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ENTERTAINMENT

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QUESTION of the WEEK

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

JSU an economic boon to Calhoun, Etowah Counties

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

Jacksonville State University is different things to different people. It can be a place for learning, a place for research or a place to blow thousands of dollars on beer. For economists, however, JSU is an economic engine, pumping nearly $100 million into the economy of Calhoun and Etowah Counties and providing jobs for over a thousand people.

With 8,619 students and 1,063 faculty and staff as of fall 2006 (the first term for which statistics are available), the university makes a sizable fact: in the population of the county and total workforce. So sizable, in fact, that JSU is the fourth-largest

See “Economic impact” page 3

Ask most people what they think of Paul Snow Stadium being upgraded. They generally tend to ask one question.

WHY?
Cafeteria meets high demands of students

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

The clock strikes noon, and Hopper Dining Hall is flooded with another wave of hungry students filing into the cafeteria. Staff members bustle about pushing carts heavy-laden with freshly washed dishes, filling students' plates with steaming entrees of their choice and rushing to ensure that lines are brief.

Mystery meat, Stern hairnet-wearing servers and never-ending lines may be the pillars of a stereotypical cafeteria scene, but the staff of Jacksonville State University's Hopper Dining Hall strives to abandon the ideas of old and rewrite students' conceptions of a cafeteria. Because JSU's dining hall is a voluntary dining facility, unlike many neighboring universities, the staff seeks to attract students by operating more like a restaurant than a cafeteria, according to Production Manager Chris Glenn.

"Our patrons choose to dine with us," Glenn said. "They're not forced like other colleges in the state that have a mandatory meal plan. You've gotta have the marketing, you have to give the students what they want."

First and foremost, students come bearing built-in, high expectations. Students expect food to be hot, flavorful and well-presented. Glenn said that these three wishes should be fulfilled every single time. With many students, he explained, one bad experience is enough to leave them with a lasting distaste for JSU's dining hall is a voluntary facility, unlike many neighboring

No mystery meat here

Cafeteria meets high demands of students

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

The stage was all set this past Saturday.
You see, with a win over Eastern Illinois, the Jacksonville State Gamecock football team would have almost been assured a playoff spot.
It was by far the team's biggest game of the year.

Never mind the final score (37-23 in favor of the other guys). We've all seen the same football movies. You know, the ones where in spite of the team's loss, the fans were there, screaming and cheering on every misguided play, chanting the name of every heroic underdog. Capacity stadiums, filled with fans who would love and crave nothing more than to see the team—

their team—win the big game, or at least leave bloody and bruised trying.

Saturday in Jacksonville, the big game was there. The blood and the bruises were there, too.
The fans, however, were not. Paul Snow Stadium, home of the Gamecock football team, seats about 15,000 fans. Saturday? The recorded attendance was 8,202. And those who were there say that number is being nice.

"If there were 8,000 people in that stadium, I will personally walk into JSU head coach Jack Crowe's office and French kiss him," as one anonymous attendee put it bluntly. Crowe put it frankly himself.

"The atmosphere didn't help us any," he told reporters after the game. "I don't know what we have to do to get people to realize that Eastern Illinois is always a big game."

Some said you could hear a pin drop in Paul Snow Stadium on Saturday, it was so quiet.

Again, this was the biggest game of the year.

JSU lost, sure. A team losing game can tell you that.
Some said you could hear a pin drop in Paul Snow Stadium on Saturday, it was so quiet.

But what makes JSU's situation so unique and so prone to criticism is the fact that those scheduled to play on Saturday, it was so quiet.

They want the stadium to be bigger. With more seats. Naturally, most who hear this idea have one similar question.

Why?

Bottom of its own state

In the state of Alabama, football is life. Anyone who has seen a 16-year-old linebacker's father crying during the second quarter of a September high school football game can tell you that.

JSU has the unfortunate burden of playing college football in a state with two gridiron kings: Alabama and Auburn. Oftentimes, they have to schedule their Saturday games in favor of the other.

See "COVER STORY," page 3

Dressing. My grandmother always makes it. I look forward to having it each year.

— T. C. Ray
JSU student

Next week's question:
What is your favorite part of the holidays?

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Tuesday was catfish day in the Jack Hopper Cafeteria. Here, Chef Tony Weaver puts some fresh hush puppies in the buffet. The "Cat" serves more like a restaurant than a typical school cafeteria. Photo by Matt McRae / The Chanticleer
Let's go out to the lobby

A customer with a sweet tooth peruses the wares at the Freshman Forum's bake sale fundraiser on Tuesday, Nov. 13. Members of the Forum manned a table in the TMB Food Court, stacked with baked goodies, pastries and other assorted confections designed to delight the senses and tickle the taste buds. The money raised will fund future Freshman Forum projects.

Photo by Toni Merritt / The Chanticleer

Electronic lecture hall

Distance Learning Week recognizes role of technology in the classroom

By Shalon Montgomery
Staff Writer

The week of Nov. 5-11, 2007 was designated National Distance Learning Week. The week was created to acknowledge the role of distance learning departments in modern higher education.

JSU's distance learning department is in charge of all online courses. Distance learning employees feel they have created a virtual community for students. The online courses have online chat rooms that grant students the ability to communicate with their virtual classmates and take exams. Online classes try to simulate the real course environment as much as possible.

According to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment and the Office of Information Technology, the online program is growing. Distance learning classes are currently offered at the university. Distance learning courses can be trying next semester is called Respondus Lockdown. It is a free download that comes with online tests and quizzes that will not allow anyone to click on anything other than the test or quiz in progress.

"JSU's distance learning department expects increasing school enrollment, letting students get lectures on podcasts and reaching students who do not have the possibility," Cooper said. "However, our plan is to increase support from the Office of Information Technology."
Saturday, November 17
- All I Really Need to Know..., Stone Center Second Stage, 9:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- All I Really Need to Know..., Stone Center Second Stage, 9:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 18
- All I Really Need to Know..., Stone Center Second Stage, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, November 19
A Tribute to Susan Herport Methvin, Houston Cole Library, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Southerners Band Banquet, Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Economic impact: JSU 4th largest employer in Calhoun

Cont. from page 1

employer in the county, according to the Calhoun County Economic Development Council. The Anniston Army Depot is the largest, with some 7,000 employees, according to the depot’s public affairs office.

JSU contributed nearly $88.8 million dollars directly to the economy of Calhoun and Etowah Counties in 1998, according to an economic impact study conducted by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CED).

The 1998 figures are the most recent statistics available. The CED has not conducted a follow-up study in the intervening decade, something the center’s director, Pat Shaddix, hopes to rectify in the near future.

“We just don’t have the [more recent] data. We need to bring it up to date,” Shaddix said.

The first total it from direct spending only. Using a concept called the “multiplier effect,” CED estimated how much total impact the nearly-$90 million would have in both counties.

“The concept of the multiplier is an important element to the [1998] report,” Dr. William Fielding, dean of the College of Commerce and Business Administration, wrote. “Expenditure multipliers indicate the average number of times that a dollar spent locally is re-spent in the local economy.”

JSU’s multiplier was 2.45, meaning that each of the $88.8 million was spent 2.45 times, making for a total of $217.6 million in Calhoun and Etowah Counties.

“But that’s quite a few years ago,” Shaddix says. “Today, we’re near the top as far as economic impact.”

The university’s contributions to the local economic picture come in many forms. There are obvious ways, such as student and faculty discretionary spending. That person-by-person spending goes straight to local retailers. Larger expenditures, such as departmental and administrative orders, also deliver an economic boost.

There is another aspect to JSU’s economic contributions to Calhoun County. Business and community leaders in municipalities throughout the county use JSU as a selling point, enticing residents and businesses to locate nearby.

“It’s probably one of the deciding factors for a lot of businesses that are thinking about moving into the area,” Dr. Fielding said.

Don Hopper, executive director of the county’s Economic Development Council, agreed that JSU is a big plus when it comes to marketing Calhoun County to potential homeowners and entrepreneurs.

“It’s a great impact,” Hopper said. “We recruit industry and manufacturers to Calhoun County, and [JSU] is an invaluable tool.”

The area must have an educated workforce, according to Hopper, and having one means higher-paying jobs and better opportunities for both graduates and incoming workers from outside the county.

The concluding summary of the 1998 CED report read that the economic models used in the study did not take into consideration several factors, including on-campus religious organizations, political and sociological effects on the area and ROTC spending.

For that reason, JSU’s full economic impact may very well be higher, even more vital to the economic health of Calhoun County as a whole.

COVER STORY: Why build on to Paul Snow Stadium?

Cont. from page 1

at the same time that one of these schools is playing.

It is safe to say that there are more people in Jacksonville who would rather sit at home and watch the Tide or the Tigers play on TV than they would take one of the empty concrete seats at Paul Snow on a muggy October afternoon.

Athletic director Jim Fuller is well aware of this fact. There’s just not much he can do about it.

The attendance figures for 2007 show it. Of JSU’s five home football games in 2007, the average attendance was 9,767 according, to numbers provided by JSU’s sports information department.

There are those who think that the quick fix of moving all of JSU’s home games to Thursday nights to avoid competing with Auburn or Alabama games.

However, JSU’s lowest attendance of the year came on its only Thursday night game, an Oct. 4 game against Tennessee-Martin. Only 5,982 were reported to attend that game.

“The scheduling of the games is on me,” Fuller said. “But we have to keep our competition’s interest in mind, too. There’s also things like Preview Day that are also taking place.

Underneath the expensive new scoreboard and video board sit very few fans during the Oct. 20 game against Tennessee Tech. Photo by Matt McRae / The Chanticleer

termed as a “cupcake”—an easy win for a big-time school.

There is no shame in accepting money from the likes of an Ohio State or Florida to play you if you are a smaller school that to make up for that money, Paul Beetzly, Assistant Professor of History and outspoken opponent to a potential move up in divisions, the students’ tuition would likely be the main the rooms as part of a stadium annex that could also house a luxury skybox and a much needed upgraded press box.

The proposed annex, which is still very early in the development
is on me," Fuller said. "But we have to keep our competition's interest in mind, too. There's also things like Preview Day and Homecoming when we have to account for all of our out-of-town visitors."

**Money talks, but can it play?**

To get the funds to pay for the expected renovations and upgrades (more seats, a new press box and luxury skyboxes) there is only one ticket.

Football—it is the one sport that makes money at practically every university.

Fuller recalls the first time he saw new tennis courts at the Kress and luxury variety of foods is paramount. According to Fuller, "we built it? Football money."

"I asked [Alabama's athletic director] Mal Moore, 'How did ya'll build this court?' And he said, 'Fuller, how do you think we built it?' Football money."

To make money in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division IAA, JSU's current division) a football team usually either has to win its conference, something JSU did twice in 2003 and 2004, or receive money from an Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division IA) school who is looking for an easy win.

In the world of big-time college football, JSU is what is called a "Knowledgeable" and "seasoned," and he estimated that, according to NCAA information, only 23 universities out of the 1,300 to 1,500 meals daily and is a "unique facility." He said that students particularly seem to enjoy his meatball marinara when coupled with any kind of pasta.

"They love chicken," Frost said. "You could cook chicken every day and they would eat it."

Fuller saw the need for housing on campus. Other than traditional dorm room and shared facilities. What he proposed was including a luxury skybox and a much needed upgraded press box.

The proposed annex, which is still very early in the development process, would provide revenue from not only students who rent the rooms, but also from people interested in renting out the skyboxes (most likely corporate sponsors).

"It's the truest unique deal," Fuller said. "We need both [rooming and stadium upgrades]. The question is, 'Can we combine them both?'

To appease the detractors, Fuller is well aware how to start.

"With a winning football team, "I know it all starts there," Fuller said.

Beezly, an Appalachian state alum, said, "People know them, now."

As for the stadium upgrade, Beezly is like many who simply, ask, "Why now?"

"Honestly, when was the last time you couldn't get a ticket for a JSU game?"

**Cafeteria: Hopper Dining Hall serves over 1,300 meals a day**

Cont. from page 1

"The Caf."

"You might do something a hundred times and it be consistent and on the money, but if you foul up one time, that's the one that you're going to hear about," Glenn said.

Hopper Dining Hall serves up a total of 1,300 to 1,500 meals each day. Breakfast, the hall's lowest popular meal, makes up approximately 150 to 200 of the daily total. Lunch and dinner normally range from 400 to 650 meals.

Glenn called his staff "knowledgeable" and "seasoned," and he estimated that, between them all, they have 600 to 700 years of experience.

Glenn said despite the staff's varied personalities and backgrounds, they manage to all work toward a solitary goal.

"The goal is to keep our customers, our students, happy and coming back, [the staff] thoroughly understand[s] that without the student, we wouldn't have a job," Glenn said.

In order to satisfy customers, Glenn said that offering the right combination and variety of foods is paramount. According to Glenn, JSU students have all the usual favorites and are not quite as health-conscious as they may profess.

"They say, 'We want to eat healthy, we want to eat healthy, but where's the budget and the fries?'" Glenn said. "Pizza is also always one of my most popular stations."

Vegetables, however, are not nearly as hot a commodity, according to Exhibition Chef Jerry Yates, who began cooking in 1975 and came to JSU in 2005.

"A lot of students believe that once they're away from home, no one can make them eat vegetables," Yates said. He said that students particularly seem to enjoy his meatball marinara when coupled with any kind of pasta.

"German-born cook Ramona Frost, who came to work at JSU just two months ago, said that she too has noticed students veering away from vegetarian dishes and favoring standard American food."

"They love chicken," Frost said. "You could cook chicken every day and they would eat it."

Glenn also mentioned that unlike in other buffet-style restaurants that boast an elaborate dessert table, desserts are not just a high priority for his clientele."

"Here, I'll get more people to eat my salad bar than my dessert bar," Glenn said.

"They're coming in to fill a void and know they're not going to do it with a dessert."

Yates said that though many students do shy away from the more ethnic, unusual dishes, international students are consistently food adventurers."

"They're willing to try anything that's cooked," Yates said. "Then they come back for seconds."

A quality relationship between students and dining hall workers is also key, according to Glenn. Yates, who said that he is beginning to learn students' names, called his relationship with students "cordial" and of a "good rapport."

"I respect them as they're going through college, and they give me the same," Yates said.

Hopper Dining Hall serves up a total of 1,300 to 1,500 meals daily and is a "unique place" that is constantly evolving, according to Glenn.

"They still enjoy country cooking, traditional Southern entrees, but over the years we changed," Glenn said. "The diversity level at Jackson State has really grown."
We’re (sadly) proving them all right

They are the Greatest Generation. They are our grandfathers and grandmothers, for most of us anyway.

This is where most current college students to twentysomethings fall.

But little ingrates. Then I sit back and look at their grievances. And it hits me—they are absolutely right.

It’d be great for me, as a 24 year-old pre-law student, to just sit back and let the things I care about not matter to the world. But it won’t. Asking questions for a career and a country is more important than being a 24-year-old pilot in the Great Depression.
In response to Matt McRae’s letter concerning the “state of the union” with respect to modern music and who the modern generation supports, well done.

I really enjoyed his article, and a lot can be said of it. He made points concerning modern music and the tendency of many artists to cover hits. These musicians rarely have many “followers” (I am referring to the way iTunes formats bios) and are less deserving of respect and, more importantly, our money.

When people get tired enough of listening to the “(It’s the) Same Old Song” (another Motown hit—this time the Four Tops), I believe the more productive action would be to take the time to find the original version and download that song instead.

After all, older artists, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, never made much for their “more noble” efforts back then. Even singer/songwriters got far less than they should have. Most of the revenue went to the record labels.

Life isn’t always fair (sigh): But, now there is a way to reward those whose performances did inspire others due reverence and remuneration to the innovative original artists they are.

— Dr. Jeffrey Hedrick, assistant professor of communication and the “Headmaster of Soul” (92)

Kevin Jeffers
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I enjoyed the article on the state of music. Right on all accounts. Where the hell is music headed? You really have to wonder what the state of the union is.

They are our grandfathers and grandmothers, for most of us anyway. They were our WWII vets, and they gave birth to our fathers and mothers, or the Baby Boomers, who are the ones currently sucking up all the Social Security. And the ones who run the country right now (How poorly so is best saved for another column by a better writer.)

The Baby Boomers’ biggest claim to society will probably go down as this: They gave birth to us.

But who are we?

Roughly sixty years of Americans before us are painted into two broad corners in history.

Us? We’ve been called many things.

Yuppies were in the 1980’s. They made some money, did a lot of cocaine and made some really annoyingly bad music.

Generation X was the one that seemed to catch on with most people. They are the biggest group of our generation. They are the ones who listened to grunge music and started this whole personification of our generation that has stuck with each of our sub-generations—we are all apathetic.

Then, somewhere in the mid-1990’s, technology started to dictate society. Windows 95 and Bill Gates unwittingly bred a whole new generation: Generation Y.

They are our college students to twentysomethings.

See, to the “them,” we are the ones who are able to keep up with the fast-as-lightening technological advances that happen in front of us every day. Technology scares the Baby Boomers.

Generation X is aging but able to function a laptop enough to get by.

Generation Y? Now we’re in the driver’s seat. But to them, we’re too young and too inexperienced to know how the world really works.

We’re also apathetic, lazy and unwilling to listen to authority.

There’s another generation emerging behind us—already. They call this one the “Millenials.” Apparently, they are going to shape the job market, thus the economy, on their own terms, because their parents for whatever reason raised them to believe they could get whatever they want, however they want.

Now, as a tweener between one of these confusing generation gaps and another generation, I think it is clear we aren’t the future. We are the future!

The Baby Boomers were the future once. Now? Well, soon anyway, they’ll be as obsolete as our WWII vets. Honestly, how many of us care for them to tell us how ungrateful we are anymore?

Sad thing is, we’ll be obsolete much sooner than our fathers. Then our ungrateful children can take over the reigns of society and apathy.

Oh well.

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Music Corner

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Birds of Avalon
Bazaar Bazaar

Birds of Avalon, a band from Raleigh, North Carolina, just had their newest album Bazaar Bazaar debut earlier in May of this year. The album features funky songs with a classic rock foundation. Two of the band members and guitarists, Cheeze Kumar and Paul Siler, originally belonged to a band known as The Cherry Valence. After seven years, they felt the need to quit the band and move on to something different. Along with quitting The Cherry Valence, they also got married. Coming together later with Craig Tilley, Scott Nurkin and David Mueller, they became what is now Birds of Avalon. Since uniting, the band has toured around the U.S. and has recorded a self-titled E.P. Their sound has led to them being credited for their originality and use of killer instruments. Featured on the album are mostly rock ballads with poplyrics and classic beats. They throw a twist on the common rock song with their tribal sound and unique mixing. Songs for their originality and use of killer instruments.

B+B

ALSO IN ROTATION

The Hives
The Black and White Album

The Hives have returned with their all-new studio album, The Black and White Album. They received help from Pharrell Williams on "Well All Right!" and "That's Right, I'm Back!" and from Craig Tilley, Scott Nurkin, and David Mueller. They have experienced success at home and abroad. However, they need to quit the band and move on to something different. Along with quitting The Cherry Valence, they also got married. Coming together later with Craig Tilley, Scott Nurkin and David Mueller, they became what is now Birds of Avalon. Since uniting, the band has toured around the U.S. and has recorded a self-titled E.P. Their sound has led to them being credited for their originality and use of killer instruments. Featured on the album are mostly rock ballads with poplyrics and classic beats. They throw a twist on the common rock song with their tribal sound and unique mixing. Songs for their originality and use of killer instruments.

B-

BOOK REVIEW

Automatic 2nd date?
Not with this book

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

If you're anything like me, a date can be fraught with raw nerves, sweaty palms and questions. Lots of questions.

Am I talking about myself too much? Should I ask about my date's background? How do I work my encyclopedic knowledge of Sudanese war atrocities into the conversation? When's the right time to mention my outstanding warrants?

You know, typical concerns for the date-goer.

Well, fret no more, friends, for Victoria Michael Rogers has descended from the heavens to provide answers to these and many other queries.

In her most recent book, The Automatic 2nd Date, Rogers sets up a how-to guide for impressing your date. Strangely, she does not suggest outright deception and manipulation. It's my measured opinion that such an exclusion is a gross oversight. Both have served me well in the past. But anyways, it's her book, not mine. On with the show.

The book's chapters revolve around standard first-date issues: first impressions, the art of conversation, what to wear, even how to handle the goodnight kiss. The book is eerily textbook-like in that each section ends with a "chapter recap" of sorts and "automatic journaling."

The journaling exercises encourage the reader to make lists, practice newly learned techniques with a friend and other activities that will generally ruin people's impressions of the reader and everything he or she stands for.

Perhaps the most dubious advice given in 2nd Date is a list of questions Rogers provides to jumpstart conversation with your date. Most of the questions seem innocent enough ("What are your favorite current TV shows?") but some immediately stand out as off-limits in my mind, such as "What's your relationship with your dad?"

Imagine the possible response: "Well, he drank a lot, gambled away my college fund and left when I was nine. Say, this creme brulee is exquisite, wouldn't you say?"

Needless to say, asking the wrong question (and there's more than one on the list) would most certainly eliminate the possibility of an automatic second date, not to mention eliciting a horrified stare from your dinner companion.

Aside from unwittingly triggering traumatic memories for your date, Rogers offers very little groundbreaking information that would immediately guarantee dating bliss.

Don't dress like a slavk, mind your manners and feign self-esteem. You probably don't need a 232-page paper-back to tell you that.

So we arrive at the ultimate logical test of the book's premise: Will following the tips contained therein lead to an "automatic" second date?

Eh, maybe so, maybe not. That's life.

Me? I'm going to live a lonely, sheltered life with my cats, my Berlitz records and my Victrola, emerging from the house only long enough to scream "automatic" second date? They'll fear me. They'll revile me. They'll call me. Old Man Hollingsworth, they'll call me. And in the end, isn't that what we all want?
GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT IT ON YOUR RESUME.

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U.S.ARMY
FOOTBALL — EASTERN ILLINOIS 37, JSU 23

Playing for next year

Gamecocks’ post-season hopes fall against Eastern Illinois for the third straight year

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

Mistakes ruined JSU’s chances of an at-large playoff bid, as Eastern Illinois beat the Gamecocks 37-23 at Paul Snow Stadium Saturday afternoon.

A fumble on the game’s first play — a razzle-dazzle play that went wrong — led to an early Eastern Illinois lead, and the Gamecocks continued to shoot themselves in the foot throughout.

“We could have played it close to the vest,” said coach Jack Crowe, “but we thought we could loosen them up.”

In addition to the early error, the Gamecocks missed an extra point, threw an interception for a touchdown and allowed a kickoff return for a touchdown.

“This kind of performance in this kind of game... it was not a very good attempt to position ourselves to play in a national playoff,” coach Jack Crowe said.

“In our two biggest games this year, we’ve turned it over five times and haven’t forced any. You can’t win that way.”

Cedric Johnson’s brilliant first half kept the close. The junior quarterback — playing the entire game for the first time this season — threw two touchdown passes and ran for a third.

He became the first player in school history to have 100 passing yards and 100 receiving yards in the

See “Next season,” page 7

VOLLEYBALL

Gamecocks’ improbable weekend earns share of regular season title

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

After Jacksonville State’s victory over Eastern Kentucky on Saturday, the Gamecocks accomplished something few would have predicted a week ago.

Thanks to that win, coupled with a victory over Morehead State the night before, the Gamecocks came from nowhere to win a share of the Ohio Valley Conference Championship.

In addition to clinching a tie with Morehead and Southeast Missouri, JSU won the tiebreaker and will host the conference tournament this weekend.

The members of the JSU volleyball team knew coming into the weekend that their chances of wrapping up the top spot were slim to none.

Morehead State possessed a two-game lead over JSU on Friday, but the Gamecocks played the role of the spoiler.

They defeated the Eagles on Friday night (30-25, 30-27, 22-30, 32-30), cutting the deficit to one game with one to play.
Sava was next in a time of 32:38.30, knocking down 11, and Joi Watts and Caitlin Vorbeck added 10 apiece.

The Gamecocks had five players reach double-digits and will seek their third straight tournament title.

The Gamecocks will host the 2007 Ohio Valley Conference tournament this weekend at Pete Mathews Coliseum and will seek their third straight tournament title. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com

However, it was Whitten who stood out the most on Saturday afternoon. She has been on fire in late record-setting class in JSU history, were honored before the match.

"If you look at what they have done over their four years, it's pretty amazing," Nold said. "I couldn't be more proud of a group of girls to come through. This year as much as anything, we have such a young team, and they have been able to pass down the attitude and work ethic that we want to make sure that we always see here in our program. We are lucky to have had them this year because I can't think of a better group for people to follow."

Breit pitched in 12 kills to go along with 18 digs to record her 25th double-double of the season. Nichols knocked down 11 kills on a .455 attack percentage. Watts added five kills and Vierling came up with 11 digs in their final regular season match at JSU.

The point is this: Everyone else is doing it. Why can't we?

Think about our jerseys as they are now.

As a person that's lived in Calhoun County my entire life, I know that people used to joke that JSU's uniforms looked a lot like Alabama's. That was a reason for the uniform change in 2005, and it was a great idea.

Things like jersey swaps and special gimmicks seem to fire up a team and their fans, and if you ask me, a fire needs to be lit under the collective ass of our student body and our fans.

If you disagree with that, then give me one logical reason why we only had just over 8,000 people in attendance for the biggest game of the year.

Patrick Swafford is the sports editor for the Chanticleer.

He can be reached at 782-5703 or at chantysports@gmail.com

You can read his weekly blog every Monday at chantysports.blogspot.com

By Will Payne
Staff Sports Writer

Jacksonville State's men's cross country team went into the NCAA South Region Championship with high hopes coming off of their best season in school history.

However, from start to finish, the Gamecocks found themselves struggling.

"We all went into the meet with some pretty big goals and when things started to unravel it just started snowballing," head coach Steve Ray said.

Four of JSU's five top runners finished within 40 seconds of one another.

Junior Jeff Rhodes placed the highest, finishing in a time of 32:38.30 to place 54th.

Freshman Marcus Sava was next placing 59th in a time of 32:54.09.

Senior Ryan McKay placed 60th. It was the first time McKay finished outside the top 10 the entire year.

"I know that out guys are somewhat sad right now and I feel bad for all of them, especially senior Ryan McKay," Ray said. "He doesn't get another shot at this thing, but he certainly has left his mark and given his teammates plenty to shoot for in the future."

The performance from JSU can probably be drawn to too much rest during the conference peak and I attempted to keep the guys on the same training format," Ray said. "Looking back, they probably had too much rest and as a result were a little flat."

Despite the poor performance, the men, have plenty to hang their hat on.

The team defeated 85 of their 94 opponents this season with seven losses being to SEC teams.

They also won two meets this season and placed in the top four in seven of eight.

As far as next year is concerned, the Gamecocks have plenty to look forward to.

"We do lose our number one and six runners to graduation, but I think we are returning three really strong guys," Ray said. "If we can land two or three guys of the same caliber, then hopefully we'll pick up from where we left off this year."
MEN'S HOOPS

JSU wins on record-breaking night

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

JSU's men's basketball team started the season with two very different opponents and two very different results.

The Gamecocks traveled to Georgia last Friday and were beaten soundly, 107-65, before dominating Tennessee Temple in the home opener Monday night by a 99-74 margin.

In the early going it appeared JSU would give Georgia a competitive game. Despite being a 20-point underdog in a hostile environment, the Gamecocks trailed only 47-41 at the half.

But a 21-0 run by Georgia to start the second half ended any hopes of an upset.

"In the second half they just asserted themselves inside," said coach Mike LaPlante. "They got our big guys in foul trouble, and we just couldn't hit a shot for a while."

Freshman Jeremy Bynum was the only player who ever got a hot hand, as he finished with 19 points. No other Gamecock managed double figures.

JSU went 13 possessions without scoring to start the second half, but LaPlante said it was a learning experience.

"We kept pressing and kept running because that's the way we're going to play all year," he said. "If I wanted to lose by less, we'd have just come down the floor and held the ball. But that wouldn't have helped us get better."

The results showed immediately, as the Gamecocks put on an impressive show for the home fans Monday night.

The 99 points against Tennessee Temple was the highest total by JSU since 2004, and the Gamecocks broke or tied several team records.

JSU made 19 three-pointers, which is a school and Ohio Valley Conference record.

Will Ginn made eight of his 16 attempts - tying school records for makes and attempts - and Bynum made seven of 15.

"It's a good thing, but I credit it to my teammates who kept getting me open looks," said Ginn. "That's what I'm supposed to do, knock down open shots."

Bynum took the same approach, even after struggling to a 1-8 start from the field.

"A shooter's got to shoot," he said. "My coaches believe in me, and they want me to keep taking those open looks."

LaPlante said that he wants his team to take those shots.

"The majority of both their shots were open," he said. "Now, they were a little deep a couple times, but those are the kind of shots we want them to take."

Tennessee Temple also shot the ball very well from beyond the arc - its 14-for-30 performance kept the game close for a while - but it was an afterthought because of JSU's display.

The Gamecocks' depth began taking its toll late in the first half, as the Gamecocks turned a 26-25 lead with 10 minutes left into a 51-37 halftime lead. JSU's bench outscored Tennessee Temple's 30-2.

The continuous full-court press led to 25 fast-break points for the Gamecocks, while Tennessee Temple did not manage any.

The fast-paced game also led to Tennessee Temple going to a zone for much of the game, which accounted for the 43 long-range attempts.

"Normally we're going to take about 70 shots and about 30 will be threes," LaPlante said. "If a team is going to play a lot of zone, that number is going to be higher."

WOMEN'S HOOPS

JSU falls to Kennesaw in OT for second straight year

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

Over the weekend, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team played an overtime thriller with Kennesaw State for the second time in as many years.

Unfortunately for the Gamecocks, they weren't quite so lucky this time around, as the Owls came away victorious 74-70 in the first regular season game of the year.

"Overall, it was a really good game," JSU head coach Becky Geyer said. "Ironically, it was the exact same game that we had last year against them, but we won. It was a good game, and I think we learned a lot from it."

The Gamecocks had to claw their way back into the game late to even have a shot at overtime.

Down by three with 17 seconds remaining, McMichael hit a three to tie the game at 61-61. The Owls were.

Jacksonville State guard Will Ginn tied school records for most 3-pointers made (8) and attempted (16) in the Gamecocks' 99-74 win over Tennessee Temple Monday night. Photo by James Harkin / JSUFan.com

of them to put it in overtime."

McMichael was a huge part of JSU's success. She poured in 18 points to lead the Gamecocks and made several key shots when the game was on the line.

"Eren McMichael played well. She hit some big shots from the outside," Geyer said.

The Gamecocks' youth and inexperience showed late in overtime, as JSU turned the ball over five times in the extra session.

The majority of the Gamecock turnovers were forced by Kennesaw's Gretya Kelley, whose three steals in closing minutes set up six Owl points.

"Kelley was just exceptional. I think she single-handedly took that game over. Her steals came at crucial times," Geyer said. "For us, we just weren't patient and didn't take care of the ball. We have to learn from that and just value every possession. She just had some big-time steals, and when you steal it out in the backcourt like that, it's a huge boost."

Felicia Jones was solid for Kennesaw, pouring in 18 points to help her team to victory.

"We knew Felicia was going to be a problem," Geyer said. "It's tough to get a good defensive effort on her."

The Owls out-rebounded the Gamecocks 40-32, while the Gamecocks hit 42 more shots than their opponents.

"We just didn't do enough at the defensive end," Geyer said. "We gave up a lot of second chances to the other team."
The Gamecocks had to claw their way back into the game late to even have a shot at overtime. Down by three with 17 seconds remaining, McMichael hit a three to tie the game up at 61-61. The Owls answered with only 1.6 seconds remaining.

Without a timeout the Gamecocks had no other alternative but to launch the ball the length of the court and score to send the game to OT.

"We ran what we call our prayer play, because you need to pray as the ball is in the air," JSU head coach Becky Geyer said. "Even McMichael got fouled as we were catching it, so she had two shots. She made both.

"It's a two-edged sword. I don't think you can play like that - 'backyard as I call it - and not get caught sometimes," Crowe said that Matt Hardin will start this week's game and Johnson has been nursing a minor leg injury.

"We're disappointed, but we've got to find a way to focus on this last game now," said defensive tackle John Scott. "Winning the last game is important to us seniors who are leaving, and we can leave next year's team with the right taste."

Next season: JSU travels to SEMO next

Cont. from page 6

same game.

"It takes a special player to pull that off," said Crowe. "Some of the plays he's made, I don't think anyone else in the league could have made."

But Johnson couldn't win the game on his own, and the Gamecocks inability to stop Panther running back Ademola Adeyemi left them trailing 23-20 at the half.

After allowing a back to pass 100 yards in a game all season, the Gamecocks allowed 106 yards to Adeyemi in the first half.

The defense shored up in the second half, and did not allow EIU's offense to score, but it was too late.

Not only were the Gamecocks limited to three points, the offense gave up a touchdown of its own. Trailding 30-23 with just over three minutes left, Johnson was intercepted for the first time in 112 passes attempts.

The play came on 4th and 2, and was an attempted screen to tight end Deonte Carter. EIU defensive end Michael Torres read the play and ran 40 yards for the clinching touchdown.

"It was a bad throw," Johnson said. "I shouldn't have made the throw. That was a mistake. I probably should have just run it."

Crowe said that while the error did cost them, Johnson's performance was all that kept the game competitive.

"The guy we tried to get to run the ball the most (Daniel Jackson) had 12 carries for 2.8 yards (per rush), and the guy we didn't design to run the ball had 100 yards," he said. "It's a two-edged sword. I don't think you can play like that - 'backyard as I call it - and not get caught sometimes."

Crowe said that Matt Hardin will start this week's game and Johnson has been nursing a minor
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