Wikipedia draws ire of faculty, love of students

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

"Please be aware that any information you may find in Wikipedia may be inaccurate, misleading, dangerous or illegal," reads the risk disclaimer of Wikipedia, "the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit."

The Web site offers 2,021,266 articles — each of which is open to edits by any Wikipedia user at any time. The information's questionable origins have Jacksonville State University faculty cautioning students to steer clear of the site and turn to alternate resources.

"[Wikipedia] makes me nervous, because the authority of the entries is highly suspect," head of the English department Dr. Robert Petgar said.

"Sometimes it is corrected, and sometimes mistakes stay for quite some time."

Instructors are not the only ones riled over students' frequent use of Wikipedia. Librarians, veritable research experts, are concerned as well.

"Wikipedia is not even on my radar, to tell you the truth. I don't consider it a legitimate source at all," Douglas Taylor, business and social sciences librarian, said.

See "Wikipedia," page 3

Tuckered out

Between classes, jobs and extracurricular activities, a good night's sleep is nothing more than a dream for most students.

Midterms are quickly approaching, and finals not long as a group have poor sleeping patterns, leading to decreased academic proficiency, degraded athletic performance and even health problems.

This is the first in a four-part series taking a look at...
Midterms are quickly approaching, and finals not long after that. It means long hours studying, completing papers and reviewing material. For many students, it also means getting by on intermittent sleep, energy drinks and caffeine.

Researchers say that, while those practices may work for a day or two, even in the short run they can have a deleterious effect on test scores and even one’s health.

It’s not just exam weeks that wreak havoc on students’ sleep habits. Often, college students wake up at the drop of a feather. Others sleep through a fire alarm. But there’s one thing all humans have in common: they all need sleep to survive and function normally.

It’s so vital, in fact, that lack of sleep is a highly variable thing. Sleep among college students has been identified as one of the top health concerns.

“College students often experience poor sleep quality and increased daytime sleepiness,” Jeff Bryson, a sleep researcher at JSU, said.

Personal choices that influence the quality and quantity of sleep are often to blame, according to Bryson. Those choices include inconsistent sleep routines, high caffeine and alcohol consumption, and high stress levels.

On a person-to-person basis, sleep is a highly variable thing. Some wake up at the drop of a feather. Others sleep through a fire alarm. But there’s one thing all humans have in common: they all need sleep to survive and function normally.

See “Student health,” page 3

College students often experience poor sleep quality and increased daytime sleepiness. This is the first in a four-part series taking a look at...

A Southern tradition

At halftime of most college football games, the empty line at the concession stand you see on the left here just doesn’t happen. That’s not the case at JSU football games, where the Southerners halftime show usually keeps more people in their seats than the game itself, as evidenced by the picture on the right. While the marching band certainly did not disappoint, the football team lost 31-24 on Saturday, Sept. 22. Photos by Kevin Jeffers/The Chanticleer
Art annex, after many delays, is open

By Brandon Hollingsworth / News Editor and Zach Childree / Staff Reporter

After years of planning and recent delays, the Gladys M. Carlisle Applied Arts Building is now open for classes.

Students were originally told that the new building would be open in time for the beginning of the fall semester, according to art minor Amanda O’Hern. That opening was pushed back to Sept. 15, and then to last Wednesday.

Officials from the art department did not respond to requests for comments by press time.

“It’s a whole lot better” at Carlisle, said Tchelindria Austin, a student taking a digital photography class in the center.

For years, art classes were held in cramped quarters at Hammond Hall and the old art annex near Paul Snow Stadium. Under that arrangement, class schedules were often dictated by which rooms were available at specific times.

Space constraints and safety concerns, along with a visit from an accreditation committee of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, helped catalyze the university’s decision to construct the new facility.

Rumors over the summer of structural problems in Carlisle’s concrete floors proved to be unfounded, according to department head Charles Groover.

Some art classes will still be held at Hammond, and the art department’s headquarters will remain there.

The Carlisle building features new equipment and facilities designed to aid students in drawing, design, ceramics and photography classes.

“It’s really expensive looking,” Austin said. “It’s a lot more advanced.”

Even though the building officially opened last Wednesday, classes weren’t in full swing in the Carlisle building until Monday, Sept. 24.

The transition period from the old facilities to the new ones was virtually seamless, consisting mainly of moving furniture into the Carlisle building.

O’Hern, who is taking a ceramics class in the new building, said she isn’t upset about the delay in opening.

“I’m just glad it’s ready to go,” she said.

There are still some minor amenities left to be desired, according to Austin.

“It’s mostly some supplies and small things,” said Austin.

One feature of the new building that she enjoys is the new digital photography lab.

“I think it has to be one of the best in the state,” she said.

The pervading mood about the new building among students is positive, according to Austin.

“I think that everyone is really pleased with it,” she said.
Banner could be root of mailbox deletions

By Zach Childree
Staff Reporter

Some JSU students who had mailboxes assigned to them at the beginning of the semester may have a surprise when they go to the Theron Montgomery Building to check their mail. They may not have a mailbox at all.

Out of the 7,826 boxes available to students, at least 20 students may have their mailboxes deleted from the system because of duplicates. It's not clear to the management of the mail center whether the duplications were because of human error or because of the switch to the new Banner system.

Mail Center supervisor Robin Smyre said that she has worked at the mail center for 12 years, and in that time, she has seen worse problems than a few deletions. “For the amount of students we have, the number that has been affected is very minute,” Smyre said.

Smyre added that when problems with mail distribution or services become apparent, they will be addressed promptly. “If you can't get in your mailbox,” she said, “we treat it as a real problem and act to fix it.”

There are several reasons for a student to lose their mailbox, according to Smyre. Under normal circumstances, a student loses his or her mailbox only when they graduate or stop taking classes for a semester.

The current situation with the mail center raises another question. Recently President Meehan has expressed a desire to raise student enrollment past the 10,000-student mark. Is the mail center prepared to deal with a large student population growth? Smyre expressed confidence in the abilities of the mail center to keep up with the growing student population, though she pointed out that there will always be some students that opt not to have a mail box.

She said that students who prefer to have their mail forwarded off campus can do so for a $10 fee. There is no charge for students to have an on-campus mailbox.

Even with student growth and the few deletions of mailboxes, Smyre assured students they will still be able to get their mail. “It’s a fixable problem,” Smyre said. “It’s not anything to be concerned about.”

The Week in Events

Thursday, September 27
- Interfraternity Council Meeting, 302 TMB, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- NPHC Week Fall 2007 Step Show/Mixer, Leone Cole Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. Admission, $3.00

Friday, September 28
- NPHC General Council Meeting, 220 Stephenson, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 29
- Fashionetta, Leone Cole Auditorium, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
- Ghost Stories, Cheaha State Park, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Cheaha Dog and Master Hike, Cheaha State Park, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Admission, $5.00

Monday, October 1
- SGA Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Panhellenic Council Meeting, Curtiss Hall, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Freshman Forum Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 7:45 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 2
- Organizational Council Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3
- Homecoming Pageant, Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Salsa sensation

By Kanani Miller
Staff Reporter

On Monday Sept. 24, the National Panhellenic Council Week continued with a Unity Field Day, where Greeks played games of softball, flag football, and kickball on the Intramural Field from 5 to 7 p.m. This was the second event planned for this week, Sunday, Sept. 23rd officially kicked the week off with a Yard Show on the Quad.

The purpose of this week, according to De' Shunn Johnson, is to promote unity within the Greek community and to give students the opportunity to become a part of something positive.

Sinamae Nixon, Vice President of NPHC also added, “This week is a chance to show JSU a reason to GO GREEK!”

The week continued with a Road Block Community Service project to benefit the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization on Tuesday, Sept. 25th and Wednesday, Sept. 26th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The road blocks were set up at Stone Center, Ayers Hall, Merrill Hall, TMB and Houston Cole Library. On Thursday, Sept. 27 a Step Show Mixer will be held at 6:30 p.m. until 12 a.m. in Leone Cole Auditorium. Admission is $3.00 per person.

The last event will be held on Friday, September 28th at the Panhellenic House. This will be a Greek's only affair and a time for the Greek community to have fellowship and promote unity tying back in with the entire week's theme.

SAC AGENDA

Minutes from the September 11 Student Activities Council:
- Committee head delivered reports on their respective areas of responsibility.
- SGA President Britney Cunningham and Vice-President Jonathan Taylor delivered reports.
- Discussion of activities: suggestions included a possible resurrection of Casino Night; SAC T-shirts; more weekend activities; open call for ideas from the floor.
- Push for greater use of JSU facilities for SAC activities.
- Announcements of upcoming events; meeting adjourned.
Survival: Students prepare for “what if?”

Cont. from page 1

The best thing to do is to stay put. If you go wandering off, you’re only going to get even more lost,” Harrington said.

Mize explained that an individual could normally last 35 to 40 days without food, but only about a week without water.

Depending on how desperate you are, Mize and Harrington said any water is better than no water.

“You’re not going to know if the water’s fresh,” Harrington said. “If you have a fire and something to boil it in, boil it. You’ve got to remember that there’s trash everywhere. If you can’t boil it, drink small quantities at a time. It could really tear you up inside.”

The situation with food is similar. A growing stomach and waning strength can make almost any creature seem palatable. Harrington mentioned ants, worms, lizards and fish as viable high-protein possibilities.

The key to foraging either food or water, according to Mize, is being resourceful and thinking outside the proverbial box.

“A stick is not just a stick,” Mize said. “A stick is a spear. A stick is a fishing pole. A stick is a weapon to keep animals away from you. Improvise. A vine is not just a vine. A vine is lashing there alone in the darkness, which kills a lot of people,” Harrington said.

Despite her advancing age and rugged surroundings, Anderson somehow managed to defy all odds.

Mize hopes that if in a similar situation, his students will be able to do the same. Though the vast majority will never find themselves in such dire straits, Mize teaches with what he calls the “what-if factor” in mind.

“Will they use it? Rarely,” Mize said. “If they needed to, would they remember a couple of things that might let them survive a couple of extra days? I hope so.”

Student health part 1 of 4: Sleep habits problem for students

Cont. from page 1

three health-related roadblocks to academic performance, according to a 2006 survey from the American College Health Association.

The tried-and-true college rite of passage, the all-nighter, is a prime example. More often than not, the caffeine-fueled study sessions make a student more stressed, less alert and more prone to making mistakes.

A recent study, completed by the Loyola University at New Orleans’ Department of Psychology, concluded that “caffeine does not appear to help the studying process in the long run.”

The effects of insufficient sleep go further than just test-taking acuity. It is also important to realize that both getting too much and too little sleep, period, will result in feeling groggy, having poor concentration and mood disturbances, Bryson said.

“Students can have irritability, depression, anxiety, fatigue, decreased immunity, weight gain and heart problems, just to name a few,”

Getting a good night’s sleep doesn’t have to be a struggle.

Here are some tips on better sleep habits:

- Try to go to bed and get up at the same time.
- Have quiet time before bed.
- Have a quiet, dark room.
- Don’t leave the television on while trying to go to sleep.
- Decrease the amount of caffeine you drink during the day.
- Don’t drink alcohol within 4 hours of going to bed, and limit your alcohol intake.
- Try to exercise daily, but not before going to bed.
- Don’t take naps during the day. Do not eat a heavy meal before going to bed. Sometimes a carbohydrate snack can make you sleepy, but do not eat sugar or chocolate before bedtime.
- Do not have a clock beside your bed. Watching the clock makes it harder to fall asleep.

Source: Nancy Edge, JSU Student Health Center

It may not just be that you’re staying up too late — doctors recognize more than 80 types of sleep disorders, which have a multitude of causes and effects. Here are some signs that could indicate your sleep problems could be a medical issue:

- Inability to fall asleep or stay asleep
- Frequently awakening in the middle of the night
- Waking up unusually early, sometimes accompanied by
- Feelings of depression or anxiety
- Difficulty concentrating or remembering

Nancy Edge, of the JSU Student Health Center, said.

There’s no doubt Americans live in a caffeine-fueled world. A cursory look at supermarket and convenience store shelves reveals a dessert of products designed to keep one awake and at the ready, but at what cost? The availability of sodas, energy drinks and other chemical products designed to stimulate the nervous system has college administrators’ and counselors worried.

“Students do use [stimulants] to regulate their rhythms, but it is not stable,” Bryson said. “When these products are used, sleep is impaired and more use of the product is needed to compensate. This cycles over the course of time until the person no longer recognizes how it is affecting them.”

Reliance on caffeine and other supplements to artificially reset one’s body clock is getting worse, according to Rickey Naugher, director of JSU’s Counseling and Career Services department.

“Some people will come in and say ‘I can’t sleep,' and they had 12 cups of coffee and 15 Mountain Dews, and we’ll go, ‘Okay, we know what the problem is,'” Naugher said.

There are factors other than chemical sources that play into the abundance or lack of sleep. A cursory look at supermarket and convenience store shelves reveals a display of products designed to keep one awake and at the ready, but at what cost? The availability of sodas, energy drinks and other chemical products designed to stimulate the nervous system has college administrators’ and counselors worried.

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Books: Unlike many schools, JSU requires only school ID for buybacks and selling back books they never owned. As a result, colleges, universities and municipalities across the nation are cracking down on how books are sold, tracked and recovered.

While most campus police departments don't keep detailed records of book-related crimes, bookstore managers have their own theories. As the price of books increases, they become better targets for students and others seeking to make some quick cash, often by selling to the books for up to half their cover value.

The city council in Madison, Wis., passed an ordinance over the summer that requires the college bookstores that buy used textbooks to maintain detailed information on customers, including Social Security numbers, driver's license information and physical descriptions.

University of Wisconsin police Det. Peter Grimyser told USA Today that the ordinance was triggered by a rise in the number of people "selling the books to get money for drugs."

Other postsecondary institutions across America have made similar changes, seeking to stem the tide.

The University of Texas at Arlington marks textbooks with ink that can be viewed only under fluorescent lights. The University of Montana allows students to return books only on one day two weeks into each term. The bookstore also requires students to present IDs and the checkout counter. At Penn State, bookstores both on- and off-campus offer resale only to customers with student IDs.

For the record, JSU's on-campus bookstore has no set time for book buybacks. Students can resell texts any day of the week. Clerks ask for presentation of JSU IDs, but no special criteria must be met for book resale.

Some material for this report was derived from an article in the Sept. 17 edition of USA Today.

Wikipedia: Web site that teachers love to hate

Cont. from page 1

John Graham, head of public services and associate library science professor, said that he believes most students happen upon Wikipedia when it appears high on the list of results from a search engine like Google or Yahoo.

Though students may not actively pursue the online encyclopedia, he estimated that students still utilize the site for research about 70 percent of the time.

"We're all in college now, and that's not the way research should be done," Graham said. "You can't take the first five hits off of Google and turn that in."

Graham attributed the popularity of Web sites like Wikipedia to the students' desire for quick, free information that is easy to locate.

Associate biology professor Dr. Robert Carter agreed, pointing out that in his classes, the only books his students ever use are on course reserves.

"They're pretty spoiled in a lot of ways," Carter said. "If I asked some of them to look something up in the dictionary, I don't know if they could."

Felgar suggested Wikipedia's youthful appeal as a possibility.

"They don't like sites run by old fuddy-duddy's," Felgar said. "Even I consult [Wikipedia] now and again in a haphazard fashion. I'm not proud of it."

Despite concerns about Wikipedia, Graham said that Wikipedia is not without its benefits, but students run a risk even when utilizing the site's strong points. Wikipedia, according to Graham, is updated rapidly, making it home to a great deal of current and obscure information.

"You just don't know if it is appropriate or correct," Graham said.

Houston Cole Library's Web site, according to Graham, now contains online resources that can aptly stand in Wikipedia's stead.

"You can get to the library's databases with about the same number of clicks as you can search Wikipedia," Graham said.

"There we have information from reputable sources - information that students are paying for."

Whether for a项目 or paper, Graham recommended students be prepared to go the extra mile when researching.

"[Wikipedia] certainly shouldn't be the be-all, end-all of your research. You should follow that up with more research," Graham said.

Even Wikipedia agrees. Reads the site's risk disclaimer: "Do not rely upon any information found in Wikipedia without independent verification."

Wishing to take research beyond Wikipedia

- Begin early. Allow yourself ample time to research your topic thoroughly. Starting the night before is a sure way to find yourself back at the library.

- Log on to Houston Cole's Web site and search the library catalog and electronic databases for material on your topic.

- Still stuck? Seek out one of JSU's librarians. Helping you research is a big part of their job.
Here today, gone Tomorrow

By Webb Dillard
Contributing Writer

It's never easy losing a loved one. Whether it's a family or friend, it something we all have to deal with sooner or later. Sometimes the death of a loved one is due to something terminal and it's expected, other times it is something sudden. The sudden deaths seem to be so much more unjust, or much more unexplainable. Let's face it, it's just out and out harder to swallow when it happens.

My wife's family is enduring one of those sudden deaths right now. One phone call, one piece of bad news, and that was all we had for warning.

Our beloved family member was gone.

I just saw and spoke to this person 12 days ago. “Hey...”
Columbia stands up for free speech

On Monday, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in New York City ahead of a Tuesday address to the United Nations.

He was invited to speak at Columbia University, a move that sparked heavy criticism.

Columbia's administration said it was important to engage in a dialogue. Critics countered that allowing Ahmadinejad to speak was tantamount to giving the controversial leader a free platform.

Both are good points on the surface, but there's an important undercurrent at play: the practice of free speech.

Don't get me wrong: President Ahmadinejad's words aren't the kind of things I'd say against lung cancer. He denied the Holocaust occurred. He claimed Iran's nuclear weapons program, and he gave a long, rambling answer that had little to do with the topic. He claimed Iran's women are among the freest in the world.

We cherish some freedoms that are hard to find. But more often than not, freedom of speech allows Americans to make up their own minds, based on the approved orthodoxy, but on real words and ideas from those that formulate them.

I'm glad Columbia didn't buckle under the pressure of students and faculty jeered at Ahmadinejad's speech. We must always support the right to free speech. At worst, we risk being labeled as brainwashed by those who suppress ideas.

So yeah, he's a kook. And he proved it all by himself.

He can be reached by phone at 782-8521 or by e-mail at chantynews@gmail.com.
Music Corner

WLJS Top Ten Records of the Week

1. Caribou - Andorra
2. Animal Collective - Strawberry Jam
3. The Angels of Light - We Are Him
4. The New Pornographers - Challengers
5. The Deadly Syndrome - The Ortolan
6. Pinback - Autumn of the Seraphs
7. Figurines - When the Deer Wore Blue
8. Matt Pond PA - Sunlight EP
9. No Age - Weirdo Rippers

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Magik Markers

Boss

Magik Markers' latest release, Boss, comes as a relative surprise. With this release on Thurston Moore's label Ecstatic Peace, the now duo - bassist Leah Quinby left the group in May of 2006 - goes for a more accessible sound. Past endeavors, I Trust My Guitar, Etc... (also on Ecstatic Peace) and A Panegyric To The Things I Do Not Understand, were firmly rooted in the experimentalists' realm of no-wave and, at its basest form, sheer guitar noise. That said, Boss still features the caterwauling of a guitar and off-kilter drum fills. However, Magik Markers has very definitely softened their sound - even going as far as featuring acoustic plucking and pleasantly detuned pianos.

The biggest difference between past albums and this one, though, is the development of actual song structure. The band shows its capability to write pop songs even if they choose not to. It's clear that being on the Sonic Youth frontman's label and even having Lee Renaldo (guitarist for Sonic Youth) produce their album has influenced them in the Yoof's vein. Particularly on a song like "Body Rot," which sounds as if it could be taken from the cutting room of the Sister sessions.

Furthermore, Singer/guitarist Elisa Ambrogio channels the lazy singing style of Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth's bassist/singer) throughout the album, which is rather effective in this album's case (considering past albums featured more or less yelping). In fact, I can hardly discern the difference between the two bands now.

All comparisons aside, Magik Markers create a very visceral listening experience permeated with moments of ethereal quietude (check the ghostly solo piano track "Empty Bottles") and a penchant for following in their idols footsteps. Pick this album up if you're dissatisfied with Thurston's solo album, Trees Outside the Academy, and are looking for the sounds of Yoof-past.

B-

- Matthew L. Reese

VIDEO GAMES

Halo be thy name

Fans show up in droves to wait and buy game

On Monday, Sept. 24, the evening of Halo 3's release, hundreds of people lined up at the Quintard Mall to buy the game at midnight. Some, like JSU student Patrick Sewell (pictured here with his friends) even brought notes to study while waiting. After waiting for five hours, Sewell said it was "totally worth the wait." Photo by Kevin Jeffers / The Chanticleer

POP CULTURE

Halo vs. Harry

Halo 3 is easily one of the most anticipated video game releases of all time. Some are even arguing that it is one of the biggest pop culture phenomena ever. But was Tuesday's release bigger than another highly-anticipated release earlier this year, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows?
Harry Jeffers

Which release was more highly anticipated?

Cliffhanger is a mild term to use when describing the ending to the sixth Harry Potter book. Hundreds of fan sites launched dedicated to attempting and answering all the questions J.K. Rowling left the Boy Who Lived before the final installment in the biggest book series of all time.

Will Harry live or die? How will Voldemort unleash his evil upon the world? Whose side is Snape on? These questions became more important to the average person than any regarding the national deficit or world hunger.

There were six years between the first and final installments of the Harry Potter series. Potter fans had to wait an amazing ten years to find out how Rowling would end her epic tale.

The numbers back up the anticipation, too. Deadly Hallows sold 8.3 million copies in its first 24 hours of release.

Which is the bigger pop culture icon?

While talks are in the works for Halo to hit the big screen, Harry Potter is already one of the most successful film franchises of all time. Add that to a seemingly endless list of Potter-spawned merchandise, and it's clear that Harry Potter is firmly entrenched in the conscious of not only Americans, but also people all over the world. It is truly a global phenomenon.

And this is from a book. A book! In an age when every kid who blinks one too many times is diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, where every kid owns at least three video game systems and parents don't know the meaning of the word "no," you know it has to have a special kind of story to bring a book so far to the front of society. Harry Potter is that big of an icon.

Which has the most rabid fan base?

Personal experience can speak to how rabid Potter fans are. In the town of Oxford, AL, on the eve of the release of the most anticipated book of all time, Books-A-Million could have registered as the ninth largest city in Alabama.

There were many people in line to buy this book. I was one of the odd people in the crowd because I wasn't wearing a wizard's robe. There were kids shouting spells at each other, men trying to seem as if they were debating on the theological ideologies of Dumbledore and no one could look at anyone else as if they were weird. It was beautiful. Nerd heaven at its best.

And this was in a small Alabama town. This kind of pandemonium is a common site all over the country that July night.

And the rabidity of Potter fans extends well past just the books. The films aren't as successful as they are because they're great movies or anything.

The name Harry Potter sells. Podcasts, fan sites, fan fiction, books about the books - they sell.

A whole sub-culture of Potter fans is filled enough annual conventions that it could even put Star Trek to shame.

Try it as might, no video game will ever capture its audience the way Potter has. I sincerely doubt any grown man or child can legitimately cry if Master Chief dies at the end of the newest Halo game.

Potter fans cried either way. They love him that much.
Football drops second straight

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

In each of its three losses this season, Jacksonville State has found a different way to win and lose the game.

Against Alabama State, a lack of offense crippled the Gamecocks’ chances.

At Memphis, the Gamecocks’ inability to stop the big play was their downfall.

When Ohio Valley Conference foe Eastern Kentucky came to Jacksonville last Saturday, the utter failure of JSU’s kickoff coverage helped to hand JSU a 31-20 loss.

“I don’t know if we’ve focused very much on our kickoff team,” JSU coach Jack Crowe said. “This is almost like a ‘hole in the dam’ kinda thing. We’re moving our finger all around it.”

The Gamecocks (1-3, 0-1) found a way to spark new life into their sputtering offense with a revived running game.

Sophomore Shawn Green was taken off the redshirt list and made his first career start for JSU, gaining 58 yards on the game and sparking an offense that scored on its first two possessions of the game.

Quarterback Cedric Johnson rolled to his right after faking the pitch to Green and hit Deonte Carter from nine yards out to put the Gamecocks on the board first and then the defense and took the ball 76 yards while gaining another 78 yards on the ground.

Then the dam burst.

On the ensuing kick, Washington made the Gamecocks pay for the second

See “Football,” page 7

Volleyball remains unbeaten in OVC

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

Two weeks into Ohio Valley Conference play, the Jacksonville State volleyball team appears cracked and began to leak.

EKU's Davin Walker took the ensuing kickoff back 95 yards for the score to cut the lead to 10-7.

It was the first time JSU allowed a kickoff return touchdown since the 1992 Division II National Championship game.

“They came out with something we weren’t ready for, then we fixed the problem on the first one and we still didn’t execute the right way,” Terrell Johnson, a member of the coverage team, said. “They came out with a double wedge. We expected them to offset the wedges, but they stacked them back-to-back and came straight down the field.”

JSU fired back quickly with two momentum-shifting running plays: a 66-yard carry by Daniel Jackson and an 8-yard carry by Alphonso Freeney to get the Gamecocks inside the EKU 20-yard line before JSU fumbled the ball on the next play.

Then the leak got worse.

After moving the ball up to the JSU 24, EKU’s Bobby Washington broke through the defense and took the ball 76 yards for the score to put the Colonels ahead 14-10 with 4:17 remaining in the first quarter.

Once again, the Gamecocks responded halfway through the second quarter when Johnson scrambled out of the pocket and scored from 18 yards out to put JSU back in command 17-14.

Johnson completed 20-of-37 passes for 245 yards while gaining another 78 yards on the ground.

Then the dam burst.

On the ensuing kick, Washington made the Gamecocks pay for the second

Soccer breaks scoreless streak against Troy

By Jared Staub
Staff Sports Writer

JSU finally ended a goalless drought that surpassed 300 minutes

Kick, held on for the win.

Things did not go so swimmingly Sunday afternoon in Fayetteville.

The Razorbacks outclassed the Gamecocks in every area of their
A year and a half into the job and Coulter still hasn’t gotten a fair chance — all because of a rush to judgment.

Isn’t this “rush to judgment” stuff the same crap that almost got three lacrosse players from Duke locked up?

Hang on. Before you start thinking that I’m about to defend Athletic Director Jim Fuller’s decision, think again.

I’m also not going to bash him or Matt Coulter for “stealing Mike’s job.”

In fact, I don’t have an opinion in this matter.

I don’t listen to Matt’s broadcast because I’m in the press box on game day and the last time I listened to a JSU football game on the radio was the 1992 Division II National Title game.

Some of you weren’t even in Kindergarten then.

I know that for the past two years, both Coulter and Parris have gone out of their way to help this school.

Parris is one of the biggest ambassadors this school has.

He’s recognizable and practically bleeds red and white.

While Coulter isn’t a JSU lifer like Parris, he’s tried to become as involved in Jacksonville State as he can.

This summer I was listening to Matt on his radio show, and someone asked him who some of the best pure athletes he’d seen in his radio days were.

It didn’t surprise me one bit to hear him mention more than a couple of Jacksonville State Gamecocks, including Clay Green.

Coulter’s been more than willing to make appearances on JSU’s Tuesday night sports show.

Coulter’s not the only one.

Parris made just as many appearances last basketball season.

Still, Coulter’s not “the Voice,” so he gets criticized at every turn.

Sure, Matt’s going to miss a name or a play here and there.

He’s not perfect, but I guarantee you he can do the job better than you or I could.

You can agree or disagree with this particular decision all you want, but at least come up with a better reason.

The Gamecocks have won their first four conference matches in 2007, but do they have what it takes to run the table in the OVC once again?

All signs point to yes.

The biggest question coming into the season was how the team would react to seven new faces on the roster.

The incoming freshmen have more than shouldered the load left by the 2006 senior class.

Brooke Shumacher has stepped in nicely averaging 14.7 assists per game in conference play, and Caitlin Vorbeck has proved to be a valuable option on the offensive side of the court, knocking down 73 kills in 2007.

“I think the freshmen are coming along really well,” JSU head coach Rick Nold said.

“I think that we are lucky in that we have so much depth. One day it’s one person coming in and another day it’s somebody else. We feel very confident. As they get more experience, I think it’s going to be a great class. I think it’s just a matter of time.”

While the early performances of the freshmen have played a big role in the success of the team so far, it’s the senior class that makes JSU so dangerous.

Every time that Abbey Breit steps onto the court, it’s almost a given that she will fill up the stat sheet.

After smashing 26 kills against Samford last Wednesday, Breit recorded the 50th double-double of her career, knocking down 12 kills to go along with 18 digs Saturday against Austin Peay.

Breit has recorded a double-double in 10 of the team’s 11 matches this season.

Rebekah Nichols is quickly becoming one of the most solid options on the offensive side of the court.

The Oxford, Ala., native is averaging 4.7 kills per game in conference play and continues to get better week after week.

Joi Watts is also doing her part to keep the Gamecock offense rolling, having registered more than five kills in every match this season.

The Gamecocks have always been known for their explosive, full-throttle style of offense, but their defense has been a key component in the early part of 2007.

JSU held Austin Peay to a .135 attack percentage in Saturday’s 3-0 win.

The success of the defense runs hand-in-hand with the libero position, and senior Abby Vierling has proven that her long wait to start for the Gamecocks was worth it.

With 17 digs on Saturday, Vierling raised her season total to 178.

Sophomore Britney Whitten is another very valuable cog in the JSU machine, recording six double-doubles this year.

However, one question mark that hovers over this team is its consistency.

At times, the Gamecocks have looked like the team that absolutely demolished the OVC in 2006, but they also go through stretches where the focus and intensity isn’t there.

“I thought we executed pretty well,” Nold said after defeating Austin Peay on Saturday.

“I don’t think our intensity level was where we needed it. That is something that we have talked a lot about. We have to make sure that we come out with the right attitude. Regardless of anything else, we want to keep pushing to our highest level of play, and I thought we could have done that a little bit better tonight.”

With wins over Samford and Austin Peay, the Gamecocks increased their OVC winning streak to 32 matches. JSU has also won 18 straight at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Both of those streaks will be on the line this weekend as the Gamecocks will take on Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State.

“It’s going to be a huge weekend. They are going to be two of the top teams in the conference. For us, it’s going to be a matter of establishing our style of play and putting a lot of pressure on them from the beginning,” Nold said.
GAMECOCK BRIEFS

- Jackson State outside hitter Abbey Breit has been named the Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Week after leading the Gamecocks to wins over Samford and Austin Peay this week.

- The Jacksonville State cross country team has earned a South Regional ranking for the first time in school history. The Gamecocks are currently ranked tenth by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

- The Jacksonville State men's tennis teams claimed two titles at the UTC Baras Collegiate Fall Classic over the weekend, with Berní Bachino and Eduardo Saratt winning the B Draw Doubles, and Saratt claiming the consolation title of the main singles draw.

- From staff reports

A GLANCE AHEAD

If you remember the Murray State game from last year, then you'll remember a very bad Murray State team.

Defensively, Murray State has been torched in all three of its losses by a combined score of 164-51.

The key match-up this week is the passing game of the Racers against JSU's secondary.

If there's a weak point to the Gamecock defense, it's that young secondary that has been prone to give up big plays this year.

So what if I blew it on last week's prediction? I'll get back in the win column this week with a JSU win.

Patrick's Prediction: JSU 28, Murray State 14

Offense: B-
Despite not having a 100-yard rusher for the fourth straight game, the Gamecocks rolled up 511 total yards of offense.

Defense: C
The defense held EKU's running game under the average, but gave up a huge 5-yard touchdown run to Bobby Washington.

Special Teams: F
Gavin Hallford hits a career-best 45-yard field goal and shanks a 27-yarder just before halftime, and don't forget the blown kickoff coverage.

Football: Kick returns torch Gamecocks

Cont. from page 7

time, taking the ball 94 yards for another return touchdown. Washington accounted for 204 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns on the day.

Johnson explained that the kick was designed to go to the right side of the field to avoid the double wedge, but the kick sailed down the middle of the field where the wedge was set up.

The kick coverage wasn't the only aspect of special teams that struggled for JSU.

Just before halftime, Hallford missed a 27-yard field goal, his first career miss from under 30 yards.

Statistically speaking, the Gamecocks dominated EKU.

JSU gained 165 yards more than the Colonels and held the ball 15 minutes longer.

The running game, considered to be JSU's biggest weakness, was as productive as it's been all season, chewing up 268 yards thanks to balanced performances from Green, Jackson and Anthony Jones.

"I think what we've established is that we're going to run the ball with a lot of people," Crowe said. "That's going to be our approach from here on out."

The Gamecocks travel to Murray, Ky., to play the Racers this Saturday night at 3 p.m.

"I don't know if we've focused very much on our kickoff team. This is almost like a 'hole in the dam' kinda thing. We're moving our finger all around it."

-Jack Crowe

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By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

Rebekah Nichols always seems to come up big whenever the Jacksonville State volleyball team needs it.

The outside hitter from Oxford, Ala., has developed into a tremendous leader and is quickly becoming another go-to option on the offensive side of the court for the Gamecocks.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm the go-to player," Nichols said. "If we're in a jam or other people aren't doing what they can, I take it upon myself. I know I've got to step up and slam the heck out of the ball and score the point."

Nichols wasn't always the confident leader that everybody sees on the court these days, but her continued improvement over her four year career has allowed her to become just that.

As a freshman, Nichols played in 79 games recording 122 kills on a .137 attack percentage.

Her sophomore season saw her playing time and overall numbers increase, but it wasn't until her junior year that Nichols became a valuable offensive weapon.

In 2006, Nichols knocked down 284 kills averaging 2.96 per game. She also improved her attack percentage to .282.

Coming into her final year at JSU, the expectations were higher than ever for Nichols, and she hasn't disappointed.

"She is playing well, and she has been hitting very well," JSU coach Rick Nold said. "So, that is something that everyone can follow, and you kind of feed off that energy level."

She has already recorded 152 kills averaging a staggering 4.71 kills per game in Ohio Valley Conference play.

Numbers aside, Nichols has also been the spark that the Gamecocks needed going into conference play.

Earlier this year Murray State had the Gamecocks against the ropes about the throw the final jab, but it was Nichols that got the last laugh.

With the Racers up 15-14 in the decisive game of the match, Nichols smashed one of her career-high 24 kills leading JSU to a narrow 17-15 victory.

Without Nichols playing at her best, JSU would have faced the danger of losing their first conference game since 2005.

Since then, Nichols has been on fire.

"She is obviously a huge part of our offense and defense. She brings a lot of leadership to us," Nold said. "She has a lot of confidence, and that is something that you like to spill over to all the other players."
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