**Bob Spear**
**Knight Ridder Newspapers**
**(KRT) COLUMBIA, S.C.**

The sentence is harsh. The sentence is just. By barring their football teams from participation in bowl games this year, administrators at South Carolina and Clemson emphasized the obvious hooliganism has no place in athletics.

We knew that, of course. But how many times have officials turned a blind eye to disciplining an athlete no matter how blatant the offense?

How many times has a player's talent been a get-out-of-trouble-free card? Now, in the wake of the fight during Saturday's football game, those in charge at both universities acted wisely and decisively.

The losses are significant. The schools and their conferences will take a hit in terms of finances and exposure, and the athletes will not reap the rewards of qualifying for post-season play. Both teams will miss two or three weeks of pre-bowl practice, an impact that will not be felt until next season.

Yet, this is the decision that had to be made if South Carolina and Clemson were to maintain any semblance of integrity. To have representatives of your school to engage in what, to use the words of USC president Andrew Sorensen, "could most charitably be described as a melee" is unacceptable. To refuse to act in order to discourage such behavior would be an invitation for another embarrassment.

Win together, lose together. With the opportunity to participate comes responsibility, and that is the message that the administrators sent Monday. Like anyone else, athletes must be held accountable for their actions. The decision punishes both the guilty and innocent, which might sound unfair. But football is a team game. If a running back fumbles, every player not only the one who lost the football suffers.

Can you imagine the consequences had the brawl spilled into the stands? Visualize the scene had fans come onto the field. Friday night's NBA fight in Detroit would have been tame by comparison.

Even after the Tigers closed out their 29-7 win Saturday, some fans who stormed onto the field shouted insults at players on both teams, actions that could have rekindle the fire and a reason that Clemson officials should alter their postgame policy. In his strongly worded statement, Sorensen said at a Monday afternoon press conference that he did not expect the punishment to stop what he termed "senseless acts of mayhem."

"But it is high time that we university presidents, who ostensibly lead institutions dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the promotion of civility in discourse, let our students, faculty, staff and alumni know that we will not condone such reprehensible behavior," he said. Given the violence that has even reached youth leagues, his is a message that should be shouted from the rooftops.

The Gamecocks will introduce Steve Spurrier as their new head football coach Tuesday, and the players almost certainly would have profited from becoming indoctrinated to him, his assistants and his philosophy in bowl preparation.

Although Holtz had said that he would coach the bowl game, the personnel staff changes would have had to be made immediately for recruiting reasons.

So, Carolina will miss that on-the-field transition and athletics director Mike McGee estimated the financial loss upward to $1 million or more in the short term. In the future, the conference's failure to fill bowl spots this year could be a negative in negotiations for television contracts and bowl alignment.

The amount each team will forfeit in terms of exposure is anyone's guess. Most forecasts placed South Carolina in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., and Clemson in the MCP Computers Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

What they wish would go away is exposure from Saturday's mess. Cable networks were still running film clips Monday, and a radio station from Seattle, Wash., called seeking details and on-air discussions with members of the media.

The forceful action taken Monday will help repair the public-relations disaster and hopefully will prevent a repeat of a sorry day on the state's athletic stage.

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# *The CHS wrestling team meets for the sea-*

**Amber Dixon**
**Charger Staff**

Now that football is over, many of these athletes will join the wrestling team. Wrestling is underway, and they have many meets and tournaments on the schedule.

Their main goal is to learn all they can through the season so they can make State. Individuals go to State, not necessarily the team as a whole. Wrestling is an individual sport, unlike football or basketball.

Senior Bobby O'Brien said, "Once we get our lineup set and on weight we'll be a better team, and we'll be ready for state-level competition."

The team will have their annual spaghetti supper in December. This is their annual main fund-raising event.

Senior Tyler Swindel said, "Wrestling is an awesome way to stay in shape, and it's just something I love." Sophomore Aaron Birman said, "The thing I think about the most is me getting my hand raised at the end of the match instead of his."

On Saturday Nov. 20 the team went to the Crossville tournament.

This allowed the team to have practice matches before the actual season started and gave the less experienced wrestlers a chance to find out what a wrestling meet is all about without the scores going on their permanent record.

The team went to Red Bank on Tuesday Nov. 23. They lost 39-37. They also wrestled against Dalton, Georgia, the same night and lost 42-32.

**WRESTLING MATCH TO REMEMBER -- Junior Matt Mateka and a Soddy Daisy opponent are in a standing position ready for a take down.** Photo by Katie Coe.

# Sensational soccer season

**Laura Denton**
**Copy Editor**

The Lady Cavaliers Soccer Team season ended on a high note.

The girls completely dominated District 7-AAA, which consists of teams from Blackman, Siegal, Riverdale, Oakland, Lebanon, Warren County, White County and Cookeville, and were named District Champions. On Oct. 7, the team attended the District 7-AAA Awards Ceremony and brought home numerous awards.

Eleven girls won awards at the District Awards Ceremony. Lauren Metts was awarded Most Valuable Mid-Fielder; while Molly Delk, Mary Beth VanDeven, Katherine Lynn and Dana Richardson were all awarded First Team All District; Courtney Bressler, Nicole Dickinson, Carrie Bressler and Mary Essler were awarded Second Team All District; and Caitlyn Epps and Ashton Clouse received Honorable Mentions.

Junior Tiffany Jolly said, "The season was excellent! My teammates played well and Coach [Hardee] gave us the confidence to win."

Coach Charlie Hardee also won an award this season. He received the first ever Coach of the Year Award. This award is a peer-awarded honor decided by all the coaches in the district.

His opinion on the matter is simple: "The girls won it for me. It was all in the way they played on the field."

Hard work and skill took the Lady Cavs soccer team farther than it has ever gone before.

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# *The Lady Cavaliers: Bring it*

**Brandi James**
**Charger Staff**

The Lady Cavs Basketball Team is looking forward to a great and prosperous season. The team has five seniors who are ready to get the season rolling with new plays and techniques. Seniors Meredith Redus, Kayla Stewart, Kellye Jolley, Leslie Tallent and Lacie Bell head off the team with juniors Lindsey Leatherwood, Lauren Metts, Andrea Copeland, Kelly Carter, Tashia Bass and Brooke Bennet following in their tracks. Sophomores on the team include Nikki James, Bianca Burnett, Noel Qualls and Taylor Denney .

The Lady Cavs started off the season with a game in East Tennessee where they competed in a Hall of Fame game against Oak Ridge.

The girls played against ORHS. They struggled through the first half, tying the score 25-25 at halftime, but fell short with a 43-56 loss. Jolley led the team with fifteen points as well as nine rebounds.

Copeland and Bell both added an additional seven points each.

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, the girls played their first real game of the season at home against Crossville. Meredith Redus led the team with seventeen points and eleven rebounds, while Lauren Metts and Lacie Bell each added seven points, leaving the final score at 48-44.

The annual Cookeville Thanksgiving Classic allowed teams to compete against a variety of talented competitors , including Oakridge and Brentwood Academy. The Lady Cavs beat Brentwood Academy on Friday night and Oak Ridge on Saturday. The CHS girls' team started off the weekend with a deserving win over Brentwood Academy.

The Lady Cavs slacked off in the first quarter, giving the Eagles an 11-9 advantage but secured their lead at halftime with a score of 25-18. With the help of Redus' eight rebounds and points, and Kellye Jolley's six boards, the Cavs walked away with a 48-31 win.

On the second day of the tournament, the girls faced an old rival who beat them by thirteen points in the first of the season in a Hall of Fame game. The Lady Wildcats from Oak Ridge High School came into the game hoping for a repeat of the last time the teams met.

The Lady Cavs turned the tables quickly and grabbed a 34-21 lead over ORHS at halftime. The final score was 58-44, which left the girls record standing at 3-0.

The girls traveled to Livingston Academy on Tuesday night, Nov. 30, and played against the Lady Wildcats. The Lady Cavs beat the wildcats 55-52, with Meredith Redus being the night's top scorer. The

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