CASE CLOSED: Gamecocks go for another championship ring

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sport Editor

The Gamecocks waited for three hours to get back onto the field of Sewell-Thomas Stadium to face host University of Alabama. While the Crimson Tide had their locker rooms to go into and relax, Jacksonville State waited and waited in the dugout, staring at the falling rain. After the tumultuous wait, both teams were able to get back on the field to do what they do best. However, the Tide held up to their name and rolled over JSU with a crushing 13-1 win. The Gamecocks tried to save face against Southern Mississippi but fell short with a 6-2 defeat.

“They are no excuses because they (Alabama) had the same delay we had,” said head coach Jim Case. “We had an opportunity to break the game out and didn’t take advantage of that. Once they took the lead, we had a hard time getting back in the game.”

“We came out the next night against a tough Southern Miss team,” stated Case. “We fought much harder, but we weren’t successful as far as winning the game. But I was proud of our guys and I’m proud of the effort they gave.”

The early exit left a sour taste in Case’s mouth, but the ride back home was not a disappointing trip. The journey has only made the Gamecocks hungrier and increased their will to win another OVC conference championship.

“Until now, we’ve lived with knowing we were better than that. We’re striving to play much better the next time we’re in that situation,” said Case.

Spring training for the Gamecocks began back in the fall semester. With the incoming freshmen, the pieces are being put together. The pitching is stronger than last season, and the hitting is more dangerous. Picked second in the conference behind last season’s regular season champions the Samford Bulldogs, JSU knows the position in which they stand to handle the 2007 season.

“This year’s team is a veteran team with a young mix,” said Case. “There are going to be times when we’ll have three freshmen on the field at one time, but with the experience the young guys had from last season, it’s still going to be a veteran team on the field.”

Last season’s team was composed of eight freshmen who grew up very quickly. Now considered veterans, those eight freshmen will have to help pave the way for the six incoming freshmen.

“Even by the end of last season, we considered our young guys veterans,” stated Case. “They played in a lot of games, and that put them in a lot of situations. It helped them in the regional tournament, and now they have that experience under their belt.”

One of the freshmen from last season who stood out was second baseman Bret Smith. His .312 batting average put him in the top five on the team. Smith had an impressive 2007 season.

2007 Softball season: play hardball

By Chad Hoffman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

With the lights visible from anywhere on campus, the ding of aluminum bats ringing in the air and the girls’ chanting audible from across the field, it is obvious that Jacksonville Softball is ready to begin their journey of the 2007 season.

The Gamecocks finished last season 43-15 overall and 21-5 in the Ohio Valley Conference. After a third-straight 40-win season in 2006, the ladies look to continuously improve and finally gain back what is rightfully theirs.

Days in the Life: Donovan Hand

By Leslie Smith
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Donovan Hand remains the number one starting pitcher for JSU baseball 2007.

Day three is doing the same thing but only in increments of 12 this time, in addition to a session of long-toss. Finally, on day four, the pitcher gets a break from running and instead throws a bullpen. Once this sequence is completed on their respective days, it is time to start all over at day one—pitching.

These exercises are only a small part of practice though. After they are done with their individual workouts, everyone clears off the field getting ready for “in and out.”

The pitchers can hold different responsibilities during this time like backing up and covering bases or feeding balls to the coach that is hitting “in and out.”

Practice can change in activities. On some days, pitchers can take PFP, or a team scrimmage is held. PFP is when they work on any fielding plays such as bunts, who covers what base, double plays, etc. Unless it is a certain pitcher’s day to throw or they are needed to fill in a spot somewhere, they get to watch the scrimmage phase of practice.

Watching can be fun, but sometimes I get to umpire the scrimmages. Not too often though. I think I am a good umpire, but I do like calling the low strikes,” said a mischievous Hand.

Days are unrelenting. The Guys are simply grueling. It was a long week of baseball practice.
History Club's annual conference a great success

By James Burton
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

The eleventh floor of Houston Cole Library was very busy last Friday and Saturday, as it was hosting the annual Alabama Association of Historians conference.

Festivities kicked off with the Graduate Student Panel. JSU student Lorin Girman delivered her piece on Cardinal Gil Alvarez Carillo de Albornos and the conquest of the Papal States.

She told how he began his journey by being selected as the archbishop of Toledo, Spain, followed by how he proved his diplomatic and military abilities to Pope Clement VI. This inclined Clement to promote him to cardinal. Pope Innocent VI then sent him to Italy to oversee the restoration of papal authority to each of the states that had previously belonged to the Church. He showed himself to be a brilliant leader as well as a fighter. Using his cunning, he proved himself successful in the restoration of the pope's authority over these areas.

The second speaker, also from JSU, was Brian Reed. His piece was on Big Jim Folsom and his quest for constitutional reform.

It followed Folsom's agricultural upbringing in Coffee County up until his grass roots campaign for governor, where he sported a bluegrass hillbilly band and ran around with a mop and bucket in his hand voicing he was going to “clean out” the capital.

One of Folsom's biggest wishes was to do away with the 1901 Constitution of Alabama because it was written by the upper-crust Bourbon southerners who wanted to disenfranchise black southerners with poll taxes and literacy tests.

In the process, this also disenfranchised poor white southerners because they could not afford to pay for the taxes or to receive and educate since most were blue-collar and struggling to

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Zeta bonds at game night

By Brigitte Wilson
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Twister, Candyland, Uno and Jenga are not only favorite childhood games, but they also proved to be great bonding tools last Thursday, Feb. 1, when Zeta Tau Alpha held its game night.

The central focus of the night was to get to know the prospective members.

"It was a fun and exciting time to meet potential new members to better our chapter," said Zeta Tau Alpha member Jen Jevans.

The night started off with a welcome speech from member Brittany Travers.

There were also speeches that gave an overview of Zeta Tau Alpha and their philanthropy, Breast Cancer Awareness.

To make the night a little more interesting, prizes were raffled off.

The first prize winner, Hannah Dillards, received an Apple iPod Nano, while the runner-up Amber Johnson received a Mary Kay beauty kit.

"I think game night was a great success," said Zeta member Hollie Thrasher. "We met a lot of really wonderful girls."
SGA and AAA present: Open Mic Night and Coffee Shop

By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer Gopher

The African-American Association and the SGA hosted an open mic coffee shop at the TMB last Tuesday night.

Marcus Cunningham and Allison Land co-hosted the event and kept the crowd going throughout the show.

Though some were quite serious, many of the participants kept the mood light with funny anecdotes and tales. One comedian, Crystal Thomas, told of her high school experiences through stand-up comedy.

"I was self-conscious when I first got to high school, and I wasn't even this big, y'all," said Thomas. "This one boy picked on me a lot and called me 'bulldog.' He chased me around the hall with a leash!"

Another act, known only as Tim, showed the world the love he had inside his heart through song. Well, actually, through multiple songs. He seemed to have a hard time remembering more than a few lines of each.

Poetry was common performance. Some were read to a background of music, while others were a capella.

Coffee, hot chocolate and punch were served along with cookies, and the crowd appeared to enjoy the show.

There was a good turnout for the event, and most stayed for all of the performances.

"I thought the crowd was stupendous. One of the best I've ever seen," said Cunningham.

The SGA and guests will continue their Black History Month festivities next week as they team up with the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity to present Movie Night featuring Coach Carter.

Photo by Chris Yow
Thomas talks about her high school days.

Read us in your underwear, we won't mind!
Corrections

The National Panhellenic Council was misidentified in last week's issue.

In the article “Picture Perfect,” Lindsey Wade’s MySpace address was cut off. You can find her at www.myspace.com/lindzelda.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls 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 782-5050.

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Michel Ney and his Summer in 1812.

He spoke of how Ney went from being a civil servant to being appointed one of the original 18 Marshals of France when he received his baton in 1804.

Kretzschmar went on to give a play-by-play account of how Marshall Ney had a key undertaking in the Napoleonic Wars conquest of Smolensk, Russia, in 1812. Originally planned to be a bloodless overtaking, he talked of how after the French eventually found themselves bombarding the city of Smolensk for most of the day. With little ground made but a staggering casualty number piling city in order to save what was left of his army.

Before he left, however, he made sure that everything that was of importance was burned and destroyed to ensure that the French could not reap any benefits of taking the city.

Two days later, it proved to be a victory for Napoleon, but all he had accomplished was killing more Russians than he lost of his own men, and he had conquered a city that had all but burned to the ground.

Had the attack gone the way they -had planned, the French would have had a lucrative supply base for their starving troops.

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<td>St. Valentine’s Day Healthy relationship presentation, TMB 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>SGA Motown Review, 7 p.m. JSU Basketball (A) 4:30</td>
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**Single out the one you love**

By Bethany Harbison  
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter  

Valentine’s Day is a holiday of clichés. We all know it, accept it, and many of us love it still. Everyone is familiar with the traditional gifts—a dozen red roses, a box of chocolates, teddy bears, anything heart-shaped, and the list goes on and on.

While there is nothing particularly wrong with this expected lineup of gifts, why not surprise your sweetie this year with something unique and special? Whether you are looking to find something for your girl or your guy, read on for ways to help you put together a thoughtful gift that your sweetheart will never forget.

For all the gentlemen out there looking to impress the special woman in your life, the single most important piece of advice that I have to offer is simple: do not procrastinate! Standing amid the chaos of a Valentine’s themed aisle is stressful in the best of times but downright miserable the night before. Wherever you plan to shop, go early and you’ll find that you have a better selection and smaller crowds.

Second, please remember that the majority of women are far less impressed by the amount of money you shell out than the amount of thought you put into your gift-giving. Do not be overly cheap, but spend within your budget and compensate with extra thoughtfulness.

For many, Valentine’s Day would simply not be the same without flowers. If you are planning on giving flowers, I am sure that you have been conditioned to believe that red roses are the one and only way to go. While some girls are definitely hoping for this Valentine’s Day classic, the rest of us would be impressed by a little imagination. Why not lilies, Gerber daisies, or even roses of another color?

If your wallet is too light for flowers from a florist, do not be afraid to check out the selection at Wal-Mart. Before you buy, look carefully for any signs of wilting and do not pick them up until you are ready to check out. While you’re there, remember that she probably does not have a vase in her dorm, so buy an inexpensive one.

Aside from the flowers, it is completely up to you how far you decide to take this holiday. Some couples exchange extravagant gifts, while others keep the giving simple. Do not be afraid to talk to your significant other in advance to discuss spending limits.

If you decide to take it a step further and purchase other gifts, jewelry is always a safe bet. Pay attention to whether she wears mostly white gold, which is silver in color, or yellow gold, which is a true golden color, and buy accordingly.

Also, stuffed animals are a common Valentine’s Day gift. However, when it comes to these cuddly cuties, size does matter. After all, a girl only has so much room for three-foot-tall teddy bears.

While there are dozens of “safe” Valentine’s traditions that guys can always fall back on, it is easily said to be more difficult for the ladies.

One idea that is well-received by most is to bake his favorite kind of cookies or brownies. If you have the facilities for it, you can also take this a step further and make him an entire meal. Even if you are no Rachael Ray, he will appreciate the thought, and the two of you can laugh at your blunders.

Outside the realm of cooking, think about ways that you could help him out to make his life easier. Is he so busy with school and work that his car is a mess? If so, then steal his spare key and surprise him by having his car detailed.

Another Valentine’s Day cliché that is often given and received by both sexes is the heart-shaped box of chocolates. For an unexpected twist, open the box beforehand and hide little notes beneath the chocolates for your sweetheart to find. After all, what fun is Valentine’s Day if you are not at least a little cheesy?

As much fun as the two of you can have exchanging gifts, remember that an important part of the Valentine’s Day experience is the date. Many couples find themselves disappointed that night because each thought that the other was making special plans. Banish that argument forever by agreeing to take turns planning the night every other year.

Now that you know who’s planning what and when, it is time to decide what to do. If you are a couple that rarely goes out to eat, then treat yourself to a night out. If possible, call the restaurant ahead of time and make reservations. Valentine’s Day is an incredibly busy night for many restaurants, and no one wants to spend half the night waiting for an open table, so plan ahead.

If the two of you are very busy and have difficulty carving out time for one another, then a night at one of your homes might be perfect for you. Whether you cook for one another or pick up takeout from a great restaurant, eating by candlelight sets the mood apart from any other.

No matter what you decide to do or what gifts you exchange, remember the most important part of Valentine’s Day is the person that you spend it with. Even if your date plans fall through or your gift ideas do not work out, do not fret! The most memorable moments often spring from spontaneity.

**Feeling singled out yourself?**

By Jonathan Pennington  
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter  

Feb. 14 seems to be hailed as a day for couples only. With that being so, it leaves many singles in America feeling alone and wondering what to do on this day, a day dedicated to the act of love. The answer is simple: you don’t have to have a significant other to feel loved. There are numerous singles nationwide on the internet looking to meet new people. A website that has received outstanding reviews from its users is Valentine’s Day to do something that can take the focus off of the desire for a partner. Rent some non-romantic comedies, action films or even horror films, or go through the collection at home to find a good non-love-oriented movie to watch and relax.

A great suggestion for any person would be to hold a Valentine’s Day singles event in which every person brings someone that they are not interested in. This could be a creative party, with a sort of...
AmeriCanada feeling alone and wondering what to do on this day, a day dedicated to the act of love. The answer is simple: you don't have to have a significant other, you just have to have love.

There are two types of singles in society: those who rejoice in being free from any emotional attachment and those who wish they had a valentine to spend some quality romantic time with.

One idea for the first type of single is to go out to eat with a group of friends that evening. The group can celebrate being free together. This idea is most appealing to those whose Facebook or MySpace

There are numerous singles nationwide on the internet looking to meet new people. A website that has received outstanding reviews from its users is Match.com. Websites such as this make it possible for users to talk online, leading up to telephone conversations and possibly even face-to-face meetings. Online dating may be seen as odd to some, but it never hurts to try something new to meet new people.

Additionally, singles should take their spare time on Valentine's Day singles event in which every person brings someone that they are not interested in. This could be a creative party, with a sort of "one man's trash is another man's treasure" theme. (Note: neither men nor women or being referred to as trash in this analogy.) Who knows? Singles may be able to find people with many things in common that they never even knew were there.

The most recent woman featured in ABC's show "The Bachelorette," Jen Schefft, has released a new book she wrote entitled Better Single than Sorry. In it, her message is clear: do not let the longing for love or love you are currently experiencing with someone special dominate your entire life. Your life is the cake; your partner is simply the icing on it.

So for anyone feeling down in the dumps over not having a valentine for this year's romantic holiday, rejoice in the life you lead and be happy with who you are.

For anyone in a relationship, enjoy the time you may spend with your Valentine on this day.
Day in the Life: Jessica Andrews
Miss Jacksonville State University 2007

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer
Features Editor

As far as exciting years go, this year may be hard to top for the Alabaster native who has recently taken over the coveted title of Miss JSU, was named head ballerina for the Marching Southerners and is currently the captain and choreographer of the Diamond Girls dance team. Senior elementary education major Jessica Andrews is truly learning the meaning of time management.

Balancing school and family can be tough for many, but add in all of Andrews’ extracurricular activities, and it makes for one very busy, soon to be very tired, young woman. A large factor of her balancing success she credits to the members of both the Ballerinas and the Diamond Girls.

“Both groups have been really supportive of me and have tried to help me out whenever possible. They are so great and I feel so blessed to be able to work with such wonderful people.”

Andrews has been traveling all over Alabama participating in various pageants, competing for scholarship opportunities, and she has won. Placing first runner-up in Miss JSU for both 2005 and 2006 gave Andrews the right amount of experience to finally take home the crown in 2007.

“Although I competed in other pageants, I am so happy that I won Miss JSU. This is where my heart is. I truly believe the others were my stepping stones to get where I belonged,” said Andrews. “I am thankful to have this chance to represent JSU.”

In June, Andrews will travel to Birmingham to compete in the Miss Alabama pageant against many contestants she has already befriended.

“A big part of the Miss Alabama pageant is establishing a relationship with the audience,” said Andrews. “I have already been working on mine, Passion Performance, for quite some time. It is geared toward giving underprivileged kids an opportunity to dance that otherwise would never get to,” said Andrews.

Obviously, growing up the daughter of a dance instructor has greatly influenced Andrews’ life. Her mother owns her own dance studio in Alabaster called Joy’s Dance Company. Beginning her own dancing lessons at the age of three, Andrews has taken classes at her dance company.

“I remember one pageant I was in, during the on-stage interview, I misunderstood the question I was being asked. Instead of asking him to repeat the question, I started speaking passionately about the one I thought I had heard, and the whole time, it was the wrong topic. I was so embarrassed, but I try to listen more carefully now,” remembered Andrews. Obviously, she has used the knowledge learned from that occurrence in her other pageants because there have only been two or three total where she did not place in the top three.

“I think I have won first runner-up around nine times already! I have won, Andrews has already received the sponsorship of Passion Performance, and any child is eligible. Andrews is very excited to have the experience as Miss JSU to educate her peers about Passion Performance.

The job of Miss JSU makes no promises to be an easy one and even less a boring one. Right after the pageant Andrews was put to work representing JSU.

“The next morning, I got to be on 92.7 The Thunder radio show. We just had an easy-going conversation; they were really nice. The hectic thing about all of it was that I had my first duty as head ballerina that afternoon in the inaugural parade, so I had to rush from one place to another,” said Andrews. With many appearances already being scheduled such as the various JSU Preview Days, Andrews will be counting on her “manager” to help her keep track of everything.

“Really, my mom is like my manager. She and my dad travel with me, so they help me keep track of everything. My mom loves hanging out with her two nephews whenever she gets the chance. Due to her activities, she might not have the opportunity to relax very often in the coming year, and her favorite Tuesday ritual of eating Coop Deville while watching American Idol might just have to take a backseat.”

Friends and family came out to support Jessica Andrews as she won Miss JSU 2007.
“Dinosaur. They have a small brain and don’t think as much. I think too much.

Joaquin Molina
Freshman

The high cost of the PS3 turned many customers away from purchasing them.

Gato Haamakull
Sophomore

“Lion. I want to ride the jungle.

By Chris Pittman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

The holiday season has come to a close, and the winner in the race to the top of the gaming plateau has finally been decided. Well, maybe not just yet.

Microsoft, Nintendo and Sony duked it out during the big Christmas 2006 battle for consumer dollars. All three companies did their best to separate themselves from the rest, but no clear winner emerged from the group. However, all provided positive results that will steer them in the right direction.

Microsoft continued to flourish during the critical holiday season with the Xbox 360. The console had one distinct advantage over the competition: Microsoft’s system was the only one readily available in most retail stores. Great games also helped to push consoles, and the Xbox 360 had many to choose from.

Gear of War was the catalyst Microsoft needed over the holiday season. The game took the world by storm, and has sold over three million copies since release.

The future looks bright for Microsoft as they have a stellar lineup of games scheduled for the rest of the year. Crackdown, developed by Realtime Worlds, is looking to be the first big hit of the new year. The game features sandbox-style gameplay which is also found in the popular Grand Theft Auto series. Another selling point for the title is that every copy of Crackdown will ship with an invitation to the Halo 3 beta test.

The PlayStation 3 was released in November all over the globe, and Sony had high hopes for the console this Christmas. Although the company suffered from a system shortage, they did make strides to keep the machine flowing into retailers as much as possible.

Sony met their goal of shipping out one million PlayStation 3 units before the end of 2006. Resistance: Fall of Man was the main game that had consumers searching high and low for a PS3. Several key titles were delayed in their release which left Sony with very few system selling games.

The coming months look extremely good for PlayStation 3 owners. Many quality games are on the way including some amazing exclusive titles. Sega’s Virtual Fighter 5 will be available only on the PlayStation 3 until late summer 2007. The legendary fighting game is back and better than ever with a true next-generation look and feel.

In March, PS3 gamers will be able to finally play Bethesda Softworks amazing title, The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion. Oblivion has been available on the Xbox 360 since last March and received numerous “game of the year” awards on the platform.

The PlayStation 2 is living proof that legends never die. Sony continues to cash in on the predecessor to its next generation machine, and the company plans to support the PS2 in 2007 with exclusive software such as God of War II.

The PSP, Sony’s portable unit, also enjoyed a sales boost over the holidays. One main reason is due to an additional feature in which gamers can link their PSP and PS3 in order to unlock special functions such as streaming media between machines.

Nintendo struck gold with the release of the Wii in November. Consumers flocked to the innovative controller that changes the way games are played. The company succeeded in bringing joy to people of all ages and even sparked the interest of people that do not normally play video games.

Nintendo promised a healthy supply of consoles in November and December, but they could not keep up with the demand. Many stores sold out of the Wii within minutes of opening.

The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess was a big contributor to the early success of the Wii. Link’s newest adventure in Hyrule was a huge hit, with nearly 90 percent of all Wii owners purchasing the game.

The Wii wasn’t the only thing that Nintendo had a hard time keeping available. The Nintendo DS was also a hot product, selling over two million units.

The next couple of months will be crucial for Nintendo. The demand for the Wii is still extremely high, and the company must do all it can to supply retailers with the console.

The Wii has several games on the horizon that are designed for multiple players. Nintendo hopes to play off the success of the popular pack-in game Wii Sports with Wii Play, a collection of mini-games designed to be played with a group of people. The game also comes with a free Wii remote to encourage playing it with friends.

NPD Group, a marketing information provider, reported that game revenues reached near 12.5 billion dollars in 2006. These numbers will likely increase over the 2007 year, with tons of quality games coming out for all consoles.

The gaming battle will continue in 2007 in a big way. While the leader in the battle has yet to be determined, the only real winner that has emerged is the gamer. There is really just one thing left to do: sit back and enjoy the constant waves of games coming our way. With all of the great games coming out, it’s really hard to put down the controller.
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<tr>
<td>“VIP ONLY” Parent's day at The Grove</td>
<td>February 17th</td>
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Baseball cont. from page 1

23-of-25 bases last year. The leadership acknowledged by the team and the conference earned Smith numerous accolades, including the 2006 OVC All-Freshman Team, OVC All-Tournament Team, OVC second team, and Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America. Now entering his sophomore season, his solid role as a second baseman and experience as a leader will test the veteran in him to sustain his position on the squad.

"Last season was great, even though we fell short," said Smith. "I'm going to go out there, play hard, and let my game come to me."

Another player Case will look to in the field will be senior catcher Eric Beck. His dedication to the game and the team boosted his to atop the home runs (8) and the runs batted in (60) category. Beck maintains his composure throughout every game and will continue to stand solid in the upcoming season.

"We're going to do the same thing as last season," stated Beck. "We have a lot of pressure on us, so we have to keep that veteran status. I'm not a vocal guy, so hopefully the guys will notice that I lead by example."

The batting arrangements look to be solid this season with Beck and Smith included in the order. Their fielding will make for some impressive plays as well. In addition to Beck and Smith, the cannon at the mound known as Donovan Hand will send a lot of opposing batters from the batter's box back to the dugout. His 9-5 record and 2.82 ERA earned him the number one spot in the pitching rotation for JSU this season.

"It starts with Donovan," stated Beck. "He's been our number one guy the past two seasons, and he's worked to make his game and his pitching even better."

With the players that Case has in position for the season, the composition of the team will be tested during different times throughout the year. With a 27-road game schedule, the Gamecocks open play at Middle Tennessee State University, then head to College Station, Tex. to face the Texas A&M University Aggies. Their 7-game road trip ends with the Owls of Kennesaw State University, bringing them to challenging programs, three of which are Big Ten teams in Illinois, Ohio State and Northwestern University.

The other 19 games on the schedule will be for the fans to enjoy at Rudy Abbot Field. And while most of the games are within traveling distance, the 27 games off campus will only test the veteran team.

"This has been an outstanding group to work with," said Case. "They're habits have been great, and they have done the things a veteran team should do. They know what it takes to be good, and they have been willing to put in the work and be successful."

"We want to win championships, whether it be regular season or tournament championships," said Case. "Our guys are going into this year with a goal, to prove that we are as good as anybody else in this conference."

Softball cont. from page 1

outfield with her leadership and vocal abilities.

Pappano, a Bolton, Ontario native is the 2006 OVC Player of Year. She led the league in batting (.392), hits (74), doubles (21), walks (29), slugging percentage (.698), and total bases (132). She reached base safely in 51 of 58 games while averaging 0.36 doubles a game.

Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

Day in the Life cont. from pg. 1

Hand. "The key is, though, never let the other team know if you do not have your best stuff that day. Once they know that, they have already beaten your mindset."

As in most athletics, there is a fine line between confidence and cockiness when it comes to baseball in general.

"I hope I have found that happy medium but honestly, I think you can never be sure about something like that," said Hand.

Even when he is not on the field, Donovan Hand for quite some time. Though at 6'3 and still growing it seems that soon Darren will be looking down on his older brother.

"Darren is a really good pitcher. He is only in his sophomore year and he already beat my career high strikeouts. He is on track to pass me by," admitted Hand. It is obvious that both brothers are extremely proud of each other in their accomplishments although there is nothing like brother rivalry to keep the competition going.
Who starts 116 straight games, breaks the home run record, leads the Ohio Valley Conference in batting (.392), hits (74), doubles (21), walks (29), maintains a 4.0 for back-to-back semesters, and still finds time to hang out with friends and enjoy free time? That would be none other than senior outfielder, Daniela Pappano.

Coming off her outstanding junior season, the Bolton, Ontario native looks to have her best season yet as the Gamecock Softball team prepares for the 2007 season. Chanticleer Sports: What is your major?

Daniela Pappano: Physical Education

CS: Who is your favorite pro player for any sport?

DP: Davey Tucker from the Toronto Mapleleaves

CS: What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you on the field?

DP: (Laughing) I was back-pedaling for a fly ball and I fell straight back. The game was televised and everyone saw it. That was so embarrassing.

CS: What is your relationship with your fellow teammates?

DP: We have really good chemistry. If I got into any trouble or had a problem, I could call on any one of them at any time.

CS: What is your favorite season of the year?

DP: Fall

CS: If you had a day off from softball, what would you be doing?

DP: Sleeping. I have to get up on my rest.

CS: What is your favorite music?

DP: Everything. The only kind of music that I don’t like is elevator music.

CS: What is it like in Ontario compared to Alabama?

DP: The food is different. The hospitality is completely different. And I have to say, the accent of the people around me.

CS: Who is your role model?

DP: My dad. If it was not for him, I would not be here talking to you today.

On top of Daniela’s motivating personality and just being there as a friend, she is respected by those on and off the field. “Daniela represents everything a JSU student and athlete should represent,” stated head coach Jana McGinnis. “While talking to some parents of an opposing team who’s daughter pitches, they told me that the only person their daughter is scared to pitch against in the conference is Daniela.” This shows the respect that she gains on the field and her accomplishments in the classroom go above and beyond.

The biweekly MIRROR portion of the paper will not be in rotation this week due to the Baseball/Softball Issue. Catch Mr. Lundy and Mr. Yow next week with a new topic of discussion.
Gamecocks fall to Racers, fall out of contention

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

After taking a huge hit versus Eastern Illinois, Coach LaPlante had to regroup and get his team back on track. LaPlante had hoped the last possession games were out of sight, but Saturday, Feb. 3 was another chapter added to the final shot theme of the season.

Both the Racers (12-11, 10-5 OVC) and the Gamecocks (6-18, 5-11 OVC) held their ground in the first half. Racers guard Ray George came up with some big 3-pointers to increase their lead, but JSU guard Nick Smith responded with a trey of his own to bring his team back. The sound, fundamental game of both teams stood ground on the court. Though neither team seemed to have a momentum-changing performance, one player put his team on his shoulders and went to work.

The first half was the Courtney Bradley show. His 6'5 frame continued to drive to the rim to score tough shots, and take a step back behind the arc to hit two key shots. The Racers did not have an answer for Bradley, who went 5-of-9 from the field with 13 points, the only double-digit scorer in the first half.

The second half was the same thing for both teams, but Bradley was not as much of a factor for Jacksonville State. The Racers led by as much as nine, but LaPlante would not let his team get rattled.

The Gamecocks quickly cut the lead thanks to Smith scoring eight quick points. With the gap closed and JSU on the heels of the Racers', the game was taken to another level.

With less than four minutes left in the game, JSU tied the game on a Bradley 3-pointer at 59 apiece. The Gamecocks took the lead off a rebound dunk from junior guard Erik Adams, but Murray tied the game with 2:04 left to play with a jumper from forward Shawn Witherspoon.

With less than 30 seconds to play, the Racers stole the inbound from guard Will Ginn to setup a lay-up by guard Bruce Carter. JSU came down the setup a final play, hoping to tie the game or win with a big shot.

With fifteen seconds remaining, forward Harold Crow shot a 15-footer, but missed the shot. The shot was rebounded by Carter, but fortunately for JSU, he turned the ball with a traveling violation, giving the Gamecocks one more shot at a tie or win.

With 11 seconds left in the game, Bradley took an open shot and missed. The ball was rebounded by Smith, who dished it to Crow for another open shot. Smith's missed was recovered by Adams, who then attempted a put back. His jumper from inside the paint rimmed out, and was rebounded by Murray for a major loss.

“We needed a bucket, and we all had good shots,” said Crow. “The ball wouldn’t fall in the rim.”

The loss put JSU in a hole to fight for the eight and final spot for the OVC title run, but Bradley and LaPlante know they have to take it one game at a time, even if it comes down to the last second possession.

“It’s been like that all season,” said Bradley. “Coach (LaPlante) just ask us to fight and strive and be the team to win by more than two, and we did that, but we couldn’t come up with the big shot to win the game.”

LaPlante’s playoff chances will be tested on Thursday, Feb. 8, when they face a tough Tennessee Tech team. The 7:30 game at Pete Mathews will test the poise of the Gamecocks as they look to stay in contention for a conference championship.

Murray races past JSU

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Head Coach Becky Geyer has shown improvements throughout the season, but Saturday, Feb. 3 was step back she was not expecting.

“We’ve been playing much better than this,” said Geyer. “They’re a really good team, but we didn’t step up across the board.”

Led by sophomore guard LaTonya McKinney’s 14 points, the Gamecocks (7-17, 4-11 OVC) attempted to stay in contention with the Racers (14-7, 10-4 OVC). Down 32-19 with eight minutes left, JSU put together a 16-6 run over five minutes to cut the lead digits. They were led by forward Jo Scott with 24 points, followed by guard Amber Guffey with 20 points. Guard Alana Lee added 11 points while forward Ashley Hayes added 10 points.

The Racers were able to shoot easy baskets and capitalize off of transition lay-ups, which helped them finish the game shooting 55 percent from the floor. Jacksonville State struggled to create easy baskets for themselves, which resulted in a 37 percent night from the floor.

Geyer and the Gamecocks will look to get back in a rhythm Thursday, Feb. 8 when they host the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. Tip-off at Pete...
Softball hosts Fan Day Frenzy!

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

If there was any indication to how many fans will be present for Friday's home opener, then the JSU softball team can expect a packed house thanks to their 2007 Fan Day.

“We had a great turnout, and we look forward to this Friday's game,” said softball head coach Jana McGinnis. “We hope it was as much fun for them as it was for us.”

The fun and games began around 2 p.m. with the athletic mother’s taking the diamond, well at least “Mama Flemming” as assistant coach Mark Wisener stated. As the ladies took the field, their objective was to catch t-shirts shot at them through the air gun provided by the ROTC. While the mother of junior Amy Brown and the mother of sophomore Allie Barker were unable to catch any of the t-shirts, junior Ashley Flemming’s mother caught a t-shirt on her first attempt, sending the crowd on the third base line into a roar and getting her up with a strutting Cocky down the way to first base and stumbling back to home plate.

Cocky was later challenged by the young kids in the crowd, and the ones who consider themselves big kids. Coming from a two-base deficit, the kids ran as hard as they could to catch up with Cocky. Though they ran hard, the young participants could not catch up with a strutting Cocky down the home stretch.

If there was an unofficial screaming contest, the ladies of White Plains High School might have slightly defeated the women of Saks High School. Cheering on their head coach, former JSU player Rachel Countryman, they clapped and shouted as she attempted to hit the ball screens with points on them. Unfortunately, she came up short with no points. For the sixth year in a row, McGinnis won the title, accumulating the most points, 60, among her opponents. Coming in second was Saks softball head coach Randy Law.

The final activity of the evening was the homerun derby. Senior catcher Melissa Norton and her White Plain teammate defeated the other contestants, knocking three homeruns over the fence. Norton holds the title until next year’s Fan Day festivities, but unfortunately she will not be able to come back and defend her title.

The softball team makes the crowd feel like they are apart of the team. Both parties enjoyed themselves on Sunday, which will show by the attendance on Friday.

“I had a blast,” said junior Amy Brown. “I like that many people want to get involved with JSU softball.”

The final activity of the day involved both the players and the students. The autographed session gave the fans another opportunity to get to know the ladies on a personal level. The Fan Day was a success, and McGinnis’ efforts certainly did not go unnoticed.

“McGinnis and her crew show a good representation for Jacksonville State,” stated Law. “She runs a classy operation, and she’s helped me out on several occasions. She’s done very well building this program.”

The Gamecocks open the season with a doubleheader on Friday, Feb. 9 against the Alabama State Hornets.
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