Carolina-Clemson
Rivalry takes on new meaning in this year's classic

**USC-Clemson facts**

**Date:** November 24
**Place:** Williams-Brice Stadium (54,406) 1:30 p.m.
**Tickets:** Sold Out
**Series Record:** Clemson leads 44-29-3
**Season Records:** USC (7-3) Clemson (9-2)
**Television:** Closed circuit at Carolina Coliseum

By Willie T. Smith III

**For the first time in history USC and Clemson are both going to post season teams, despite the fact that the Nov. 24th Carolina-Clemson game was more interesting than ever.**

Coach Danny Ford in his first full year as a head coach has led the Tigers to an 8-2 record and a Peach Bowl bid, despite the graduation of several standout players.

Saturday's contest marks the 77th meeting between the two schools. Clemson currently holds a 44-29-3 advantage. In last year's game, the Tigers won 42-21 at Death Valley. The Gamecocks last win was a 56-20 victory in 1975 in Columbia.

The TIGERS COME to town riding on the wave of a three-game winning streak. Their most recent victory was a 14-10 triumph over Notre Dame in South Bend. The Tigers are currently ranked 13th in the nation.

The strength of the Tiger team this season has been their defense. They currently rank sixth in the nation in total defense, third in scoring defense, and eighth in rushing defense.

The defense is led by senior All-American candidates Jim Stuckey and Bubba Brown. Brown, who was a defensive end before switching to center, is one of the best college linemen in the country, and has two关键字. Tigers'二次方程. Stuckey is third on the team with 12 tackles. He is one of the best college linemen in the country, and has two interceptions which he returned for 47 yards.

Clemson runs out of the "I" formation on offense, with quarterback Billy Lehto. Lehto has completed 59 of 119 passes this year for 776 yards. He is also fourth on the team rushing list with 283 yards. Marvin Sims and Tracey Perry man the fullback slot, while Lester Brown and Chuck McCaw split the duties at tailback.

The receiving corps is strong with sophomores Perry Tuttle and Jerry Gaillard at the wide receiver positions. Tuttle has 25 receptions, for 321 yards. Gaillard has hauled in 13 passes this year, while senior Mark Clifford starts at the right end position.

THE KICKING game is one of the team's strong points. Placekicker Obed Ayers, who doubles as a member of the soccer team, is 12 for 18 in field goal attempts and 13-14 in PATs for a team leading 49 points. David Sims handles the kickoffs. He is currently kicking for a 44.4 yard average, which is third best in the country.

"Clemson is one of the top 10 teams in the country," USC coach Danny Ford said. "They have made a vast amount of improvement this season on offense and they have an excellent defense. Danny Ford and his staff have done a good coaching job. We will have to play our best game since I've been here to have a chance to beat them.

This will be the first time both teams will enter the game listed in the top 20 and also have the most combined victories (15) ever going into the contest.

**Out in Left Field...**

Brett Friedlander

For the 19 seniors on USC's football team, the most important game of their careers will take place this Saturday.

Not only is it their final game in Williams-Brice Stadium, but more important, it represents their last chance to defeat a Clemson team during their stay at Carolina. Not since 1975 has USC defeated its hated rivals from upstate.

That year, the Gamecocks were headed for the Tangerine Bowl, and behind Jeff Grant, Kevin Long and Clarence Williams, defeated Clemson 56-20. Since then, Carolina fans have had little to cheer about in the annual clash between the two schools.

In 1976, USC came into the game with a 6-4 record and a Peach Bowl invitation on the line. The Tigers were shocked when the Gamecocks entered the contest with a 2-6-2 slate and the knowledge that it would be coach Red Parker's final game as their coach.

On that rainy day in Death Valley, nothing went right for the men in Garnet and Black as the Tigers completely dominated them and won a 28-9 verdict.

The following season, the roles were reversed. Clemson was 6-3-1 and hoping for a post-season invitation while the Gamecocks had run into some mediocre injuries and slipped to a 5-5 record.

In one of the most exciting games in the 77-year history of the rivalry, the Tigers were once again victorious. In front of a regional television audience and 26,410 paying customers, USC won back a 24-26 deficit in the third quarter to take a 25-24 lead with just 1:48 to play.

But an unbelievable 20-yard touchdown pass from Steve Fuller did the Gamecocks in and sealed a 31-21 defeat.

LAST YEAR the Tigers were stronger than ever and headed for their second consecutive Gator Bowl appearance. Back at Death Valley, they built up a big half time lead and coasted to a 41-23 win.

Saturday's meeting promises to be the best ever. Never before has a Carolina-Clemson game meant so much.

Danny Ford's Clemson team has won three games in a row and are headed for the Peach Bowl in Atlanta with an 8-2 record. They own victories over both North Carolina and Notre Dame, two teams that have defeated the Gamecocks.

Jim Carlen's USC squad however is on the verge of accomplishing something no other Gamecock team has ever done. With a victory, Carolina would close out its most productive season in history with its eighth win.

**But the road toward that magical eighth win will not be an easy one.** Clemson's defense is ranked in the top 10 nationally against the run and USC's main offensive weapon is Heisman Trophy candidate George Rogers.

Second in the nation in rushing, Rogers has run for over 1,000 yards this season. It is likely to be his success or failure that determines the outcome of the game.

At this week's press conference Monday, Carlen said that his team will have to play their best game since he has been at Carolina to have a chance at winning. As always, USC coach seems to have underestimated the quality of the Tigers.

While Clemson is a good football team, they are not as awesome as Carlen would like the media to believe. Also, the game will be played here in Columbus this year, where the Gamecocks are hard to beat.

A USC victory would make the Hall of Fame Bowl possible. The Tigers will have to have a respectable team to play in their December 29 "classic." As of now, they are having trouble finding an opponent who has anything better than a 6-5 record for the Gamecocks to play.

For 19 football players and countless other USC seniors who have never seen a Gamecock win over Clemson, Saturday should be a joyous day.

Prediction: Carolina 14, Clemson 12

The only game that counts; seniors should be happy