

# SPORTS



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## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Fountain Inn High senior Parker Davis, who is committed to Clemson, is 3-0 with a 0.26 ERA and is hitting .396.  
KEN RUINARD / USA TODAY NETWORK SOUTH CAROLINA

## 5-star guard Robinson signs with South Carolina

Lulu Kesin  
Greenville News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — Five-star guard Jerzy Robinson has signed with South Carolina women's basketball.

Robinson was the No. 5 overall recruit in the 2026 class when she chose coach Dawn Staley's team on Dec. 23, making her announcement live on ESPN. She has since dropped one spot in ESPN's rankings, now at No. 6.

She is 6-foot and plays for Sierra Canyon High School in California. She chose the Gamecocks over LSU and UConn, both teams that South Carolina beat this season.

"Jerzy is an all-level scorer who can shoot it from outside, get to her spots and be physical in the paint," Staley said in a news release. "Beyond that, she has a winning mentality that she brings to every possession and every matchup she faces. Her competitive spirit and confidence will elevate our program. We can't wait to get Jerzy to campus and for the FAMS to embrace her and her family."

### Jerzy Robinson signs with South Carolina, Dawn Staley

This is the third signee for South Carolina in the 2026 cycle but fourth addition to the roster this season, as Alicia Tournebize, a 6-foot-7 freshman from France, enrolled early this January.

Kelsi Andrews, a 6-4 center and the No. 30 recruit, committed on Oct. 7, and Kaeli Wynn, the No. 19 recruit who is a 6-2 forward, committed Nov. 10. They both signed in the early period.

Robinson is the highest-ranked recruit for Staley since Joyce Edwards, who was No. 3 in the class of 2023.

Robinson was at South Carolina's exhibition game Oct. 24 on her official visit. She was spotted sitting behind the Gamecocks' bench during the game.

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# Loaded rotation

## Clemson commit Parker Davis is not only ace on Fountain Inn pitching staff

Todd Shanesy  
Greenville News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Facing Fountain Inn baseball on a day when Clemson pitching commit Parker Davis is playing center field is not exactly a stroke of luck.

Davis, a senior left-hander, is the Fury's ace, or at least the starting pitcher in the first game of each week during the high school season. But it doesn't get easier for hitters after that. Fountain Inn has a team ERA of 0.57.

"Even if you take me out of it," Davis said, "we still have one of the best

pitching staffs in the state."

Fountain Inn (20-2, 12-1 Region 1-4A) is a fourth-year program that made the Class 4A Upper State finals round in 2025 and is focused on winning its first state championship. The 2026 playoffs begin on May 4.

"It's been a fun season," Fountain Inn coach Blake Roland said. "Watching our pitchers work has been pretty exciting."

Fountain Inn had a 19-game winning streak snapped April 8 by Wren, which lost two of three in that series heading into spring break but had a noteworthy offensive accomplishment in the finale

by scoring three runs.

That was as many as Fountain Inn had allowed in the previous eight games combined. For the season, the Fury has given up 10 earned runs in 122 innings.

Three seniors lead the way. Davis is 3-0 with a 0.26 ERA, Brayden Passmore is 3-1 with a 0.18 ERA and Collin Wilson is 4-0 with a 0.74 ERA. Senior Luke Tanner and sophomore Cole Dawkins have combined for 15 appearances, 21½ innings and two runs.

"It's easy to pitch when you have great guys around you," Davis said. "I just have to do my part like everybody else."

Davis has a bigger part than most. He's batting .396 with four home runs,

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Jerzy Robinson looks on during the McDonald's All American girls game on March 31 in Glendale, Arizona.

MARK J. REBILAS/IMAGN IMAGES

## How Staley could use Lee, Edwards on South Carolina roster

Lulu Kesin  
Greenville News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — South Carolina women's basketball doesn't need a bunch of transfer portal additions and has a solid 2026 recruiting class, but that doesn't mean coach Dawn Staley can't bring in more of both.

Jordan Lee, a 6-foot guard who entered the transfer portal after two seasons at Texas, and Oliviyah Edwards, the No. 3 recruit in the 2026 class, visited South Carolina on April 14.

Edwards is a 6-foot-3 five-star forward who would add to Staley's already impressive freshman class that includes guard Jerzy Robinson (No. 6 recruit), forward Kaeli Wynn (No. 19) and Kelsi Andrews (No. 30).

As of April 15, no Gamecocks players from the current roster have entered the portal, but they have until April 20 to do so. Staley can bring in players after that date, but players can only enter the portal between April 6-20.

If the Gamecocks add both players,



South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley smiles at her bench players during a game against Ole Miss on Feb. 22. JEFF BLAKE/IMAGN IMAGES

Staley would be back to having the same type of depth she had in recent seasons but lacked this past year. Here's how the two respective players would fit.

### Jordan Lee brings offense, defense to South Carolina

Staley lost her best defender in Raven Johnson but Agot Makeer holds that title now. That said, she needs help.

Lee was a huge problem for South Carolina shooting guard Tessa Johnson in the SEC Tournament championship and hit shots over Johnson at critical moments in the Longhorns' win.

Lee averaged 13.2 points this season and shot 48.2% on two-pointers. She is comfortable shooting both inside and outside the arc like Johnson is, but as of right now, brings in a little bit more consistency on defense.

Maddy McDaniel can defend but is undersized at 5-foot-9, so adding Lee with Makeer and Johnson would enhance the guard height on both ends.

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## WNBA

## Clark waved off Johnson. She used it as motivation.

Chloe Peterson

Indianapolis Star

USA TODAY NETWORK

INDIANAPOLIS – When Caitlin Clark and Raven Johnson met three years ago, it was on one of the biggest stages women's college basketball could offer: the Final Four.

Johnson's South Carolina was the undefeated reigning national champion, looking to repeat in 2023. Clark's Iowa was the underdog with something to prove, making its first appearance in the Final Four in 30 years.

And one point in that game ended up going viral.

Johnson, who shot just 24% from 3-point range in her redshirt freshman season in 2022-23, was wide open beyond the arc in the first quarter. Clark, who was supposed to be guarding her, decidedly waved her off, instead opting to focus on double-teaming one of Johnson's teammates.

It was a big moment in a game that South Carolina ultimately lost, ending its bid for a back-to-back national championship.

That moment, specifically, stayed with Johnson. It wasn't necessarily the fact that Clark waved her off that sent Johnson to the lowest point in her basketball career; it was the online vitriol that came with it.

"I was all over the internet," Johnson said on the "I AM NEXT" podcast in March. "That's one reason I hate the internet now, because of that situation. I got bashed, I got bullied, I got called all these things I wasn't, aka like a monkey and things like that, and I just think I wanted to quit basketball at that time, and I just wanted to go in this little bubble of isolation and just be by myself."

But Johnson's teammates and friends didn't let her stay in that bubble. Johnson said her faith, along with her inner circle, "put so much fuel to the fire" and helped her out of that funk.



Iowa's Caitlin Clark (22) controls the ball against South Carolina's Raven Johnson (25) during their Final Four game in the 2023 NCAA Tournament. KEVIN JAIRAJ/USA TODAY SPORTS

One year later, South Carolina beat Iowa in the 2024 national championship to complete a perfect season.

In the end, Johnson took that moment, the one that nearly knocked her out of the sport entirely, as motivation. She improved her 3-point shooting from 24% her freshman season to 39% in her senior season, became the SEC Defensive Player of the Year, and became a first-round draft pick, all while staying in tune with her mental health.

"What was my biggest learning lesson? I would say my mental, the mental

aspect," Johnson said on the podcast. "I think when you're playing sports, everybody probably think it's so physical or it's you got to go to the gym every day and get better, but I think you should work on your mental. Your mental takes over a lot. If your mental is not right, you're not going to be right overall when it comes to your sports."

Now, three years after that first incident, Johnson and Clark are teammates. Indiana chose Johnson with the No. 10 pick in the WNBA Draft, providing depth and defensive versatility in

the Fever's backcourt.

Johnson will reunite with South Carolina teammate Aliyah Boston, too, but she's most excited to play with her new backcourt partner in Indianapolis.

"Caitlin Clark," Johnson said immediately when asked by Overtime WBB which new teammate she's most excited to play with. "... She's a phenomenal player, with the things she does, it's bar standard. She can shoot the ball, she can lead a team, and they win. She has a winning mentality, and I think that's the biggest thing."

## Fountain Inn

Continued from Page 1C

three triples, three doubles, nine steals, 17 walks and 24 RBIs.

"He's got a lot of characteristics that not many kids have," Roland said. "One of those is a God-given ability to throw the baseball."

Davis had elbow surgery in July 2024 for a partial tear in his ulnar collateral ligament and college recruiters either paused or backed off entirely.

"They were like, 'Well, we're just gonna wait and see how it works.' That was hard to hear," Davis said. "But at the same time, my parents kept telling me that God's plan is bigger and better than ours. I had to trust that."

Davis got an offer from Clemson in

July 2025 and committed immediately if not sooner.

"I heard that Coach (Erik) Bakich was going to call," Davis said. "I was on a bus coming back from doing pretty well in a big tournament. I couldn't stop smiling the whole ride home. I said, 'OK, whenever that call comes, I'm ready to say yes.'"

"What's better than playing for the team you've cheered for your whole life?"

It's definitely a dream come true. Being able to live out a dream is something I'll never take for granted."

Todd Shanesy covers high school athletics for the Greenville News, Spartanburg Herald-Journal and Anderson Independent Mail in the USA TODAY Network. Contact him by email at [todd.shanesy@shj.com](mailto:todd.shanesy@shj.com). Follow him on X, formerly called Twitter, at @ToddShanesySHJ.

## Staley

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Lee could slide into the spot that Ta'Niya Latson had in the starting lineup, and Staley could continue to bring Maker off the bench as a sophomore. Maker did enough to earn a starting role, but her length and skillset might be a useful punch off the bench.

Depth isn't necessarily a bad thing, especially coming off a season where Staley lost several players to injuries. But if Staley starts Lee, McDaniel and Johnson, she'll still have Robinson, Maker and Ayla McDowell to rotate into the mix.

## How Oliviyah Edwards fits into South Carolina's system

As of now, Staley has no shortage of

depth in her frontcourt. Oliviyah Edwards would add to the options she has off the bench but would still likely play behind Joyce Edwards, Ashlyn Watkins and Chloe Kitts.

Last April, Staley seemed to have almost too many posts before she lost both Watkins and Kitts before the season started. Oliviyah Edwards could still be a huge addition to the roster and will likely work her way into the rotation.

Alicia Tournebize is the tallest returner at 6-foot-7 but she has a similar level of versatility, playing around the rim or shooting 3-pointers. With Joyce Edwards and Kitts off the floor, Oliviyah Edwards and Tournebize would give Staley flexibility.

South Carolina could do a four-guard lineup and bring Oliviyah Edwards out, or let her work inside the paint with Tournebize or Watkins on the perimeter.

In 2027-28, Edwards and Edwards

would be probably be a star frontcourt duo for Staley with Kitts and Watkins gone. If she's willing to play behind vets as a freshman then emerge as a sophomore, it would be a big get for South Carolina.

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## Robinson

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Robinson then went to the football game on Oct. 25 with Staley, current players and legendary Gamecocks player A'ja Wilson, who had just become the WNBA's first four-time MVP.

## Jerzy Robinson stats

On Jan. 17, Robinson passed South-

ern Cal women's basketball star JuJu Watkins as the all-time career leading scorer at Sierra Canyon with her 2,355th career point.

As a junior, Robinson averaged 27 points and 10.2 rebounds and as a senior she averaged 21.3 points, 8.3 rebounds and 3.8 assists.

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## SPORTS ON TV FRIDAY, APRIL 17 (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

## BOXING (WOMEN'S)

10 p.m.

ESPN — MVPW-02: Baumgardner vs. Shin, Main Card, New York

## COLLEGE BASEBALL

5:30 p.m.

SECN — Auburn at Florida

7 p.m.

ESPN — Texas A&M at LSU

7:30 p.m.

ESPNU — SE Louisiana at UT Rio Grande Valley

8 p.m.

ACCN — N.C. State at Wake Forest

10 p.m.

BTN — Minnesota at UCLA

## COLLEGE LACROSSE

6 p.m.

BTN — Michigan at Ohio State

8 p.m.

BTN — Penn State at Rutgers

## COLLEGE SOFTBALL

6 p.m.

ACCN — Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech

7 p.m.

ESPN2 — Kentucky at Alabama

8:30 p.m.

SECN — Mississippi State at Texas A&M

9 p.m.

ESPN2 — Arkansas at Oklahoma

## GOLF

10 a.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour Champions, Senior PGA Championship, Second Round, Bradenton, Fla.

2 p.m.

FOX — LIV Golf, Mexico City, Second Round, Mexico City

GOLF — PGA Tour, RBC Heritage, Second Round, Hilton Head Island, SC

6 p.m.

GOLF — LPGA Tour, JM Eagle LA Championship, Second Round, Tarzana, Calif.

## HORSE RACING

1 p.m.

FS2 — America's Day at the Races

## MLB BASEBALL

2:20 p.m.

MLBN — N.Y. Mets at Chicago Cubs

6:10 p.m.

PEACOCK — Baltimore at Cleveland

6:40 p.m.

MLB — Atlanta at Philadelphia

6:45 p.m.

APPLE TV — Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh

7:15 p.m.

APPLE TV — Detroit at Boston

8:10 p.m.

ESPN UNLIMITED — St. Louis at Houston

9:40 p.m.

MLBN — Texas at Seattle

## NBA BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.

AMAZON PRIME — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, Play-in, Charlotte at Orlando

10 p.m.

AMAZON PRIME — Playoffs, Western Conference, Play-in, Golden State at Phoenix

## NHL LACROSSE (MEN'S)

10:30 p.m.

ESPNU — Las Vegas at San Diego

## PICKLEBALL

12 p.m.

CBSSN — U.S. Open Championships,

Semifinals, Naples, Fla.

## RUGBY (WOMEN'S)

6:15 p.m.

CBSSN — Pacific Four Series, Second Round, New Zealand vs. Canada, Kansas City, Mo.

9 p.m.

CBSSN — Pacific Four Series, Second Round, USA vs. Australia, Kansas City, Mo.

## SOCCER (MEN'S)

10:30 p.m.

APPLE TV — MLS, Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver

## SOCCER (WOMEN'S)

9 p.m.

TNT/TRU TV — International Friendly, United States vs. Japan, Commerce City, Colo.

## TENNIS

5 a.m.

TENNIS — Barcelona-ATP, Munich-ATP, Stuttgart-WTA & Rouen-WTA Quarterfinals

## UFL FOOTBALL

8 p.m.

FOX — Dallas at Columbus