Women's hoops With one more win or a little help, the Gamecocks will be in the OVC tournament. Page 6



ONLINE

PODCAST

When you go to vote in November, only two parties will have a real shot at the White House. Why is that?



REVIEW

Sheryl's new album is classic Crow.

www.thechanticleeronline.com

INSIDE ON CAMPUS

HIV testing

31 JSU students get tested at CCS's Sexual Awareness Day, part of National Sexual Responsibility Week.

STORY ON PAGE 2

QUESTION of the WEEK

What is your favorite part of

Starting QB Johnson kicked off football team

By Al Muskewitz
Consolidated News Service

The Jacksonville State football team is preparing to play the 2008 season with two true freshmen quarterbacks after coach Jack Crowe dismissed rising senior starter Cedric Johnson for a continual violation of team rules.

Senior defensive end Aaron Jones also was dismissed for violating team rules.

Crowe confirmed the moves Monday, three days before the Gamecocks are set to open spring practice.

He did not disclose the specific details of the straw-breaking violations, but stressed they were team- and athletic departmentrelated in nature and did not violate state or university code.

Crowe said the two players displayed a pattern of breaching accountability, a point of emphasis within the program this season.

"It's not the result from some shared event, but there is a similar history," Crowe said. "Their circumstances are not exactly the same, but the pattern has the same consistency. They have not been accountable to the rules and regulations of the football team or the athletic department."

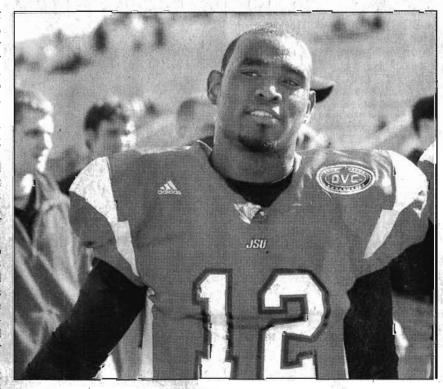
Johnson came to JSU in December of 2006 as a junior college All-American to compete for the starting job with fifth-year senior Matt Hardin. He won the job prior to the Memphis game and the Gamecocks eventually geared their offensive style to accommodate the Americus, Ga., native's creative style of play.

He passed for 1,434 yards and six touchdowns and was the team's second-leading rusher with 437 yards and 10 touchdowns. He ran for four touchdowns and accounted for 233 yards of total offense in a 42-9 rout of Austin Peay televised by ESPN-U. His longest run of the game was featured as No. 5 on ESPN SportsCenter's Plays of the Day.

But he also was involved in at least two incidents that required Crowe's attention. In June, he was arrested on drug and weapons charges and kicked out of campus housing for the first semester. Later in the season his name was linked to another incident involving the misuse of a credit card that ultimately resulted in another player being dismissed from the team.

Jones was academically ineligible last year. He had played in 20 games with 43

See "Cedric" page 6



Cedric Johnson on the sidelines of JSU's Nov. 10 season finale against Eastern Illinois, what would prove to be his final home game in a Gamecocks jersey. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / file

JSU is not only hosting regional high school basketball tournaments this week. The school is also looking to give enrollment figures a ...



The 5th element

Chemist and JSU alum Robinson speaks

By Brandon Hollingsworth
Chief Science Correspondent

but typical. He grew up in Alexandria and attended JSU, where

WEEK

What is your favorite part of baseball season?



- ☐Going to a game 45%
- I am not an American 40%
- Fantasy baseball leagues 10%
- Over-priced stadium food
- Peanuts and Cracker Jacks 0%



"I like going to baseball games because it's America's pastime. I mean, it wouldn't be summer without going to a couple of Braves games."

Bentley RobertsSophomore

Next week's question:

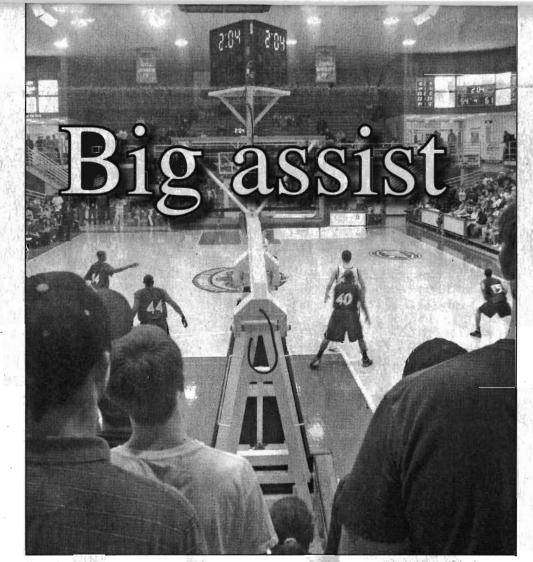
Are you happy with your living situation in Jacksonville?

ONLINE @

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Fans look on during one of 36 high school basketball games taking place this week at JSU's Pete Mathews Coliseum. Photo by Bethany Harbison / The Chanticleer

his week, high school basketball teams are battling on the hardwood of Pete Mathews Coliseum in the Alabama High School Association's Northeast regional baskerball tournament. A group of recruiters have joined the crowd in the stands — but they are there to eye more than just the players.

As Jacksonville State University revamps its marketing strategy and stretches to boost its enrollment to 10,000, the school is examining all possible resources. What better place to begin than in its own backyard?

For JSU, that backyard is Pete Mathews Coliseum — a backyard that drew 38,000 spectators during last year's tournament, according to Tim Garner, who currently serves as a special consultant to President Dr. William Meehan.

"We put on a good show, we entertain' these people and JSU hosts it, I'm told, better than anyone in the state," Garner said. "And we believe that's because we know how much heart and soul goes into this thing."

See "Basketball" page 3

By Bethany Harbison • News Editor

TWO WEEKS

JSU alumnus Elmer Kelley only had two weeks to live. His dying wish? For he and Freshman Forum advisor Mardracus Russell to continue "Kel's" passion project Project Valentine. The project's goal is to provide those in dire need with cell phones. Russell still carries on Kelley's last wish.

For story, see page 3

Robinson speaks

By Brandon Hollingsworth Chief Science Correspondent

When freshman JSU linebacker Greg Robinson walked into a Chemistry classroom in Martin Hall in the fall of 1976, he didn't know he was entering the realm of his career.

His journey came full circle this week, as he described his 12 years of research into group 13 elements, specifically the synthesization of neutral boronboron double bonds.

Not exactly the jargon of a typical linebacker.

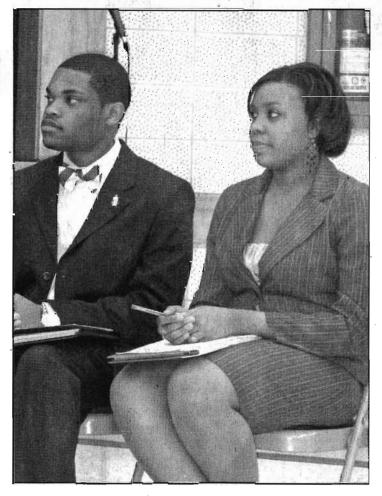
But Robinson was anything

but typical. He grew up in Alexandria and attended JSU, where he received his Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry in 1980. From there, he went on to earn his Ph.D from the University of Alabama in 1984.

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, Robinson came back to his alma mater to brief students and faculty on his recent research in the field of inorganic chemistry. He called his work "counterintuitive chemistry," because it bends preconceptions about how compounds and atomic bonds function.

See "Chemist," page 3

Looking presidential



Moody Duff III and Jennifer Nix, both vying for the position of Student Government Association president, look on as candidates for other positions present their platforms Monday, Feb. 18. Elections will be held March 4 and 5. Photo courtesy of Shalon Hathcock / SGA

Announcements

- JSU Ambassador applications are now available at the visitor center. The applications are due Feb. 29. For more, call 782-5260.
- · Students for Organ Donation at JSU is a new organization on campus. Those interested in joining or learning more about organ donation may call President Caitlin Perkins at frenchsoccerrules@msn.com.
- · JSU Department of Communication Diversity Committee and Public Relations Organization will present the movie Mona Lisa Smile on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008 in Room 236 of Self Hall. Free pizza will be served.
- · BCM's weekly worship service, Celebration, will be held Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m.

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy: Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed and limited to 50 words. Submissions must also include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at the Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall, or emailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com, by noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and style.

Campus Crime

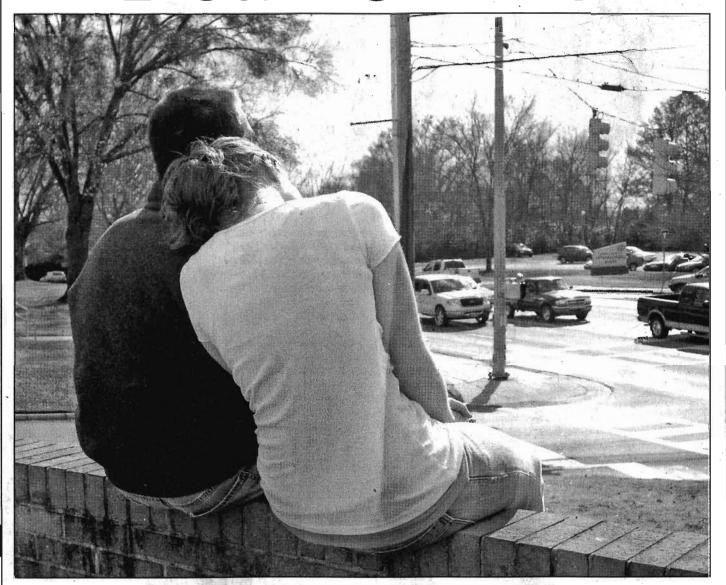
Tuesday, Feb. 12

· Student Robert C. Evans reported a theft of property from Room 226 Crow Hall. Stolen property included a set of keys and was valued at \$25.00.

Thursday, Feb. 14

- Student Jason H. Whitfild reported a theft of property from Crow Hall. Stolen property included a PlayStation 3 and was valued at \$500.00.
- · Student Richard B. Curry II reported a theft of property from the JSU Mail Center. Stolen property included a JSU refund check, valued at \$1,979.00.
- Student Kandance C. Ballew reported a theft of property

Lean on me



Good friends Bryan Ayres and Cristine Bell relax on a sunny Tuesday as they sit and watch the traffic go through the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 204 and U.S. Hwy. 21. Photo by Jenna Early / The Chanticleer

Spotlight on research

Student Research Symposium offers students, mentors time to shine

By Katie Freeman **Staff Reporter**

Some of the brightest students that Jacksonville State University has to offer gathered to show off their research in the College of Arts and Sciences Student Research Case explained. "But it Symposium 2008 on Feb. 13 also gives them a marker to

presentations, there was an award ceremony for those students who presented the best work.

"Our dean agreed to sponsor the best presentation, and we thought that gave the students a little friendly competition,"

though we didn't find statistical significance, its socially significant." Green showed the number of cases of heartworm in each clinic, and, as proposed, the rural clinic had a higher rate of heartworm

cases, although not by much. Green has graduated from JSU once, with an image and embedding another image inside of it where you don't realize that there's other information inside a picture," Cushing said. He, along with his advisors Monica Trifas and Ming Yang, came up with a new and improved way of hiding information.

"It's basically taking an

CAMPUS BRIEFS

- · The Anniston/Calhoun County Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) has recognized three Jacksonville State University faculty members as Living Legends: Dr. Patricia Corbin, associate professor of music; Dr. Myrtice Collins, associate professor of music; and Sandra Sudduth, instructor of education. The three were presented with certificates of recognition designating them as Living Legends on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, at 17th Street Baptist Church in Anniston.
- · The musical Fiddler on the Roof, presented by JSU music and drama departments, opens tonight, Feb. 21, at 7:00 p.m. Check the JSU Event Calendar online for additional showtimes, and call (256) 782-5648 to make reservations. Adult tickets cost \$12, JSU personnel and senior citizens pay \$10, and tickets for students, military and children are
- · Schedule booklets for both Summer and Fall 2008 were distributed to the Registrar's office.
- · NSSE (National **Survey of Student** Engagement) will soon come to JSU for the second time to test five areas of student involvement on campus. JSU's results will then be compiled with those of 774 other colleges and universities and will then be made available on USA Today and US News Web sites. Students who partcipate in the 15-minute survey will be automatically entered into a drawing. JSU will award three iPod Touches and 100

JSU refund check, valued at \$1,979.00.

 Student Kandance C. Ballew reported a theft of property from Martin Hall. Stolen property included a science book. Pearl J mp3, dark blue bag and cell phone holder. The total value was approximately \$135.00.

Friday, Feb. 15

· Student Marcus E. Fields was arrested from the Winn. Place III Parking Lot for public intoxication.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at th JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-4704, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050

gathered to show off their research in the College of Arts and Sciences Student Research Symposium 2008 on Feb. 13 and 14 of last week. These students' work could be seen on the 11th floor of the library in the form of presentations.

"It's changed a little bit in terms of format, but the purpose has always been the same, and that's to take the best work of our students and give them a forum to present this study was to see if, in a it," Jan Case, the symposium's director, said.

Case has been managing the symposium since last year and has made a few minor changes to its format. One of the most noticeable changes is that, as opposed to years past when awards went unnoticed, this year, at the end of all of the

thought that gave the students a little friendly competition," Case explained. "But it also gives them a marker to recognize that not only did you present this research, but that you were the best in your department."

One of Case's students, Megan Green, gave a presentation on preventative heartworm medicine for pets.

"The whole purpose of rural, lower cost clinic, vs. an expensive, high-end veterinary clinic, is there a difference between the rates? Does preventative medicine and an emphasis on preventative medicine make a difference in what is happening with the pets?" Green wondered.

"In my opinion, even

had a higher rate of heartworm cases, although not by much.

Green has graduated from JSU once, with an undergraduate degree in biology. She became a veterinarian for a while, and now she is back at JSU. preparing to receive another undergraduate degree in Psychology.

Christopher Cushing, a 23-year-old senior majoring in computer science, gave a James Bond-like presentation information-hiding technology.

"It's some research we did over the summer, over the course of about a month," Cushing said. "Its an informationhiding methodology in the wavelength domain.

Cusning said. He, along with his advisors Monica Trifas and Ming Yang, came up with a new and improved way of hiding information.

Brooke Wendt, who was mentored by Dr. Nancy Francisco Stewart, took home the award for Best Poster for Social Work.

"My poster was a life map of different significant events that have happened in my life based on a strength perspective," she said.

Wendt did not have to look too far for her research - it was herself.

"In social work, it's really important to know who you are before you can really go out and help other people," Wendt said.

The Week in Events

Thursday, February 21

- · Fiddler on the Roof, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- · Promotion of Big Man on Campus, 2nd Floor TMB Lobby, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, February 22

- · Fiddler on the Roof, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- · Regional Technology Fair, Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 23

· Fiddler on the Roof, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, Mainstage. 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 24

· Fiddler on the Roof, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, Mainstage. 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Monday, February 25

- Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- · Auditions for "The Vagina Monologues," JSU McClellan Center, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26

- Auditions for "The Vagina" Monologues," JSU McClellan Center, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- · Student Activities Council. TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

31 JSU students tested for HIV

By Shalon Montgomery Staff Reporter

To commemorate National Sexual Responsibility Week, Linda Shelton, lead counselor with Counseling and Career Services, took it upon herself to organize a day that would inform JSU students about the concept of safe sex.

"Abstinence is the only way to stop the spread of sexual transmitted disease in young people, but sexual education can be just as important," Shelton said.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, JSU Peer Educators, JSU Counseling and Career Services, JSU Housing and Residence Life, Sodexho Dinning Services, Calhoun County Health Services Center and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. came together to present the second annual Sexual Awareness Day. Sexual Awareness Day consisted of three events that started at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 6:00 p.m.

"I believe this day makes a difference in the lives of JSU students," Shelton said. "We did it last year, and "it went really

From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second floor of the TMB, the Peer Educators, the AKAs and Health Services set up displays dealing with sexual relationships.

"We are here to get the knowledge out about sexual transmitted diseases," president of the JSU AKA chapter and peer educator Jessica Peoples said. "If you don't teach this information, no one will know

On the third floor of the TMB, free HIV testing was offered. The HIV testing was. sponsored by the Calhoun County Health "My major fear is the ones who needed to take the test didn't."

— Julie Hope,

Calhoun County Health Services Center

Services Center.

"We are a non-profit medical organization, so HIV testing is a part of our mission," Jim Hope, director of education at the Calhoun County Health Service said. "We have grants from the state of Alabama for events involving students."

According to Sexual Awareness Day organizers, 200 to 300 people came and looked at the informational displays, and 31 students took advantage of the free HIV

"My major fear is the ones who needed to take the test didn't," Hope said.

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, the last HIV/AIDS survey done by the state of Alabama, on Aug. 10, 2007, showed 12.99% of people between the ages of 13-24 Alabamians had HIV.

At 3 p.m. in Room 303 of the TMB, Tom Prater, a JSU testing coordinator, held a healthy relationships presentation. The presentation was full of tips to keep and/ or have a healthy relationship. Although the students that attended were few, those

present appreciated the knowledge they gained.

"The program was very informational," senior Erin D. Brutt said.

The last event of the day was the Aids Awareness Concert, which was sponsored by JSU Housing and Residence Life. From 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Hopper Dining Hall was engulfed in a sea of entertainment. The concert had poetry and drama, and the rap group "Ole Pete Key, Inc" performed.

"The presentation was good, but different," Valencia Campbell said. "I just think Sexual Awareness Day should be more than a one day thing."

Overall, JSU students appreciated the Sexual Awareness Day.

"I am glad that there is a Sexual Awareness Day," junior Jennifer Brown said. "I feel that JSU's student body should be aware of the harmful disease in society. It is imperative that we as students remain proactive about protecting our bodies. Likewise, this can lead to a happier, healthier and more productive lifestyle."

in the 15-minute survey will be automatically entered into a drawing. JSU will award three iPod Touches and 100 JSU backpacks.

- The acting ensemble Will and Company will perform "Portraits of Courage: African-Americans I Wish I Had Known," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20 in the Leone Cole Auditorium. The play is about six little known African American heroes. The play is intended to inform multigenerational and multicultural audiences on some of the unsung heroes of African American history.
- · Governor Bob Riley declared Feb. 18 - 23 Severe Weather Awareness Week.

- From staff, wire reports

SENATE MINUTES

Rundown of Monday, Feb. 18 meeting

The student senate did not take action on any student bills, and they ended their meeting early so that the eight candidates running for SGA executive positions could present their speeches to the crowd.

OOPS LOL... **Mistakes** from previous

issues: • In the Feb. 14 issue, Dr. Louise Clark was incorrectly identified as Dr. Cynthia Clark.

The Chanticleer regrets the mistake and apologizes to anyone who was affected.

Forgotten phones find new homes with project

By Bethany Harbison **News Editor**

"Two weeks," his doctor said.

Two weeks left to live and breathe and move upon the earth, two weeks to invest in those he loved.

Two. Weeks.

As Jacksonville State University alumnus Elmer G. "Kel" Kelley looked into the face of his dwindling days, he sought to ensure that his dream materialized - so he picked up the phone to dial Mardracus Russell, advisor to Freshman Forum at JSU.

"If I were to die tomorrow, don't stop this project," Kelley told Russell. "You keep it going on."

Kelley and his wife began collecting and distributing used cell phones to people awaiting organ transplants six years ago, and for all six years JSU's Freshman Forum joined in on the effort. The Kelleys titled the endeavor Project Valentine, and it is just one of the functions of Tripleheart.org, an organization that the two founded.

As the Kelleys' Web site explains, those waiting for an organ transplant are normally in dire health, and a critical need can arise at any moment. The cell phones provided by Project Valentine do not have a service plan, but they do have the life-saving capability of dialing 911.

want you all to continue to touch the lives of those people who are waiting on a transplant and might need that phone at that very second," Kelley said

Kelley died on Jan. 28 at the age of 60, nine years after he became the recipient of a heart transplant himself.

And Russell, along with the officers and members of Freshman Forum, intend to make this year - the first year without Kelley at the helm - the biggest and best year yet.

Whether it is sticking Project Valentine fliers under windshield wipers of cars parked at Wal-Mart or posting notices around campus, Russell said "This is something I started, but I the forum is at hard at work getting the

word out. Within two weeks, Russell expects the group to be on Fox 6 of Birmingham promoting the project.

In years past, Russell said the Freshman Forum collected an average of 300 phones for the project, and though they have no nailed-down goal for 2008, Russell is hoping that this year's total will far exceed those of the past.

Russell, former SGA president at JSU, met Kelley in 2001 as a freshman involved with Project Valentine.

It is Kelley's passion for helping others that fuels Russell and the forum to continue the project.

"He was always cheerful, and he always had a story to tell," Russell said. Kelley's roots sink deeply into JSU. A former Southerner, he graduated in 1970 with a BS in education, majoring in music. In 2006, Kelley was selected by the JSU National Alumni Association as their Alumnus of the Year.

As Russell reflected upon his final conversation with Kelley, he said he continued to marvel at his strength.

"If the doctor tells you that you have two weeks to live, you might be thinking of more things you could do besides trying to help somebody else. He was trying to see what last-minute thing he could get done for somebody else," Russell said. "That means a lot."

Basketball:

Regional tournament recruiting tool for JSU

Continued from page 1

Now in its 15th consecutive year of hosting the tournament, JSU recruiters intend to use the opportunity created by the tournament's 36 games to not only recruit the high school students attending the games, but also to present á new, more unified image of JSU to the outside world.

"We want to bombard people with all that is JSU," said Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Dr. Tim King.

An admissions table will be set up on the concourse as a place where interested students can come and learn all they need to know about applying to and attending JSU - and register to win an iPod. During each game, announcements will be read, alerting students to the admissions table's offerings and informing them of other JSU happenings.

It is during each game's halftime, however, that the real fun (and big spending) begins.

A senior from each high school is chosen to participate in a halftime game called "Tic Tac Go JSU," according to Garner.

Chemist: Boron topic of note during speech

Continued from page 1

Dr. Robinson's career in research and academia began at Clemson University in 1985, where he was hired as an assistant professor. He worked his way up to associate professor in 1990 and finally to full professor at the University of Georgia in 1995.

The award-winning professor has had over 80 research papers published in a variety of chemistry journals, including Chemistry Communication and the Journal of the American Chemical

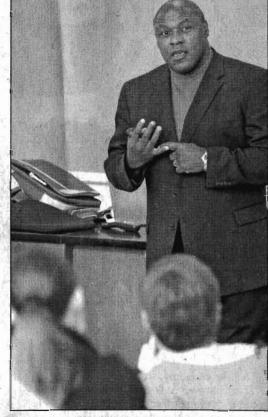
Robinson now leads a team of researchers working to unlock the secrets of group 13 elements - boron, aluminum, gallium, indium and thallium. Those elements, colloquially referred to as the boron group, are categorized together between the transition metals and metalloids on the periodic table. Much of the research put forth by his group has changed the way chemists think of bonding,

"The chemistry that we've done in the last ten years flies in the face of everything that we think we know about structured bonds," Robinson

For example, Robinson's recent work in boron bonds shows double bonds are possible in at least some group 13 elements a neutral state; that is, without an electric charge. The boron triple was the first such bond achieved since the element was discovered in 1805. His team was also the first to synthesize a gallium triple-bond in 1997.

The larger applications of such work apply to nanotechnology and industrial catalysts.

Robinson said his work will change the way chemistry is taught in the future.



Chemist and JSU alumnus Greg Robinson speaks in Martin Hall on Tuesday. Photo courtesy of Steve Latham / JSU

"In the [next edition of] textbooks, you're going to see this boron chemistry," he said.

LAST-DITCH EFFORT • By John Kroes



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(and big spending) begins.

A senior from each high school is chosen to participate in a halftime game called "Tic Tac Go JSU," according to Garner.

In the game, the seniors are asked to do layups, and for each shot they make, they are allowed to put a piece on the makeshift tic tac toe board. The winning senior is awarded a \$1025 scholarship that can be credited toward Fall 2008 tuition — and have an opportunity to take a shot from half court.

If they sink the basket, the senior is given a full-tuition JSU scholarship for Fall 2008.

"If 36 people make that half-court shot, that's quite a chunk," King said. "But you know what? It's worth every penny to provide for our future students.

Before the game made its debut during the tournament's first game on Tuesday, it was tested during the JSU vs. Morehead State game on Saturday, Feb. 16, but with lower stakes. In place of scholarships, Girl Scout cookies were awarded.

According to Garner, the efforts for this year's tournament are step one of a multi-step plan. Beginning next year, he and King hope that a system will be in place where members of the JSU family from the counties of the participating teams will come to provide a welcoming environment for teams and spectators.

The recruiting campaign won't stop at basketball, either. Garner said similar measures will be taken to reach out to the attendees of the numerous band and sports camp that occur on campus each summer.

Andy Green, a JSU admissions counselor, said he does not mind dreaming big when it comes to the results of recruiting efforts like these.

"We would like to see every single student that comes to our campus eventually come to JSU."

> Something going on? Tell us about it.

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What's Being an **Army Officer Worth?**

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	Starting
Degree Worth?	Salary
Nursing	\$46,840
Accounting	\$45,723
Economics/Finance	\$45,191
Business Administration	\$39,850
Marketing	\$37,446
Criminal Justice	\$33,222
Political Science	\$32,734
Psychology	\$30,958
Elementary Education	\$30,308
History	\$30,306
Biology/Life Sciences	\$26,449
Annual Vacation	≤14 days
Sick Leave	≤14 days
Health & Dental Care	Expensive

What's an Army Officer's Starting Salary Worth?

Starting Salary After 2 years of service \$58,846 After 4 years of service \$70,925

Annual Vacation 30 days+Federal Holidays Unlimited Sick Leave Health & Dental Care Free Plus annual cost of living adjustments

Undergraduate & Graduates Students:

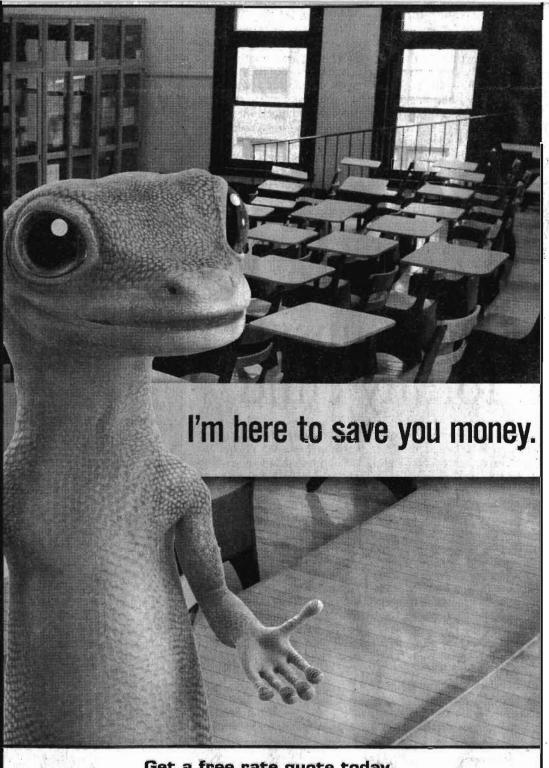
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OUR VOICE

Pulling trigger too soon

New gun legislation knee-jerk reaction to isolated tragedies

ometimes tragedy brings about needed change. Such was the case with the Titanic disaster, which led to stronger regulations for oceangoing

Sometimes it results in unnecessary and dangerous proposals. Such is the case this week, as State Sen. Hank Erwin (R-Montevallo) submits to the Legislature two bills that would make it easier for select students and professors to carry guns on campus.

Erwin's bill followed last week's shootings at Northern Illinois University. There, a former student named Steven Kazmierczak opened fire on a classroom lecture, killing five students and injuring 16 before turning the gun on himself.

We saw it happen after the rampage at Virginia Tech last April; politicians make appearances on the news shows and radio talkfests, pontificating on how all of this could have been avoided. Several suggested — and explicitly stated - that the tracedy could have been to get on camera and get that

Yes. Clearly, what we need instead of one guy shooting is 30 guys shooting. Certainly no harm could result from such heroic actions!

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine's solution was calmer and more pragmatic. Instead of letting everyone carry guns, Kaine argued, why not close the gaps in state gun laws that allowed gunman Seung-Hui Cho to obtain his weapon in the first place? Gaps between the way the state and federal officials run background checks allowed Cho to slip through, making it easier for him to get the guns he used in

What we need are similar pragmatic solutions. JSU President Bill Meehan said he disagrees with Erwin's legislation. Even trained professionals, he pointed out in the Star, occasionally have accidents that cause injury or

To us, it seems Sen. Erwin is more interested in publicity than in real answers. But that's politics. You do what you do

DAVE DILLON Political Cartoonist Dude Are You \
Coming To Class

Economy only part of the story

Next Commander-in-Chief must have strong foreign policy

Two days after the president left for his

"It's the economy, stupid."

This phrase, invented by Democratic spinmeister James Carville in 1992, has been repeated in many election cycles since then. It's back again this year, this time underlining voter concerns about the softening housing market, the subprime lending scandal and an impending recession.

But, for the sake of the future, let's rework that phrase just slightly right now: "It's not just the economy, stupid."

While the pundits and political operatives have already anointed the economy the issue of the 2008 presidential election (which is odd, considering many of the same people anointed Iraq as the issue last year), let me make a case for foreign policy.

International affairs are not the issue du



Brandon Hollingsworth

AIDS, diseases which continue to ravage the continent, even in the face of medical assistance from all over the world.

In Kenya, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was dispatched to help broker an between agreement political factions that have been fighting since a contested presidential election. The violence resulted in the deaths of

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more than 1,000 people.

a he or she, a Democrat or a Republican.

The country needs a leader who realizes international affairs do not dissipate because the economy is the water-cooler conversation of the day.

Expansions come and recessions go. But emerging democracies always struggle.

Ethnic strife tears nations apart.

Corrupt dictatorial governments oppress

These are the age-old problems not alleviated by the wonders of modern life, or negated by the fluctuating stock market.

While it may not feel like it, America has taken a break from the international game since 9/11. Save for focusing on Afghanistan and Iraq, diplomacy has been shelved in favor of unilateralism. "Speak softly and

rampage at Virginia Tech last April; politicians make appearances on the news shows and radio talkfests, pontificating on how all of this could have been avoided. Several suggested - and explicitly stated - that the tragedy could have been prevented if Virginia had a law allowing students to carry guns on campus.

Erwin's words are eerily similar: "My thinking is if we had extra guns on campus, that would send a deterrent to any potential madman who might want to try [an NIU-style attack] in this state," he told the Anniston Star last week.

professionals, he pointed out in the Star, occasionally have accidents that cause injury or death.

To us, it seems Sen. Erwin is more interested in publicity than in real answers. But that's politics. You do what you do to get on camera and get that valuable face time on the front pages of the hometown papers.

If Erwin truly seeks to prevent gun violence on campuses, he needs to think in broader terms. He needs to look for the holes in Alabama's gun laws and background checks. instead of proposing a kneejerk overbroad law virtually certain to lead to tragedy.

THEIR VOICE

Grove unsafe for my child

My child is in her second and there on-call night service semester at JSU and lives in the Grove apartments right off campus in Jacksonville. I, along with many other parents, am not happy with the safety issues and concerns I have about the safety of my child.

She has been moved out of one apartment due to threats being made to her, her car has been broken into and now her apartment door has been busted down and her apartment broken into. I know of many other apartments that have been broken into as well.

The safety of my child is my number-one priority and the Grove management is not concerned at all. You can never get an answer from anyone never answers the phone. We were promised 24-hour security along with the premises being gated — neither are true.

The security during the day is college students employed by the Grove and the Jacksonville Police have one police car on patrols at night — sometimes.

I am afraid for my child's safety, along with other JSU students' safety. I have contacted the president of JSU and the local television station to try and get to the bottom of the problem.

As you can tell, I am a parent crying out for help.

> - Mindi Bennett. parent of a JSU student

that phrase just slightly right now: "It's not just the economy, stupid."

While the pundits and political operatives have already anointed the economy the issue of the 2008 presidential election (which is odd, considering many of the same people anointed Iraq as the issue last year), let me make a case for foreign policy.

International affairs are not the issue du jour, and there's no screaming Jim Crameresque mascot for them, but foreign policy concerns are just as important as interest rates and market woes.

Living in a global society, united and divided by political, social, religious and economic issues, the United States cannot afford to ignore the world around it in favor of matters within its borders.

This week, President Bush is on a six-day trip to Africa. There, he and First Lady Laura Bush talked about issues such as malaria and

Brandon Hollingsworth

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help broker an agreement between political factions that have been fighting since a contested presidential election. The violence resulted in the deaths of

more than 1,000 people.

Two days after the president left for his trip, the Serbian state of Kosovo declared its independence. The Serbian government vowed to bring Kosovo back under its control, and the tensions between the two riled governments from Moscow to Madrid.

President of Pakistin — America's strongest central Asian ally in the war on terror — Pervez Musharaff is watching his once-powerful rein on the country loosen with each day. The problems in Africa, the Balkans and Pakistan are indicative of the issues that will face the next president, be it

and restrict.

These are the age-old problems not alleviated by the wonders of modern life, or negated by the fluctuating stock market.

While it may not feel like it. America has taken a break from the international game since 9/11. Save for focusing on Afghanistan and Iraq, diplomacy has been shelved in favor of unilateralism. "Speak softly and carry a big stick" has been replaced by "Put a boot in their ass, it's the American way."

It's time for that to stop. Here. Now. The presidential candidates need to demonstrate their respect for foreign affairs.

The times are serious, the problems are

We need a candidate who can deliver sound foreign policy platforms that reflect that seriousness. Ignoring the outside world won't make it go away.

It's not just the economy, stupid.

Red Sox Nation extends here ... for some reason

If the Red Sox ever need to relocate from Boston, I'd strongly recommend the Gadsden/Jacksonville/Anniston area.

There is little doubt in my mind that Calhoun County has the greatest concentration of Red Sox fans outside of New England.

It's impossible to get away from Red Sox fans. Now, part of that is that I have seen no fewer than eight people in my three (non-online) classes wearing Red Sox paraphernalia.

Contrast that to the one Braves hat I've seen in my classes this semester (and I ALWAYS go to class). How is this even possible?

When the Red Sox came to Atlanta last year, it would have been hard to distinguish the home fans. If not for the fact that the game wasn't being played at a Mickey Mouse park, of course.

There is one guy in my economics class who wears a Dodgers hat, but that's respectable. That's not jumping on the bandwagon.

If the Dodgers are good this year, I'm sure he will derive actual pleasure from their



Jered Staubs

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But these sheep-like Boston fans ... I mean, what can you say? I approached a donkey who was wearing a Red Sox hat the other day and asked him if he knew who (former longtime Red Sox player) Troy O'Leary was.

He looked more clueless than Alicia Silverstone.

Even the sports editor at the Anniston Star is normally seen wearing a Red Sox hat.

Of course, he is a dead ringer for Kevin Youkilis, so maybe he gets a pass.

But here's the real annoyance.

In the post-2003 era, these new Red Sox fans still try to assume the underdog role that true Boston fans rightfully embraced for vears.

The problem is that, while these Alabaman Red Sox insist on complaining about the Yankees' payroll, Boston's has been a close second in that category for the past few

The team spent \$51 million just for the rights to talk to a player. That doesn't scream underdog to me.

They also became the first team to allow on-field advertising in their home park and will be the first team to have advertising on their uniforms when they play in Japan next

At the beginning of the decade, there was about a 0.1 percent chance of seeing anything Red Sox-related on a given day. Now the reverse is true.

None of these Red Sox fans like the Celtics or Patriots, which makes a lot of sense.

If rooting for the Yankees is like rooting for the Harlem Globetrotters, then rooting for the Red Sox is like rooting for the house

They're loaded with cash, they're going to win more than they lose and it's ridiculous to enjoy their success unless you've been tortured by their failures.

Granted, all this isn't as pathetic as tictac-toe basketball champion Chris Lundy suddenly sporting a New York Giants hat in the wake of the Super Bowl, but it still bugs me enough to merit 500 words and an hour of my life.

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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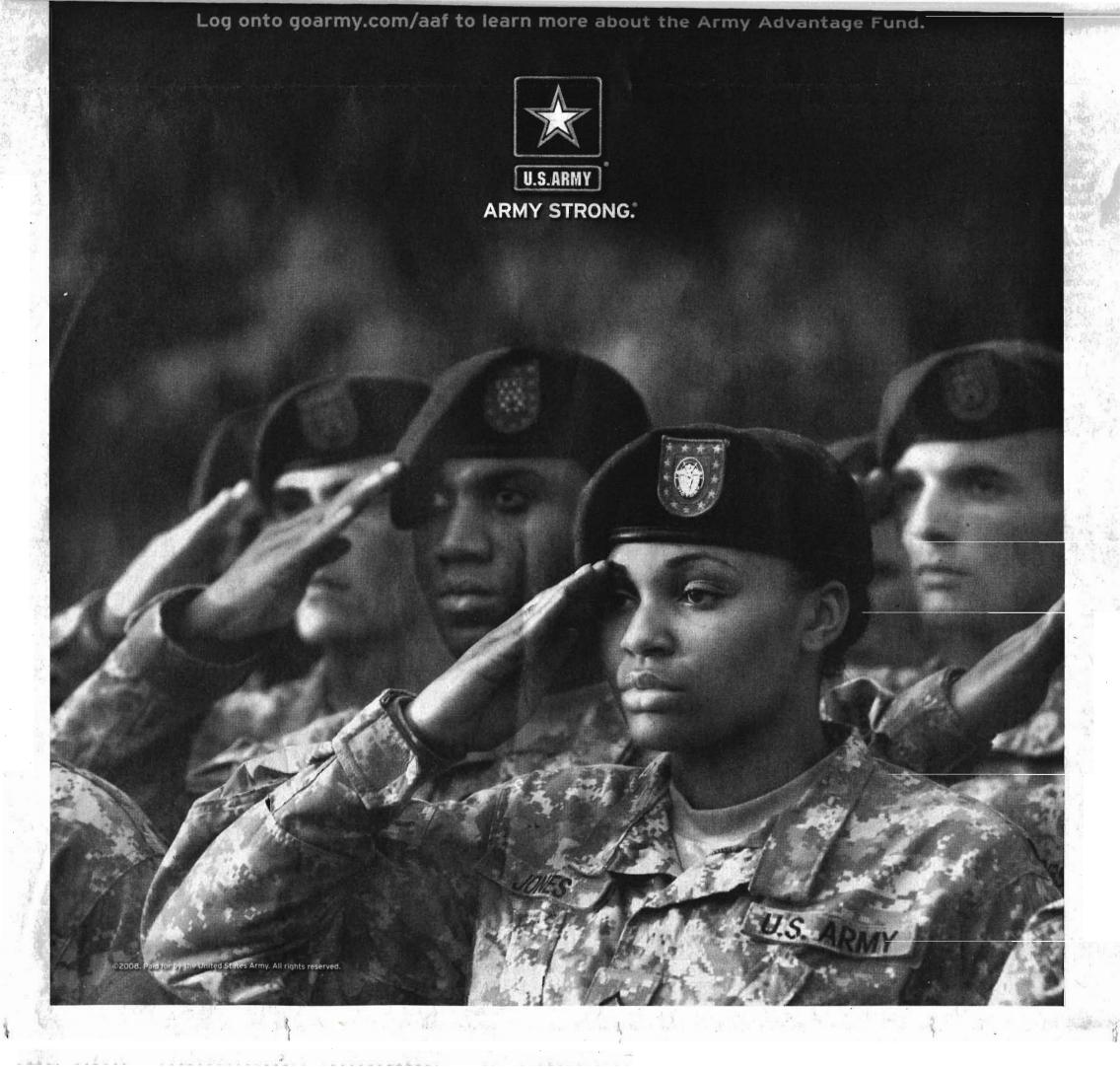
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The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in Room 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address to the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

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

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Sports

MORE ONLINE

The Jacksonville State softball team played six games over the weekend in the Georgia Southern Invitational. For an update on how they fared, visit thechanticleeronline.com.

GAMECOCK BRIEFS

- · The Jacksonville State baseball team was picked as the favorite to win the Ohio Valley Conference championship on Tuesday. The preseason rankings are determined by a vote from the 10 OVC head coaches. The Gamecocks received four first-place votes. JSU opens up a three-game series against Middle Tennessee State on Friday at Rudy Abbott Field. Defending conference champion Austin Peay was picked to finish second.
- JSU senior outfielder Clay Whittemore was named the OVC Preseason Player of the Year. Whittemore led the OVC in multi-hit games, multi-RBI games, hits, doubles and RBI last season on his way to earning OVC Player of the Year honors.
- · Jeremy Bynum was named **ÓV**C Freshman of the Week for his performance against Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State. The Oxford, Ala. native averaged 15 points and 2.5 rebounds per game last week. Against the Colonels, Bynum led the Gamecocks with 18 points in only 14 minutes of action. A member of the JSU basketball team has won the award three weeks in a row. Teammate Nick Murphy brought home the hardware in each of the last two weeks

A long time coming

Gamecocks starting to show progress

By Jered Staubs Sports Editor

It might have taken about 25 games, but the rest of Jacksonville is seeing what Mike LaPlante has seen all along.

LaPlante says his Gamecock team has been "growing up," and double-digit victories over highly ranked Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State confirmed his feeling.

Both EKU and Morehead had beaten JSU comfortably — by 16 and 15 respectively — in the first meetings, but JSU (6-20, 4-14 OVC) used quality defense to avenge those losses.

Coming into the week, JSU had allowed below 71 points twice, both against plodding Samford. The Gamecocks beat EKU 73-61 Thursday night, and then improved on that performance in a 66-48 win over Morehead Saturday afternoon.

After struggling with rebounding for the entirety of the season, JSU controlled the glass by a 32-20 margin against the Colonels.

That dominance and a stifling full-court press kept JSU in control despite EKU shooting 46 percent from the floor.

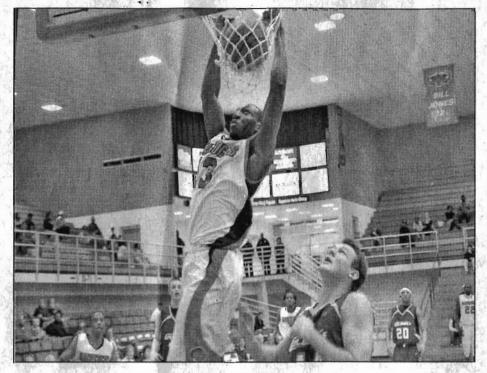
DeAndre Bray spearheaded the defensive effort and also added 10 assists.

"We were aggressive with the press because we knew we could bother them with it," Bray said. "We're just showing how strong we are right now. We're keeping our mind right as a team."

The team also gained energy when Amadou Mbodji blocked consecutive shots on EKU fast break opportunities, which led to JSU lay-ups on the other end.

"The first game against (EKU), they did some kind of dunk on us, and coach told me, 'Du, you got to protect the basket,' so that's what I did," Mbodji said.

It was not all done at the defensive end. Jeremy Bynum, limited for long stretches this season, returned to his early season scoring form and propelled a gamechanging 21-2 run that opened the game up



Freshman Nick Murphy gets a dunk in transition during JSU's 73-61 win over Eastern Kentucky Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

for JSU early in the second half.

The freshman made all seven field goals he attempted, including four three-pointers, and scored 18 points in only 14 minutes in the win over EKU.

"I fed off my team," Bynum said. "My team got going there, and that let me get into rhythm, and I got my confidence back."

Morehead's visit to Pete Mathew's Saturday saw one of the most physical games of the OVC season. JSU's Amadou Mbodji and MSU's Kenneth Faried came together in a brief altercation in the second half and were assessed technical fouls for shoving each other.

The two battled on the interior most of the night and altered or blocked several shots. Mbodji blocked four shots in both Gamecocks wins.

"That press works because we've got Du back there to block shots," leading scorer Nick Murphy said.

Murphy had seven steals — a seasonhigh for the Gamecocks — and scored 16 points after being held to six against EKU.

JSU scored 15 straight against Morehead State, including the last 12 of the first half. Will Ginn's running three-pointer at the buzzer gave the Gamecocks a 34-26 lead at the intermission, and the defense would never allow the Eagles to cut the lead to less than five.

"This team has never quit," LaPlante said. "Actually, they quit one time, late in the Georgia game, but in OVC play this team has been giving it their best every time out."

The wins came without the help of J.J. Wesley, who served the first two games of a three-game ban for an undisclosed violation of team rules.

When pressed, LaPlante simply said the violation was "innocent, and (Wesley) is doing what he needs to do to make things right."

The final game of the suspension will take place Saturday, as the Gamecocks conclude their home schedule against Georgia State this Saturday.

Rugby finishes strong

Seniors go out with win over archrival

By Jered Staubs Sports Editor

The official part of JSU's rugby season came to an end last Saturday with a 22-17 victory over rival Sewanee.

The Gamecocks moved into second place in the conference with the win, but only Tennessee Tech qualified for postseason play.

William Wacker, Chris Steketee and Clint Mead scored for the Gamecocks, who never trailed.

The Gamecocks will continue to play non-league matches – they are playing a club team from Birmingham this week.

The team will be losing as many as ten players from a class that has seen the best and worst of rugby at Jacksonville State.

The class went winless – other than a win over Georgia Tech via forfeit – in its first year but turned from a doormat to a power in only two years.

Last year, as juniors, the rugby team completed an undefeated regular season, which senior Chris Steketee called a "Cinderella story."

"There were moments where people thought about quitting, and only six or seven people would show up for practice, so early in it was really hard," Steketee said. "But we started getting better, and then everyone started making the commitment to the team."

Team captain Justin Armstrong expounds on the growing pains he and his teammates underwent.

One win away from tourney

basketball team has won the award three weeks in a row. Teammate Nick Murphy brought home the hardware in each of the last two weeks.

- The Jacksonville State men's tennis team defeated Mercer 4-3 over the weekend. The Gamecocks won four of the six singles matches including junior Scott Robertson's win over Justin Wimpee. Robertson returned to the court for the first time this spring after suffering a back injury.
- The Jacksonville State women's tennis team was beaten 4-3 by Mercer. The top two seeds, Brazilians Viviane Marani and Martina Dessbessell, won their matches, as did number four seed Eloah Lopes. Mercer won all the doubles matches to assure the victory.
- · The Jacksonville State track and field team continued to break more school records over the weekend at the Tiger Invitational hosted by Clemson University. Amber Wiley set a new pole vault record for the second time this season with a vault of 11 feet, 11.75 inches.
- · For her efforts. Wilev was named OVC Field Athlete of the Week. This is the second consecutive week that a JSU student-athlete has won the award. Nolinda Garner earned the award previously.
- · Crystal Estes set a new record in the shot put with a throw of 37"11.25". The last record to fall was the 4x400 meter relay. Asha Gibson, Edisha Brown, Stephanie Watts and Nolinda Garner finished with a time of 3: 54.76, breaking the previous record by three seconds.
- · The Jacksonville State rifle team won its NCAA Sectional match, as they defeated Murray State and Tennessee Tech. The NCAA will tabulate the scores from all 14 sectionals and announce the field for the NCAA Championship this week.

- From staff reports

One win away from tourney

Women inch closer to tournament berth with win over Morehead

By Jared Gravette Assistant Sports Editor

After getting crushed by Eastern Kentucky on Thursday night, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team rallied to defeat Morehead State 54-44 on Saturday.

With the victory over the Eagles, the Gamecocks (11-15, 8-9 OVC) cut their magic number down to one meaning that another JSU win or Morehead State loss will lock the Gamecocks into the Ohio Valley Conference tournament field.

"Whether there is a tournament or not, winning today was huge," JSU coach Becky Geyer said after Saturday's victory.

Thursday night's contest was anything but pretty for JSU, as EKU shot the lights out from behind the three-point arc.

The Colonels canned 17 three-pointers in all on their way to scoring 104 points, the most that the Gamecocks have allowed this year.

The majority of the damage was done by EKU's starting backcourt of Nikki Avery, Crystal Jones and Ashley Cazee, who scored 64 total



The magic number for the Jacksonville State women's basketball team to clinch a spot in the OVC tournament.

points.

"Their guards exceptional tonight," Geyer said. "They shot 72 percent in the first half from the three. I thought there was no way that they could maintain that, but they turned around in the second half and shot 60 (percent)."

lost the momentum after the first media timeout. Four minutes into the game, the Gamecocks led 6-2, but the Colonels scored the next 12 points to go up by eight.

JSU tried to claw their way back into the game, but the three-point stroke of EKU proved to be too much for the frustrated Gamecocks.

"We didn't respond at all

and fight back. They were playing exceptionally well and we didn't stop them from that run," Geyer said. "We would score or do something good, and they would turn around and make a three. We would do something good, and they would make another three."

After the loss, JSU spent JSU took an early lead but a lot of time focusing on defense, which came in handy against Morehead State. The Gamecocks held the Eagles to just 44 points on Saturday afternoon.

The day before a game, we normally go about an hour, and we went three hours." Gever said. "We just spent a lot of time on defensive technique, and you could see that that paid off for us today. We did a much better job than we have been doing.

Tarah Combs dropped 30 points on JSU earlier this season, but the Gamecocks held her to just three points on 1-for-14 shooting from the field on Saturday.

"Combs just shot the lights out on us up there, and we held her to three points today,' Geyer said.

In the Eagles' previous meeting with the Gamecocks, they made 15 three-point baskets. This time around, JSU only allowed Morehead State to make 14 shots total.

"We knew we couldn't let them get hot. I just watched their game against Samford from Thursday, and they shot the lights out. It looked a lot like our EKU game from the other night. We knew we couldn't let them get in that rhythm," Geyer said.

The Gamecocks were led by freshman Cierra Duhart and sophomore Jolie Efezokhae.

Duhart scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to record her third double-double of the season. Efezokhae added 13 points to go along with eight rebounds.

people to show up so we could field a team. "The next year, we started to get a solid base, where we would have a certain number of people who would show up every game. We started to compete in games, maybe not winning them, but at

started making the commitment

Armstrong expounds on the

growing pains he and his

"My first year, we would go

to practice and play three-on-

three rugby, that's how few

people were at practice. There

was no dedication. We'd call up

people on the phone on the day

of games, just trying to get 15

teammates underwent.

captain

Justin

to the team."

Team

"Then last year, we just dominated and had that undefeated season.

least competing.

"This year, we weren't really outplayed, but we were outsized a lot. Still, it's amazing to see where this program has come in a few years."

The team has multiple members who plan on entering the teaching and coaching profession, which Armstrong hopes will strengthen rugby in the state.

"Whether these guys are able to get jobs coaching rugby or not, having people who know rugby will only help advance the game in Alabama," he said.

With the mass departure, coach Mike Trowse is looking for replacements.

"We'll take any shape or size," he said.

Cedric: Will likely be replaced by incoming freshmen

Continued from page 1

tackles and, with Crowe calling him "our best defensive lineman," was projected to be a starter at defensive end this season. His violations involved repeated breaches of accountability.

"You cannot have this inside of your senior class," Crowe said. "Would we be doing the same thing if they were sophomores? Probably not ... In both these guys' cases, they have been given every chance for this not to happen. They're seniors. Enough is enough."

Crowe had been considering dismissing the players "for a couple days," but waited to finalize his decision until he was certain his decisions could not be appealed.

Crowe said the loss of both players "definitely creates an obstacle for us."

The Gamecocks have only to look on the depth chart to find Jones' replacement; they don't have that luxury with Johnson's ouster. Junior Santez Mays is expected to replace Jones and will be available for spring practice. Their two quarterbacks won't arrive until August.

They signed Marques Ivory of Northside-Warner Robins (Ga.) and Casey Weston of Prattville in February's recruiting class, but neither will have collegiate experience when the Gamecocks open their season in August at Georgia Tech.

The Gamecocks are expected to use walk-ons Riley Green of Jacksonville and Skylar Ray of Cherokee County, an original UAB signee, as their quarterbacks in the spring. Green lined up mostly at tight end last year. Starting safety Kenny Walker, a converted wide receiver who played quarterback in high school, is their third quarterback.

"I'm fully prepared to solve this problem with high school guys," Crowe said. "Part of what caused this problem is quick fixes, and I don't want to put a Band-aid on something where we've got a future where we're trying to raise the quality of this program. A Band-aid won't do that."



Dual-threat Cedric Johnson scrambles in JSU's loss to EKU last season. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File