

SPORTS



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South Carolina coach Shane Beamer leads his team onto the field on Nov. 22, 2025 at Williams-Brice Stadium.

JEFF BLAKE-IMAGN IMAGES

NFL DRAFT

Kiper was skeptical about Woods going in first round

Derrian Carter

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Clemson football had two players selected in the first round of the 2026 NFL Draft on April 23, including defensive tackle Peter Woods at No. 29 overall.

The Kansas City Chiefs took Woods with their second first-round pick, but ESPN analyst Mel Kiper Jr. was skeptical of the selection because of his production in his final season at Clemson.

"You put on the tape and you say, 'Where is T.J. Parker? Where is Peter Woods?' The production wasn't there with a consistent basis. It wasn't even there when you look at certain games," Kiper said during the draft. "You should say, 'He should be dominating the opponent he's going up against.'"

"I don't know what happened, something was affecting this Clemson Tigers football team. They were an under-achiever all year."

Woods was a part of Clemson's disappointing 2025 season when the Tigers went 7-6 to miss the ACC championship and the College Football Playoff despite being favorites to make both. Clemson's record last season was the second-worst season in coach Dabo Swinney's full 17 seasons.

Woods recorded a career-high 30 tackles, including two sacks, and one pass deflection in 2025 to earn first-team All-ACC honors and became Clemson's first All-American at defensive tackle since Christian Wilkins in 2018.

Parker, who was not selected in the first round, took a step back in 2025 after having 11 sacks and forcing a single-

See **WOODS**, Page 3B

South Carolina made money despite football profit dropping \$10M

Lulu Kesin

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — South Carolina athletics had its biggest surplus in six years, making \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2025 even though the football program's profit dropped by \$10.1 million.

It was South Carolina's largest surplus since 2019, when the athletics department made \$3.8 million.

According to documents obtained by The Greenville News, South Caroli-

na's financial report shows total revenue of \$204,566,524 and total expenses of \$203,259,302 in fiscal year 2025, which runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

In fiscal year 2024, South Carolina athletics lost \$194,175.

In fiscal year 2025, athletics spent \$19.6 million more than 2024 but had \$21.1 million more in revenue.

South Carolina's athletic department had a surplus of \$69,238 in 2023 and deficits of \$3.7 million in 2022, \$11 million in 2021 and \$765,306 in 2020.

South Carolina athletics gets \$16M increase from university

A large reason why South Carolina ended with a surplus rather than a deficit was the direct institutional support, which is money given to the athletics department from the university.

In 2025, there was \$42.5 million given in direct institutional support, a \$16 million increase from the \$26.5 million in 2024.

See **MONEY**, Page 3B

How Edwards will get playing time on Dawn Staley's loaded roster

Lulu Kesin Greenville News

USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — South Carolina women's basketball coach Dawn Staley got a late but big addition in five-star 6-foot-3 forward Oliviyah Edwards.

Staley lost zero players to the transfer portal, brought in Jordan Lee from Texas on April 17 and had three five-star high school recruits already signed from the 2026 class. Then she capped off her roster construction with the No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2026 on April 23.

Edwards committed to Tennessee in September and also had been recruited by Staley. Edwards decommitted after all eight of the Lady Vols returners hit the transfer portal, then visited Columbia on April 14.

Staley doesn't promise anyone a starting spot, especially when recruiting out of high school.

Raven Johnson was the No. 2 recruit in her class and didn't start as a freshman but graduated with two national titles and five Final Four appearances. Neither did the former No. 1 overall recruit A'ja Wilson, who finished as the best player in program history.

Joyce Edwards was the No. 3 recruit two years ago and didn't start till her sophomore year but already has scored over 1,000 points.

It doesn't look like Oliviyah Edwards will be starting in her first year either. But she likely knew that when choosing South Carolina, especially since Staley had to recruit other post players when Oliviyah Edwards signed with Tennessee.

Staley signed 2026 post players in 6-foot-2 Kaeli Wynn and 6-foot-3 Kelsi Andrews, and brought in 6-foot-7 Alicia Tournebize midway through the season in January.

Joyce Edwards, who is 6-foot-3, started as a sophomore and led the team in scoring with 19.2 points per game. Staley also returns former 6-2 starting forward Chloe Kitts, who tore her ACL last, October and 6-3 Ashlyn Watkins, who hasn't played since early January 2025.

Joyce Edwards is likely to keep her starting spot with Kitts alongside her.

But just because Oliviyah Edwards won't likely start as a freshman, it doesn't mean she won't be heavily utilized.

How Oliviyah Edwards fits into South Carolina's system

Oliviyah Edwards brings more to the game than dunking. She is strong around the rim and has displayed great athleticism and creativity inside the paint but also isn't afraid of playing farther outside.

Joyce Edwards has a short elbow jumper but is much more comfortable using her footwork on post moves on the low block. With 6-foot-6 center Madina Okot gone to the WNBA, that opens up chances for Joyce Edwards or Tournebize to go one-on-one in the paint while using Kitts or Oliviyah Edwards a little farther out.

Staley loves high-low basketball but a lot of

See **EDWARDS**, Page 3B



Oliviyah Edwards celebrates after scoring during the McDonald's All American Jam Fest on March 30 in Goodyear, Arizona.

MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES

SPORTS ON TV SUNDAY, APRIL 26 (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

AUTO RACING

3 p.m.
FOX — NASCAR Cup Series, Jack Link's 500, Talladega, Ala.

BOWLING

4 p.m.
CW — PBA, Tournament of Champions, Fairlawn, Ohio

COLLEGE BASEBALL

1 p.m.
ESPN2 — Texas at Vanderbilt
2 p.m.
ACCN — Clemson at Louisville
3 p.m.
SECN — Kentucky at South Carolina
4 p.m.
ESPNU — Murray State at Southern Illinois

COLLEGE GOLF (WOMEN'S)

3:30 p.m.
BTN — Big Ten Championship, Final Round, Glendale, Calif.

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)

12 p.m.
ACCN — ACC Tournament, Championship, Teams TBD, Charlotte, N.C.
BTN — Big Ten Tournament, Championship, Teams TBD, Ann Arbor, Mich.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

1 p.m.
SECN — Mississippi at Auburn
4 p.m.
ESPN2 — Alabama at Tennessee
5 p.m.
ACCN — Clemson at Duke
7 p.m.
ACCN — North Carolina at Virginia Tech

(tape delay)
9 p.m.
ACCN — Florida State at Georgia Tech (tape delay)
GOLF
8 a.m.
GOLF — LET, Investec South African Women's Open, Final Round, Cape Town, South Africa
1 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, Zurich Classic of New Orleans, Final Round, Avondale, La.

1:30 p.m.
PEACOCK — LPGA Tour, Chevron Championship, Final Round, Houston
2 p.m.
NBC/PEACOCK — LPGA Tour, Chevron Championship, Final Round, Houston
3 p.m.
CBS — PGA Tour, Zurich Classic of New Orleans, Final Round, Avondale, La.

GOLF — PGA Champions Tour, Mitsubishi Electric Classic, Final Round, Duluth, Ga.
7 p.m.
GOLF — PGA of America, 2026 PGA Professional Championship, First Round, Brandon, Ore.

HORSE RACING

3:30 a.m.
FS2 — FWD Champions Day, Hong Kong
1 p.m.
FS1 — America's Day at the Races

MLB BASEBALL

1:35 p.m.
MLBN — Boston at Baltimore
2:10 p.m.

ESPN UNLIMITED — Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
PEACOCK — N.Y. Yankees at Houston
4:10 p.m.
MLBN — Chicago Cubs at L.A. Dodgers
7:20 p.m.
PEACOCK — L.A. Angels at Kansas City

NBA BASKETBALL
1 p.m.
ESPN — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Cleveland at Toronto, Game 4
3:30 p.m.
ESPN — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, San Antonio at Portland, Game 4

7 p.m.
NBC/PEACOCK — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Boston at Philadelphia, Game 4
9:30 p.m.
NBC/PEACOCK — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, L.A. Lakers at Houston, Game 4
NHL PLAYOFFS
2 p.m.
TNT/TRU TV — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Boston at Buffalo, Game 4

4:30 p.m.
TNT/TRU TV — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, Colorado at Los Angeles, Game 4
7 p.m.
ESPN — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Tampa Bay at Montreal, Game 4

9:30 p.m.
ESPN — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, Edmonton at Anaheim, Game 4
SOCCER (MEN'S)
9:30 a.m.
ESPN2 — FA Cup, Semifinal, Leeds United at Chelsea

1 p.m.
FS2 — CPL, Vancouver FC at Atlético Ottawa
6 p.m.
FS2 — CPL, Forge at Pacific
7 p.m.
APPLE TV — MLS, Real Salt Lake at L.A. Galaxy

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
10:30 a.m.
CBSSN — UEFA Champions League, Lyon at Arsenal
6 p.m.
ESPN2 — NWSL, Portland at Angel City
TENNIS
5 a.m.
TENNIS — Madrid Open, ATP/WTA 3rd Round

UFL FOOTBALL
12 p.m.
ABC — Columbus at Houston
3 p.m.
ABC — Louisville at Dallas
VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)
2 p.m.
VICE — MLV, San Diego at Columbus
3 p.m.
CBSSN — MLV, Indy at Atlanta

Woods

Continued from Page 1B

season program record of six forced fumbles. He has six sacks last season but three came against South Carolina.

Clemson's Achilles' heel on defense was against the pass, too, allowing 251.2 yards per game (120th nationally). The Tigers brought in eight defensive transfers this offseason in hopes of fixing this.

Offensive lineman Blake Miller was the first Clemson player taken in the draft, going to No. 17 overall to the Detroit Lions.

Derrian Carter covers Clemson athletics for The Greenville News and the USA TODAY Network. Email him at DCarter@usatoday.com and follow him on X, formerly known as Twitter, @DerrianCarter00



Clemson Tigers defensive tackle Peter Woods is selected by the Kansas City Chiefs as the number 29 pick during the NFL Draft on Thursday, April 23. KIRBY LEE-IMAGN IMAGES

Edwards

Continued from Page 1B

times it felt like Okot and Joyce Edwards couldn't get that going right away, with both looking to score in the same spots. Staley might have more flexibility bringing in Oliviyah Edwards, who is a threat around the foul line and can either score, dump inside or kick out.

Tournebize can knock down a 3-pointer, too, so it could be Oliviyah Edwards working inside. She gives Staley some flexibility off the bench depending

on the type of coverage teams throw at them.

Tournebize only got small minutes or garbage time playing as a true five since Okot was the starter. So bringing in another forward, Tournebize gets the chance to develop as a college center.

The Gamecocks are also big in transition, which makes Watkins valuable since she's a strong rebounder who can run the floor. If she's coming off the bench with Oliviyah Edwards, those two can push the pace, and if Agot Makeer is the guard running with them, they'll have both height and speed.

It gives Staley a burst of energy that

can really punch at a defense, especially if so much of her opponents' energy is spent guarding her starters.

Why Dawn Staley needs options like Oliviyah Edwards

While it could seem like Staley has too many options in her frontcourt, she learned the hard way there's no guarantee how many players are available. In 36 games, she started or finished a game without at least one layer and had very little post depth.

Watkins tore her ACL, then took a year off entirely, so she'll likely have an

adjustment period getting back to game speed. Wynn and Andrews sat with injuries during their senior high school seasons, and 6-5 Adhel Tac missed 17 games with an injury this season.

Oliviyah Edwards is multidimensional and brings versatility that will allow her to make an impact from the jump, regardless of her spot in the lineup.

Plus, recruiting high school players goes beyond one season and when Kitts and Watkins go to the WNBA next season, it's likely Edwards and Edwards are the next dynamic duo for Staley.

Money

Continued from Page 1B

Athletic director Jeremiah Donati started in December 2024, inheriting the budget midway through the fiscal year.

Donati was asked during a South Carolina Senate hearing on Feb. 25 for the reason behind a large change in direct institutional support.

"(The \$42.5 million) includes \$29.3 million of operational support. The biggest reason for the jump was the transition from the old NIL period," Donati said. "The Gamecock Club, despite having a record year fundraising of over \$50 million, the contributions back to the university were down so we anticipated this. This was prior to my time at South Carolina but this was anticipated, this would be a year of transition so this was forecasted."

Donati was also asked what he anticipates the university's direct institutional support will be for fiscal year 2026.

"We anticipated a rise this year but we believe it will be less next year. It's difficult to forecast but we feel very strongly about that, that it will be less next year in FY26 than the past year in FY25," Donati said.

Revenue from media rights, ticket sales increase

Aside from the money given to the athletic department from the university, the athletic department saw increased revenue in other categories.

This year's largest revenue producer was \$44 million in media rights, an increase from \$37.8 million. The athletic department also made just over \$2.5 million more in ticket sales at \$33.3 million.

Revenue from program, novelty, parking and concession sales increased from \$7.9 million to \$10.3 million.

What South Carolina spent more money on in 2025

The categories with the biggest changes in spending were \$5.2 million more on coaching salaries, benefits and bonuses paid by the university, \$3.7 million more on bonuses and benefits for support staff and \$1.8 million more on guarantees.

Game expenses increased by \$1.1 million and uniform and equipment spending increased by \$789,890.

South Carolina football profit drops \$10.1 million

The South Carolina football program's profit was \$10.1 million less than

the year before.

Football had \$76.5 million in revenue and spent \$55.8 million for a profit of \$20.7 million in fiscal year 2025, which included the 2024 season. That is coach Shane Beamer's best season so far when the Gamecocks went 9-4.

Football had \$78.4 million in revenue and spent \$47.6 million for a profit of \$30.8 million in fiscal year 2024, which included the 2023 season when the Gamecocks went 5-7.

The biggest differences in spending were \$2.5 million more on coaching salaries and \$2.4 million more on post-season football expenses, which weren't a factor in fiscal year 2024 since the Gamecocks didn't make a bowl game.

Another increase in spending was \$1.8 million more on guarantees.

South Carolina women's, men's basketball numbers

Coach Dawn Staley's women's basketball program's deficit grew by \$600,000 even though the team had \$1 million more in revenue. This covered the 2024-25 season when South Carolina lost in the national championship game to UConn.

The program made \$6.8 million but spent \$13.1 million in fiscal year 2025 for a deficit of \$6.3 million. The women's team had revenue of \$5.8 million the previous year and spent \$11.5 million for

a deficit of \$5.7 million.

Coach Lamont Paris' men's basketball team's profit grew by \$800,000, going from \$3.5 million in 2024 to \$4.3 million in 2025. The men's team went 12-20 overall in the 2024-25 season and 2-16 in SEC play.

The program made \$15.4 million with \$11 million in expenses in fiscal year 2025, compared to \$13.3 million in revenue with \$9.8 million in expenses in 2024.

Women's basketball made \$2 million in ticket sales, \$50,461 more than men's basketball, but the men made \$6.8 million in media rights, a category that doesn't apply to women's basketball.

The rise in spending for women's basketball included \$486,324 more for coaching salaries.

On Jan. 17, 2025, Staley became the highest-paid college women's basketball coach in the history of the sport. She's receiving an annual salary of \$4 million with a \$250,000 increase every season and a \$500,000 signing bonus that makes the total value approximately \$25.25 million.

Women's basketball also spent \$108,504 more on recruiting.

The main difference in increased revenue for men's basketball was \$2.5 million more in media rights and \$750,000 more in compensations and benefits by a third party.