

USC BASEBALL

Roth unfazed by scouts' inattention

USC ace frequently overshadowed by foe's opening-game starter

By NEIL WHITE
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Michael Roth owns two national championship rings, but he knows the feeling of being an underdog.



Roth

When South Carolina's senior ace left-hander takes the mound tonight at Carolina Stadium, his opposite number for LSU, sophomore right-hander Kevin Gausman, will draw the attention from the professional scouts sitting behind home plate holding the radar guns.

"This happens every weekend, I feel like," Roth said with a smile. "Again, it's just another start for me. I'm going to go out there and put up zeroes on the board like I do every weekend. We'll see what happens."

The 6-foot-4, hard-throwing Gausman

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GAMECOCKS VS. TIGERS

WHO: USC (38-13, 17-9 SEC) vs. LSU (40-13, 17-10)

WHEN: Today, 7 p.m.; Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m.

WHERE: Carolina Stadium

TV: Tonight, Fox Sports South; Saturday, ESPNU

RADIO: 107.5 FM

ROTH VS. GAUSMAN

Tonight's starting pitching matchup:

USC'S MICHAEL ROTH

Throws: Left-handed **Record:** 5-0

Key stats: Has a 2.60 ERA with opponents batting .194 against him, which ranks fourth in the SEC

LSU'S KEVIN GAUSMAN

Throws: Right-handed **Record:** 8-1

Key stats: Has a 2.95 ERA and leads the SEC with 112 strikeouts; has allowed 21 walks

ACC MEETINGS

Swofford: FSU situation not brought up

Commissioner says schools prefer to keep bowls involved in playoff system

By JOEDY McCREARY
The Associated Press

Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford said Wednesday that the possibility of Florida State leaving the league was not brought up "in any formal way" during this week's meetings.

In a phone interview from Amelia Island, Fla. — where the meetings were held — Swofford touched on a wide range of topics. He said ACC schools prefer a postseason plan for football that would incorporate the bowls for at least the semifinal stage of a four-team playoff with conference champions meeting "a certain standard within the rankings."

INSIDE

Clemson is committed to staying in the ACC, C3

SEE ACC PAGE C3

CLASS 2A STATE BASEBALL SERIES: GILBERT 3, HANAHAN 2

STATE CHAMPS



RENEE ITTNER-MCMANUS/RITTNERMCMANUS@THESTATE.COM

Relief pitcher Conner Owings, left, and starter Mike Morrison celebrate Gilbert's state title.

Pitching, timely hitting lift Indians to title



RENEE ITTNER-MCMANUS/RITTNERMCMANUS@THESTATE.COM

Hanahan's Hunter Bessinger steals second around Gilbert shortstop Jared Williams.

By CHARLES BENNETT
Special to The State

As Gilbert baseball coach Ashley Burnett pointed out, "it's all about the kids," and Wednesday night at Gilbert, the kids were all right.

The Indians got a strong pitching performance from Mike Morrison to go with solid defense and timely hitting to beat Hanahan 3-2 and win the Class 2A state championship with a two-game sweep in the best two-of-three series.

INSIDE

A.C. Flora claims Class 3A state title, C6

SEE GILBERT PAGE C6



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