Atlanta (Schwellenbach 0-0), 7:15 p.m.

Baltimore (Kremer 1-0) at Kansas City

(Lugo 0-0), 7:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Littell 0-1) at Texas (Mahle 0-0), 8:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Martinez 0-1) at Milwaukee (TBD), 8:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Williams 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 1-0), 9:38 p.m.

League Leaders

American League

Toronto 5 2 .714 —
Tampa Bay 4 2 .667 ½
N.Y. Yankees 3 2 .600 1
Baltimore 3 3 .500 1½
Boston 2 4 .333 2½

Central Division

Minnesota 2 4 .333 —
Chi. White Sox 2 4 .333 —
Cleveland 2 4 .333 —
Kansas City 2 4 .333 —
Detroit 2 4 .333 —

West Division

Texas 5 2 .714 —
L.A. Angels 4 2 .667 ½
Seattle 3 4 .429 2
Houston 2 4 .333 2½
Athletics 2 5 .286 3

National League

Philadelphia 4 1 .800 —
Miami 4 3 .571 1
N.Y. Mets 3 3 .500 1½
Washington 1 5 .167 3½
Atlanta 0 7 .000 5

Central Division

St. Louis 4 2 .667 —
Chicago Cubs 5 4 .556 ½
Cincinnati 2 4 .333 2
Milwaukee 2 4 .333 2
Pittsburgh 2 5 .286 2½

West Division

L.A. Dodgers 8 0 1.000 —
San Diego 7 0 1.000 ½
San Francisco 5 1 .833 2
Arizona 4 2 .667 3
Colorado 1 4 .200 5½

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