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Jacksonville State University

Volume 55, Issue 18

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 year'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

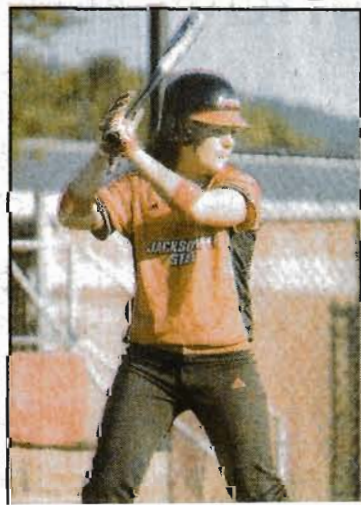
See Baseball, page 6

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 Gamecock 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



Karla Pittman.

"Our pitching staff is one of our main concerns right now," said McGinnis. "Right now, we do not have a solid one and two. Whoever takes the ball and runs with it this week will be the one starting on the mound Friday afternoon."

Other spots that are being fought for are second, third and catching. At second, true freshman Mary Beth Ledbetter, Ciara Wesen and junior Whitney Elder are battling. It is a little tricky though: Wesen and Elder are also battling for third base.

At catcher, sophomore Allie Barker,

Day in the Life: Donovan Hand JSU Baseball Pitcher

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer
Features Editor



People typically believe that baseball is a sport only played in the spring. For many, however, as soon as one season ends, preparation for the next year begins.

Putting in long hours to perfect what spectators view as an effortless talent is nothing new for JSU's number one starting pitcher, junior business major Donovan Hand.

"Many people do not realize all the time that goes into playing baseball. It is very demanding but in a good way. It has personally taught me some very valuable lessons," said the Hatton native.

Learning self-discipline is a must when the choices you make can not only affect your performance but also contribute to an entire team's performance.

"It is kind of funny to think about a 20-year-old going to bed at 9 p.m. because he has something to get up early for," laughed Hand. "My parents will call me at night and sometimes wake me up. They stay up later than I do."

Three days a week, Hand has to wake up at 5:30 for morning workouts with the baseball team. The entire team works out from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m. before many nor-

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 scrim-

mage 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.



Photo Courtesy of Steve Latham

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

straight 40-win season in 2006, the ladies look to continuously improve and finally gain back what is rightfully theirs: the OVC Championship.

"Other coaches around the OVC think that this is finally our down year," stated head coach Jana McGinnis. "We are going to surprise a lot of people. Our girls work hard day-in and day-out and the mentality of this young team is very good for the OVC."

Jacksonville State was picked to finish third in the 2007 OVC preseason poll with 65 total points and one first-place vote. This is the lowest they have ever been picked since joining the OVC in 2003. They were behind 2006 OVC Champion Tennessee Tech (79) and Eastern Kentucky (72).

The Gamecocks lost five key players, but they closed those gaps with four true freshmen and four transfers. The major loss for the team came within the



Photo Courtesy of Steve Latham

Melissa Norton steps up to the plate.

pitching staff.

Carly Kellam, the 2005 OVC Pitcher of the Year, and powerhouse Christine Pierce were those key losses on the mound. Returning are juniors Amy Brown and Kelly Raw who helped close out several games last year and are expecting to do the same this year.

Competing for the starting spot along with Brown and Raw are true freshman Kelly McGregor, sophomore transfer Melissa Dowling and junior transfer

tricky though: Wesen and Elder are also battling for third base.

At catcher, sophomore Allie Barker, junior Alana Hicks and senior Melissa Norton are giving it everything they got. Barker caught a majority of the games last year, but she is being challenged this year. They are all working hard for the offensive side of the ball as well.

Recovering from an ACL injury is first baseman Lauren Horwath. She was a tremendous offensive threat in 2006, but coaches and trainers are expecting her to be back in the rotation midseason. Taking over at first will be true freshman Nikki Prier.

The outfield is set. Junior Rachel Fleming is holding down left field with true freshman Chrissy O'Neal in center and senior Daniela Pappano leading right. Pappano moved from center

See Softball, page 6

up at 5:30 for morning workouts with the baseball team. The entire team works out from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m. before many normal people even think about getting out of bed. Grabbing some breakfast before heading to class is the usual routine for Hand. Once he is out of class, hunger strikes again as he grabs something to eat on his way to practice.

The whole team usually begins practice by stretching and running together to get loose. Then they get the field ready for BP by putting up the "L" screen and getting the rollaway batting cage set up.

"At this point, Coach [Jim] Case usually gives the pitchers their assignments for the day. He just kind of goes over what he wants us to do and work on for the day," said Hand. Depending on the day, practice can vary greatly for each pitcher because there is a rotation that they go by, and for each pitcher it can change slightly.

Day one is the day they get to actually pitch. Day two consists of running 20-20-20, which means jogging for 20 minutes, doing 20 poles and 20 60-yard sprints.

but I do like calling the low strikes," said a mischievous Hand.

Game days are completely different for players in not only physical activities but also in the mental preparation. Hand begins his day with a good breakfast and then takes some time to ready himself. After getting a snack, usually made up of powdered donuts and a Yoo-Hoo, Hand will sit with Coach Case and go over the game plan for that day.

"I like to take a little bit more time than most pitchers for my pre-game loosening," said Hand. Where many will start stretching 15-20 minutes before a game, Hand likes to start about 30 minutes prior to game-time. That way he does not rush anything.

"The job of a pitcher is to throw off a hitter's timing. It is hard because some days you go out there and you may hit every spot, which is a good day. Then the next day you feel like you could not hit water if you fell out of a boat," explained

See Day in the Life, page 6

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 grassroots campaign for governor, where he sported

a bluegrass hillbilly band and ran around with a mop and bucket in his hand vowing 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 education since most were blue-collar and struggling to

See AAH, page 2

Zeta bonds at game night

By Brigette 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 philanthropy, Breast Cancer Awareness member Jen Evans.

The night started off with a welcome speech. To make the night a little more interesting, prizes were raffled off.



from member Brittany Travens.

There were also speeches that gave an overview of Zeta Tau Alpha and their

The first prize winner, Hannah Dillard, 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 ZTA member Hollie Thrasher. "We met a lot of really wonderful girls."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECE: The ECE will be offered on Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 3-4:30 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 Merrill Building and also Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Merrill Auditorium.

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

Writer's Club: Meets at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday on 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: pharding@jsu.edu

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

Contact: Jaclyn Cosper at 256-404-2590

SGA: SGA will be showing *Coach Carter* in the TMB Auditorium on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. Co-sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha.

SGA: The State of the University address will be presented by President Mardacus Russell on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the TMB Auditorium.

SGA: SGA is giving away cookies in celebration of Black History Month. Stop by the office of student life, Room 402 of the TMB.

Ambassadors: JSU Ambassador applications are now available at the visitor center. They are due Feb. 28 by 4 p.m.

Contact: Chad Hoffman, jsu8368@jsu.edu

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 Chantnews@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. 26

Vanessa Deliso reported harrasing communications and criminal mischief.

Feb. 5

Lilas Kamangu reported unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle at Houston Cole Library parking lot.

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!"



Photo by Chris Yow

Cunningham and Land entertain the crowd between acts.

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.

AAH cont. from pg. 1

Folsom's dream was for equality among blacks and whites, women and men, and his dream was obvious. He lobbied here and there

The last graduate student, Jeff Kretzchmar, presented his piece on French Marshall Michel Ney and his Summer in 1812.

up, Russian Field Marshall Michael Andreas Barclay de Tolly made the decision to abandon the city in order to save what was left of his

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.

was obvious. He lobbied here and there to do away with the constitution that did more harm than good.

Unfortunately, his quest upset the same type of people who had masterminded the Constitution in the first place! Long story short, to avoid any more controversy, Folsom conveniently went on a fishing trip while the first black student attempted to enroll into the University of Alabama.

Reed concluded that perhaps had Folsom stood up for his integrationist beliefs, George Wallace's defiant stand in front of the University of Alabama in 1963 never would have occurred.

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.

Kretzchmar 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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all of the
knowledge is just one
click away!

8 Thursday	9 Friday	10 Saturday	11 Sunday
Tobacco Awareness Day, TMB 11 a.m. JSU Basketball (H) 5:30 p.m.	St. Louis Brass Quintet, 7:30 p.m., Mason Hall Performance Center	Love Stories in the Stars, 1:30 p.m., JSU Planetarium	
12 Monday	13 Tuesday	14 Wednesday	15 Thursday
Sexual responsibility week State of the University address, 6 p.m. TMB Auditorium	SGA Movie Night, <i>Coach Carter</i> 8 p.m.	St. Valentine's Day Healthy relationship presentation, TMB 11 a.m.	SGA Motown Review, 7 p.m. JSU Basketball (A) 4:30

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 from your heart? After all, the whole point of Valentine's Day is to make the one you love feel special and cherished, and these cookie-cutter gifts simply do not always get the job done on their own. Whether you are looking to find something for your girl or your guy, read on for ways to help you put a twist on these tired clichés for a day 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'll 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 do 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 ties for it,

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

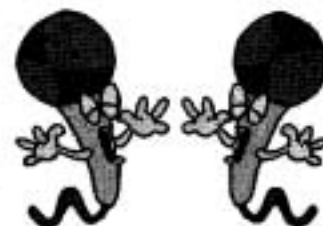
what to do. If you are a couple that rarely goes out to eat, then treat yourself to a night out. If possible, call the restaurant ahead of time and make reservations. Valentine's Day is an incredibly busy night for many restaurants, and no one wants to spend half the night waiting for an open table,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



Local Concert Calendar



Feb. 8
Sam Thacker
Brother's Bar

Feb. 9
John Stone
Brother's Bar

Feb. 10
High Tide Blues
Brother's Bar

Feb. 11
Nathan Smith
Smoking Moose

Feb. 12
Open Mic Night
Brother's Bar

Feb. 13
Matthew Smith
Brother's Bar

Clone burgers are not for me

By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer Gopher

I have no problem with eating a hamburger, or any other type of meat for that matter. However, recently learning that animals that have been cloned will now be legal and won't have special labels on their packaging is quite frightening. I don't even really like eating processed chicken.

I will be buying only organic meats once the law is passed to legalize the sale of cloned animal meats. Caren Wilcox, head of the Organic Trade Association, says that the green USDA

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 signifi-

profile says single and looking for "friendship." Any night out with close friends is appealing.

However, the other type of single finds him or herself wishing they were emotionally attached to someone. The following are suggestions for singles looking for more than just friendship.

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

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, 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

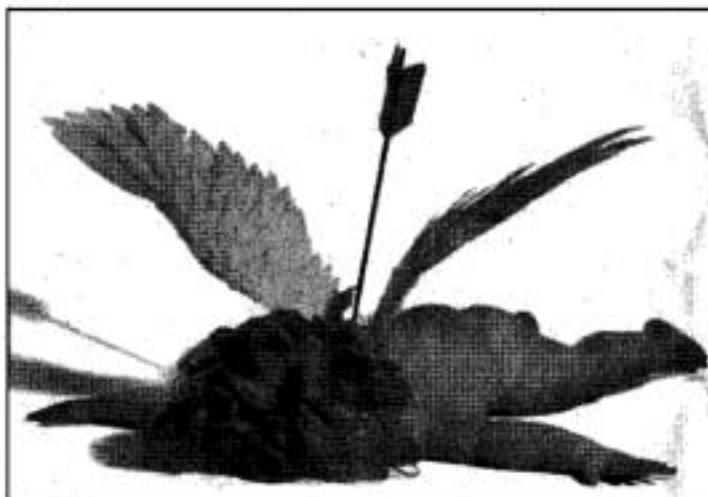


Photo Courtesy of www.mgdot.freeservers.com

Shot through the heart, and you're to blame . . .

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 Valen-

tin

tin Day singies 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.

of the Organic Trade Association, says that the green USDA organic sticker will not only mean no pesticides or antibiotics but also that it is clone-animal free.

Some in Congress want to require labels, but it most likely will not happen. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., has introduced legislation to require a note on the package to read something similar to this: "This product is from a cloned animal or its progeny."

I don't trust the government. I don't care whether they tell me that the food from cloned animals is perfectly safe, or that it's even better for me than that from a natural-born animal. I don't want my food to come from a scientist with some DNA and a high-tech chemistry kit.

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The Chanticleer

Room 180, Self Hall
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36268

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Single copies are free from newsstands. Unauthorized removal of multiple copies will be considered theft and prosecuted as such.

Letters Policy:

The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in Room 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address at left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantynews@yahoo.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous, defamatory, or submitted anonymously. Letters may be edited for style, brevity, or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.

QUESTION
OF THE
WEEK:

IF YOU WERE
REINCARNATED,
WHAT WOULD
YOU WANT TO
COME BACK
AS?



Murtaza Kunji
Freshman

"Human."

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



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Andrews

draws has been traveling all over Alabama participating in various pageants, competing for tuition assistance.

"I have never really been the pageant-type girl. I like them, but originally I wanted to get involved for the scholarships that are available," said Andrews. True to that, as a result of the prize money she has won, Andrews has already paid for her entire college experience.

Taking part in 19 pageants in a two-and-a-half year span should tire anyone out, but not Andrews. The more pageants she was in, the more experience she gained from them, and in pageants, experience in certain situations can either lose or win the crown.

"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 all

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 and working on a platform. 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



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Andrews

Friends and family came out to support Jessica Andrews as she won Miss JSU 2007.

take classes at her dance company. There is no set criteria for who receives the sponsorship, 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

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



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Andrews

Idol might just have to take a backseat



Joaquim Molina
Freshman

"Dinosaur. They have a small brain and don't think as much. I think too much."



Gatu Haamankuli
Sophomore

"Lion. I want to ride the jungle."

possible. They are so great and I feel so blessed to be able to work with such wonderful people," said Andrews. "They all came out to support me for the Miss JSU pageant, and just having them all there made the whole experience so much more special."

While many other college students spend their free time hanging out with friends, An-

top three. "I think I have won first runner-up around nine times all together. Probably the one that I was most thrilled by was the Miss JSU 2005," said Andrews. "Other than a couple high school pageants, it was my first real one. I only wanted to gain experience and see what it was like, but when I was named first runner-up I was so excited! You would have thought I had just



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Andrews

the early age of 22 months, she has been instructed in ballet, tap, jazz, Pointe and hip-hop.

Each year for the past two or three years, Andrews and her mother sponsor two children to

track of everything.

"Really, my mom is like my manager. She and my dad have been huge supporters. I feel kind of bad for my dad, though. He only has daughters, so even though he would rather be watching sports, he gets to come to all my pageants instead," laughed Andrews. Family is extremely important to Andrews, and she

Idol might just have to take a backseat.

"Well, I am going to do everything I can to make JSU proud this summer," said Andrews. "I have already been busy working on some of it. Mostly all I have left is to hit the gym and start watching CNN."

Gaming battle continues into 2007

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 dueling to a draw 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.

Gears 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.



Photo Courtesy of www.dreamnet.ru

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

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 Nin-

tendo 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.



Photo Courtesy of www.wiidir.com

Nintendo had an extremely hard time keeping the Wii in stock due to the high demand.

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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.



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

The 2007 Jacksonville State Gamecock baseball team has been slated to finish second in the Ohio Valley Conference behind in-state rival Samford, who won the 2006 regular season.

this year. 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 boasted him 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 stature. 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

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 Case. "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 composure 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

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



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

their first home game in a double header against the High Point University Panthers. Their poise will continue to be tested over Spring Break, when Case takes his team to Bradenton, Fla. to face four



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

before we open conference play, and we're really hoping two things will happen, it'll challenge us to be the best we can be, and we're hoping it'll pull our team even closer together as we enter the conference season."

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. "Their 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."

challenging programs, three of which are Big Ten teams in Illinois, Ohio State and Northwestern University. The other challenge, UMass, is not to be overlooked by any means as well.

"This is a very difficult schedule, and we did that by design," said Case. "We feel like this schedule is what we need to get us over the hump when we get to regionals."

"It's a little more intense than last season, especially with Texas A&M on the road. We added the trip with Illinois, Ohio State and Northwestern University to test us. Those are quality programs. We're doing the tournament the week



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

"I just have to maintain that positive attitude for the freshmen coming in

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.

With teams such as Auburn, Virginia Tech, University of Alabama-Birmingham, South Carolina, and University of Central Florida on the schedule before conference play, the team should be

years. Tennessee Tech is the team to beat and they return all but one player from last year's team."

Normally, the OVC rankings are stacked in the one, two, and three spots; however, this year, it seems that there is not going to be a dropoff anywhere in the polls. Every team seems to be more rounded and improved, including surprise Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois.



Day in the Life cont. from pg. 1

Hand. "The key is, though, to 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

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.

Another busy season system for

reached base safely in 51 of 58 games while averaging 0.36 doubles a game.

While holding all these statistics in her hand, she wrote her name in the JSU history books and broke the alltime homerun record with 42. The previous record of 36 was held by Rachel Countryman. Needless to say, Pappano may have her best season yet and continue to write her name in history books across the board.

When asked about a probable starting lineup, McGinnis stated, "We are going to go with the best nine hitters. The girls know that its not if you are in the lineup in the beginning, it is who is in the lineup during conference play that counts."

The ladies on the field know that they have a common goal and they are striving for it every day. With the team word being "pumped up," the girls are playing for each other. They have the talent, ability, and mentality of a championship team, but are continuing to grow.



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

Junior infielder Whitney Elder looks to be the leading lady at the second base position.

ready and prepared for the OVC.

"The teams that we play in the small tournaments before conference play are all well respected in their conferences," replies McGinnis. "We are concerned about our conference because the OVC has grown and become more competitive over the

years because we have rounded and improved, including surprise Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois.

The two seniors on the team, Norton and Pappano, are leading the team in their own ways. It is very obvious that Pappano is enthusiastic and vocal about anything the team may do on the field. Norton leads by example by working hard and staying for extra practice in any area that she may need to improve.

The grass is freshly cut, the bases are white as snow, the infield is damp, and the lines are chalked. The Gamecock Softball team is prepared and ready for the Alabama State Hornets to come to University

Field tomorrow for the opening doubleheader at 3 pm and 5 pm. Admission is free to all events, so come out and support the talented young women of Jacksonville State Softball.

"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, Hand enjoys playing games - playstation games, that is. No matter what the sport, if it is in season, Hand plays it.

"Last year, my roommate (Brian) Booth and I built our own JSU baseball team on playstation. We tried to make it as realistic as possible. Like for (Eric) Beck, we put his power high up there but then for his speed... well not so high," laughed Hand. "Our team was College World Series champs. Our record was like 45-11. I think it is totally realistic though, so Omaha better watch out!"

An outdoor activity that Hand loves, is riding his horse, Whitecloud, whenever he is home. Although he had wanted a horse since he was eleven years old, it was not until Hand turned 15 that he received Whitecloud.

"One time we went on trail that was 27 miles in the mountains. To cool the horses off we took them swimming with us. It was a lot of fun but I don't want anyone thinking I am a cowboy or anything. I don't own wranglers or big belt buckles, I just love my horse," joked Hand.

All joking aside there are a few people close to Hand that have extremely influenced his life. His younger brother, Darren, 16, is also a pitcher and has looked up

proud of each other in their accomplishments although there is nothing like brother rivalry to keep the competition going.

Another huge support system for Hand is his parents, Don and Betty. Both have constantly been there for Hand, something that as he gets older he is learning to appreciate.

"My parents really have always been there for me. Sometimes they may have to get on my butt a little bit but that is the way it is and I am sure I usually deserve it," said Hand. "I honestly could never ask for two better parents, I just hope one day I can show them how much they really mean to me."

Many times with sports, it seems there is a common bond between a boy and his father. The relationship between Hand and his dad is no exception to this rule.

"My dad has truly gotten me where I am with baseball. Looking back, I remember thinking that some of the drills or exercises he had me doing in high school were crazy because at the time,

he was killing me," said Hand. "But now, I am really thankful he had me working so hard. Without his help, there is no way that I would be the pitcher I am right now."

As for the upcoming season, Hand believes JSU has a bright future.

"We have a lot of older, more experienced players this year. The majority of us have already been to regionals and cannot wait to get back again," said Hand. "This is going to be a big year for us. We know it and we are ready to accept that."



Photo Courtesy of Steve Latham

Junior pitcher Donovan Hand has earned the number one spot in the pitching rotation for the Gamecocks.

GET 2 KNOW: SOFTBALL OUTFIELDER DANIELA PAPPANO

By Chad Hoffman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

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 year 2007.

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 Mapleleafs

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 team-



Photo Courtesy Steve Latham

Senior Daniela Pappano looks to make a huge impact in her final season of Gamecock softball.

mates?
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 got to catch 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/
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 over 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.



Photo By Kim Wright

Senior forward Courtney Bradley led his team with 23 points on the night with 13 of them coming in the first half.



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

significant lead. The Racers battled their way out of the hole, and closed the half with a 7-0 run to take a 43-34 lead.

The Gamecocks attempted to get back in the game, but Murray opened the second half with a 7-2 run. JSU's chances to get back in the game gradually slipped away from them despite their efforts to close the gap. In the end, the Racers' transition game was too much for the Gamecocks, and Murray came away with an 82-61 defeat.

"We make no excuses in basketball," stated Geyer. "If you have a game, you have to step up, and we didn't do that."

digits. They were led by forward Joi 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



Photo By Kim Wright

Sophomore guard LaTonya McKinney led the Gamecocks with 14 points. Her efforts were still not enough in a huge 81-68 loss to Murray State. JSU will host Tennessee Tech on Thursday.

10-4 OVC). Down 52-19 with eight minutes left, JSU put together a 16-6 run over five minutes to cut the lead down to 2.

"Our run was fantastic," said Geyer. "We did a lot of things well, and it made for easier shots on the drive."

However, the run caused Murray State to fight harder to regain a

you have to step up, and we didn't do that."

In addition to McKinney's 14, junior guard Courtney Slaughter added 12 points while freshmen forward Erica West added 10 points off the bench.

The Racers had four of their five starters in double

Feb. 8 when they host the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. Tip-off at Pete Mathews Coliseum is set for 5 p.m., and the game can be heard on the Gamecock Sports Network, 91.9 FM.

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 t-shirts thrown to them for her efforts. Barker and Brown's mother got another shot at catching the t-shirts, and for their hard work, the crowd got more t-shirts sent their way via air gun and softball players.

The Gamecock ladies were introduced to the crowd during their routine five minute drill. The crowd rose to their feet and cheered along with the pitchers as they watched the position players do their fielding

exercise. Following the completion of their drills, the Gamecocks huddled and congratulated each other for a job they well-done.

Following the introduction of the players, coaches and training staff, Coach Wisener handed the microphone to the lady of the evening, Jana McGinnis.

"I woke up this morning, looked outside and wondered if we should have Fan Day inside," said McGinnis. "But I knew our fans would show up today, which is a sign for things to come this season."

After McGinnis' speech was done, the festivities continued. JSU's number one fan, Cocky, demonstrated the proper way to complete a dizzy bat race, even if it included falling on 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 catch 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 this 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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