JSU student, 17, killed in car wreck over weekend

By Leslie Gober
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

Caitlin Victoria Rebecca Graeff, a 17-year-old freshman majoring in biology and minoring in music, was killed this weekend in a single car accident when her car left the road in Cherokee County early Sunday morning, Nov. 26.

Graeff’s friends said she was driving on Highway 9 when she made a wrong turn. Officials at the scene said that Graeff died upon impact from head injuries. She was pronounced dead at 1 a.m. Sunday.

Graeff was very active within the Walters Department of Music. She was a member of the JSU A Capella Choir, Chamber Singers, and opera workshop. Graeff was active in several productions with Jacksonville Opera Theatre.

Graeff began her musical roots in high school where she was active in the choir. She sang first soprano, received superior ratings at the Alabama Vocal Association for her solos.

She also performed in drama club productions, and she helped manage the school’s soccer team.

She was also a very talented actress, performing in the opera The Gondoliers this past May. She had a role in the upcoming madrigal dinner and was scheduled to perform in the chorus of the upcoming production of Hansel and Gretel in January with Jacksonville Opera Theatre.

She attended Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Anniston where she was active in the youth group.

Funeral Services for Caitlin will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 11:00 a.m. at Parker. The A Capella Choir of JSU will be performing there.

The Gamecock volleyball team celebrates after winning its second straight OVC championship. The tournament took place at Pete Matthews Coliseum and the Gamecocks rode their homecourt advantage all the way to the title. Read all about the tournament and the Gamecocks trip to Tennessee for the NCAA tournament in Sports on page 6.

From those who knew her

"Caitlin was like a ray of sunshine. When things seemed tough she always brightened my day with her smile and the twinkle in her eyes."

— Elizabeth Pinkard

"Caitlin was the kind of person that it was always a pleasure to be around. She made you want to try to be better because..."
"Catlin was the kind of person that it was always a pleasure to be around. She made you want to try to be better because you saw how happy she was and you wanted to be that happy, too. I considered myself incredibly lucky to have been able to spend the time I have spent with her on this earth. I know for a fact that she is smiling down on all of us right now."

— Matt Moore

“She exuded purity and innocence, the type that we lose when we get older. What a wonderful human being. The images of Catlin walking around Mason Hall keep playing in my mind. She was a beautiful person inside and outside. I feel like I was starting to get close to her. Our time was cut short, but we all learned so much from her. She is going to be greatly missed.”

— Estefania Cuevas

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

"Last year everyone, [The hot chocolate] is quite missed dehydrated.

"We’re guarding the stairs," said Chad Hoffman, a JSU Ambassador.

"I never knew [that this] happened," said Kassi Gulliford, a music education senior.

"I knew who was, I just never went to check my campus mail, and my friend had an invite: We played Frisbee for a while, then came over here.

"I knew who he was, I just never knew that he opened his house to everyone. [The hot chocolate] is quite tasty. They’re real marshmallows, not dehydrated."

While Gulliford and many others enjoyed the refreshments and décor, some students were on call during the party.

Performing at the reception were a flute quartet, a brass quintet, and a selection of student vocalists from Phi Mu Alpha, the musical fraternity.

At 5 p.m., all guests were ushered outside to watch JSU light up the night.

In honor of his having won SGA President two years in a row, Dr. Bill Meehan let Mardracus Russell turn on the numerous strands of lights around campus.

"I sure hope there’s not a blackout when I hit the switch," joked Russell.

Despite Russell’s fears, the lighting ceremony went off without a hitch, and the guests began to file home, basking in the glow.

By Chris Pittman
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

The battle to top the next generation of gaming is now underway with the release of Sony's Playstation 3 and Nintendo's Wii.

Together along with Microsoft's Xbox 360, they will make up what is sure to be an interesting battle for the next generation gaming crown. This new breed of consoles is more powerful than ever and looks to make a splash during the holiday shopping season.

Sony will attempt to keep its spot at the top of the gaming plateau with the PS3, which aims to be an all-in-one media center.

Availability will be the main issue with the PS3.

Most if not all stores have already sold out of the console, and some do not expect to get new shipments until next year.

The demand for the system has started to show as prices on eBay have shot up to five times the retail price or more.

The shortage of consoles has led to violence across the nation with reports of shootings and people being robbed at gunpoint. Police even had to use pepper spray on people outside a Virginia Circuit City store.

The console was released on Nov. 17 in two forms. The basic unit retails for $499, and the premium unit will set you back $599.

The premium package comes

See “Gaming”, page 3
Reasons to celebrate

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

It's probably safe to say that almost everyone understands the meaning and symbolism of Christmas. However, there are many other holidays and celebrations during this festive time that are often overlooked.

Here's a quick look at several other winter holidays:

**Rohatsu** is the commemoration of Buddha's enlightenment. Zen practitioners often spend most of the week in intense meditation. On Dec. 8, Buddhists will meditate all night in remembrance of Buddha seeing the morning star on the morning of his enlightenment.

**Hanukkah**, the "Festival of Lights," is actually a relatively minor Jewish holiday, but gathers a lot of attention because of its closeness to Christmas and similar gift-giving tradition. The story of Hanukkah is about ancient Jewish heroes and the survival of Jewish culture in a non-Jewish world.

After three years of fighting the Greek ruler Antiochus IV, the rebel Jewish army (the Maccabees) reclaimed the temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem in the year 165 B.C. When they prepared the temple for rededication, they only had oil enough to burn for one night, but, amazingly, the oil lasted for eight days.

The lighting of the menorah (Hanukya in Hebrew) is the most important tradition. During each night of the festival, another candle is lit until all eight candles are burning and all eight days of Hanukkah have been observed.

Many participants enjoy playing the dreidel, which actually was created to study the Torah in secret. When caught, Jews could pretend they had just been playing a game. The Hebrew letters on the dreidel are translated to "A great miracle happened there."

Popular foods for Hanukkah are made with oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes) instead of "shin" (there) so that it reads "A great miracle happened here."

**Yule** is the celebration of the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. It marks the return of the Sun (as King/Homel God from the darkness of the winter season. Many Christmas traditions spring from Yule lore, such as caroling, decorating the Yule tree, the exchange of presents, the drinking of cider and eggnog, honoring Kris Kringle, decorating with holly, ivy, and mistletoe, and the burning of the Yule log. Traditionally cut from an Ash tree, (the same wood of Yggdrasil, the Teutonic World Tree) the Yule log is inscribed with religious symbols, decorated with seasonal greenery, doused with ale or cider, and dashed with flour before being set on fire with a piece of last year's Yule log.

The log then burns all night during the festivities, then smokers for the next 12 days. Modern practitioners often burn candles or decorate tree branches in place of a Yule log.

**Kwanzaa**, a rapidly-growing celebration of African culture, was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to "reaffirm the community's vision and values of African culture" (from Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture). Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits" in Swahili, is based on ancient African and Latin traditions. The first seven days of Kwanzaa represent the Seven Principles of Nguzo Saba, the values that strengthen the bonds of family, community, and culture.

Substitute the European traditions of Christmas (such as Christmas trees, Santa Claus, and gift-giving) for African traditions.

**Eid ul Adha**, This Islamic holiday celebrates the end of Hajj, a traditional pilgrimage most Muslims undertake at some point in their lives. During the three days of Eid ul Adha, participants wear their finest clothing, visit friends and family, and share delicious meals with their loved ones.

All the proceeds from this bake sale will go toward funding their trip to the Student Council for Exceptional Children State Convention which will be held at the Winfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Al.

This organization worked extremely hard from the planning of the bake sale to the actual baking of all the treats.

"We are very thankful for everyone who came by to support us," Gardner said.

The Student Council for Exceptional Children plans on holding a bake sale next year.
Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one. The festival "celebrates the common ground of African culture" and can be combined with any religious holiday. However, participants of both Kwanzaa and Christmas can undertake at some point in their lives. During the three days of Eid ul Adha, participants wear their finest clothing, visit friends and family, sacrifice herd animals for feasts and reflect on the special times they have shared.

**Dates:** December 31 – January 2

**Colors:** N/A

**Presents?** While not traditional, many families exchange gifts during this holiday.

**Fun Fact:** The blessing for Eid ul Adha is "Eid Mubarak", which translates to "May God make it a blessed feast".

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The main focus is to let the world know about the exceptional qualities of people with disabilities.

"Awareness is very important," faculty advisor Teresa Gardner said. "We want for students not to be afraid of people with disabilities."
Want to design games? Here’s your chance

By Bethany Harbison
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Beginning in the Spring 2007 semester, a brand new course called Game Design (CS 339) will be offered by the computer science department to JSU students.

Course instructor David Thornton explained that the department decided to offer the course after realizing that game-a process that

The controller is designed to put you in full control of whatever situation the game you are playing calls for.

The Wii launched on Nov. 19 for a retail price of $249. As opposed to the other two systems, this is the only package available. It comes with a Wii console, remote, nunchuk attachment and a copy of the game Wii Sports.

The current lineup of games

available, the department hopes that students will be able to achieve a higher level of specialization, which should aid them in the job hunt after graduation.

“We want to help our students stand out from the pack after they get out of here,” Thornton said.

In the old days, a video game could be developed by a couple of computer programmers and a dream. Modern game development, however, requires an interdisciplinary team,” Thornton said.

Students will enter the course with ideas of what type of game they want to create. Thornton will then choose the best of these initial ideas and divide the class into teams.

If an idea is more graphic-based, artistic students will be assigned. If music is an important element of the idea, students with musical abilities will be assigned.

“Our goal is to assemble such teams from students who have skills in creative writing, art, music, theater, psychology, marketing and computer science. After that, we let them develop ideas and hope they create something amazing,” Thornton said.

Because the course will not cover implementation, students will not have a completely finished product at the course’s conclusion.

However, students will leave the class with an impressive project that they can include in their portfolios.

Though the course is offered by the computer science department, students of any major are welcome to enroll in the course. The only prerequisites are CS 201 and 102.

Another game design course, CS 439, will also be offered as a follow-up, but it will only be available to computer science majors.

Gaming, from page 1

The most recent numbers report just over 6 million consoles sold worldwide.

The 360 is focused on providing cutting-edge gameplay with photo-realistic graphics. Armed with 512 MB of RAM, the 360 has no problem in providing graphics that are nothing short of astonishing.

However, gamers will want to have a television or monitor that supports high definition in order to get the best quality of picture.

The 360 is offered in both a core and a premium package.

The core package retails for $299 and comes with the Xbox 360 unit and a wired controller.

The premium package retails for $399 and comes with the Xbox 360 unit, a 20 GB hard drive, a wireless controller and component cables.

The core unit can be upgraded to match a premium unit.

The problem lies in paying for “premium” content on games that have already been bought for full retail price. Most gamers feel that this should be available for no additional cost.

Games are the prime element in the success of a system, and the Xbox 360 has many great titles already available.

Gears of War by Epic Games is the landmark title in the 360 arsenal and will almost surely be nominated for Game of the Year, by many publications.

Gears puts you in control of Marcus Fenix as you try to eliminate the threat of the Locust Horde.

The future for the 360 looks promising with many great games heading our way in the near future.

Lost Planet, Crackdown and Forza Motorsport 2 are three highly-anticipated games in the first quarter of 2007.

The flagship game will be Halo 3 which is due to arrive next November. A Halo 3 multiplayer demo is planned to go on the Marketplace in late spring.

The holiday season will definitely help shape the future of these consoles.

The 360 has had a year's
mote," allows gamers to do just hand movements as well as the mind. The magazine recognized then you can use the Wii remote. The Xbox controller, dubbed the "Wii Re- like a golf club to hit the ball. over a year ago and has had a

Fantasy have been available on the Xbox normal button presses. It core that have never picked up a con- controller before.

The Wii is very different from its competitors that in Nintendo is aiming to attract both hard- core gamers as well as people that have never picked up a controller before.

Nintendo wants gamers to be completely immersed in the games they play. A special controller, dubbed the "Wii Re-"tome," allows gamers to do just that. This controller will recognize hand movements as well as the normal button presses. It also bi-rates and includes a speaker. If you are playing a golf game, then you can use the Wii remote like a golf club to hit the ball.

The Ps3 has a slow start due to availability but should make a strong surge towards the top over the next year. Final Fantasy XIII and Metal Gear Solid 4 are two highly-anticipated games that are exclusive to the Ps3 at the moment. These two titles alone should push the

Nintendo is once again trying to innovate the gaming world by introducing its newest console, the Wii. The Wii is very different from its competitors that in Nintendo is aiming to attract both hard-core gamers as well as people that have never picked up a controller before.

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for the Wii is somewhat lackluster, but there are plenty of quality games on the way.

The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess is the current killer app for the system.

The newest game in arguably the greatest gaming series of all time, Twilight Princess is reason enough for many gamers to go out and buy a Wii now. The game is an instant classic and will surely garner Game of the Year honors from many publica tion.

The future looks extremely bright for Nintendo over the next year with the way they plan to fight their way back to the top of the market.

Metroid Prime 3: Corruption, Super Mario Galaxy and Super Smash Bros. Brawl are just some of the games that will be available on Wii next year.

Nintendo is also offering an iTunes-style store dubbed the Virtual Console.

Here you will be able to down- load your favorite games from previous consoles for a small fee. Nintendo expects to add up to 10 games each month and had 12 games available the day the system launched.

The Wii is already getting praise from technology experts. Popular Science gave the console its grand award for the best new product in home entertainment. The magazine recognized the Wii for its innovative controls that set the system apart from the competition.

The Xbox 360 launched just over a year ago and has had a very successful campaign so far.

definitely help shape the fu- future of these consoles.

The 360 has had a year's advantage over the other two and should be available in much higher quantities than the two newest systems this Christmas season.

The Ps3 will sell well on reputation alone, but the quantity of units will defi nitely continue to cause problems for shoppers across the nation.

The Wii is very affordable when compared to the other systems, and the Nintendo name will help move units this holiday season while supplies last.

The console war is just beginning, and it will be an interesting and fun battle to the finish.

PS3, X-Box, and Wii controllers that set the system apart its

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Day in the Life: Santa Claus

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

With the upcoming holiday season, Santa Claus is one very busy and important man who millions of children count on every year to make a stop at their home.

Although he never seems to have enough time, Claus, through both lots of practice and hard work, makes use of various time zones and just a little bit of magic to ensure that he is always able to surprise the children on Christmas morning.

Moving very quickly, thanks again to his magical powers, both Claus and his little elves are very busy bees all throughout the year.

Between making toys for all the good girls and boys, and taking care of his favorite four-legged friends, his reindeers, Claus gets very little downtime.

One thing he really enjoys in his off season is traveling with his wife, Jessica Mary (named after the mother of Jesus) Claus.

"Mrs. Claus and I like to vacation after the holiday season. Last summer we visited New Zealand, parts of Europe and the Florida Keys," said Claus.

"Having a small vacation makes getting back to the grind not quite so demanding for such an important figure," said Claus.

They also help him by keeping his naughty and nice lists updated.

The elves make life much easier by making many of the toys that Claus delivers each year. Since there are babies being born every day, there is really no accurate way to keep up with the amount of toys made.

"The real important point is that each toy is made and given with lots of love," said Claus.

"I like to keep a few things secret so that I can always surprise the kids I am visiting," he shared. "All I will say is that I use a little magic but I will always find a way to be there!"

[Editors note: This article was inspired by www.santaclaus.com website. Many thanks go to the site for its entertainment value and holiday spirit.]
Finding the meaning of the holidays

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

The scent of peppermint candy canes and the earthy smell of pine trees tickle your nose as the holiday season jumps into full swing. Elves dance around in brightly contrasting outfits, complete with the red and white striped stockings and pointy-toed shoes, constantly humming their favorite holiday tunes. Churches of all denominations prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, some with plays depicting the story of his unusual beginnings.

But what is the true spirit of this widely-celebrated holiday? Is it the shopping sprees? The tree decorating? One common theme is the feeling that enters into a person as December 25th approaches. It's that warm feeling that entices people to donate clothes, canned goods and even hard-earned money.

It's that feeling has people baking cookies for those they barely know, just to share the contagious holiday spirit that seems to move from one person to another faster than the also famous holiday flu.

It's not Santa Claus the man, but Santa Claus, the spirit of the holidays, the spirit of not the gift-getting but the gift-giving.

For The Chanticleer staff, the holidays mean many things: spending time with family, a much needed break from everyday life, "that Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat", and for one staff member, a winter solstice and birthday celebration.

But for those who aren't the gift-giving sort, remember: There’s always Festivus. It's Festivus for the rest of us!

'Twas the week before finals

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

'Twas the week before finals and all through the school, students were studying, except those who were too cool. The tests were all prepped by the teachers with hope, that everyone was prepared and able to cope. Students were waiting and huddled in the dorms, crossing their fingers, for they would soon be filling out graduation forms.

Ah, that exciting time in a collegiate’s career when fun and games are over, and real life is almost here.

Days of formals and house parties will soon be past, everyone should take advantage and make their memories last.

Tailgating outside the stadium of Paul Snow Always having a good time but never enough dough.

The late-night food runs and the early morning class For some, the hopes that they would just pass.

Ladies’ Night at Brothers or even the Rusty Nail But if you’re drinking, no driving - or else you’ll go to jail.

Of course, for those who are not ready to leave college, grad school is an option to obtain much more knowledge.

The classes are more difficult; yes, this is true.

But it puts off, for a while, saying adieu.

There are those students who cannot wait to get out, and they know where they are going, of that there is no doubt. They have a job in their major, with benefits galore.

With good reason, they cannot wait to get their foot in the door.

For all of the graduates, those staying and those going, we wish you luck in your experience of growing.

Although we will miss you, we would like to say: Congratulations to all, it is finally your day!
Renaissance Man on Campus

By E.O. Smith
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

In today's society, multi-taskers are easy to find, but it's hard to find someone that has done so much as JSU alumni Cory Tucker. In his time at JSU, Tucker managed to play a big role on the baseball team while still making time to complete his exercise science and wellness degree. His 3.82 GPA upon graduation can attest to that. In what little free time he had, he really got to work towards his ultimate dream of being a musician.

"I really got into guitar because every male in my family plays it," said Tucker. He first began playing at the age of ten, by learning everything from his father.

Ironically, one thing his father did not teach him was how to read music.

"I learn most of my songs from listening to them over and over," said Tucker. "While most people are watching movies and television, I watch artists play."

Although most of the songs he currently plays are covers, he does have original music.

"There are times I drive with my radio off and sing to myself," said Tucker. Never knowing when an idea will hit, Tucker carries a tape recorder with him in his car. When he does come up with something, he records it. Being prepared is always a good idea, because the one idea that was forgotten might have been the one to seal the deal.

"My goal is to develop my own style," said Tucker.

Each time he takes the stage he gets a rush of adrenaline and excitement because he enjoys being on stage.

Tucker would rather play in front of strangers, because if he knows you, he wants to do well because he knows you are listening.

As he has grown older, his passion for music has grown as well. He has written seven of his own songs, with several more awaiting finishing touches.

"My inspiration comes from everything around me, from my family to the sunset at the beach," said Tucker. He has already gotten in action films...fighting. In the last few movies, Bond has relied heavily on gadgets and do-dads to fight his enemies and spends less time actually doing anything cool looking beating him in a poker game almost seems feasible. For once, I enjoyed it.

Now, the car. In Casino Royale, Bond drives the brand new Aston Martin DBS which, might I say, is a very sexy automobile. Unlike almost every movie previous, this one contains almost no special features, only a first-aid kit complete with defibrillator. The second most notable scene featuring the DBS is when it breaks the Guinness World Record for most cannon rolls in a car.

"It was hard to make time for everything. School always came first, then baseball, and finally guitar," said Tucker. "Now, I am trying to get into physical therapy school but I am playing a lot more. It is really exciting."

If you would more information or to hear an example of Tucker's talent you can find him at www.myspace.com/corytucker10 or just head to Brother's Bar on December 16. He will be taking the stage at 8 p.m.
Walden: not the same old pond

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

For many young adults, college is the first experience of truly being on their own. It can be a confusing time full of doubts and a genuine need to find one's self.

Walden, the first novel from author Michael Dolan, follows one young man on his journey to establish his individuality. Walden Walden XVI has lived in the shadows of his family members for as long as he can remember. He isn't ever really allowed any escape upon entering college - he attends the same university that all the Waldens have attended for centuries before him.

If there was ever a story of a predetermined path with no thought of how the actual person would respond, Walden is it.

With ancestors dating back to the very first graduating class at the university and one of whom even wrote the schools' alma mater, there is a lot pressure put on Walden by both his family and the faculty to excel just as every other Walden has done before him.

Sometimes going to extremes just to try to break his family mold, Walden acts out and quite often makes a person wonder if he can tell the difference between real life and his dreams. From freezing the soon-to-be dissected lab pigeons to setting the university library on fire, Walden is headed down a one-way street with little hope of a very necessary U-turn.

The one bright light in his otherwise dark tunnel of a life is Brooke, who is more than a friend but not quite his girlfriend, around whom he feels most comfortable. Brooke represents everything that Walden could possibly see in his future.

Never being the type of person to see the glass half-full, Walden somehow finds a way to mess up every opportunity he is ever given in his life. Not only that, but he also resents the fact that he was even given a chance to mess it up.

Walden views his life as more of a curse than a blessing, and quite often he gives the impression that he truly has no aspirations other than to not be the typical Walden success story.

The drama all comes to a head when Walden takes a drastic step to set himself apart from his well-known and respected family, once again baffling his father who sees no problem with his high level of expectations for young Walden.

Walden has more twists and turns than a roller coaster, not to mention the multiple double-meanings spread throughout the novel. Readers will finish the book knowing that even though things can get rough, it could always be worse.

At least you are not Walden Walden XVI. Now that kid has it rough.

For more information on Walden or to order your own copy, visit www.conversari.com.

Walden, by Michael Dolan.

Without God, it's a vicious circle.

In a world too often ruled by war, hunger, disease and inhumanity, our church believes there is hope. Join us and grow in the faith and fellowship of Jesus Christ.

The Episcopal Church at JSU
One block east of the Square in Jacksonville
Holy Communion Sunday Night @ 7 o'clock
Supper and fellowship @ 7:30
All are welcome! 435-9271

Photo Courtesy of Michael Dolan and Conversari
Seeing Double...

By Chris Landy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State volleyball team went into the Ohio Valley Conference tournament with the top seed and came out with the championship hardware. The Gamecocks (24-4, 18-0 OVC), who also cleaned house for individual and team awards, swept the Southeast Missouri State University Redhawks (16-18, 8-8) in the championship game after taking care of the Morehead State (20-12, 10-6) in the semifinal round.

The Redhawks surprised after barely squeaking into the tournament then beating the third-seeded Murray State Racers (19-8, 11-6) and the second-seeded Tennessee State Tigers (20-14, 12-5).

But they did not have enough in the tank to face the Gamecocks.

On Friday, Nov. 17, the Gamecocks came out gunning after patiently waiting their turn.

Even after waiting for the second round, after clinching a bye in the first round, the Gamecocks were not rusty.

In the first game, the Gamecocks put up a total of 18 kills while holding the Eagles to only 13.

First team All-Conference and OVC Player of the Year Abbey Breit hit half of her 16 kills in the first game alone.

The Gamecocks kept the momentum in game two, but it was still an even match. JSU would not let up as it opened the game scoring eight straight on Breit's serving skills. The Eagles fought hard to get back in the game.

Although Morehead outkilled Jacksonville State 19-14 in the second game, it was not enough to stop the Gamecocks from winning 30-26.

Game three could have gone either way. Riding the back of Breit and senior middle blocker Joi Watts, the Gamecocks put up 15 kills while holding the Eagles to 11.

The final points of the third game gave coming out and taking care of business," head coach Rick Nold said. "Southeast Missouri deserved to be here. They came in with confidence, and we have to find a way to take care of their weapons."

The matchup on Saturday, Nov. 18, resembled a boxing match. The Redhawks, who handed the Gamecocks their only match loss in the regular season, tried to use their momentum for an upset. The game was tense, but neither team let up at any point in the game.

Game one for both teams was a balanced attack. JSU barely won in the kills department 14-13 and held on to win the first game 30-25.

The second game was tougher for both sides and they went into overtime.

JSU kept their composure, outkilling the Redhawks 17-12 and winning the first set 30-25.

The final game was an evenly matched battle. The Gamecocks put up a total of 18 kills, but the Redhawks put up 19. The Gamecocks also held the Redhawks to 11 points, but the Redhawks did not go down without a fight.

Withers was named MVP of the Tournament, Breit was named OVC Player of the Year, and Senior Joi Watts was named All-Conference.

The Gamecocks will travel to the University of Tennessee's Stokely Athletics Center for the second year in a row for the NCAA tournament on Friday, Dec. 1 to face the San Diego Toreros at 4 p.m. central time.

Last year, JSU lost to the Tennessee Lady Vols 3-0. This year, if the Gamecocks win against the West Coast Conference regular season champions, they will advance to face the winner of Friday evening's game that will see the Lady Vols and the Duke Blue Devils square off.

Saturday's game is set to start at 3 p.m. CT.

Both the Gamecocks and the Toreros (24-5, 14-1 West Coast Conference) seem to be evenly matched. The battle will fall on the shoulders of Nold, the OVC Coach of the Year, and the WCC Coach of the Year Brent Hilliard, who is currently serving on an interim basis for head coach Jennifer Petrie.

The game will also see conference players of year in Breit and Torero senior outside hitter Kristen Carlson. Having the experience at the Stokely Athletics Center, the JSU might have the slight advantage.

"We've been there before, so we're more comfortable than going somewhere we've never been," said the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America 2nd team selection player. "We're just going to take it one game at a time."

Being in a comfortable setting has its advantages. Being close to home is another mark in the advantage column for the Gamecocks.

"We're used to the environment because we've been there before," Nold said. "We'll get a gameplan set and get ready to go. The location is another factor. It's a place our fans can get to, and we expect to have a good crowd like last year."

The Gamecocks will be ready for a tough match, but to keep their streak alive, they have to face either the Lady Vols or...
I keep the game tied at the half. The Panthers battled back and forth until the final minutes of the second half. A 3-pointer by sophomore guard Ashley Boykin put the Gamecocks up 70-69 with 4:05 left on the clock, and JSU refused to give the lead back to Georgia Southern.

Boykin led a double digit trio that included her and guards LaTonya McKinney and Courtney Slaughter with 27 points. The Eagles were led by guard Tiffany Brown, who had 20 points on the night.

With the early wins and the recent losses, Geyer and the Gamecocks are focused on staying loose. "We want to be ready for the conference," said Geyer. "Nothing good is easy, and it's going to take time and we're going to keep working."
UMASS KICKING

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Gamecocks took a rough loss on Saturday, Nov. 25, when they faced Atlantic-10 powerhouse UMASS, who handed them a 100-69.

The Gamecocks (1-3) never saw a tie or lead during the game, but saw a lot of Minutemen (12-1) Gary Forbes, Stephane Lasme and Rashaun Freeman.

Led by Forbes’ 20-point game, UMASS had seven players with double-digit scoring efforts and two players with double doubles.

JSU battled throughout the entire game, putting three players in the double-digit category and one player with a double double.

"You get a chance to see this level," said LaPlante. "If we're fortunate enough as a team to reach the NCAA tournament, that's the kind of team you're going to see in the first round, dominant and physical."

The Gamecocks tried to stay within reach of the Minutemen, but they were too forceful on the boards and in transition.

UMASS opened up the game 18-2 off of strong rebounding and quick jumpers by Lasme and Forbes.

Sophomore guard DeAndre Bray, standing 5'6 and defending two 6'2 UMASS guards, Tiki Mayben and Ricky Harris, sparked the Gamecocks on both sides of the ball. Harris brought the ball down to his waist, and Bray reacted by knocking the ball of of his hands to give Crow possession of the ball.

Later in the half, with Bray standing at the top of the key, put a crossover on Harris, forcing him to jump to the left as Bray went right, then hitting Bradley down low with a no look pass. Halfway through the first period, Bray came off of a screen to find freshman forward Amadou Mbdoji on the alley oop. Even with the play of Bray in the first half, the spark was not enough to catch up with the Minutemen, who led by as much as 24 in the first half.

UMASS would take a 47-28 lead into halftime, and push the 19-point lead even further coming out in the second half.

The Minutemen were not prepared to handle the attack of the Gamecocks during the first part of the second half. At the midway point, JSU closed the lead to within 13 points, giving them a chance to make the game a battle for the closing parts of the half. UMASS was too strong though, and pushed the lead up to as much as 35 in the last one minute and a half.

The Gamecocks took the loss as a learning experience, hoping to use this as a tool for conference play.

"They're a good team, but we can play at that level," said Brown. "Playing this game lets us know we can win the OVC and maybe go further than that."

The Gamecocks have started off rough with a 1-3 record, but with in-state rival Samford coming into town on Dec. 7, JSU has its hopes set on a conference win.

LaPlante and the Gamecocks have had some close calls during their first four games, including a last second miss by guard Will Ginn to fall to the Wofford Terriers (4-3, 0-1 Southern Conference) 82-80 on Nov. 18. Wofford guard Shane Nichols went 7-for-9 at the free throw line, making seven of eight in the last one minute and a half.

Nichols led the Terriers with 24 points, while two other players were in double digits. The Gamecocks were led by Bradley and Brown, who both put up double doubles.

Bradley led all scorers with 31 points followed by Brown making 24 points. Both players had 11 rebounds apiece, but the factor for the Gamecocks were the turnovers.

"We did not have that many turnovers," said LaPlante. "They were just untimely, and that cost us the game."

The Gamecocks were in the game until the last few minutes of the second half. With roughly five minutes left, junior guard Erik Adams got a quick steal, dishing the ball to sophomore guard DeAndre Bray, who found Bradley to cut the lead to 68-67.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Terrier senior forward Matt O'Connor hit a 3-pointer to put Wofford up 75-69, but Bradley came back with a quick spin move and put the ball off the glass to make it 75-71. Down the stretch, the free throws by Nichols were too much for the Gamecocks.

On Nov. 21, JSU put up a monster game, shutting down the Reinhardt Eagles (8-4) by 23 points, 95-72. Led by Bradley's 23 points, the Gamecocks had three other players in double digits. The Eagles were led by freshman guard Brenden Slotter with 18 points, but having three players in the double-digit scoring area was not enough to beat the red and white.

The Eagles attempted to keep the score close during the first few minutes of the game, but the Gamecocks ran away with a 10-0 run at the midpoint of the first half. JSU led by as much as 22 during the first half, but took an 18-point lead into halftime 53-35.

The defense kept Reinhardt down as the team shot 13-for-34 on field goals, but Jacksonville State converted 22 of 37 field goals against the Eagles.

LaPlante's team did not slow down in the second half, coming out with an early 9-2 run, which put them up by 25 points. Later in the half, the Gamecocks put a 12-0 run on the Eagles, increasing their lead by as much as 31 points during.

Bradley's impressive run, along with a balanced team attack, was too much for Reinhardt to come back.

LaPlante and the Gamecocks will open up conference play on Dec. 7 and 9, when they host in-state rival Samford and UT-Martin, respectively. Gametime is set for 7:30 in both games.
Rapid fire helps rifle team win Gamecock Invitational

The Jacksonville State University rifle team shot a season high aggregate score of 4,677 to give them the outright victory of the Gamecock Invitational from Nov. 17-19. The Gamecocks shot an aggregate of 2,378 in Air Rifle, the highest score shot by an NCAA team this season.

Junior Joseph Hall, a native of Carrollton, Ga., shot a 596, just four shots off of a perfect score. He shot a perfect score of 100 in his final four rounds of targets.

Jonathan Hall and Michael Dickinson tied for second with a 595, and was closely followed by Phillip Huckaby firing a 592, good enough for a fourth place finish.

"We had the advantage of being at home and shooting on a familiar range," stated Dickinson. "However, we cannot continue to rely on air rifle to pull our scores up. We have to get better in smallbore."

The team also had unusual fan support. Many JSU students and staff came out to watch and see exactly what rifle is all about.

With the invitational being spread out over three days, the team shot throughout the weekend. They split up the team during the shoot and it seemed to help.

Having someone shoot one day and then knowing what the rest of the team has to shoot is stressful, but the team handled it well and prevailed.

In smallbore, Joseph continued to shine when he captured the individual title by posting a 587 and helping the Gamecocks to a 2,299-2,288 win over OVC foe Tennessee Tech.

Dickinson took second overall with a 580, and freshmen Jonathan and Huckaby continued to drop by firing 566.

"Everyone seems to be focusing on air rifle before they even begin to shoot smallbore," Dickinson stated. "We need to shoot each event before we focus on the next. They are both equally important."

Murray State placed second with a 4,600, a distance of 77 points behind the Gamecocks.

This is the fifth time the Racers have placed second to JSU this season.

Memphis finished third with a 4,588, while Tennessee Tech rounded out the top four college teams competing in both guns with a 4,570.

Some Gamecocks are currently in Colorado Springs from Nov. 29-Dec. 2, at the Olympic Training Center shooting for places on the Olympic and World Cup teams. Those members include Joseph, Jonathan, Dickinson, and Huckaby.

Jax State will take the rest of the season. and Huckaby continued to drop by State and many others.

JSU will then prepare for one more meet before Sectionals and the OVC Championships, which are to be held at JSU in February.

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