

1922

LUCK AND CHARLIE ROBINSON DOWN USC

Some 8,500 excited fans swarmed through the gates at the Fair Grounds on October 26, 1922 to see if Sol Metzger and his Gamecocks could make it three in a row over Coach Doc Stewart and his Clemson Tigers. At this point Carolina had beaten Wake, PC and Wofford while losing only to UNC by a close 10-7 margin. Clemson, on the other hand, had beaten PC and Newberry while losing to Centre by a 21-0 score. The game was therefore considered a toss-up.

By noon there was not a cloud in the sky and the temperature stood at a very agreeable 75-degrees as Carolina's Joree Wheeler kicked off to the Tigers' Pat Harmon. From that point on the first two quarters became a punting duel between Carolina's Rock Snipes and Clemson's Rhett Turnipseed, with neither team able to take advantage of the many breaks that came their way. And the first half ended a 0-0 tie.

The third quarter was incredible in that the Gamecocks kept possession of the ball the entire period except for one play when the Tigers punted. Yet USC could not take the ball in for a score. They had one first down on the Clemson six, and another on the Clemson ten. But no scores for Carolina.

But then came the fireworks. Rock Snipes broke loose on

a 40-yard dash to the midfield stripe. But the Gamecocks were called offside and ball was brought back to their 4-yard line. From there Rock Snipes made his only poor kick of the day, a 30-yarder that gave Clemson the ball at the Carolina 34.

The Tigers connected on two passes, then came a nice run by Pat Harmon and they had a first down on the USC 20. On the next play Charlie Robinson threw for ten yards to F. M. Zeigler and the Tigers were on the move.

But the Gamecocks held and on fourth down Robinson tried a field goal. The kick was blocked, but Robinson recovered for Clemson. Two runs failed to gain yardage, so again Robinson tried a field goal, this time from the USC 20. The kick was good and the Tigers finally took the lead 3-0. Which is how the game ended.

This game, by the way, was being broadcast by wireless to the chapel at Clemson College. It was said that their 700 students assembled to hear the game went wild when the final whistle blew. They had ended Carolina's big win streak at two games.

(USC intercepted ten passes vs. Furman in '22, an all-time Gamecock record.)



J. Strom Thurmond (back row, 3rd from left), a longtime senator from South Carolina, was a member of Clemson's state champion cross country team in 1922.