Banner may be to blame for missing checks

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

Many JSU students received financial aid refund checks on Monday, Sept. 10. Some put the money in the bank, some spent it on books, some on less savory expenditures. However, some students, mostly those on scholarships, did not get any of those options. Their checks were held up due to an error in the financial aid office, meaning they may not see their money for another week.

Drama student Adam Ellis was among those taken aback by the delay. “I go to pick up my check, and it was not in the mailbox,” Ellis said. “So I go the financial aid office to make an inquiry.” There, Ellis said, workers told him that due to a processing glitch, his check would not be ready until Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Another student, Kim Stark, was told to wait up to two weeks for her check. “Anyone who had a scholarship or a loan would have to wait until Wednesday,” Stark said. “If it wasn’t in by Wednesday, it would be in next Wednesday.”

The glitch originated in computer processing, according to JSU Financial Aid chief Vickie Adams. “She confirmed that students who did not get their checks would have to wait for manual processing to sort through the delay.

Adams indicated that JSU’s new Banner system is partly responsible for the problem. “There were some issues in the [older] Legacy system,” Adams said. “But with the new Banner system, third-party contracts are going to have to be set up manually, and that’s created a little bit of an issue.”

Third-party contracts include Alabama’s PACT college tuition plan and other outside sources of college funding other than direct government aid.

See “Missing money,” page 2

Bookstore blues

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

Most students will tell you that purchasing textbooks is a painful experience at best.

Randall Stephens, store manager of the campus bookstore located in the TMB, points to textbook publishers and says the matter is out of his hands. “Publishers come in here and see that we have used books and try every way in the world to put us out of them,” Stephens said.

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Stephens, who has worked at the bookstore for nine years, has witnessed firsthand the changes that the textbook business has undergone.

When he first came to JSU, the bookstore was able to buy many used books, both as buybacks from students and from wholesalers. “Publishers were evidently hurt-

burt recently came face-to-face with this tactic when purchasing his Macroeconomics textbook. In an attempt to save money, Lambert buys many of his textbooks online.

This time, however, there was a hitch in his plan. An access code for Blackboard, required by Lambert’s instructor, was enclosed in the edition of the book sold by both local bookstores.

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Dog days

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

On Sept. 7, the U.S. House and Senate voted to approve a boost to student financial aid totaling nearly $21 billion.

But not everyone will reap its benefits.

The College Cost Reduction Act is now headed to President Bush’s desk for his approval.

The Act calls for the cutting of interest rates students must pay on subsidized Stafford loans, increasing the maximum amount available for Pell grants and tuition assistance for students who agree to teach in low-income areas, such as urban schools.

The maximum amount for Pell grants, designed for the poorest of college students, will go up from $4,310 a year currently, to $5,400 a year by 2012.

Interest rates on subsidized (or government-funded) student loans will decrease from 6.8 percent this year to 3.4 percent over the next four years.

To be sure, there are caveats.

Lenders say the changes will force them to cut the services they can offer. In addition, only a select few borrowers will qualify for the interest-rate cut, and the reduction won’t be offered to students at all schools.

The money to pay for the increase in student aid will come from slashing subsidies Congress pays to private lenders who make Stafford and PLUS loans.

The CCRA was a major goal of the Democratic-controlled Congress when it convened in January.

Three of Alabama’s seven Representatives voted in favor of the measure: Democrats Bud Cramer and Artur Davis, and Republican Mike Rogers.

On the Senate side, both Republicans Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions supported the bill.

There were indications President Bush would sign the bill, despite the administration’s opposition to the interest rate cuts.
Saturday afternoon fever

Members of the Marching Ballerinas pose in their new uniforms before Saturday's home football game against Chattanooga. The Ballerinas performed with the Southerners during halftime of the game. From left to right: Jeana Gilbert, Lacy Sherrell, Jessica Andrews, Whitney Gray, Olivia Anne, Ashley Vanderburg and Katie Gray. Photo by Toni Manitis/The Chanticleer

JSU remembers 9/11, six years later

By Zach Childree
Staff Reporter

JSU students and members of the community gathered at Leone Cole Auditorium for a ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 11 to remember the sixth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The theme of this year's program was Restoring Hope.

The master of ceremonies was Jason Wright, Editor of the Mimosa.

“We're here to remember the lives lost on that fateful day as well as those who still believe that there was a lesson in all of it.

“The message we were given that day was “We are one.”

Even in unity, Americans still disagree. There is still controversy surrounding the war in Iraq and its connection to the events of 9/11, something keynote speaker LTC Henry “Chip” Hester noted.

- From JSU News Wire
The Week in Events

Thursday, September 13
- Interfraternity Council Meeting, 302 TMB, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Balancing Your Debt, 303 TMB, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- NPHC Mini Convocation, TMB Auditorium 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, September 14
- NPHC General Council Meeting, 220 Stephenson Hall. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 17
- Congressman Mike Rogers, TMB Lobby. 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Miss Black and Gold Pageant, Leon Cole Auditorium. 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
- Freshman Forum Mandatory Applicant Meeting, TMB Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 18
- Organizational Council Meeting, TMB Auditorium. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Health Fair/Workshops, TMB Auditorium. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free HIV rapid testing.

Wednesday, September 19
- Latin Dance Party, Alumni House. 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Congressman Artur Davis speaks at the 9/11 Remembrance at the Leon Cole Auditorium on Tuesday, Sept. 11. The event was held to remember the tragic day six years ago. Photo by Eric Beck! The Chanticleer

Missing money: Financial aid says new Banner system could be reason

Cont. from page 1

Adams pointed out that a small percentage of the over 8,000 financial aid checks distributed by the university were affected.

She said the goal of the Financial Aid Office is to get money to students as soon as possible, but estimated it could take more than a week to get all the checks sent out.

"Certain scholarships are required to be set up manually, and that's just the fact right now," Adams said.

Nevertheless, the consequences affected students' pocketbooks immediately.

"There are a lot of people out there who don't have books," Ellis said. "There are people whose rent was due, groceries - all the things not having money can affect."

Stark was one of those people.

"My rent was due last Wednesday, and if we don't get my rent paid, I have four days to get out of my house," Stark said.

"I would have to commute, and I can't do that.

"I would be homeless."
Alabama's student presidents speak out for rights, lower book prices

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

JSU SGA President David Jennings was one of several Alabama university student presidents to attend the first meeting of the University Student President Council (USPC) in Montgomery on Friday, Sept. 7.

According to Jennings, the group was formed out of the presidents' overall examinations for the need to promote the values of higher education.

"The idea behind this is to have one voice, not several different voices expressing their concerns," Jennings said.

One main agenda to come out of the meeting was the consensus among the student presidents to lobby for legislation to help alleviate the exorbitant costs of textbooks.

Several concerns of book prices were examined, including the publishing of new editions of select textbooks every 3.5 years, "bundling," or packaging many books with items such as CDs that teachers never incorporate, and how to solve these problems.

"We feel it's important to help with the costs of textbooks," Jennings said. "For a college student, $70 is a lot of money."

According to research provided by those in attendance of the meeting, Alabama is one of only nine states to not have legislation governing textbook prices.

Among the other issues brought up at the meeting was the necessity of a public relations campaign.

The group was formed out of Student Teams Advocating Realistic Solutions (STARS), a group sponsored by the Higher Education Partnership. The HEP is responsible for coordinating the Higher Education Day Rally each year.

Next year's Higher Education Day Rally is scheduled for March 6, 2008, on the front steps of the Alabama Statehouse in Montgomery.

Student presidents from Alabama, Auburn, UA-Huntsville, Troy, Auburn-Montgomery, Montevallo and UAB were among the representatives in attendance, according to Jennings.

COVER STORY: Much maligned Harris gives his take

The week that Harris wrote the doomed columns happened to fall on a week in August when Dr. Meehan was on vacation. In such instances, the columns would usually be submitted to his immediate Vice President, Joe Serviss.

That week, Serviss was also on vacation. The articles were then supposed to be submitted to another one of the school's vice presidents.

Harris never knew who signed off on the articles.

It is still unclear whose eyes saw the articles before being sent to The Jacksonville News.

Either way, Harris does not pass blame to anyone but himself.

"No matter who saw the articles last, only I knew my source," Harris says. "Again, I just simply forgot to say where I got my information. I was in no position to."

The pain

Al Harris sits in a room that is cluttered with boxes. On his desk are his stamps. On his computer is an open Word document. It's that of a typed letter to the editors of a couple of publications. He still wants his word, his side, his voice out there.

"It's tough when you think no one's listening," Harris says.

He has only three seats in the room. His plush computer chair is the only one a man with his deteriorated posture should have any business sitting in. The other two are wooden stools.

He takes one of the stools if he has guests, arch support or no.

After an hour or so in that stool, he grabs his neck. His eyes tear up. He is in obvious, excruciating pain. Much more than a man of 54 years old - who looks even 10 years older than that - should be in.

He still smiles.

"Sorry, I'm not used to talking this much," he says. But he has a lot to say. A man with no hope but to speak to what others will not listen usually will have a lot to say.

Wouldn't you?

"I know people look at me and see a man that I'm really not," Harris says. "What he's not is someone with an ill will in his bones."

"I love Bill Meehan. He has been a friend of mine for several years," Harris says. "I like to think he still calls me his friend, too."

Al Harris is a man who made a mistake. One he says he will forever regret.

"You know people always say this, but if I could go back and relive one day, just one, it'd be that day."

Then the pain just might be a little more bearable.
"I was in no condition to be writing," Harris says. "It was still stupid on my part."

"Town and Gown" now attributes any contributing authors. Although Harris says he never minded ghostwriting for his boss and his friend, he agrees with attributing the ghostwriters.

"That's the way it should be," Harris says.

The myth
With the firestorm in the local media surrounding what Harris refers to as the "Meehan/Harris weenie roast," misconception was bound to occur.
One such misconception that Harris would like to clear up is that he was not fired for the plagiarized articles.
Harris actually retired in January, 2007. He only continued to serve as ghostwriter for Meehan's columns at the request of Meehan himself, Harris, the friend and loyal colleague he was, obliged.
Harris was to continue the duties until Meehan and Joe Serviss, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, could find a suitable replacement.
"Bill [Meehan] always told me never to do more than I physically could," Harris says. "He was always very kind with me, very accommodating."
Harris continued to serve the news bureau on a limited basis, in spite of his physical limitations.

The truth
Important to note is that Meehan never actually signed off on the articles in question himself, which was usually the case for "Town and Gown."

Bookstore: Publishers driving up costs for students
Cont. from page 1

Though Stephens does attempt to cut costs for students, the actual selection of textbooks and extra applications is beyond his control.
"We don't choose books. That's the misconception," Stephens said.
"If they tell us they want the package, that's what we order. We don't deviate. We call them sometimes and ask if they're going to use the whole package, or if they could get the older edition instead.
The power does lie in the hands of instructors, but textbook publishers manage to influence them as well.
"Publishers tell us that [the packages] are a cheaper alternative for students because instead of paying two retail prices, they only have to pay one," Dr. Al Nichols, associate chemistry professor, said. "At least that's what they're telling us."
Nichols said that instructors are indeed aware of the financial needs of students, and try to consider those needs when they select textbooks.
However, once again, textbook publishers are one step ahead.

"We're trying to minimize expense, but book publishers are changing books every two-to-three years," Nichols said. "They completely stop publishing the old edition, so we're pretty much forced to change."
Stephens agreed, saying that his experience has been that though most instructors are concerned about saving students money, publishers continue to make that a difficult mission.
"It's a shrewd business move on their part," Stephens said.
"But I don't like it and students don't like it. We'd rather have used books."
Good intentions don’t pay my f’n loans

In theory, the new compromised bill that would make big changes to the federal government's college financial aid programs sounds good. But, when you dive a little deeper, there are a few complications that not everyone may be aware of.

If you have not heard, there is a proposed bill that would reduce the interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans by half over four years. Sounds good, right? The problem is that this cut is only for new subsidized loans, not ones that students have previously taken out. Plus, subsidized loans are only for those who qualify based on their financial need.

There are other provisions to this bill that all sound fine and dandy, but most of them are not really helping out the students who need it. As it stands, the rates would jump back up from the proposed 3.4 percent to the current 6.8 percent in 2012 unless another bill is proposed in the meantime.

Second, this rate cut is not offered with the unsubsidized Stafford loans, the loans that any student can take out no matter what their financial need is.

There are other provisions to this bill that all sound fine and dandy, but most of them are not really helping out the students who need it. As it stands, the rates would jump back up from the proposed 3.4 percent to the current 6.8 percent in 2012 unless another bill is proposed in the meantime.

Payday – let’s hug it out

For us college kids, it’s that time of year again. Christmas. New Year’s. Hump Day. The one day every year when that girl you met in a bar one random night accidentally calls your phone instead of the guy she was really trying to call, therefore confirming that she did indeed put your number in her phone in the first place.

All good days. But they ain’t got nothin’ on this day.

It’s payday. Our financial aid checks were dispersed on Monday (or Tuesday, or Wednesday), or not yet, depending on if the Financial Aid office is out to get you again this year.

If you’re anything like me, you put a lot of stock on this day. You put off a lot of your bills. You ignore the “suggested” due date that Alabama Power gives you, because once they see you slap down a check that pays for not only your last two months, but for the next two months in advance, they’ll forever know you’re good for it.

An open challenge

By Webb Dillard
Contributing Writer

Nothing pains me more than to write this article. I never thought I would see the day that I would disagree with a man that I respect so much.

Jerry Chandler is, hands down, the best teacher I have had since enrolling here at JSU. No teacher, grade school or high school, has
Popular art should be embraced, not shunned

Luciano Pavarotti died last Thursday at the age of 71. Amid the numerous tributes to the Italian tenor, one fact was overlooked in all but one wire service story: his death, while subject of many a remembrance in print, television and radio in the United States and elsewhere, passed with little notice in his native Italy.

While Pavarotti brought a love of opera to millions around the world, Italians (and more than a few opera aficionados) viewed him through one lens: sellout. It's a mentality all-too-common in society these days - the idea that anyone who makes something popular is immediately detrimental, deserving of scorn. Whether it's an opera star or a below-the-radar one, when someone makes it big, it's time for the accusations of selling out and abandoning the cause. Often, they're called "popularizers," in the same tone someone might use to describe a necrophiliac.

For Pavarotti, it started with a performance at the 1990 World Cup in Rome. While well-known in the opera world for his ability to consistently hit high notes and emotional performances of arias, the World Cup appearance marked Pavarotti's launch into worldwide fame. His rendition of "Nessun Dorma," from Puccini's Turandot was powerful. It was also ridiculed.

For opera fans, he became a cliche. And for what reason? He dared make opera accessible to the public.

Carl Sagan's story follows similar lines. Dr. Sagan taught at Cornell, helped design the Viking Mars landers and helped form the Planetary Society.

Yet, Sagan was denied admittance to the National Academy of Sciences and written off by some in the scientific community. Never mind that he ignited countless imaginations with his explorations of the universe. He was - repeat after me - a sellout. Scientists, artists and academics constantly bemoan the state of appreciation for their fields among the general public. Yet, when someone comes along who makes their ideas and words come alive, they're the first to cry foul. Instead of turning the works of science and art into forbidden fruits, they should applaud efforts to bring those works to wider public attention and appreciation.

I've always believed that anyone can understand and appreciate scientific concepts and artistic goals. You needn't have a Master's in astronomy or be a docent at Moma to understand and love the beauty inherent in science and art.

We need popularizers to show us the wonders of our world, to open our ears and minds to the magnificence of music, to open our minds to the endless possibilities of the universe.

Without them, we become a culture consumed by the mysticism, ignorance and demagoguery of what Sagan himself termed the "demon-haunted world."

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Music Corner

WLJS Top Ten Records of the Week

1. No Age - Weirdo Rippers
2. Liars - Liars
3. Fog - Ditherer
5. Caribou - Andorra
6. John Vanderslice - Emerald City
7. Turbo Fruits - Turbo Fruits
8. Manchester Orchestra - Like a Virgin Losing a Child
9. Interpol - Our Love to Admire
10. Numbers - Now You Are This

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Animal Collective
Strawberry Jam

Strawberry Jam, Animal Collective's latest album for Domino Records, is many ways surpases their already incredible back catalogue. I've always felt that Animal Collective would be far superior if they would embrace the pop format completely instead of shrouding melody with abrasive noise. It is on this release that the group attempts to create a fully embraceable set of songs that still retain the adventurous aspect of their past endeavors.

Strawberry Jam comes on the heels of group member Panda Bear's solo outing Person Pitch. That album, to me, was what I wanted from Animal Collective. It was a completely personal album with inspiring, looped melodies and swirling dance beats. Strawberry Jam is similar in that it is also a personal album with swelling chords and 70s dance synth. However, rather than the group as a whole creating this intimate set, it is member Ave Tare - also coming off of a solo album with wife Kria Brekkan of the Icelandic group Mým - who takes the forefront. His voice, more than on any other album, feels anguished and true. Album opener "Peacebone" rolls along an otherworldly synth line while Ave Tare absolutely lines flow culminating in a final minute of frenzied yelps and near-screamed lyrics. Tracks "For Reverend Green" and "Firewoks" both accentuate Tare's vocal presence. On these songs, Panda Bear backs up the charged voicing of Tare with angelic murmuring, showing how much Animal Collective has come into the sound that they always seemed to strive for.

The album's last half, where Animal Collective typically places drooning songs spare on vocals, keeps up the intensity - particularly on the track "Cuckoo Cuckoo." The first two minutes of the song drone along a minimal piano line before exploding into distortion and pounding drums. Album closer "Derek," sung by Panda Bear, ends the album with near-perfection. The folk tune starts off breezily enough - rather simplistic, in fact - with acoustic guitar and water-like sounds before ending with percussion straight out of Africa and Panda Bear lulling us back to reality.

These nine songs demand being heard. It's this insistence that makes this album immediately flourish. Quite simply,
Charlemagne's sophomore album, *We Can Build an Island*, buzzes with enthusiastic, charming pop songs in the vein of The Feelies and New Zealand pop kings The Clean. This album, their second for SideCho Records, has the enviable honor of following their critically acclaimed debut, *Detour Allure*. They manage to avoid the seemingly all-too-common "sophomore slump" with eleven songs of raw, dirty pop. I didn't find myself championing any one song, but in this album's case it is not entirely vital to have an obvious single. 

Charlemagne crafts a very reassuring 35 minutes of music. The pervading mid-tempo rhythm makes the album somewhat meld together about halfway through, which doesn't pose a problem for *We Can Build an Island*. This is the album to put in during a late night drive, an album that provides background noise to accompany the solitariness of night. It's simply a delightful, low-key rock record.

**ALSO IN ROTATION**

William Kiley
*Under the Blacklight*

Few things hit the spot like this album. You might be wondering why this band is, but you've known them in a past life. The band is a quartet headed by two former child stars. Jenny Lewis, lead singer, was in the television shows *Troop Beverly Hills* and *The Wizard*. Blake Sennett, lead guitarist, played on *Boy Meets World* and was Ronnie Pinsky on *Salute Your Shorts*.

*Under the Blacklight* is the fourth studio album by the band. It dropped on Aug. 21, 2007. The first single off the album was "The Moneymaker." The wide variety of styles makes this album a great listen, starting with the light and airy rhythm of "Silver Lining." Lewis quickly transforms her voice from angelic to devilish and sultry, which few could rival, in the song "The Moneymaker." Kiley's influences are evident throughout. "Close Call" and "Dreamworld" have similarities to some of the heavily Stevie Nicks-influenced Fleetwood Mac days. "Breakin' Up" is reminiscent of Blondie. Then there is "Smoke Detector," a nod to the old beach bum movies of Frankie Avalon.

From singer-songwriter, to pop, to retro, the variations in style help to keep the listener wanting more. It even gives warnings about making sure that cutie that you have a thing for is old enough.

**A-**

-Matt McRae
FOOTBALL – JSU 33, CHATTANOOGA 19

Changing of the guard

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

In August, Jacksonville State head football coach Jack Crowe made it very clear that there was no quarterback controversy. Matt Hardin was his guy and Cedric Johnson would be the backup.

Now, after two games, Crowe made something else very clear.

Cedric Johnson will make his first start in a Gamecock uniform this Saturday when the Gamecocks (1-1) take on Memphis at the Liberty Bowl.

"It feels good to be the starter," Johnson said. "But it's not like I'm the starter. Every time I go in, I'm just going to try to make plays."

Crowe made the announcement after Saturday's 33-19 win over Chattanooga, a win that saw the offense struggle for the second consecutive game.

"We are going to start Cedric in this game because I think that we've really got to work toward some emphasis in productivity," Crowe said. "We've got to focus on it. We've got to limit ourselves to the things we know we can do."

What looked to be an offense based on the speed of its receivers and the abilities of the quarterbacks has become a virtual nightmare for Crowe and his staff.

It took a total of 20 offensive series for the Gamecocks to score their first offensive touchdown, a 28-yard touchdown strike from Johnson to Demck Harris with 7:30 to go in the fourth quarter.

JSU's offense has been nothing short of quiet in the opening stages of the 2007 season.

The Gamecocks have rushed for only 242 yards in the first two games, a total that is down almost 30 yards from last year at this point.

Failure to convert inside the red zone has also been a problem for the Gamecocks. They have been inside their opponents' 20-yard line 11 times without scoring a touchdown this year.

"I honestly believe there is an offense here, but it's obviously laid on the tracks that it was built on," Crowe said.

Part of the reason for the offensive woes has been the horrific play of the offensive line.

UTC found ways to exploit an inexperienced JSU offensive line in the first half, forcing Hardin and Johnson to scramble for their lives on several plays.

One of those plays saw Johnson scrambling for his life to avoid two UTC defenders.

Johnson attempted to throw the ball away as he was brought to the turf, but the play resulted in a loss of 27 yards.

"We've been very susceptible to lost-yardage plays," Crowe said. "We're doing that with some frequency and enough to keep us from moving the ball down the field."

After halftime, Crowe made the decision to go with the more mobile of the two gunners.

"If our offensive line could..."

See "Quarterbacks," page 7

Cedric Johnson scrambles to avoid pressure in JSU's 33-19 win over Chattanooga Saturday. Johnson will start this weekend at Memphis. Photo by Steve Latham/JSU

Breit earns another honor as volleyball rallies for 3-2 win
volleyball rallies for 3-2 win

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

When all is said and done, Abbey Breit will likely be considered one of the greatest female athletes ever to don a Jacksonville State uniform.

She has put together an outstanding career at JSU and currently holds some of the school's most prestigious records.

However, all the records and accomplishments mean nothing to her without the success of the team to go along with it.

"It's good to have, but it's nothing unless we are winning and playing hard," Breit said.

"Obviously she does a lot for us," JSU head coach Rick Nold said. "I don't think that anybody is going to conquer her work ethic. That's just something for everybody to follow."

Following Breit's lead is exactly what JSU did on Sunday when they defeated the Albany Great Danes 3-2 in a highly contested match.

The Gamecocks came out strong, winning the first game 30-24. Breit led the way, smashing seven kills over the course of the first game.

The Gamecocks would then sputter in the second and third, dropping back-to-back games at home for the first time since Nov. 1, 2005 and more games at home than in all of last season.

"The second and third games were kind of a mental letdown for us," Breit said. "We came out in the fourth game fired up and ready to go. I think in fifth games that we excel because we are an aggressive offensive team."

The Gamecocks came out renewed confidence and a new game plan on defense that led to a dominating 30-14 victory in game four.

In the fifth and final set of the match, sophomore Britney Whittet stepped up, making huge plays on both the defensive and offensive side of the court and knocking down four kills in the final game to help seal the win.

"We do a lot of drills in practice working on coming back from being down in big games," Whittet said. "Coach always talks about stepping up after every play by making the next one better."

Breit ended the day with a match-high 20 kills to go along with 15 digs to become the second player in JSU history to record 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs in a career.

The Gamecocks begin their defense of the Ohio Valley Conference title this weekend against UT-Martin and Murray State.

Pair of 1-0 games for soccer in Classic

By Jared Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

The JSU soccer team split 1-0 decisions in its two games of the inaugural Gamecock Soccer Classic.

Kaitlyn MacLellan delivered on a free kick in the 75th minute to give JSU (1-3-0) its first positive result of the year in the home opener against Youngstown State.

In a game largely devoid of serious chances, MacLellan's free kick appeared to be from an innocuous position, but Penguins keeper Caitlin Bodzien gave JSU a gift-wrapped goal.

Bodzien was inexplicably standing at the far post as MacLellan prepared to take the free kick. Even so, Bodzien would have made the save, but she tripped over her own feet and could only deflect the ball into the net.

Youngstown State rarely invaded the 18-yard box and only looked like scoring once, but Rochelle Boone hit the crossbar from close range and Kate Kelly controlled Tara Morey's rebound attempt.

A clearly fatigued JSU team was not as proficient in the Sunday match against previously winless The Citadel.

"I'm starting to see a lot more of the work we've done offensively," Davis said, "but in the second game fatigue was a factor."

The Gamecocks twice hit post and had other chances, but Bulldog keepers Britni Bunnell and Lisa Wilson were able to preserve the clean sheet.

JSU had a dominant possession advantage, and the Bulldogs would go long stretches without even crossing midfield, but one defensive lapse led to the Gamecocks' demise.

In the 52nd minute, Jessica Scott took advantage of poor communication between the JSU defense and goalkeeper Elizabeth Selasky, and fired home what would stand up as the game-winner.

JSU looks to get back on the track this weekend.

Friday night the Kennesaw State Owls visit JSU fresh off a 3-2 win over Alabama.

"Kennesaw is a very physical, well-coached team," Davis said. "They not only beat Alabama, they came from behind, down a man for most of the game to beat them."

Davis said that while Kelly has pleased her a little more, and will likely play against Kennesaw, Selasky will continue to receive playing time as well.

Marius Sava leads cross-country at UT-Chattanooga

By Will Payne
Staff Sports Writer

JSU Cross Country continued its recent success last Friday with the men placing second overall in the 5K run while the women placed sixth overall in the 3K at the UTC Individual Meet in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The men's team finished the event with three runners placing in the top ten led by freshman Marius Sava.

Sava was the first Gamecock across the line, placing sixth individually with an overall time of 15:26. Jeff Rhodes finished right behind him in seventh with a time of 15:30. Ryan McKay placed ninth with an individual time of 15:37.

"Marius is a quality runner," JSU coach Steve Ray said. "I mean he was a big deal back in his native Romania."

Overall, the men's team placed second with a total of 69 points, finishing ahead of collegiate powers Alabama (77), Georgia Tech (81) and Ole Miss (167).

"Going up against teams from the ACC and SEC can be a little intimidating, but we feel that competing against the better programs on occasion will help us down the road," Ray said.

"It certainly doesn't hurt your own program if you can knock one or two of the big dogs off from time to time."

For the women, junior Lesley Binning was the Gamecocks' top finisher, crossing the line in 17th with a time of 15:50.

Cross country will look to continue its success this Friday in Tuscaloosa as part of the Alabama Crimson Classic.
FOOTBALL

Robinson, defense doing their part in first win

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

It's true. Defense does win games.

All you need to do is look at the performance of Jacksonville State's defense and you'll see why the Gamecocks racked up six turnovers, including a fumble recovery and two interceptions by senior Drew Robinson, en route to a 33-19 win last Saturday over Chattanooga.

"I told Drew that we were going to start making him a two-way player now that he's become a ball hog," JSU coach Jack Crowe said. "He had more total offense than any one player we had."

Robinson racked up a total of 108 return yards last week, more total-yards than any other Gamecock, on offense or defense.

After recovering a fumble early in the first quarter, Robinson struck on Chattanooga's first possession of the second half.

Robinson picked off UTC quarterback Tony Pastore at JSU's goal line and bolted down his own sideline for a 63-yard return.

"I didn't think I was going to go 100 yards," Robinson said. "I was waiting on somebody to catch me. That's a little far for a linebacker to run."

The pick led to a Gavin Hallford field goal that cut UTC's lead to 16-9.

The Gamecocks tied the game when Brent Davenport stripped the ball from Pastore's hands, allowing Marquise Elston to stride into the end zone from five yards out.

Once the offense finally got rolling and put the Gamecocks in the lead for good, Robinson struck one more time to put the zone.

"That's a little far for a linebacker to run."

- Drew Robinson

The end zone is something new to Robinson. The last time the senior scored a touchdown was during his high school days in Cedartown, Ga.

The defense made a tremendous stand in the second half.

Chattanooga took a page out of JSU's book and played some smash mouth offense with the Gamecocks, running the ball right through the middle of the line.

With the score tied at 16 and the Mocs moving inside the JSU 15, the defense stood tall and forced UTC to kick a field goal on fourth down.

"That was huge," Robinson said. "They were giving us a run for it and we got in there on defense and said 'We have to man up here.'"

While JSU has struggled offensively, the defense has scored three touchdowns in two games and has returned an interception in four consecutive games, dating back to the Samford game of November, 2006.

"Anytime you can score on defense it is a tremendous help for the team," Robinson said. "We're not out there to get points, but when we get the opportunity, it's great to help the offense and the team out."

GAMECOCK BRIEFS

- Freshman Marius Sava was named Ohio Valley Conference Runner of the Week after his performance last weekend at the Chattanooga Opener.

- Senior Drew Robinson was named OVC Defensive Player of the Week after picking off two passes for 108 total yards and a touchdown against Chattanooga.

- Senior Gavin Hallford was named OVC Special Teams Player of the Week for the second straight week after connecting on all four of his field goal attempts against Chattanooga.

- The Jacksonville State softball team will host the inaugural Tera Ross Memorial Classic fall tournament on Sept. 29-30 at the Oxford Lake Softball Complex in Oxford, Ala. JSU will kick off the two-day, 12-team event at 9 a.m. on Saturday against Snead State.

- The JSU women's golf team finished second in the 13th annual Chris Barnett/Gamecock Golf Classic held at Silver Lakes Golf Course in Jacksonville, six shots behind Chattanooga.

- JSU's men's and women's basketball teams will begin the 2007-08 season on Nov. 9 with the men traveling to Georgia to take on the Bulldogs while the women open...
Rhetta sidelined this weekend

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

Rhetta has been JSU’s most used player this season. Last weekend, the senior from Birmingham was used as a quarterback on fourth down situations, the holder for field goals and extra points and in his usual wide receiver position.

“We threw him everywhere we needed something to happen,” Crowe said. “It’s not that we’re minus a player, but we’re minus that player. We’re minus that productivity because we never line Rhetta up without having productivity.”

The loss of Rhetta couldn’t come at a worse time for JSU.

The Gamecocks have been out gained in rushing and passing yards in both games this season and have been outscored a combined 21-7 by their own defense.

Place kicker Gavin Halford is a near perfect 8-for-9 on field goal attempts and has four extra points this season, good for a team high 28 points.

With Rhetta out of the lineup, expect to see Derrick Harris play a bigger role in the Gamecocks’ stagnant offense.

Harris recorded JSU’s lone offensive touchdown in the fourth quarter of last week’s game against Chattanooga with an amazing catch.

“I think that we’ve got some step up guys,” Crowe said. “You don’t see a better catch than the one Derrick Harris made. You can look at Terrell Owens or anybody else you want to. You don’t make better catches than that. That’s maybe as good a catch as I’ve ever seen.”

Quarterbacks: Johnson starts Saturday

Cont. from page 6

control the line of scrimmage and establish the running game, they’d create a lot of unpressured passes,” Crowe said. “But when you’re not running the ball, they’re pressuring the passer, whether it’s first down or third down. All of those pressures mount up and you’ve got to move the quarterback around.

“Matt is not the fall guy for this,” Crowe said. “Our whole offense has not developed well enough for us to maintain the same approach to offensive football. Matt is the victim of changing that approach.”

With the offensive line in shambles, Johnson’s speed and ability to roll out of the pocket to avoid pressure was the main catalyst for the second half surge and eventual offensive breakthrough.

Despite Johnson getting the nod as the starting quarterback this weekend, Hardin will see playing time, although he will not see the same script as Johnson did.

Crowe scripted the opening three series in the first two games of the season. There is no script for the Memphis game.

“I expect Matt to play. Don’t ask me when he’s going in, because I don’t know. I can’t see us getting through this game without Matt playing. I told him that he’ll be a part of us winning a conference championship.”

Special Teams: A

Gavin Halford is 8-of-9 on field goal attempts to go along with four extra points. I kid you not, he is outscoring the offensive and defense combined.

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