ONLINE

One and done
Women's basketball knocked out in first round of the OVC tournament.
thechanticleeronline.com

INSIDE

International affair
ISO Week features; Taster’s Fair, soccer game and more.
Story on page 3

ON CAMPUS

Up in flames
Dixon Hall bushes ignite.
Story on page 2

QUESTION of the WEEK

What's the best part about March?

Forgettable season ends with LaPlante uprooted

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

The tenure of JSU men's basketball coach Mike LaPlante came to an end Monday after eight seasons at the school.

Athletic director Jim Fuller announced that LaPlante's contract would not be renewed after the Gamecocks missed the Ohio Valley Conference tournament for the second consecutive season.

LaPlante had been aware of the possibility that this would be his last season for some time.

He addressed the issue following JSU's season-ending 86-83 win over SEMO, and again Monday.

"I had an opportunity to meet with our team prior to the press conference, and first and foremost I'd like to thank them for the opportunity I had to coach them," LaPlante said. "I think today, on one side it's a sad day for myself and my family, but sometimes when one door closes another door opens."

The Gamecocks had a tumultuous season on and off the court and finished the year 7-22, and 5-15 in OVC play.

JSU was never expected to challenge for the top of the conference this season, but the nagging injuries to Erik Adams and Jeremy Bynum, combined with the dismissal of leading returning scorer Dorian Brown for academic reasons, left the team in a state of flux.

See "LaPlante," page 6

AD Jim Fuller announces Mike LaPlante's dismissal. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Mimosa

SGA Election Results

The voting is over, and the results have been tallied. For winners and more information, go ...

ONLINE @ thechanticleeronline.com

License to bill
JSU delegates take home new awards, positions from C-LEG, a conference of Alabama college students.
Soldiering on
JSU ROTC cadet bound for Afghanistan

By Haley Gregg
Staff Reporter

For Spc. Cory A. Horne, serving his country — no matter the cost or consequence — is a way of life.

A sophomore at Jacksonville State University, 20-year-old Horne is passionate about his military obligations. As a member of the Army ROTC, he will deploy to Afghanistan in January 2009 with the 167th Battalion infantry to serve in a time of war.

"It's my duty and responsibility," Horne said. "I want to go. I had a choice to either go or stay, but I chose to go. I had rather fight them on their land than on ours."

Horne comes from a family of military service members. His father, grandfather and uncles all served in various branches of the military.

"This is something that I have always wanted to do. It's in my blood," he said.

Horne, a criminal justice major, joined the JSU ROTC program after graduating from Trinity Christian Academy in May 2006. He began his military career at Fort Benning, Ga., by attending basic and advance individual training. Horne will attend additional training prior to deployment.

"The more training he has, the better I feel," said his mother, Andrea Horne of Smyrna, Ga., by attending basic and advance individual training. Horne will attend additional training prior to deployment. "The more training he has, the better I feel," said his mother, Andrea Horne of Smyrna, Ga.

Horne's part was really touching," said Ryan Wallace, a sophomore at Jacksonville State University. "It made me think about different things in my life, and I think I am going to start going to church more often now."

"It was not what I expected," said Ashley Turquino, a junior at JSU. "When he started talking about how God is your father, it made me realize that God is always with me no matter what."

AFTERdark started in 2000 and has traveled to over 100 major college campuses, reaching 150,000 college students throughout the country. The program features various musical acts and a message that White says is relevant to students. Its main purpose is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many college students as it possibly can.

"Our next goal is to reach one million college leaders in the next 10 years," said Brian Wang, who has been AFTERdark's event coordinator for three years.

According to Kimberly Kalla, a student leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, AFTERdark came to Jacksonville State University with the help of Josh Hathcock, who attended the conference this year for the third time, explained that at least a few of the bills proposed at C-LEG are normal jokes, citing one that she thought is important for this state. JSU Senator Tyrone Smiley's bill to make wearing open-toed shoes with socks illegal.

One such bill came from SGA President David Jennings, who proposed making theft of tax illegal, a measure that would make it a crime not to tip. Hathcock, who attended the conference this year for the third time, explained that at least a few of the bills proposed at C-LEG are normal jokes, citing one that she thought is important for this state.
Original Breezeway cast

Honda Manufacturing of Alabama will interview for the summer and fall 2008 semester co-op program on March 12 in 105 Bibb Graves Hall. HMA seeks students majoring in technology and business, all concentrations. For more, contact Becca Turner, 782-5485 or bturner@jsu.edu.

The Lambda Pi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. would like to thank Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority for their Imaginest Library donations, the open forum panelist and the JSU campus for your support during our Centennial snee-week!

Coed AKAerobics: a fun, high-impact aerobics class will be held Friday, March 7 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the JSU Coliseum (Dance Studio).

Technology 101: A free, basic computer class will be held Saturday, March 8 from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Ramona Wood Computer Lab. Refreshments will be served.

Burning bush

Dixon Hall bushes bursts into flames, no one injured

By Bethany Harbison
Editor in Chief

On Sunday, March 2, the bushes in front of Dixon Hall ignited. Resident Assistant Zac Sweeney, who was manning the hall’s desk at the time of the incident, saw the flames and dialed the University Police Department. He then ran down the halls, alerting residents of the incident. Another student then pulled the fire alarm. With the residents evacuated, Sweeney broke through the glass housing the fire extinguisher and began spraying at the fire.

“I’m an RA so I’m somewhat trained in

SGA presents R&B singer Rudy Currence

By Roya Hill
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 8:00 p.m. the SGA hosted R&B singer Rudy Currence.

A graduate of Furman University and a Mike Chek recording artist, Currence performed for a crowd of students in Leon Cole Auditorium. The concert wrapped up the SGA’s Black History Month celebration.

During Rudy’s performance, he brought fan and friend Misssee Braxton, a sophomore nursing major, on stage to sing with him to sing John
Carving his niche

Woodcarver teaches students how to see

the art of seeing the potential of a block of wood

By Ryan Rupprecht
Staff Reporter

Last Tuesday, Feb. 26, local artist James Cohorn spoke to instructor Allison McIlroy’s Art Appreciation class about how he discovered his natural talent in woodcarving.

He stood in front of the class, delicately holding a small block of his favorite, basswood.

“What do you see?” Cohorn asked. “There’s something in (this) block of wood.”

Cohorn, a soft-spoken retired pastor, explains.

“The imagination is unlimited in what can be done in a block of wood... perhaps there is a soldier in there, a sailor in there.”

Cohorn has been putting a blade to wood as long as he can remember. As a child, he would carve small toy trucks from blocks of wood and attach bottle caps to them for wheels. As he grew, he continued carving until in the 1970s when he moved to Gadsden and became interested in other forms of art. There, he attended art classes where he focused his attention on painting, which he believes has helped refine his carving technique. In 2000, James started carving exclusively again. He says the “warmth and receptive nature of the wood” has always drawn him back to it. With him he brought a dozen or more of his pieces — a carving of an American Indian which he carved from a mailbox post, a carving of the Three Bears from the popular children’s story, Shirley Temple complete with an intricately carved head of curly hair and many other different animals and characters.

“Do you realize that each one of these came from a block of wood?” Cohorn asked. “So inside the wood is something else.”

Cohorn firmly believes “if you can see it, you can carve it.”
He said he has taught many senior citizens how to carve, and he laughed as he told the students that most of the women are actually much better than the men. He speaks to local church groups, senior centers and has a local woodcarving club that meets every Thursday night.

Although Cohorn does not sell any of his pieces, he has given several to the Salvation Army to be auctioned for charity. At one auction, an Indian bust he donated brought in $550.

Retractions

Mistakes from last week’s issue:

In the article “AKA’s present Skeek Week” we incorrectly identified the president of Alpha Kappa Alpha as Anita Coachman. The president of the Lambda Pi Chapter of AKA is actually Jessica Peoples. Also, in the second to last paragraph, the second line should read “…said they will not stop helping...”
At ISO's Taster's Fair, international students offer up traditional foods from their home countries. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Mimosa

Flavors of the nations
Taster's Fair serves up fare from students' native countries

Katie Freeman
Staff Reporter

Last week, the International Student Organization held the annual week of events that ended with the Taster's Fair.

"Every year, we have this week at the beginning of March and at the end of February. It's just a tradition," said Milic Zecevic, a junior majoring in finance. He explained that the Taster's Fair has been an annual event since the organization was founded.

"We had 300 people there, and we had 20 to 25 different countries represented," Zecevic said. He added, "I really liked the Vietnamese spring rolls."

It was not just food, though — there was music and entertainment at the Taster's Fair as well. Zecevic said that they also had a program where people played music and did traditional dances from their countries.

"We had some people playing guitars, we had some Latin music," Zecevic said. "Then, we had the Nepalese dance and the Japanese traditional dance."

The Taster's Fair was only one event in a whole week of ISO's celebration.

The week kicked off on Sunday with a soccer game.

On Monday and Tuesday, they held a silent auction. The items being auctioned were brought from people's native countries and included things like cloths, sculptures, coffees and desserts.

"People bid on them and then later on we inform whoever wins, and actually this year we raised $600, and all of our money that we raise basically goes to our scholarship fund for International students," Zecevic said.

They also held a party that all JSU students were invited to on Wednesday.

The next day, the ISO held photo presentations.

"Basically, a photo presentation is like a presentation of any country," Zecevic said.

"It shows economy, religion, people and all that kind of stuff."

Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Mimosa

Students line up to serve the crowd.

Soldier: Horne says while the war overseas is controversial, military still needs support

Continued from page 1

which can be extended. He will participate in convoy security, various missions, searching for weapons and the basic duty of patrolling.

"I want to put my training to use," Horne said. "I am excited about fighting, because that's really an infantry thing."

Horne's mother and girlfriend feel differently about his serving in war.

"It has been hard, and I try not to think about it too much," his mother said. "He feels like he has an obligation to his country, and if God has called him to go, then He will protect him."

His girlfriend, Heather Brown, is finding it difficult knowing that her boyfriend will be away for such a long period.

"It's the amount of time away that gets to me the most — and the fact is I'm scared, but he feels like he has done his part if he doesn't go," said Brown, a student at Gadsden State Community College.

His goals are to finish his tour, get his degree and get commissioned as an officer to the rank of lieutenant. According to Horne, to "gain the respect" of the people that he will eventually be over, he needs to have some kind of experience in combat situations.

"Who knows? My opinion might change when I come back because war is a terrible thing, and it tends to change people," Horne said.

Maj. Anthony E. Hughley, the inspector general and deputy director of contracting at the Anniston Army Depot, served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 with the 4th Infantry Division.

"When I first got there, I wasn't happy, but me and my buddies starting thinking that everyone deserves a chance at freedom," Hughley said.

Hughley had a lot of close calls and lost three soldiers from his battalion due to improvised explosive devices, also known as IEDs, but he said he will never regret going.

His advice for new soldiers heading to war? Hughley said to remember to honor one's commitment.

"Give 100 percent focus and effort in your train up, and you will see the payoff in combat," Hughley said. "Not only are you doing this for yourself, but your battle buddy, squad member and fellow soldier is depending on you to be competent and dedicated so you both can complete your mission and come back home safely."

Hughley also gave some encouraging words to the soldiers and their family and friends.

He wanted to make sure that the soldiers' families understood that the media doesn't always accurately portray the war in Iraq.

"It takes a special individual to be willing to defend freedom," Hughley said.

The war of today is controversial — with 3,973 U.S. soldiers killed as of Feb. 25, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count. It costs the United States $275 million per day, according to National Priorities Project. Alabama's Army National Guard has had the nation's third-highest number of deployments with some 7,200 troops deployed since September 2001, according to WTVY News.

"I would like to see people more worried about giving the soldiers their support rather than worrying about the numbers," Horne said. "People need to realize that even if they don't support the war, that those men and women have volunteered to go to these places so they can go on with their daily lives and not have to worry about their freedom."

Spc. Cory Horne and his girlfriend Heather Brown pose in formalwear for an Army ROTC event earlier this year. Photo special to the Chanticler

8 LEO: Tannichill one of 8 Outstanding Delegates

2003 Easter Concert

Fathers Day - 3rd Sunday in June

The Chanticler
C-LEG: Tanniehill one of 8 Outstanding Delegates

Continued from page 1

able to switch on to hear the students’ debates. After the conference is over, the best bills (whether they pass or fail) are bound and sent to the legislators.

Eight Outstanding Delegates were chosen from the pool of 165, and JSU Senator JeLisa Tanniehill was among them.

“She knocked it out of the park,” Hatchcock said of the award, which was based on the weekend’s debates, parliamentary procedure, dress and a number of other factors.

Out of the 14 C-LEG officer positions, JSU representatives now occupy five. Sade McClenny was elected publicity director, Moody Duff III as Speaker of the House, Michael Finn as Sgt. of Arms for the House, Destini Mayberry as senate clerk and Hatchcock as conference coordinator.

Each participating school sends delegates to aid in the planning of next year’s conference, and this year’s representatives from JSU will be Kelsey Butler and JeLisa Tanniehill.

As conference coordinator, Hatchcock will be responsible for planning next year’s conference in its entirety — bookings, arranging dinners, choosing themes and organizing retreats.

A communications major with a public relations concentration, Hatchcock said her career ambition is to become a political events coordinator, and she knows her work in the SGA, along with her experience in C-LEG will prepare her well.

“I knew what I wanted to do when I came to college, and I picked my path,” Hatchcock said.

In addition to gaining experience and garnering awards, the 23 JSU delegates also networked with people from across Alabama.

“We’ve all grown to love one another, and we want one another to succeed,” Hatchock said of the delegates’ friendships.

C-LEG’s roots can be traced back to JSU. Alumna Emily Hawk Raley of JSU, along with UNA’s Michael Musselwhite, founded the organization in 1997, patterned it after Youth Legislature, a similar program that caters to high school students.

AFTERdark: Held by BCM, FCA and Wesley

Continued from page 1

Miller, a former Gamecock baseball player. He worked at the Kanakuk Kamp over the summer and thought AFTERdark would be a great program to have come to JSU.

“He got FCA, Baptist Campus Ministries and the Wesley Foundation involved and made this event happen,” Kalla said. “I think it’s the event of the year and I hope it changed lives.”

At the end of the program, White asked everyone to take down something in their life that they wanted to turn over to God. After a few minutes, White asked the audience to take their card to the stage and hand it to a worker who then in turn would nail it to the cross that White had made during his presentation — a symbol of how Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself on the cross.

“The part when the workers where nailing people’s sin to the cross was really touching,” said Brittany Gardner, sophomore soccer player at JSU.
The Chanticleer

Bethany Harbison
Editor in Chief
chantynews@gmail.com, 782-5701

Brandon Hollingsworth
Commentary Editor
jsu9348m@jsu.edu, 782-8192

Mike Stedham
Faculty Adviser
mstedham@jsu.edu, 782-5713

OUR VOICE

Thanks, Kevin

A man whose name you probably don’t know, but who had a major impact on the paper you’re reading right now, has taken leave of this crazy newsroom for a bright future. Kevin Jeffers was with the Chanticleer in different responsibilities for the past two years. However, in the last year as managing editor and then editor in chief, he inaugurated a renaissance for this tired paper. He almost single-handedly turned this publication into a real news source, and for that, we are forever grateful.

The Feb. 28 edition was Kevin’s last as editor in chief. Taking on a task that sometimes seemed better suited for Syrephus than a college journalist, Kevin presided over design, content and personnel each week, every week. It was a thankless job, but one at which he excelled beautifully.

In March of last year, the Chanticleer was a laughing stock, nearly devoid of serious news and heavy on fluff. Few people read it, and even fewer respected it. One year later, thanks in enormous part to Kevin’s contributions, the Chanticleer is vastly improved. From better quality news stories, to serious editorials and better graphic layout, Kevin’s stamp is all colleagues in the newsroom deserve a share of the credit as well. But it was primarily his vision and drive for perfection that pushed the rest of us to do better.

His enthusiasm and dedication to this paper was infectious, and it restored a sense of pride in the words and pictures that we selected to appear each week. Without his guidance and opinion, the Chanty would never have been the paper that it has become.

Certainly, there were times when the atmosphere in the newsroom became a little tense on those long Tuesday nights we readied the paper for publication. But if there was tension it was only because we were all striving to do better than our forebears, and in the end we all reached the apex we sought.

So now, Kevin is off to better and brighter things in print journalism. We hope he is rewarded with the success he has earned.

Bethany Harbison, who over the past year has risen from a staff reporter to news editor, will take over as editor in chief beginning with this edition. We’re going to try to continue the paper in Kevin’s mold, giving you the coverage and opinion that you’ve allowed to do.

We can’t give blood, we can’t serve openly in the armed forces and we can’t marry the person of our choice.

I’m gay.

She was surprised at my answer because she, like many Americans, was unaware that the Food and Drug Administration has had a ban on sexually active gay men donating blood since 1985.

A few weeks ago, my editor and I were going through ideas for stories, and she asked me if I would possibly attend a blood drive, give blood and write about my experience. I told her I would love to give blood and help out my fellow citizens, but I can’t for one simple reason.

I’m gay.

Zach Childree
chantycampusnews@gmail.com

Dave Dillon
Political Cartoonist

Even when donating blood, gays face discrimination

A few weeks ago, my editor and I were going through ideas for stories, and she asked me if I would possibly attend a blood drive, give blood and write about my experience. I told her I would love to give blood and help out my fellow citizens, but I can’t for one simple reason.

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Put this in your pipe and smoke it

Last week’s editorial, about marijuana legalization, attracted more comments than any other editorial to grace this page in the last year. We’re happy for it. It means people are reading, and what they read inspires them to write. We like feedback, and we got it in spades. In an ordinary week, it would not be unusual for us to receive one (or fewer) letters to the editor.

This past week, we received six, five of which were responses to the marijuana editorial. Most were polite and argued their points in a semi-coherent way. Others were disrespectful and crude in their heavy-handed criticism of our words. The thing that strikes us as most interesting, however, is that of the five letters responding to the pot piece, four were written by shills working for various marijuana-legalization advocacy groups on the West Coast.

We appreciate the comments and we’re glad people are reading and responding to our pieces, but for people to hurl accusations of propaganda at us and then admit to being propagandists themselves — well, that’s a little confusing to us. So you’ll forgive us for not printing those letters this week. The media serve as mirrors, reflecting culture and society back to you, the readers. We are not a megaphone for someone else’s platform.

New ways to control aggressive behavior

Many people are familiar with the benefits provided by pharmacological treatments. However, other treatment possibilities do exist that have fewer negative side effects. Our research has focused on cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) as a treatment for reducing stress-related problems in offender and law enforcement populations. In a recent study, a 19-year-old inmate was treated with CES for violent behavior. He had been sent to the jail with the stipulation that if he completed the Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) he could go home rather than to prison.

On two occasions, he was thrown out of the SATP program for violent and aggressive behavior, which included attacking an officer. The CES program was begun as he entered into the SATP program for the third and final time. The inmate had a positive attitude about this treatment treatment.

Long story short, the inmate not only graduated from SATP but was appointed dorm leader in the process. The combination of the inmate’s good efforts, the SATP program and CES proved to be a successful meld.

The CES unit we used was the Alpha-Stim SCS. It is a handheld unit that uses ear clips to deliver a very mild electric current to the brain. The current is at a level that encourages brain cells to increase production of serotonin. Serotonin helps the individual remain calm in difficult situations. As frequency of treatments increase, the greater the likelihood of permanent positive change; although, this is not always the case.

The Alpha-Stim unit was used in an earlier study with 11 Calhoun County sheriff's officers. After 20 sessions, the officers showed reductions in depression, anxiety, hostility and nine other scales on the Brief Symptom Inventory.

The human body and brain are electric and chemical in nature. A mental health community that provides both treatment options will improve the quality of life for many individuals.

Dr. Ronald Mellen is an associate professor in the department of criminal justice.

Letters Policy:

The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in Room 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address to the left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chanteditor@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.
THE ARMY ADVANTAGE FUND.
BECAUSE SOLDIERS DESERVE MORE.

Now the Army gives you more choices for your future. Earn up to $40,000 to start the business of your dreams or buy the home you always wanted. Log onto goarmy.com/aaf to learn more about the Army Advantage Fund.
Log onto goarmy.com/aaf to learn more about the Army Advantage Fund.
A taste of something extra
Softball wins four out of five at the Ole Miss Red and Blue Classic

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State softball team took a huge step forward over the weekend at the Ole Miss Red and Blue Classic.

The Gamecocks (11-7) swept through the first two days of the tournament, winning three of their four games in extra innings before falling to host Ole Miss 2-1 on Sunday.

“We were very upset with ourselves after the Kennesaw State game. We thought we should have had a better showing,” JSU coach Jana McGinnis said. “So, this weekend was key for us. We needed to show improvement, and we did. We met our goal.”

On Friday, JSU played a pair of extra-inning games against Belmont and Troy. The Gamecocks pitching staff was dominant, allowing just two runs across the plate.

Pinch-runner Amy Brown scored the game-winning run for the Gamecocks in the bottom half of the inning after a wild pitch from Sammi Parks.

Against Troy, the arm of Ashlynn Williams silenced JSU’s bats in the early going. Williams only allowed one hit through the first seven innings of the game, a home run off the bat of Courtney Underwood.

The game went into extra innings tied at one, but the Gamecocks put up four runs in the eighth, sealing a 5-3 victory.

JSU played three extra-inning games throughout the weekend — something McGinnis thinks will help her team down the road.

“We were put in some tough situations. We had extra-inning games, and we proved to be successful in it,” McGinnis said.

On the second day of the tournament, the Gamecocks relied heavily on sophomore Nikki Prier in wins over Stephen F. Austin and Louisiana Tech.

Prier got JSU started with a solo home run against the Jacks, and Dowling shut down the opposition. Dowling pitched all seven innings for the Gamecocks, allowing only two runs.

Against the Lady Techsters, Prier once again got JSU going, hitting a two-run homer in the first inning.

She finished the day 3-for-6 with two home runs and four RBI.

“Nikki didn’t hit well on Friday, and that night she said, ‘Coach, I’ll be there tomorrow.’ That’s a characteristic of a good player. Everybody is going to have their off-games.”

The game against Louisiana Tech went into extra innings, but the Gamecocks once again walked off the field on top after scoring two runs in the eighth inning.

JSU came into Sunday’s tilt with Ole Miss just one win away from the tournament championship but missed opportunities plagued the Gamecocks.

JSU stranded 10 runners throughout the game, seven of whom were in scoring position.

Against Ole Miss, I thought our team played a very good game overall,” McGinnis said. “If you were watching the game, you would have said that we outplayed them, but the score didn’t show it.”

“We didn’t come up with the timely hits that we should have,” McGinnis added.

Dowling put together another outstanding pitching performance, scattering two runs over seven innings.

Making the best of a bad situation
I think it’s been pretty well documented, at least from those who care what I think, that Mike LaPlante should have been given another year after this season in which anything that could go wrong did.

But that’s neither here nor there. What I want to talk about is the future of the program.

It seems JSU is willing to give high school coaches a chance, and in my opinion that is the right way to go with this team. The Gamecocks are so young that a high school coach is going to have an almost seamless transition in his first year.

The name on everyone’s lips is Hoover’s Charles Burkett. I admit, he makes sense for the position, with his ties to the school and the area. And to be named coach at Hoover, he probably knows what he’s doing.

But there are two other high school coaches I would love to see get a fair look from the new JSU search committee.

I’ve had the privilege of watching Butler’s Jack Doss and Madison Academy’s Andy Blackston in action at Pete Mathews Coliseum for the high school regional playoffs the past two seasons, and both have thoroughly impressed me.

Bert’s back
After missing the first five games of the regular season, Bert Smith came up big on Tuesday night against UAB, leading the Gamecocks (3-6) to a 6-5 victory.

Down 5-3 in the bottom of the eighth inning, JSU pushed two runs across the plate to knot the game at five.

Alex Jones entered in relief and promptly stuck out the side in the top of the ninth.

Blake Seguin stuck out to start the ninth for the Gamecocks but reached base when strike three got away from UAB catcher Allen Aubin.

Josh Sanders moved Seguin to second with a sacrifice bunt, setting the stage for Smith.

Smith launched a ball to deep center just out of the reach of Cody McMorris, plating the game-winning run.

“I thought he was going to throw me three sliders because he struck me out with two sliders before,” Smith said.

“The first pitch was a slider, and I thought he was going to come back with a slider. But he threw a fastball, and I was able to get the bat head on it,” Smith added. “It felt great. It just felt great being in the game.”

The Gamecocks pitching woes from the early part of the season appear to be a thing of the past.

On Sunday against the College of Charleston, Ben Tootle allowed just one run through six innings of work in the Gamecocks 2-1 victory.

“We are competing our tails off, and it started with Ben Tootle on Sunday and it continued tonight,” JSU coach Jim Case said. “There were a lot of things that weren’t great, but we kept battling and that’s what I was proud of.”
LaPlante: Failed to take Gamecocks beyond semis of OVC tourney

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The team suffered the ignominy of being considered among the worst teams in the entire nation, according to various RPI services, and finished the year with a more impressive resume than only 2-26 North Carolina and 0-29 New Jersey Institute of Technology, according to kentpom.com.

Though the past two years were not what anyone involved wanted, there were plenty of bright spots along the way. Senior guard Nick Murphy led the team with his play on the court and his leadership off the court. His recruiting skills were well documented, as he helped the Tigers win their only OVC game of the season against SEMO, which was JSU's lone road win of the season. The team had an impressive 1-82 record.

"I was playing for him," Bray said. "I've been around the game my whole life, and I know what it takes to win at this level. I've coached against some of the best coaches in the country, and I know what it takes to win." Bray's resume took a strong turn when he took an assistant coach position at a powerhouse program. The next step for Bray was to take the head coaching job at his alma mater, Talladega College, and he's been successful in that role.

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