Winning's even better on TV

Gamecocks win 72-64 against the
Tigers live on ESPNU

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Courtney Bradley knows about the pressure situations. Being in a position to make big plays has been the theme for him throughout the entire season. Tuesday night's match-up was no different.

With less than one minute left, Bradley takes the ball, positions himself in the right corner, and lets the rock fly from behind the arc. As the ball rotates, his right arm stays in the air with his wrist snapped from the shot. The thousands of fans followed the ball through the air like a tennis match to see if it would land in the cylinder of bounce off the rim. The pause turned into an uproar when the spinning leather hit the nets, putting Bradley and the rest of the Gamecocks in a comfortable position to handle the final seconds of the game.

"We knew the game was on the line," said Bradley. "We just had to keep our composure and play on the next level."

Bradley's 24-point performance added the extra level to elevate Jacksonville State over the Tennessee State Tigers in a hard fought 72-64 win.

The Gamecocks (6-16, 4-9 OVC) earned their payday at Pete Mathew Coliseum in front of 4,762 fanatics Tuesday. In addition to the 4,000-plus fans, a national crowd watched via ESPN-U to watch LaPlante avenge the 83-74-road loss from Jan. 13.

Numerous student organizations were on hand to show their school spirit, some to the extreme of painting their faces and bodies to cheer on their team, and some to get some TV time. The mission for the organizations was the $500 prize for having the most members in attendance, and the ladies of Alpha Xi Delta won the right to claim the money.

None of that mattered to the guys on the hardwood. Their prize was to put a "W" on the board, and that task was done properly.

The first 15 minutes of the game was a battle for the scoreboard. Neither team seemed to have an advantage over the other. The six ties early in the game set the tone for a tension-filled game. However, the young spark of the team got it going for JSU, and the team never looked back.

Sophomore guard DeAndre Bray took an open 3-pointer, breaking an 18-18 tie with 6:04 left in the first half. The shot started a 10-0 run by the Gamecocks...
NPHC Greek Convocation

By Brigette Powell
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

University of Alabama at Birmingham calls it “Greek Speak,” but here at Jacksonville State University, it’s a convocation.

On Jan. 25, 2007, the NPHC (Non-Panhellenic Council) held its first Greek convocation. The NPHC organizations that were in attendance for this event were Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.

NPHC’s purpose on this campus, as defined by Greek Life Coordinator Eddie Banks-Crosson, is to “celebrate the African-American culture and also how service-based the organizations are.”

Banks-Crosson states that, with this convocation, students “are able to do something because I want the men to know what the women stand for and I want the women to know what the men stand for.”

In past years, Jacksonville State has only held a Greek Forum.

“Generally in our Greek forums, which is what we have done in the past, we’ve had maybe 30 to 60 students attend,” said Banks-Crosson. At this semester’s convocation, there were 215 students in attendance.

“It was more than what I expected,” said NPHC President Kia English.

The night’s itinerary included an Anti-Hazing Policy, which was read by Antonio Davis (Convocation Committee Co-Chair), and a keynote speaker, Ms. Brooklyn Parrott, who shared her experience with Greek life.

“I think that all the students left feeling pride in greek life and that these organizations are doing positive things,” said English.

And, just in case you missed this convocation, there is still hope.

“This is something that we will be continually doing every semester,” said Banks-Crosson.

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"Fat, drunk and stupid are no way to go through life, son."

By Shannon Dawson
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Without a show of hands, how many people saw the movie Animal House and dreamed of finding a school like that? Imagine the joy when it was announced that the History Club’s Movie Night feature last Thursday night was (drum roll) Animal House!

The History Club holds a movie night once a month, with a presentation describing the time period of the movie. This month’s presentation was given by Dr. George Lauderbaugh of the History Department. There were displays of fraternities and college life during the early 1960s, including articles from his own college experience. It was explained that colleges had a different purpose in those days; students were prepared for adulthood instead of simply educated. The movie itself was described as more fact than fiction.

This was a time before President Kennedy was shot and before Vietnam, when college students took classes on Saturday and no one had a job. Campus life was thriving, and Greek organizations were an important part of the festivities.

Dr. Lauderbaugh gave the audience excerpts from his own experiences with Tau Kappa Epsilon, which he said was a “take everyone” fraternity.

After refreshments and a brief disclaimer, explaining why Animal House is rated R, the movie began. It was an enjoyable event; a few people were obvious fans of the film while others were viewing it for the first time.

Students are often overwhelmed when they arrive at college, and the History Club is very interested in getting them involved in activities.

“We're trying to get more student involvement, starting with freshmen and moving to the upperclassmen,” said Stephen Page, the president of the History Club.

Katie Smith, the treasurer, said, “We're trying to show history isn't all boring stuff, and the best part is you get to interact with professors outside of the classroom.”

The History Club sponsors many interesting events, such as guest speakers, Movie Night, and field trips. They are also sponsoring Black History Month in February, Irish History in March, and Confederate and Hispanic History in April.

“By showing that history is important to JSU, we hope to honor the diverse cultures on campus.” finished Page.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Student Access System will be offered on Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Registration ends Feb. 14. You may register online through the student access system on the JSU webpage. Workshops will be held Monday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in Room 250 of the Mittel Building and also Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Merrill Auditorium.

Contact: Ma. Susan Sellers, ssellers@jsu.edu; ext. 5512.

JSU Field School: Teachers, educators, scout leaders and friends of the environment are welcome to attend the Environmental Education Association of Alabama Conference. The conference will be held Feb. 1-3 at Cheaha State Park.

Contact: Jeff Hughes at 256-725-7027.

Zeta Tau Alpha: ZTA will be hosting a game night at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the TMB and they will be giving away a free iPod. Must be present to win.

ZTA: ZTA would like to congratulate Professor Boggs on being professor of the week.

Contact: Hollie Tharsen at 256-740-7858.

JSU Softball: Fan day will be held Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m.

Writer's Club: The bake sale has been moved to Feb. 7.

Writer's Club also meets at 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays at the 7th Floor of the Houston Cole Library. The deadline for submissions for Something Else and the R.U.M. poetry contest is March 2.

Contact: phrasing@jsu.edu.

PRO: Public Relations Organization will meet Tuesday at 4:30 in the office of The Chanticleer.

Contact: Jaclyn Cooper at 256-404-2590.

**The Chanticleer Announcements Policy:** Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed and are limited to 50 words. Submissions must include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall, or emailed to Chanticleer@yahoo.com by 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and clarity.

**CAMPUS CRIME**

**Jan. 23**

Toya Wilson reported harassing communications.

**Jan. 24**

Timothy Levis reported theft of property.

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**my.jsu.edu**

**JSU Gospel Choir perform at local church**

By Nick Lehwald

The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Say goodbye to the Student Access System. There's going to be a new way for students to register for classes, manage their schedules, and check their grades online.

After a year of hard work, the registrar's office is ready to unveil its latest creation, my.jsu.edu. This new online system, which students will have access to in time for fall registration, is a one stop shop which will have all the essential information students need, plus some added bonuses.

Designed to be as interactive and user-friendly as possible, my.jsu.edu will be certain to bring students closer in touch with their academics and with their teachers as well as other students. On the first page, after logging in, there are clearly marked tabs directing the student to exactly where they need to go. There are links to important online services such as the GEM email and Blackboard. You can even check the local weather! There are links that take you to the official SGA calendar of events, or to students' own personal calendars. Students can also create address and phone books online so they don't have to tote that information around. Also on the front page is a link to the bursar's office so students can pay tuition quickly and hassle free. There is even a forum for students to create their own online groups for classes and social activities. (Suck it, Facebook.)

Registration is simple and easy too. By clicking on a separate link, you are brought right to a easy search engine where you can find a complete list of classes in all majors. All the classes, times, sections, labs, and teachers are listed in order from lowest to highest all on the same page with side boxes that you can select which ones you want to sign up for, instead of having to write down all the section numbers and hope you didn't get any wrong. Checking grades will be a synch too. Under the campus life tab, all the information that used to be spread out over the entire JSU website is centralized on one page. In ten minutes, you can look at everything that would take three hours to find on the regular JSU website. University housing, Greek life, the health center, Disability Support Services, University police, the book store and meal plan information is all on one page. The SGA activities and groups list is also placed prominently so that they can be easily seen and accessed.

Students are not able to log into my.jsu.edu quite yet. While the system is up and running, students will only be able to access it at the beginning of preregistration for summer classes. May-Mester registration will still be done under the old system, but better things are coming your way.

**IFC RUSH Spring 2007**

By Kevin Brant

The Chanticleer Staff Writer

When you think of the word “rush” what comes to mind? Probably something you have to hurry with in order to complete in a short period of time. You have a difference, not just here at JSU, but everywhere they can. They do service projects throughout the year as part of philanthropy in order to give back.

Some of the fraternities represented at this event were Kappa Alpha Order, Sigma Chi, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Theta, Gamma Sigma Sigma, Sigma Nu and many more.

**STUDENT DISCOUNT ALL DAY - EVERY DAY**

Sunday, Jan. 28, JSU Gospel Choir performed at Seventeenth Street Baptist Church for a Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration. Attendance for this event was well over 800. The highlight of the evening featured a young child who recited excerpts from Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech 'I Have a Dream'.

The Choir performed four selections including something they call "An Old Spiritual." The four selections they performed were as follows: "Faithful is Our God", "I Hear Music in the Air", "I Won't Complain", and "His Eye is on the Sparrow". The Choir was very energetic and full of movement.

U.S. Congressman Artur Davis was the guest speaker. He spoke on personal reflections in regard to Martin Luther King. He also told a little bit of life history of Martin Luther King.

The JSU Gospel Choir is under the direction of Myrtice Collins.

"I think it was awesome and exciting," said Collins. "The Choir all has great talent."

The JSU Gospel Choir is preparing to go to Orlando, Florida for the James Cleveland Gospel Workshop of America. At this workshop they will compete at the national level at Disney World.

For more information on the Gospel Choir, go to Mason Hall Room 109 or call Myrtice Collins at 782-5545.
Jan. 24

Timothy Levens reported theft of property.

Keno Dean reported theft of property.

Jeemy Jakes reported theft at Brewer Hall.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Sallis Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-5701, or contact JSUPD at 782-5020.

Roughly every two years, fraternities and sororities try to increase their membership. They do this through the rush process. Jan. 25 was the main rush night in regard to fraternities.

During Rush, interested people speak to different fraternities and gather valuable information about what is expected for each professional organization. Some fraternities strive on scholarship, leadership, friendship, and lifetime experience while others focus on excellence.

Most people think that fraternities are all bad, but they are not. They have a lot of opportunities to make

The Inter-Fraternity Council is made up of representatives from each of the fraternities on campus. Two times a year, these fraternities try to increase their membership. They do this through the rush process. Jan. 25 was the main rush night in regard to fraternities.

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Most people think that fraternities are all bad, but they are not. They have a lot of opportunities to make

Some of the fraternities represented at this event were Kappa Alpha Order, Sigma Nu, and Pi Kappa Phi.

Sigma Nu is the second oldest fraternity on campus. They have been making a difference in the lives of young men here at JSU since April 1975. This organization thrives on love, truth, and honor.

Cory Martin, Chaplain of Sigma Nu here at JSU, said, “I feel that we are the most diverse fraternity on campus,” said Cory Martin, Chaplain of Sigma Nu here at JSU. “I love Sigma Nu with all of my heart.”

Rush would not be complete without entertainment and food. Wes Loper and his band provided entertainment for this event.

This event was originally scheduled for The Paul Carpenter Village but was moved to The Leon Cole Auditorium because of the cold weather. Despite the weather everyone there had fun.

For more information in regard to fraternities or sororities, contact Eddie Crosson in the Office of Student Life in the 4th floor of the TMB or call (256) 782-5491.

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Picture Perfect

By Summer Hunt
The Chanticleer Copy Editor

Photographs are the ultimate way for people to cherish the moments of their lives as time passes swiftly by. Kindergarten pictures, senior portraits, wedding photos—on every occasion, a picture can serve as a reminder that not even time can touch. Of all these moments deserve to be remembered, and there is no better way to do so than with a photograph.

Some pictures, however, do one better than merely preserving a time or event. They encapsulate a single person, displaying every emotion and detail. It takes a talented person with a special gift to capture someone's very essence.

Enter Lindsey Wade, a psychology major at Jacksonville State University who has been blessed with that special talent. "I've always loved taking pictures," said Wade. "It's a band called Arrival from Huntsville."

"This is my favorite picture I've taken," said Wade. "It's of a band that I've seen many times, especially at my college."

Wade. "I always take pictures of things that aren't normal," said Wade. "I like to create things that aren't normal," said Wade. "I like for people to look at my pictures, wonder where they were taken, and then when you take them back to that place, they think, 'that was here'!"

"For example, Wade has taken many pictures downtown on the streets of Anniston. However, in photographs, the scenery is indistinguishable and stunningly appropriate.

Some of Wade's most indescribably beautiful pictures are her self-portraits. "I'm not vain, I promise," laughed Wade. "It's just something I do when I'm feeling bored." She first began displaying her pictures on the internet—guess where?—her MySpace. "I first got on there to photograph — I just got my first big camera," said Wade. "It's a Nikon D80, and I love it."

Wade's biggest supporters.

Clap your hands and say Hell Yeah!

By Ben Heine
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah! is quite the mouthful, but these indie rockers' catchy melodies are much easier to swallow. The band gained their notoriety in 2005 not bestowed upon all artists releasing a sophomore album, they have shown no fear of going in new directions. "Satan Said Dance" is definitely worth a listen. It tells of a version of hell in which you must dance for all eternity, no matter how tired you get. With its steady mutant offspring of Modest Mouse and Talking Heads. The band was honored when Talking Heads frontman David Byrne was spotted at some of the band's shows in 2005. The obvious similarities in styles are the persistent, syncopated rhythms and the shaky, slurred beyond comprehension. Playful and insightful lyrics are one of the band's strong points, but sadly this album is over-produced to the point of losing some of its messiness.

Some Loud Thunder is certainly one of the more fun and upbeat
is quite the mouthful, but these indie rockers’ catchy melodies are much easier to swallow. The band gained their notoriety in 2005 not by signing with a label but through the collective voices of the online community. Bloggers and independent music sites, namely Pitchfork Media, gave the five New Yorkers enough buzz to become nationally-acclaimed and release a successful debut album under their own power.

Staying true to their internet roots, they pre-released their second album online for download two weeks before the actual CD release. Some Loud Thunder becomes available to all Jan. 31.

Under the great pressure

**Aces high: Smokin’ Aces**

By Kevin Jeffers
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

The comparisons to anything Tarantino are inevitable for director Joe Carnahan and his new film Smokin’ Aces. Such comparisons are also very high compliments, as his new film delivers a nice shot of adrenaline to what is usually the slowest time of year for new movies.

Smokin’ Aces is, in a word, relentless. From the start, when the exposition is delivered with a ton of ferocity between several different characters (you will come to be used to this formula by film’s end) to the finish, when we are still left a bit dazed but nonetheless blown away. The film is a jaunt of free-wheeling hit-men interspersed with shots of dark humor that would make the Cohen brothers proud. And the humor is delivered with as much punch as the high-octane weaponry displayed throughout.

Especially refreshing in Aces is the emergence of Jer-
Under-age, Over-age
Local bar provides good time for all

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Time, Thursday night.
Place, Sports Nut. Reason... karaoke. Lord help me!
I pull into the Sports Nut parking lot, which is basically a large piece of flat land covered in gravel. It’s cold, and I can already start to see frost forming on the windshield. Thank God for large coats.
I am here with my friend and colleague Laura, and if you look directly to the left, you will find an article written by her about this very same subject, well at least similar. Read it, it is very entertaining. We have been sent down here to check out the local scene and see what’s going on.
In case you have never been sung, some of the many songs sung were oldies, so I do not really feel like dancing. Since we were not singing karaoke, we decided to go play a game of pool. It cost us only a dollar to play, and there were four pool tables to choose from.
I have not really played pool very much, and I am not very good anyway, so Nick had to help me a little bit. Even though he was drinking, towards the middle of the game, he had most of his balls in, whereas most of mine were still sitting on the table. Apparently, some people play better with alcohol in their system. At the order milk, but sadly they were out. Nick ordered some hashbrowns (probably to soak up some of the alcohol) and a drink.
We discussed world politics and underwater basketweaving while we ate our food. By the time we were done eating and answering the biggest question of all: did the designated driver decide the black pen. My hands are scored the black mark, Laura’s are not. Since it’s Ladies’ Night, Laura gets in for free, I have to pay the two-dollar cover. I don’t complain though; Brother’s is three dollars.
The Sports Nut is laid out in a very simple, flexible fashion. Along the main wall is the bar, which serves your usual array of beers and liquors at your usually

By Laura Moormann
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Last Thursday night around 11:30 p.m., Nick and I decided to go to Sports Nut for the first time since he turned 21.
As I walked into the smoke-filled room, I saw someone standing at the hostess desk like a jail guard expecting both of my hands. Nick, for it. She asked me for my ID, and I was rewarded with a big X on the door.

It was very crowded, though that is usual for a Thursday night. I ordered a chocolate chip waffle and tried to make a sharp right turn and walk over to the bouncer. We hand our IDs to this menacing-looking woman, who only glances at Laura’s license but pauses a moment to scrutinize mine.

Apparently, she has never seen a Maryland driver’s license before. Only when she’s satisfied that I am legal does the black marker appear. The dreaded marker of the young, the destroyer of

Local bar provides good time for all

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One of the lights was out on the center booth, but that did not stop people from sitting in it. We called it the VIP booth. On the other end of the building was a grill that apparently serves hot dogs, burgers and other bar food.

On the walls are pictures of famous athletes and sports teams. There are NASCAR hoods, numbers and posters all around, even little NASCAR lights that hang above the pool tables. There is not tons of light, but it is still easy to see. It is crowded tonight, so finding a table is a bit of a challenge. Oh yeah, did I mention you can smoke inside? Yeah, inside.

After finding a table, Laura and I grab a table and sit down. Ordering a double Jack and coke, I grimace at the price but pay it anyway. Listening to this karaoke requires a double. Besides the karaoke and the people dancing to the badly sung verses, there is not a whole lot to do around here.

I am not a big dancer and the sound of some of my favorite songs being sung so horrendously off-key was beginning to grind my gears, so I suggest we go play a round of pool. Ordering a beer as I walk by the bar, we pick a table. Three dollars is a little steep for a Miller Lite. The tables are nice, kind of old but not warped or bumpy, which is a must.

None of the pool cues were warped, guaranteeing an almost straight shot. Only costing a dollar, it was a fun round until I overestimated my abilities and hit the eight ball in during my final shot. Well, something has to work out for the sober one.
ahead is the bar, and to the right is the stage for karaoke and even more tables.

We took a seat and listened to karaoke for a while. Most of the singers were not very good, but I suppose their liquid courage made them believe they were. We sat for a while talking, and the waitress came over and asked if we would like anything. I said, “no, thank you.” I was not really sure what I was being offered, but I did not feel like press-

parently, some people play better with alcohol in their system. At the end of the game, he had one more ball to hit in and accidentally hit in the eight ball. Finally, a sober person advantage! It was nice to win, even if it was by default.

After we were done playing pool, everyone started clearing out, so we decide to leave also. On our way out, I noticed the men’s bathroom. The name on the door said “Nuts,” and I thought it was very

time we were done eating and answering the biggest question of all time (Who was the best jedi knight - Luke Skywalker or Yoda?) it was about 3:00 a.m., so we decided to head out.

It was freezing outside, and we got into the ice-cold car and headed back to my dorm room. As he dropped me off and I said goodbye, I was already anticipating our next endeavor... even though I can’t drink on our outings.

about the local scene and see what’s going on.

In case you have never driven by it on your way to Anniston (he said sarcastically), you already know what it looks like. A long, one-story brown building with gravel parking lot and a sign. There is always at least four trucks and a red camaro parked outside, and there is always a neon ticker telling you what this week’s specials are.

Tonight it’s karaoke night. I am a little wary because I have never been to karaoke at a bar before and do not quite know what to expect.

We enter, and immedi-

Crap.

Man, I knew I should have gotten that last drink.
Slaughter tames Tigers in home win

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Courtney Slaughter stands at 5'7, but she has the fierce intensity of an athlete who’s 6'7 when she’s on the court.

Monday’s 22-point, 13-rebound performance against the Tennessee State Tigers was another example of Slaughter’s passion for the game.

“We had to come in and get the job done tonight,” Slaughter said. “Our mindset was to dominate them all around, and we did that tonight.”

Slaughter’s performance was crucial in the team’s win, as she helped lead the Tigers to victory. With her energy and determination, she inspired her teammates to play at their best.

Men’s B-Ball, cont. from page 1

first half. The shot started a 10-0 run by the Gamecocks and a 14-4 boost to put the Tigers (10-12, 6-5 OVC) in a 32-22 hole the half. The dominance of Bradley demonstrated the difference in the game, putting up 11 in the first half while guard Nick Smith added nine.

The crowd on hand was very pleased with their Gamecocks, chanting and clapping along with the cheerleaders and Hardcorpe Pep Band. The JSU Diamond Girls and junior varsity cheerleading squad kept the crowd entertained during intermission, then it was right back to work for LaPlante and the Gamecocks. Unfortunately, the Tigers came out with a different mindset for the second half.

With 10 minutes left in the second half, the Gamecocks had a handle on the game. Bray and Bradley helped double their halftime lead, putting JSU comfortably ahead 53-33. Tennessee State guard Reiley Ervin put the Tigers on their shoulders and went to work on Jacksonville State.

Ervin’s shot from the arc at the 9:40 mark started a 23-10 gap-closing performance by Tennessee State, which included an 8-0 run that put the score at 64-61 with two minutes left out with a win.”

The bench continues to show up for LaPlante. Bray, the enthusiastic 5’6 guard, put up 11 points and dished out 8 assists, which keeps him atop the leader board in that category.

“We’ve been in this situation so many times that we knew what we had to do,” said Bray. “We got the stops down the stretch and those situations helped us win tonight.”

Mbojji earned his chance to start, and despite the lack of scoring, his four rebounds and three blocks were enough on the defensive end. His effort, along with Crow’s nine points and four rebounds, made up for the missing talents of suspended Dorien Brown.

“He (Mbojji) stepped up big tonight,” said Bradley. “That just goes to show our depth. He came in when Crow wasn’t getting it done, and we need that right now with (Dorien) Brown out.”

LaPlante’s schedule does not get easier. His crew will head to Charleston, Ill. to face a Panther squad much like them. After the Gamecocks go to war with Eastern Illinois Thursday, they’re road trip brings them back home Saturday to face Murray State, who currently holds a top five slot in the conference.

“We’re (EIU) in the same boat we’re in,” stated LaPlante. “They have a lot of young freshmen and some experienced players like us, so right now it’s a matter of finding success on the road, and that’s with any team in any conference.”

“We know they’re not going to be any favors handed to us,” said LaPlante. “This is not a game where winning is a luxury. If you want the win, you have to take the win, and that’s what we have to do from now until the end of the season.”

Gamecock Rugby wins home opener

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Gamecock Rugby won their home opener against Emory University from Atlanta, 17-8, after a “warm-up” loss last week to Auburn, 19-5. This match was the start of the regional championships for the rugby team.

“We liked playing Auburn. They’re a pretty good team, a big club, good players, a friendly match, but today we start serious rugby,” said Coach Michael Trowse before the game. “Our best shot at winning something is this season.” The rugby team this season is half returning veterans and half new players, with fullback Chris Steketee acting as club president.

The game started at 1 p.m., and within three minutes, the ball had gone out of bounds three times and had traveled almost the entire length of the pitch. Both teams struggled for possession of the ball, but Emory managed to advance and scored a penalty kick (3 points) just after 10 minutes. JSU returned the favor by scoring on a penalty kick at 14 minutes. JSU’s next score was a try (5 points), and a 2-point conversion kick right at the 39-minute mark. At halftime, the score was 10-3, with JSU leading.

With both teams tired and sore, the latter half of the game was dominated by consecutive scrums. Four Emory players and the referee went down during the second half, but all managed to walk off the field. The only noticeable JSU injury was a jammed finger, which was quickly wrapped.

JSU and Emory wrestled the ball up and down the pitch, but both teams managed to score once more before time ran out. Emory scored a try but missed the conversion, while JSU got a try and a conversion, bringing the points up to 17-8.

Notable players during the game were eight-man Myron Stewart, who managed to advance several times with Emory players just hanging off of him, and Mark Kennedy, a slim sprinter who nimbly slipped through the Emory defenses. Other players to watch were hooker Jonathan McKelvey and fullback/president Chris Steketee, who somehow managed to be everywhere at once.

“He’s a good player and a good leader,” says Trowse of Steketee.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” said lock Zack Blume after the game. “But it’s nice to win even when we don’t play our best.”

The Gamecock Rugby Club is in its fourth year at JSU, but, despite a loyal following, it is not accepted as a “proper” JSU sport with university approval.

“We get $300 a year from the SGA,” said Trowse, who has met with President Mcheon and started smaller rugby teams at high schools in Alabama.

“That’s all. Everything else is out-of-pocket. I spend $5,000 a year on this. Look at it—it’s all homemade. It’s embarrassing, but it works.”

Trowse would like nothing more than for JSU to adopt Gamecock Rugby and use it to promote the school.

“We play big schools, Alabama, Auburn,” said Trowse. “Having an official rugby team would be a draw for more international students. This sport is tougher to play than football, baseball, basketball. We’re just still trying
another example of Slaughter’s passion for the game.

“We had to come in and get the win,” said Slaughter. “We had to make a run, and that gave us more confidence to take this game.”

Despite having 26 turnovers, the Gamecocks (6-16, 3-10 OVC) made up for it in the rebound division, grabbing 53 boards over the Tigers’ (5-16, 2-10 OVC) 43 boards. Jacksonville State’s 33 points off the bench shows the depth it has, especially with pitcher-turned-center Christine Pierce.

“She’s finally gotten her opportunity to step up,” said Slaughter. “She’s put up some numbers lately, so it was

Courtney Slaughter looks to drive to the hole against the Tigers. Slaughter capped of the night with a double-double, scoring 22 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

Tennessee State did not give up against JSU.

In 43 seconds, the Tigers pushed an 8-2 run to close the lead to five. However, the Gamecocks stayed poised, and pushed their lead back up to nine with seventeen seconds left in the game. The seven-point defeat gave JSU the confidence to take the momentum on the road to Eastern Illinois.

“It’s going to be a difficult traveling experience,” stated Geyer. “I would be more concerned if I were the team on top because we’ve put ourselves in position to pull some upsets.”

Geyer’s Gamecocks come back to Pete Mathews Coliseum Saturday, Feb. 4 to take on Murray State. The tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. and can be heard on the Gamecock Sports Network, 91.9 FM.

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