



Clemson fans will come together Friday for the annual First Friday Parade to help gear up for the Clemson football team's season opener on Saturday against Kent State. FILE

Clemson set for First Friday Parade

THE JOURNAL STAFF

CLEMSON — As has been tradition for more than 40 years to celebrate the Clemson football team's first home, fans will gather on Friday for the annual First Friday Parade ahead of the Tigers' season opener against Kent State at Memorial Stadium on Saturday.

With roots dating back to 1974, the parade is set to begin — weather permitting — at 6 p.m. at the intersection of Cherry Road and S.C. Highway 93 before continuing along the highway to the lower intramural fields at Williamston Road.

At the conclusion of the parade, the fifth-ranked Clemson men's soccer team will face rival South Carolina at Riggs Field. A pep rally will be held at half-time, and the winners of the parade's banner and Miss First Friday

competitions will be announced.

Newman and Morrison roads will close at 4 p.m. prior to the parade, while Parkway Drive will be barricaded at 4:30 p.m. Meanwhile, Cherry Road will close at 5:30 p.m., and Highway 93 will close at 5:40 p.m. until the end of the parade.

The parade — with a theme of "Legacy of Champions" — will feature more than 70 organizations. The grand marshal will be Clemson alum and Air Force General John "Jay" Raymond, the first four-star general to graduate from Clemson. He serves as the head of space command for the U.S. Air Force.