

GARCIA STATE

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

2003-04 Gamecock Women

5	Heathar Shepard	G	5-4	Junior
10	Laniece Thomas	G	5-6	Junior
13	Cobie Carlisle	G	5-9	Sophomore
14	Ann-Marie Healy	C	6-3	Junior
15	Katja Fuess	F	6-2	Sophomore
21	Shanika Freeman	F	6-1	Junior
22	Courtney Slaughter	G	5-7	Freshman
23	Tashia Holston	G	5-8	Sophomore
4	Freddricka Embry	G/F	6-0	Junior
34	Kelly Nye	G	5-8	Senior
35	Nina Bliss	F	6-1	Junior
42	Shari Riley	F/C	6-0	Junior
44	Ashley Clay	C	6-6	Freshman
55	Brittany Becker	G	5-8	Freshman

2003-04 Gamecock Men

0	Emerson Brown	G	6-2	190	Sr.
1	Walter Harris	F	6-5	212	Jr.
2	Anthony Wilson	G	6-3	190	So.
4	James Denson	G	6-3	185	Sr.
10	Walker Russell	G	6-0	170	So.
11	Brad Peters	G	6-4	185	So.
15	Carl Brown	G	6-8	240	Jr.
20	Tim Lewis	F	6-4	180	Jr.
21	Abdou Diame	F	6-9	235	Jr.
22	Scott Watson	PG	6-0	175	Sr.
24	Trent Eager	F	6-6	185	Sr.
25	Josh Perry	F	6-4	215	Sr.



Head Coach Dave Dagostino



Head Coach Mike LaPlante

Schedules

Women

Fri	10/31/2003	vs Houston Elite (Ex.)	Home
Fri	11/21/2003	at Hampton	Hampton, VA
Sun	11/23/2003	at James Madison	Harrisonburg, VA
Wed	11/26/2003	at Alabama A&M	Huntsville, Ala.
Tue	12/2/2003	at Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Sat	12/6/2003	at Birmingham Southern	Birmingham, Ala.
Sat	12/13/2003	vs UAB	Home
Thu	12/18/2003	at Jackson State	Jackson, Miss.
Mon	12/22/2003	vs Troy State	Home
Fri	1/2/2004	vs Birmingham Southern	Home
Tue	1/6/2004	at Samford	Birmingham, Ala.
Thu	1/8/2004	at Tennessee State	Nashville, Tenn.
Thu	1/15/2004	at Tennessee-Martin	Martin, Tenn.
Sat	1/17/2004	at Murray State	Murray, Ky.
Thu	1/22/2004	vs Eastern Kentucky	Home
Sat	1/24/2004	vs Morehead State	Home
Mon	1/26/2004	vs Savannah State	Home
Thu	1/29/2004	vs SE Missouri	Home
Sat	1/31/2004	vs Eastern Illinois	Home
Thu	2/5/2004	at Austin Peay	Clarksville, Tenn.
Sat	2/7/2004	at Tennessee Tech	Cookeville, Tenn.
Thu	2/12/2004	at Morehead State	Morehead, Tenn.
Sat	2/14/2004	at Eastern Kentucky	Richmond, Va.
Thu	2/19/2004	vs Tennessee Tech	Home
Sat	2/21/2004	vs Austin Peay	Home
Tue	2/24/2004	vs Samford	Home
Thu	2/26/2004	at Savannah State	Savannah, Ga.
Sat	2/28/2004	vs Tennessee State	Home

Men

Fri	11/21/2003	vs Alabama A&M	HOME
Mon	11/24/2003	vs Shorter College	HOME
Wed	11/26/2003	at Southern Illinois	Carbondale, Ill.
Sat	11/29/2003	at Miss. Val. State	Itta Bena, Miss.
Mon	12/1/2003	vs Jackson State	HOME
Sat	12/6/2003	vs Tenn. Temple	HOME
Sat	12/13/2003	at Alcorn State	Lorman, Miss.
Thu	12/18/2003	at Savannah State	Savannah, Ga.
Mon	12/22/2003	vs Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.
Tue	12/30/2003	vs Alcorn State	HOME
Sat	1/3/2004	vs Austin Peay*	HOME
Tue	1/6/2004	at Samford*	Birmingham, Ala.
Thu	1/8/2004	at Tenn. St.	Nashville, Tenn.
Thu	1/15/2004	at UT-Martin*	Martin, Tenn.
Sat	1/17/2004	at Murray State*	Murray, Kent.
Mon	1/19/2004	vs Savannah State	HOME
Thu	1/22/2004	vs EK*	HOME
Sat	1/24/2004	vs Morehead St.*	HOME
Thu	1/29/2004	vs SEMO*	HOME
Sat	1/31/2004	vs Eastern Illinois*	HOME
Thu	2/5/2004	at Austin Peay*	Clarksville, Tenn.
Sat	2/7/2004	at Tenn. Tech	Cookeville, Tenn.
Thu	2/12/2004	at Morehead St.*	Morehead, Ky.
Sat	2/14/2004	at Eastern Kent.*	Richmond, Ky.
Thu	2/19/2004	vs Tenn. Tech*	HOME
Tue	2/24/2004	vs Samford*	HOME
Sat	2/28/2004	vs Tenn. St.*	HOME

Canadian Kat to put up big numbers again

By J. Wilson Guthrie
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

I've always liked to compare people to animals, whether a person is sly as a fox, sneaky as a snake, or has a memory like an elephant. This interview was easy, as Katja Fuess already has a mammalian nickname, Kat. The only question then is which cat is she most like? I'd like to think the answer is a lioness. She's social with her friends, can operate well alone, and is sleek and speedy enough to survive in the wild.

This Canadian import is well equipped for the college game, but admits to having a little adjustment to Alabama. "It was

a huge culture shock," says Fuess. "I expected it because I knew everything would be. The biggest change would be that you guys deep fry everything. You even deep fry vegetables here. It blows me away." Her journey to the South, though, was most shaped by her parents. "I grew up in an environment where it was an expectation that you weren't done with school until you graduated college," said Kat. "Otherwise, you don't get the career you want. So though I graduated after high school, I knew I still had four years left."

I asked her to overview this year's squad. "On offense, we're doing some new things

this year. It's more of a team oriented offense," says Kat. "We're really catching on to how we need to move and help each other out there. I don't see me as anything, I see the five on the floor and we do a great job together." I also asked her about herself defensively. "I think I'll be strong," she said. "I know there are expectations of me on the floor and I'll have to live up to them. I'll work on speed and quickness because the OVC is a level higher and I need to be that much quicker."

Then I asked my patented 3-on-the-island question. She answered, "First, my friend Shell from home. We're the type of friends that could be sit-

ting on the couch at home and still be having a great time. We find humor in everything. Second, I'd bring Kelly Nye because we have the same relationship. We're good teammates and work great together. We can push ourselves on the court and leave any problems there. Then finally, Julia from home. I played basketball with her and again we had a good relationship, as I love humor."

Then I asked about one thing no one knew about her. "They get on me because I can't sing, but deep down I think they're jealous because I can," she said. "I could be in the band, because I can play the clarinet and trumpet and a little piano." Her fun-

niest road trip came in the first one. "We went to South Alabama. We had a terrible, terrible bus, like a 1970's charter," she said. "Also, I don't want to say the driver was crazy, but he really wasn't all there. The bus was either too hot, to the point we were in our spandex and sports bras, or so cold that we had everything on that we brought and huddled together. To turn the air on we had to stop the bus, the driver get out, use a broom handle on the bus, and then get back on. We laugh now but it wasn't funny then."

Then I asked her about the

see **Kat**, page 4

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JSU returns 9 players

From Kat, page 3

By Mike Vaughan II
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State enters the 2003-2004 season with a lot of promise. The Gamecocks return nine players from last year's 15-14 team that finished 8-8 in the Atlantic Sun and advanced to the Final Four of the conference tournament. This year they will break in a new coach in Dave Dagostino, who brings three new assistants to the staff, replacing Dana Austin, who finished her career with the Gamecocks to return home to help with Spring Garden.

On offense, the Gamecocks will change to more of a pure motion style. This will be more based on moving and reacting rather than running to a spot and remembering a play. "We want to fight for our feet," coach says, "Once we get that foot planted, we have a series of moves we can do off of that." In that system, coach will, again, teach the players how to react to the defense rather than have one set play that could break down. According to the coach, set plays only score about 15% of the time, so if you prepare for the other 85% you'll have an easier time. "We will teach taking good shots, handle the ball in open space, emphasize spacing, and if you do those things in any offense, you'll have success," says Dagostino. A phrase used by Dagostino to describe the offense is "complicated simplicity".

Defensively, Jacksonville State will subscribe to a philosophy of constantly attacking. "Like in football, we want to pursue the basketball at all times," says coach. "We want to make every catch, every pass, every dribble, and every shot the most difficult that the opponent will take all year." The Gamecocks will press when necessary, and over as much of the court as necessary. Dagostino also hopes to avoid

reducing a forty minute game to twenty by falling into an opponent's style. "We will press, trap and push the tempo, because with our depth, we think we can do that successfully."

The Gamecocks are loaded with a veteran core of guard players, led by the always exciting Kelly Nye. "She's one of the best shooters in the con-

"We are excited about the schedule. We're trying to keep many state teams on it to help attendance."

--Dave Dagostino

ference," says Dagostino. "She's approaching the school record for three-point shots, and she'll provide great stability in the backcourt." Heather Sheppard joins her in the guard spot, bringing two years of starting experience to the spot. "She's our heartbeat, and I can gauge how the team is playing through her," says coach. "I'd go to battle with her at anytime." Laneice Thomas and Tashia Holston add quality playing time from last year as well. A key newcomer is Courtney Slaughter, a 3 time Adidas All-American, and a player who Dagostino says "is an excellent post player and at 5'7" can out jump almost anyone."

With the depth at guard readily evident, the forward depth may far outdo them. The team superplayer is Shanika Freeman, one of the most consistent scorers in the nation, averaging over 20 points a game. "We're going to move her out a little this year," says coach. "This offense is actually more suited for her play, so she should be an even more dangerous scorer." Joining her

in the frontcourt will be Freddrika Embry, who started about 80% of the games last year. She usually handles the opponent's best players on defense, and enjoys the challenge. Katja Fuess started many games late in the season due to injury. "She is probably the most fundamentally sound player we have," says Dagostino. Cobie Carlisle also brings starting depth to the position. Newcomers at this position are Nina Bliss, a JUCO All-American last year. "She loves physical contact," says Dagostino. "She can guard anyone from the 3 to the 5 spot." Ashley

Clay is probably one of the tallest players in Jacksonville State history, coming in as a 6'6" post player. They are joined by Shari Riley, who received good playing time last year, but has come back even stronger. "We want to change basketball from a contact sport into a collision sport," says Dagostino.

Regarding the schedule, there are quite a few big names there. The most recognizable is Alabama, from the SEC. Jacksonville state hosts Alabama-Birmingham in their home opener. Jackson State and Hampton both won their conference. Alabama A&M was very competitive in the SWAC. James Madison is a strong Patriot League team. Birmingham-Southern is also a big in-state rival. "We are excited about the schedule. We're trying to keep many state teams on it to help attendance," says Dagostino. "To get a NCAA bid in the OVC you have to win the league. Our schedule provides enough physicality and strength that it should prepare us very well."

future. The immediate future, as in the end of the season, she'd like to see "an OVC title and a second round win in the NCAA's." The ten year future she sees "myself as a part of a forensics team or homicide. Also married with the one child that I want." Asked about coaching, she said, "I'd love to coach. I'd probably do it in Canada. It'd be easier because I know the system there and the style they play. If I coached here, I'd bring a lot of that style to the area, and it would probably help because not many play like that here."

...Not too long ago in a court not too far away

By J. Wilson Guthrie
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State Gamecock men's basketball team will enter an unknown realm Nov. 21. A realm that is full of Bulldogs, Eagles and Morehead.

Eleven men and three coaches will enter and hopefully only one will emerge. One championship team that is.

"Coming off of a strong year as we did last year with 20 wins I think that internally our expectations for the program are to see growth," said head coach Mike LaPlante. "We want to position ourselves to be in the race for championships."

The Gamecocks begin play in a new conference that date. A conference that is a traditional basketball conference, and one that does not take newcomers lightly.

"We are in a new conference now, the Ohio Valley Conference and the preseason predictions were tenth and I think that's pretty normal from the stand point that you're a new team and the other teams don't know you," said LaPlante

LaPlante, fresh with a new five-year contract and a team that is not so new. The team isn't new but the players on it really haven't played that much and are living under the shadow of probably three of

the best basketball players to come to Jacksonville.

"I have five seniors returning that were an inegral part of that 20 win team, and we felt like we brought in some new players to help compliment those guys that returned and we have worked hard to see what we can do the new challenge of the new league," said LaPlante. "And we know we lost three good players in Omar, Poonie and Jay but I think collectively we think we are going to have a pretty good team."

But new weapons, weapons that have been sitting on the bench quietly waiting for the right time to be utilized by the program are now oiled and ready.

"I understand why their would be a lot of anticipation of what (Abdou Diame) can do here," said LaPlante. "He was a high school All-American, he was a top 30 player in the country and had legitimate scholarship offers."

LaPlante has not changed much except a little more conditioning and a little harder practices to be able to play and run with these teams. The play in the OVC is much faster and much less forgiving than in the A-Sun. Also there are no Cambles and Gardner-Webbs. No team in this conference will just roll over or be a sure win.

LaPlante will begin his quest Nov. 21.

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New face not so new

By Mike Vaughan II

Staff Writer

Jacksonville State begins the 2003-2004 season with many new projects. It marks their first year in the Ohio Valley Conference, after a long run in the Trans-American Athletic Conference/Atlantic Sun. It's also the first year as head coach for former JSU assistant Dave Dagostino. Dagostino begins his fourth season on the JSU coaching staff, where the past three years he served as the recruiting coordinator for the Gamecocks. While on board at Jacksonville State, Dagostino led a recruiting staff which has produced a conference Freshman of the Year and Player of the year in Shanika Freeman, as well as having orchestrated back-to-back-to-back nationally recognized recruiting classes. Dagostino served as the recruiting coordinator and head of player development for the Division II powerhouse, The College of St. Rose in Albany, New York before coming to Jacksonville, Alabama. Dagostino was captain of his baseball and basketball teams at Union College before beginning his coaching career at his alma mater, where he coached both baseball and basketball. After graduation, Dagostino played professional baseball for one year in the Northeast Independent League.

Coach Dagostino's approach to coaching is quite easy. "My main idea is to keep things simple," says Dagostino. "There are two approaches to coaching, wither simplicity and execution or surprise and change, and I adhere to the former." He also is really big on fundamentals, rather than drilling plays. "We work on reading screens, ball handling,

reacting, and footwork. I'd rather teach kids how to play, because it's easier for them to react on the fly."

The Gamecocks have brought in two new coaches, and reassigned a third. Kevin Browder, who worked on the staff last year, was retained, but is now the new recruiting coordinator. He had assisted Dagostino in the position for the last three years, so it's nothing too new for him. "He knows the nuts and bolts of the system, the preparation, the research and the type of players I want," says Dagostino. Marcus Riley comes from the Community College of New Jersey to assist the Gamecocks. "He will be the academic coordinator for the team. Dagostino says about Riley, "He's a good X's and O's guy, and a guy with prior coaching experience who has many references I can use, and a good deal of head coaching experience." The other new coach is quite familiar to Gamecock fans, as it is McKell Copeland. Coach Copeland's responsibilities include publishing a newsletter for Gamecock Club members, trustees and parents, helping recruit in Louisiana and Mississippi, and assisting in skill development. She will also direct the JSU women's basketball camps. As a broad overview of the assistants, Dagostino phrased it in a Bill Parcells-like fashion. "If you go shopping for shirts, you don't come back with the same three shirts. You need variety, and I needed a variety of talents and personalities in a coaching staff."

On the transition from the Atlantic Sun to the Ohio Valley Conference, coach Dagostino had the following comments. "In the Atlantic Sun you had a group of team

that would run up and down the court, and one group that would walk it down. There was no in between. In the Ohio Valley, they are consistent in they attack you constantly and want to be really physical. They will always have a body on you." He also mentioned the big team. "Austin Peay will be tough, because they went undefeated in the conference last year. Southeast Missouri is always strong. We played Eastern Kentucky last year and can see what they will do. I also think Tennessee Tech will be a tough out. There will be no night off top to bottom."

This idea brings us to fellow OVC newcomer Samford. "It's a great academic institution. They're good people who do things right, and always play good basketball. They share many ideas in common with Jacksonville State in the area of developing student-athletes." When asked if there might be a rivalry brewing with the Bulldogs, Dagostino replied, "It'll be up to the fans as to if Samford is a rival. I think it's a great opportunity to develop one, with us being travel partners, but as a coach you have to leave emotion out of it. Emotion can often cause errors."

Coach wrapped up our talk with his goals for the season. "our goal is to of course win the OVC," says Dagostino. "We approach every day like a championship is on the line. Whether it is in the classroom, or on the court, or in the weight room, we must practice like we don't have a day to lose, because we don't. Each day is a day you will never get back, so use it wisely." One of the players summed it up best, saying "we put in 13 hour days here; we're not doing it for a consolation prize."

Freeman picked OVC preseason All-Conference

From staff reports

Nashville, Tenn.—Jacksonville State's Shanika Freeman has been named to the Preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference second team, the league office announced Tuesday at the men's and women's basketball media day. The women's basketball coaches and sports information directors throughout the conference select the preseason teams and the predicted order of finish.

"I am glad that the OVC has recognized the success that Shanika has had," said JSU head coach Dave Dagostino of the 2002-03 Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Year. "The people that voted on the preseason team are familiar with the OVC of course and they don't know as much about us or Shanika. That uncertainty is fine with us." Freeman averaged 21.7 points per game and 10.4 rebounds per outing.

Four players that received either first or second team All-OVC honors last season were selected to the Preseason All-OVC squad. Austin Peay's Gerlonda Hardin was selected as the OVC Preseason Player of the Year, as she led the league in blocked shots (57), averaging 1.84 per game.

LaPlante gets five-year contract extension

From staff reports

JACKSONVILLE — After posting the most successful record in Jacksonville State University's Division I basketball history, the University has agreed to a new five-year contract for head coach Mike LaPlante, athletics director Tom Seitz announced on Tuesday.

LaPlante, 36, guided the Gamecocks to their first 20-win season since moving to Division I in the 1995-96 season after JSU posted a 20-10 record and finished fourth in the Atlantic Sun Conference this season. He is also the winningest coach in JSU's Division I history.

"I think this provides continuity and stability and helps us continue to build on the success the team had this year, especially with our transition into the Ohio Valley Conference" said Seitz.

LaPlante's new contract keeps him leading the program through 2008.

"I'm honored that Dr. Meehan and Tom Seitz have the confidence to reward me with a five-year contract extension," said LaPlante. "With the progress that we have experienced over the last three seasons, I'm excited to lead the program into the Ohio Valley Conference era of JSU basketball."

Jacksonville State begins play in the Ohio Valley Conference for the 2003-04 season.

JSU falls to West Georgia

By Amado Ortiz
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State's basketball team plays its only pre-season exhibition against the West Georgia Braves as they search for some identity to embrace.

"It's a new conference, a new start, a new leadership," said Head Coach Mike LaPlante. "We relied so heavily on those three for leadership and production, I think the exhibition game will represent to me is just a start to see the evolution of what the personality of this team is going to be."

The Gamecocks came up a little short as Germaine Forbes hit a lay-up with 2.1 seconds remaining to give West Georgia a 79-77 win over Jacksonville State in an exhibition game in front of more than 1,100 fans at Pete Mathews Coliseum on November 6th.

JSU's Scott Watson tied the game at 77-77 with 17.4 seconds left after nailing a 3-pointer from the top of the key as the Gamecocks rallied from an 11-point second half deficit.

West Georgia held a 54-43 lead after Darnell Miller scored on a 15-foot baseline jumper with 14:46 left in the game, but the Gamecocks scored the next nine points to slice the lead to 54-52.

Josh Perry scored inside and then followed with a 3-pointer from the right side, while James Denson and Trent Eager each added two points as JSU cut the lead to two points with 12:45 left.

Jax State took its first lead of the second half with 3:08 remaining on a pair of free throws by Eager with 3:08 left. Eager finished with a career-high 25 points, including a 7-of-9 shooting performance from the field.

The Braves jumped out to a 41-32 lead at the intermission as UWG finished the opening 20 minutes shooting 50 percent from the field, hitting 16-of-32. The Gamecocks hit just 12-of-35 (34.3 percent) in the opening period, but did score six 3-pointers.

Abdou Diame finished with 12 points in his Gamecock debut and finished with a three rebounds and a pair of blocks.

West Georgia was led by four players in double-figures, including Jonathan James with 19 points. Forbes added 16, followed by Bert

Mosley with 12 and Rob Neal added 11 for the Braves.

"Last year we had three guys we felt we could get 45 points from," LaPlante said. "Now, it's four guys. We need to have a little more collective contribution. Instead of one or two guys coming in and doing what Omar, Jay and Poonie did, we just need everybody collectively to improve a little bit."

Jax State opens the 2003-04 season on Nov. 21st vs. Alabama A&M. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

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Watson brings experience, leadership to JSU

By J. Wilson Guthrie

The Chanticleer Sports Editor

How and why does a basketball player from Gilbert, Arizona end up at Jacksonville State University? That's a good question.

Scott Watson, a senior point guard from Gilbert, will help lead a team of five seniors this year for the Gamecocks.

"Coach White's dad was actually the athletic director down at Arizona State at the time and I guess that he was down there visiting his dad," said Watson. "And Arizona St.'s coach, who coached Mike LaPlante at Ole Miss mentioned my name."

Watson started out last year behind Poonie Richardson, one of the best point guards in the Atlantic Sun Conference. Watson was still playing No. 2, but his minutes and intensity level went up as the season passed.

"This year we are taking a little different approach, it won't be just those three," said Watson.

"This year we are gonna have to be a total team, use all 12 players. It's gonna have to be a total team effort."

Watson is one of the most intense and vocal players on the court. He is also one of five senior captains who will be entering a conference that is known for its basketball ability. Names like Austin Peay and Morehead abound throughout respected college programs, and Watson wants to bring some of that respect to JSU.

"I gotta win a championship before I get outta here," said Watson. "I'll do everything that I can to win a championship this year, last year was kinda supposed to be our year, because of Poonie, Jay (Heard) and Omar (Barlett)."

And the Gamecocks have lost what some say were the three best players we have ever had here, but Watson thinks some things went unnoticed.

"This year we got a lot of weapons that were on the bench last year," said Watson. "(They) sat and watched and

practiced with those three last year and picked up some things. Hopefully we can turn it around."

And how does Watson feel about filling some awfully big shoes that Richardson left?

"Well I was here before Poonie was," said Watson, matter-of-factly and laughing. "Yeah he's a good point guard and I played along side of him and learned a lot. I'll play some two, a little bit of one, but I learned some things from Poonie and we are real good friends."

And what does the point guard for a Division I-AA basketball team do in his off time? Play basketball on X-Box, of course.

"I just got an X-Box for my birthday and me and Josh (Sleepy) Perry NBA live," said Watson and to the disappointment of a lot of ladies, "I just got engaged last March."

Watson and the Gamecocks kick off their season November 21.



The Chanticleer/J. Wilson Guthrie

Scott Watson D's up on a UCF player during last years final game.

Senior Nye stays optimistic in the game

By Mike Vaughan II

The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Gamecock senior Kelly Nye hails from Brentwood, TN, a place that has hosted its fair share of fine athletes. She attended The Brentwood School, where she excelled both in and out of the classroom. She led her team in scoring in her last two years, and made honor roll for four years. "I guess the biggest influence on me getting here would have to be two people, my grandmother, who died when I was in the eighth grade, and my middle school coach.

"She brought out the religious side of me, and helped me to see the abilities I have," Nye said.

Nye hasn't always been the focal point of the offense, even though she's bordering on the all-time JSU record for three-point baskets in a career. "I know my role and contribution to the team," she said. "I know I haven't always been the scorer, and I'm not terribly concerned with that because I bring many other aspects to the game. I feel I may not be the most athletic girl on the team, but I am one of the

smartest, I think.

"I don't necessarily think scoring is the biggest part of the game. If you get the assist to the right player, or make a key defensive stop, that can help more than an easy lay-up."

Since the shift from head coach Dana Austin to Dave Dagostino, some changes have been made to Nye's role on the team. "I think for me, coach D is working to get me more shots in the offense, especially from the three," she said. "Coach D is definitely offensively orientated, whereas his assistant is

very defensively inclined, so they'll work well together. Our new offense is more fast paced than the set offense when we were with Dana. Coach Austin was a great coach, and we'll all miss her dearly, but it helps the transition to have the head coach from the previous staff."

Another change for Nye and the entire team is the switch from the Atlantic Sun to the Ohio Valley Conference. "I'm happy to play in the OVC as a senior," Nye said. "I grew up around the OVC in Tennessee, so I'm pretty knowledgeable

about it. The OVC is more of a set offense, and is very guard oriented. The ASun was a running game. You had to be in top condition or you tried to slow down the pace."

Besides basketball, another passion in Nye's life is her religion. "First off, I thank God every day for the talents he gave me," she said. "I just try to see the optimistic side to things, and remember that everything happens for a reason God intended."

Road trips are a big part

see Nye, page 11

Women's game more tricks than treats

By Mike Vaughan II
Staff Writer

Halloween at Jacksonville State meant that the women's basketball would host their pre-season opening game, as they hosted the Houston Elite Action ball club. That is a group of former basketball players who are trying to find a spot in either the WNBA or any other pro league. The Gamecocks only had ten days to prepare for the game, as sloppy play and the opponent's experience were evident in a 76-64 JSU loss in front of 279.

On the game, Shanika Freeman ended up with a double-double as she scored twenty-one and grabbed eighteen assists. Cobie Carlisle scored twelve points and recorded seven boards.

Newcomer Nina Bliss scored nine in fourteen minutes. Heather Sheppard led the team with six assists, and her three steals tied with Carlisle for the team high. The JSU bench outscored the starters by a 34-30 clip.

JSU kept the game close in the first half, as a Sheppard three-pointer cut the deficit to 11-9, but the Elite scored the next eight as JSU started to foul with regularity. For five minutes of the half, the Gamecocks and Elite traded baskets, keeping the lead at six or eight, depending on who scored, and 31-22 score turned into a 38-26 Houston lead at the half.

The half ended with the Gamecocks hitting only nine of 32 shots attempted, and only two of nine out-

side the three. Houston however, hit fourteen of 32 for a 43.8% mark. JSU was led by Freeman with six points, while Carlisle, Tashia Holston and Nina Bliss all scored four points.

The second half started as well as it could for the Gamecocks, as JSU hit their first three shots, all by Freeman, to cut the lead to four in only ninety seconds of the half. Houston hit a streak of their own to build a 49-36 lead, only to see the Gamecocks go on a 13-5 sprint to cut the lead at the 8:03 point to 54-51. Again, a five minute stretch of six to eight point swings ensued before sloppy play and fouls led to free throws by Houston. The final 76-64 spread was not as indicative of the progress the

Gamecocks have made. "We did some good things and some bad things, but that's what an exhibition is for," said new head coach Dave Dagostino. "We played a lot of girls, and I've been happy with the young

kids, but I tried to get everyone a lot of minutes."

Jacksonville State hosts a scrimmage against West Georgia on November 8th at 7pm. It is open to those who would like to attend.

From Nye, page 10

being on a basketball team and lots of funny things can happen on those trips. "We were on a handicapped bus at a road game because the other bus was lost. So you have to imagine all the girls, the coaches, and the trustees and administrators that came to the game all piled on one bus. After going down the road we got stranded at a Wendy's for who knows how long. I don't think they'll give us any buses like that anymore, or let's hope so."

Nye's goals for her future are very ambitious. "One of

my goals is to be the first female coach at the men's DI level," she said. "I'd like to coach at Kansas, because that is where I was born and my family grew up rooting for the Jayhawks before we moved to Tennessee." Her place to live, though was much different. "I want to live in either Hawai'i or Florida," she said. "I can't live in a cold place, because I have to be constantly warm. I'm always either in the sun or in a tanning bed."

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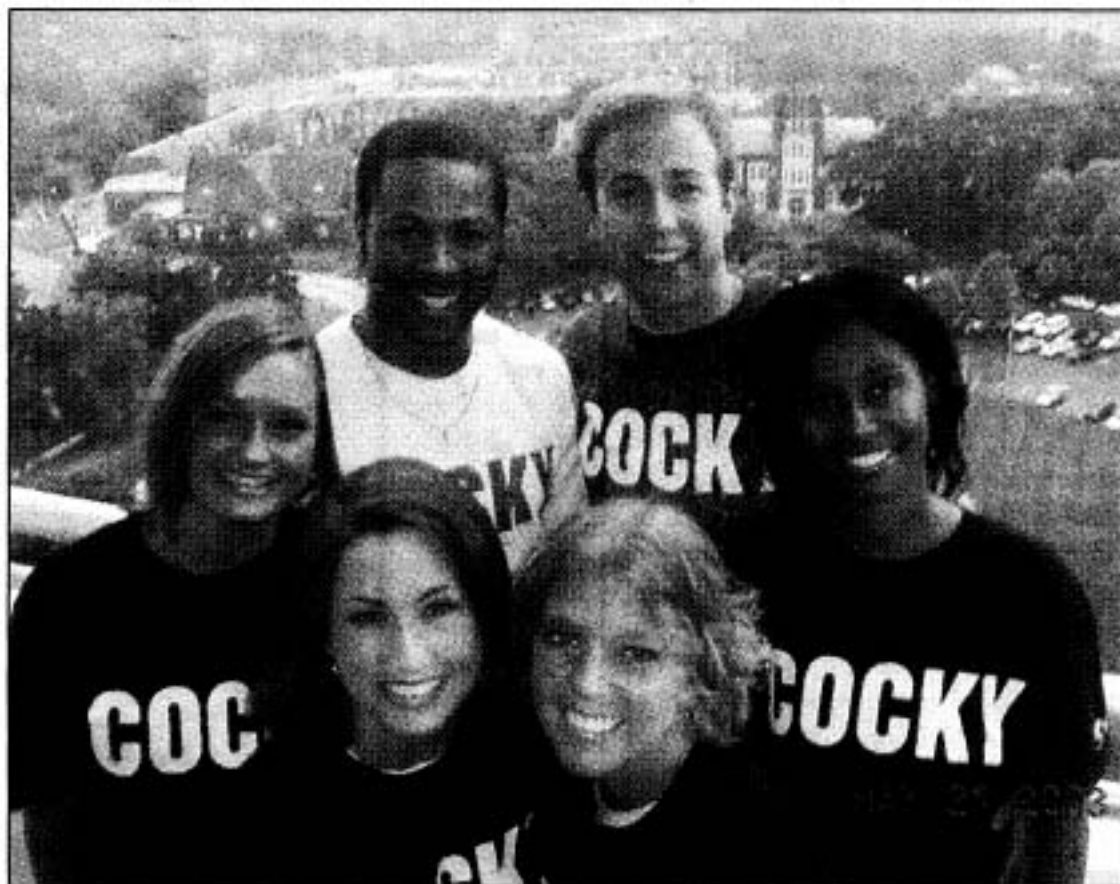


SGA Leading the Way!

Mardracus Russell, Vice President of Student Activities, oversees all programming, events, and entertainment that will be provided throughout the school terms. He and the Student Activities Council are searching to find exciting and inventive entertainment for the students' enjoyment. If you would like to assist the SAC in their efforts, it's as easy as completing a form! Committee positions are now available for interested students in Office 402 TMB.

Angela Estes, SGA Chief Justice, is the judicial advocate for all JSU students. She is the facilitator of SGA Traffic Court at which students who have received citations for campus traffic violations may contest to the University Police Department. Traffic Court meets the first Monday of each month on the 3rd floor of TMB. If you receive a ticket you must appeal it within 10 days at the University Police Department located in Salls Hall.

Jennifer Mince, Director of Publicity, is responsible for overseeing advertising and promotions for the Student Government Association. Her goal is to create more interactive publicity to promote SGA events. The publicity committee has a place for you. Get involved in the action! The time is NOW to get excited about student activities at Jacksonville State University!



Emily Williams, Vice President of Student Senate, presides over the 35 elected student leaders that compose the SGA Senate. She wishes to utilize all branches of SGA to collectively achieve the goals established on behalf of the students. SGA Senate meetings are open to the public and are held every Monday night at 6:00 pm in the TMB Auditorium. For more information on becoming a Senator call 782-5491.

SGA President Chris Cook is the representative of the students' voice to the faculty, staff, and administration. He is working to bridge the gap and strengthen the bond between the students and the faculty. His vision includes more proactive service on University Committees and the inclusion of JSU personnel in student activities. Through the improvement of these relations, he hopes to open more doors of opportunity for those at JSU. Alesha Ingram, Vice President of Organizational Affairs, is making efforts to ensure that all aspects of the student body are involved in SGA. Her position involves interactions between the 80 organizations on this campus. She has reorganized the structure of the Organizational Council and has opened avenues of communication among student groups. She hopes to educate the campus community about the benefits of involvement with the Organizational Council. If you are a member of an organization that is not currently active with other groups, visit the Office of Student Life and become involved today.

There's something for everyone and you can find your place through involvement in extracurricular experiences. Explore the many opportunities and let SGA lead your way to an amazing collegiate experience!

GO GAMECOCKS!