Perturbed about parking

Students express concern over number of parking tickets issued by university police

By Allison Smith
Staff Writer

Concerns were raised recently in connection to what some called an excessive amount of tickets issued to students at Jacksonville State University. The tickets in question had to do with the parking arrangements around Stone Center, one of the school’s major academic buildings.

Dr. Tim King, associate vice president for enrollment and student affairs, reported that he had received no complaints or concerns regarding an excessive amount of tickets at Stone Center, but would certainly address students and their concerns if a problem of that nature arose. Chief of University Police Shawn Giddy, said that if a particularly high amount of tickets were distributed, the only reason for those tickets would have simply been in response to a large amount of violations.

One student in particular involved with the situation was former Student Government Association President, David Jennings.

Jennings said he received a ticket while in the commuting parking lot near the Stone Center.

“At first I thought, no red curve, and in my mind it was free parking,” Jennings said. “I thought anyone could park there.”

When he discovered a ticket on his windshield he wanted to know why. He then addressed the police department who proceeded to very kindly explain the regulations involved with the ticket. Through proper communication with the police Jennings said he quickly gained a better understanding of the situation.

Jennings also brought attention to another parking situation that had recently caused students to become concerned.

“There was a big misunderstanding at one point at the Baptist campus Ministries,” Jennings said. “Many students were concerned about the University police possibly issuing parking tickets in regards to the BCM parking lot. These concerns evolved into concerns about parking tickets issued to students.”

See “Parking,” page 2

Stone addresses SGA

Lobbyist urges students to speak out about higher education funding

By Ryan Rutledge
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association held their weekly senate meeting Monday night. The lobbyist Gordon Stone, of the Higher Education Partnership, highlighted the meeting. Stone spoke about universities in Alabama and the growing issue of funding for education in the state.

Last year the Alabama State Legislature cut university funding by fourteen percent. This year they plan to cut it by a further 12%. According to Stone, nearly this statistic is in direct relation to our state government and their lack of concern for the future of our state.

Stone encouraged students to get involved. The first thing that must be done, Stone says, is for the students to turn out in large numbers for Higher Ed Day on March 5 and show their concern to state senators.

At Monday night’s meeting Stone’s speech drew a standing ovation from everyone in the meeting, including two notable attendees: JSU’s own Don Killingsworth, Director of Academic Advisement, and a Government

Waddle named Ayers Chair

From JSU Newswire

Jacksonville State University’s Department of Communication has welcomed a new faculty member into its fold—Chris Waddle, who has been named the Ayers Chair of Communication.

“Th is is my first semester of what I hope is a long tenure,” Waddle said. “Journalism is undergoing a tremendous change in every form. Television journalism is changing, print journalism is changing and online journalism is expanding. It’s still important to do good journalism, but the platform is changing.”

It is because of those morphing platforms and what he calls the better set of facts and the ability to

See “Politics,” page 2
Gordon Stone speaks to the SGA on Monday night. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Chanticleer

On the catwalk
Students model fashions at campus show

By Mandy Pearson
Staff Writer

Monday, students filled the Leon Cole Auditorium for the fourth semi-annual Rock the Runway fashion show. Some students had to stand, due to the lack of chairs.

The fashion show featured many students as they walked the runway, as well as those who were part of the dance groups, who provided entertainment for the night. The show opened with a dance preformed by the Dancing Heat, a student dancing group.

This show stressed that you don't necessarily want a guy wearing baggy jeans, but rather classy business attire.

There was a patriotic segment that was worked into the show. This commemorated the recent election and the high numbers of young voters in the election. The models graced the runway in red, white and blue attire. Many sported the Stars and Stripes on ties, bow ties, or a scarf to tie their patriotic ensemble together.

"It was a good show," said Chris Calvin a sophomore majoring in Biology. "It really showed African American males how to dress successfully and look good on a college campus without spending too much money."

Over all the fashion show was a hit with the students. Many students just enjoyed watching their friends walk the runway, while others gained knowledge of how to dress for success.

The models and dancers received a standing ovation and loud applause at the end of the show.

Politics aside
Doran Smith writes what Obama can do to have a successful administration.

Oops!
Last week we forgot to print the rest of a story. Read the full article.

Some revelations
Sports Editor Jered Staubi ponders the Bible and Hockey.

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A model strikes a pose at the JSU "Rock the Runway" fashion show on Monday night. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

QUESTION of the WEEK
Should SGA officers be held to a higher standard than regular students?

Yes - 85%
No - 15%

Next week's question:
What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?
CAST (Community Actors Studio Theatre) will present Sanders Family Christmas this holiday season. The play is a sequel to the popular Smoke on the Mountain that was presented several years ago by CAST, but if you missed Smoke on the Mountain, Sanders Family Christmas will still be enjoyable. The musical is directed by Kimberley Dobbs with musical direction by Chris Cannon.

The scheduled dates are listed below:
- Thursday, December 4 at 8 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6 -- no show.
- Sunday, December 7 at 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 11-13 at 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 18-20 at 8 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, December 20-21 at 2:30 p.m.

Students from Sakura Union prepare Japanese food for other students to 'sample. If you would like to see your photo as ‘Photo of the week’, email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com Photo by Mandy Pearson/ The Chanticleer

Christmas comes in a shoebox for underprivileged

By MJ Ortiz
Staff Writer

(Editors Note: Last week this story appeared on the front page and was supposed to be continued on page 5. The story wasn’t continued on any page. Here is the article in its entirety.)

Christmas arrives to Guatemala sailing in a giant shoe box from a far away land, or at least that is what disadvantaged children think when they receive their little piece of Christmas joy in a shoebox filled with what most people would think of as ordinary things.

It is a labor of love that started 14 years ago.

According to Dr. George Lauderbaugh, associate professor of history at Jacksonville State University, it all began when Homer to help us; the coach likes to keep them busy.”
Many JSU organizations and members of the Jacksonville and surrounding communities have joined Lauderbaugh and Wilson in their efforts to share joy with these children.
This year, Phi Alpha Theta --a society to which Lauderbaugh is advisor-- will honor the JSU organization that donates the most to the drive in a plaque that will be displayed in the Office of Student Life.
There are many ways to contribute to the cause.
According to Dale Karns, the drive chairman, Fort McClellan Credit Union has donated a free bank account where donations are being accepted. The money raised will be used to purchase items to assemble shoeboxes.
Walgreen’s and Dollar General are also contributing to the
What's Happening

Thursday, November 20
- TARTUFFE
  Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, 7:00–9:15 p.m.
  Admission: $5, $8, $10
- Miss JSU Interest Meeting
  Office of Student Life (402 TMB), 6:30 p.m.
- Wesley Night, Wesley Foundation
  7:00–9:00 p.m.

Friday, November 21
- TARTUFFE
  Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, 7:00–9:15 p.m.
  Admission: $5, $8, $10

Monday, November 24
- SGA Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium
  6:00–7:00 p.m.
- Freshman Forum Meeting, TMB Auditorium
  7:45 p.m.
- Band Banquet, Leon Cole Auditorium
  7:00–10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25
- Thanksgiving Holidays
- No Classes
- Campus Closed

Quick Review

Tartuffe gets laughs
French farce is comedy gold

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

A lot of challenges faced JSU Drama's production of Molière's "Tartuffe". As a reviewer, I went into the theater with fairly low expectations.

I'm a 25 year old guy and I didn't think something Moliere wrote over 100 years ago could still hold my attention.

The only criteria I had for this show to meet was to successfully answer this question: will it make me laugh?

Thankfully, the cast and crew of the show worked together to make this a memorable performance and had me giggling, chuckling and even guffawing through most of it.

The show's director, Dr. Wayne Claeren, expertly grasped the concepts of hypocrisy and the dangers of blind faith with his direction of the show.

A lot of the comedy in "Tartuffe" is physical, and the cast carried it off without a hitch.

Michael Turner's portrayal of Orgon had me in stitches constantly. Turner's energy was certainly what gave the performance it's pizzazz.

Adam Fulmer's portrayal of the title character was at times hilarious and sneaky. Fulmer truly seemed to "get" his role and the level of deception that it requires.

Gatlin Aldredge portrays Orgon's son, Damis, with a perfect French style.

The only places I would suggest improvement for the cast would be in the energy levels of Kelli Moore's Filpote, the maid, and a few other cast members.

"Tartuffe" will have you laughing from the time the lights come up til they bring down the house.

"Tartuffe" opens tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Stone Center, and plays Friday and Saturday nights as well.

Waddle: From page 1

John F. Kennedy, George C. Wallace and Martin Luther King, Jr., and as a college student in Birmingham, Ala., Waddle was near much of the action.

"I felt a calling to be a part, not of the upheaval itself, but in telling people about the upheaval," Waddle said. "Society needed explanations."

Ever since those tumultuous days in Birmingham, journalism has been Waddle's livelihood. When drafted during the Vietnam War, he served as a military newspaper editor in Fort Campbell, Ky. At the Birmingham Post-Herald, he reported on the local school districts' attempts to desegregate classrooms. Waddle later worked as Washington correspondent for the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times during the Watergate scandals.

While working as managing editor for the Kansas City Times, his staff was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1982 for General Reporting for the coverage of a national disaster. That same year, a writer under his direction won a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. Waddle worked with the Anniston Star as managing editor, editorial page editor and then executive editor and vice-president for news.

In 2001, Waddle was named Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications at American University in Bulgaria as a Fulbright senior lecturer. He was selected in 2003 as the James A. Clendinen Professor in Editorial and Critical Writing for the University of South Florida. Waddle then spent an academic year in Cambridge, Mass., taking part in the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University.

Waddle currently serves as president of the Ayers Family Institute for Community Journalism. He is also the Anniston coordinator of the Knight Fellows in Community Journalism, a tuition-paid, stipend-provided program of the University of Alabama and the Anniston Star. He continues to actively review books for the Anniston Star and to produce news commentaries on Alabama Public TV, on a podcast with the editor of the Star and on his own blog, called OneJounalist.

Parking: From page 1

A wide-spread circulation of non-established information that had many students anxious.

Jennings said after talking with the JSU police, all issues in connection with the parking lot were addressed and put to rest.

According to Jennings, these two examples illustrate the importance of communication between students and the police. Often, students may feel frustrated when receiving tickets in regard to parking or other simple traffic violations, but it is helpful for students to be aware of the regulations enforced by police not only specifically for Jacksonville State but other police forces as well. Doing so could save a student time, money and frustration. The rules and regulations set up by the university have been put into place in hopes to insure the safety of everyone at the university.
Partisan politics aside

The route to a successful Obama administration

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

Even though the presidential and most congressional races are over, it seems as if we are still bombarded with the election results every time we listen to the news.

Whether it is MSNBC sounding their victory horn or Fox News contemplating the future of the GOP, every news outlet or organization has had their say on the race that seemed like it would never end.

Everyone is talking as though the battle is already won. Well, if the intent of Obama voters was to merely get him elected, then they have accomplished their goal and they can forget about it for.

President-elect honestly wants to unite the country, he must hold true to his campaign rhetoric. Unity, Hope, and Change are all ideals that Barack Obama stands for, and which the public has rallied behind. Therefore, now that the campaign is over and the reality of change is upon us Obama must appeal to both sides of the aisle and people of all persuasions.

As a moderate Conservative and a supporter of John McCain, I can think of many ways that he could achieve that (very little of which I believe will actually come to fruition). One thing, perhaps, that he could do before he even steps foot into the oval office is to select officials for his administration that exceed the already drawn party lines. An example of this would be to select both McCain in face. A receding economy, a struggling education system, and two wars unlike any other America has ever seen. The democratic majority cannot handle these tribulations by simply applying standard liberal band aids to them, in the same way that President Bush could not succeed when he applied standard conservative solutions.

If Obama fights for gay marriage and unconditional withdrawal of troops from volatile areas, he will have 50% of the people on his side. If Obama reverses Roe vs. Wade and keeps a military presence in ally's countries, he will have 50% of the people on his side. Hopefully though, Obama will work to reduce abortions, calm both sides of the "gay rights" storm, and secure peace that is both
The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through
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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.

trying to survive college math

by Webb Dillard
Prodigal Staff Writer

I have been away from the JSU
campus this entire semester attending
Gadsden State Community College
where algebra and Spanish are about
to make my head explode.
The Spanish is not really that much
difficult, but it does not help
matters any when I spend hours on
end trying to figure out what the
equation X is on my algebra homework
and still have Spanish to look over.

I am a broadcasting major. I hope
to leave school and go off to the real
world and produce something in the
mystical realm of television, why
do I need to know the square root
of 10,000? Math is not a subject I
excel in, never has been and never
will be. I can balance a checkbook,
I know adjustable rate mortgages
are bad and I know that I will always
spend more money than I make.
In any of the previous statements
where does the
algebra come in?

Colleges

must not force
square pegs in
round holes.
I can understand
having a basic
understanding of
some of the
formulas, but
making it a
tortuous hurdle
to reach
graduation
sucks.

The stress

algebra has
cost me this
semester has
been
tremendous.
The pressure of knowing that
if I do not get this, I do not
graduate.

Guess what tests are like for me.
Picture this, knots in the stomach,
sweaty palms
and heart
racing.

Math tests
aren't a traumatic
experience
for this idiot. I just
spent two hours
outside of class
going over
material with
my teacher to
make sure
I was not
going crazy.
It is not that
I can't do it, it
is that I
confuse one rule
with the
55,000
other rules in
algebra.

College

should be more about
letting students pursue areas of
interests. We pay to be here.
right? What would be the harm in
streamlining degree programs?
Oh, wait a minute, I know why.
Who would pay for that big
expensive
stadium expansion if a college
didn't force students to take remedial
math courses for no credit,
but the same time costing $400.00 a
pop.

Will knowing algebra make me

a better television producer? No,
I don't think so. I happen to think
I would make pretty damn good
producer right this instance.

Will knowing algebra and whatever math
is beyond that, help me to be a
better rocket scientist up at Huntsville
Space and Rocket Center? Hell no,
because I would never dream of being
a damn rocket scientist.
Unfortunately, I just don't get
to make the rules. I will suffer through
this algebra mess for another few
weeks. I know, it won't kill me,
but who's to say I won't go postal
during the process.

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Sports

Doing it with defense

Gamecocks stifle West Alabama and force 25 turnovers in comfortable win

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

The JSU men’s hoops team started the season about as expected, losing to an obviously superior team and defeating a clearly inferior team.

JSU opened the year losing to the South Carolina Gamecocks 89-76, as the home team blew JSU out of the gym in the first half before Brandon Crawford led a second half comeback.

Crawford scored 22 of his 28 points in the second half on his way to earning OVC Co-Player of the Week and Newcomer of the Week honors.

Still, the Gamecocks made too many mistakes in the first half and trailed by as many as 26 before a late rally made the score respectable.

“You just can’t turn the ball over 25 times and expect to win the ballgame,” JSU coach James Green said after the South Carolina game. “That’s something that we have talked about over and over. It’s not just turning it over, but what turnovers do to you.”

The Gamecocks turned that trick Tuesday as JSU forced 25 West Alabama turnovers on its way to a 69-48 win over the Tigers.

“We got in the passing lane a lot and got in good position defensively,” senior guard Jonathan Toles said. “It just comes from practice. Coach came here for defense, and that’s where we’re putting our effort. If we keep playing good defense, the offense will come.”

That was pretty much the story Tuesday as the defense bottled up West Alabama throughout, holding the Tigers under 30 percent from the floor. The JSU offense struggled to pull away, as the Gamecocks led by only six at halftime, but the offense began to get in a rhythm after the break.

Highlighting the turnaround was Jeremy Bynum, who had a miserable first half, as he missed all five shots he took in five minutes before he was pulled for the remainder of the half.

But the sophomore guard turned it around in the second half, as he hit five of six from beyond the arc and scored 17 points in 12 minutes against West Alabama’s zone defense.

Green said that Bynum is a key to the Gamecocks’ success against the zone because he is as good a pure shooter as anyone on the team.

Toles was the Gamecocks’ other double-digit scorer as he finished the night with 13, largely because he connected on three of his six three-point attempts.

“They came out in a zone, which we weren’t expecting,” Toles said. “JB missed his first four or five shots, I told him to just keep shooting. I missed my first shot but I had to keep shooting. It was really a blessing that they were in zone.”

Toles and Green both stressed the effort the team displayed and talked about the defensive mindset that is new to this year’s team. JSU allowed under 50 points only twice last season.

“I think good teams play better in the second half,” Green said. “The system is so new to these guys, that until you get all the jitters and everything out of the way, and you have an opportunity for them to come in and sit down and reflect on the first half and us talk about the things we didn’t do and how we can change that, that leads to us playing better in the second half.

“And we try to be a good conditioned team, a good disciplined team and a team that learns from our mistakes.”

The Gamecocks will return to action Saturday at Georgia State before heading to the northeast to play UMASS on Monday.

Off on the wrong foot

Jered Staubs

The Chanticleer

November 20, 2008

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

Some revelations

The last book of the Bible is called Revelation, not Revelations. I never really realized this until last week.

Anyway...

Since this is where everyone turns for religious perspectives, I have an observation on the subject.

All these people are convinced Obama’s election signals the end of the world and the tribulation period.

That’s fine (actually it’s stupid, but that’s beside the point), but if Jesus is coming back like “a thief in the night,” it’s not going to be any time soon. I doubt if there’s been a point in world history when so many are expecting it.

Random comment about the gay marriage opinion pieces of the past couple weeks: Do Southern Baptists honestly believe that stopping gay marriage is going to stop gay people from having sex with one another? Of course not.

I do find it mildly annoying that if I had written about what a great day it was because Obama was elected and gay marriage was banned in two states, I would have been crucified.

While I’m throwing Southern Baptists under the bus, I have another gripe. You know how everyone always complains about Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses going door to door or whatever it is they do? Southern Baptists do the exact same thing and stay for way longer.

The JSU men’s hoops team started the season about as expected, losing to an obviously superior team and defeating a clearly inferior team.

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Off on the wrong foot

Jered Staubs

The Chanticleer

November 20, 2008
Off on the wrong foot

Women's hoops drops first two regular season contests by double digits

By Edisha Brown
Staff Sports Writer

It seems the leaders of the women's basketball team and coach are on the same page despite back to back defeats against teams outside of their league.

The Lady Gamecocks battled against two very different teams for their first two games of the season: Samford beat JSU 68-55 Friday and Georgetown beat JSU 74-63 Sunday.

Samford, now of the Southern Conference, finished as semi finalists last season in the OVC.

The Gamecocks had a good start and led by 2 at halftime but Samford was able to break away 10 minutes into the second half. Head coach Becky Geyer had two things to say about the turnaround.

"The two things that hurt us the most were our help-side defense and turnovers," Geyer said in reference to Samford.

Geyer realized they could not win a lot of games with 21 turnovers. Sunday there was an improvement as the Gamecocks turned the ball over 18 times and forced 16 turnovers.

The Gamecocks were in position to win, especially throughout the first half. "It was a winnable game," Geyer said. "We were in a position where we would've had an opportunity to win."

However, coming back from the half, the Hoyas began to use their size as an advantage, knocking down players for the baskets.

"Every time we tried to close a gap, we didn't get a quality shot," Geyer said.

Geyer said the team continued to show its youth in learning experiences and is using these games as a boost. "All of this is preparation for the OVC," Geyer said.

"I thought we did good considering it's a Big East school and we were undersized," Efezokhae said.

"It was a confidence booster," added Johnikin. Why JSU continues to play a variety of teams is very certain to Geyer.

"We are building on mess-ups and learning from mistakes."

Georgetown is a much bigger team than the Lady Gamecocks. Recognizing the opposition's skill, JSU is using these games as learning experiences and is looking forward to continued improvement to help them prove ready for the OVC.

"I thought we did good considering it's a Big East school and we were undersized," Efezokhae said.

"It was a confidence booster," added Johnikin. Why JSU continues to play a variety of teams is very certain to Geyer.

"All of this is preparation for the OVC and that is why we are playing a mixture of teams with a mixture of styles," concluded Geyer. "We have to just continue to improve so that when we get to our conference schedule, we're ready."

Jolie Efezokhae attempts to save a ball from going out of bounds in JSU's 74-63 loss to Georgetown on Sunday. The Gamecocks shot only 37 percent from the floor and turned the ball over 18 times against the Hoyas. Photo courtesy of James Harkin / JSUFan.com

See "Standups," page 6

Jolie Efezokhae attempts to save a ball from going out of bounds in JSU's 74-63 loss to Georgetown on Sunday. The Gamecocks shot only 37 percent from the floor and turned the ball over 18 times against the Hoyas. Photo courtesy of James Harkin / JSUFan.com

Is JSU's football team going to make the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs? It's mostly a wait and see scenario, but for a more in-depth answer, check out page 6.
Coming through in crunch time

Gamecocks beat Tennessee State on last possession, keep playoff hopes alive

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Ryan Perrilloux is clutch.
He proved it in the SEC championship game last year, quarterbacking LSU to a 21-14 victory over Tennessee, and he proved it again last Saturday.

In the biggest game of the season, Perrilloux led the Jacksonville State offense on a 90-yard march to the end zone in the waning minutes of the Gamecocks' 26-21 victory over Tennessee State.
The drive was capped on a Calvin Middleton three-yard touchdown run with just 13 seconds remaining on the clock, sealing a victory for JSU (8-3, 6-2 OVC) and keeping its hopes of an at-large playoff bid alive.

In a game that went back-and-forth, Tennessee State dominated the first quarter, breaking a scoreless tie when Antonio Heffner found Julian Spillman on a 63-yard touchdown strike.

On the Gamecocks' next play from scrimmage, Perrilloux fumbled the ball right back to the Tigers deep in JSU territory, but Tennessee State failed to get the ball in the end zone, setting up a 90-yard field goal attempt that would prove very costly for TSU.

The Tigers and Gamecocks would swap one-yard touchdown runs in a 17-14 halftime lead with a 48-yard field goal as time expired.

Hallford, who received OVC Special Teams Players of the Week honors, added a 36-yard field goal early in the second quarter to put the Gamecocks up by six.

Tennessee State would lead the Gamecocks on the game-winning drive.

for only 119 yards with no touchdowns, but Perrilloux came up big when it really mattered.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Gamecocks did a good job containing Tennessee State's vaunted rushing attack, which was without the services of

Jacksonville State offensive linemen Keith Gergel (73) and Curt Porter (77) celebrate after Calvin Middleton's game winning touchdown over Tennessee State. The Gamecocks defeated the Tigers 26-21 on Saturday to clinch a share of second place in the conference and keep their playoff hopes alive. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

IS JSU'S SEASON OVER?

Hmm, good question. No one in Jacksonville will officially know until the NCAA Selection Show (Sunday at 6 p.m. on ESPN-U).

But the speculation is rampant. The Gamecocks have assured themselves of finishing the season tied for second in the OVC. The OVC is likely a two-bid league, meaning one of the teams tied for second will receive an at-large berth.

JSU will share second place with UT-Martin or Eastern Kentucky, both of whom beat the Gamecocks this season. However, Tennessee State — assuming it beats a mediocre Murray State team — will also be in that three-way tie, and the Gamecocks just defeated the Tigers.

Because the three second place teams will all have similar resumes, a big decision could be the draw that Ryan Perrilloux will present.

Fair or not, any level of college football is largely about ratings and attendance, and that can only help JSU this year.

If that is the case, JSU is in — albeit on the road at a difficult opponent — and Jack Crowley's decision to bring the transfer in will have proven beneficial for yet another reason. If not, it's wait 'til next year.
The Jacksonville State volleyball team entered the 2008 season with high hopes of maintaining its position as an Ohio Valley Conference powerhouse.

Unfortunately, youth and inconsistency plagued the Gamecocks, who finished eighth and missed the conference tournament for the first time since joining the OVC in 2003.

"You don't want to compare any season to another because everything changes. You have all different people, so you wouldn't be disappointed because of past success," JSU coach Rick Nold said. "But, I do think we could have done more with this season than what we did."

I hope it's a learning experience. Anything doesn't go well, you at least want to make sure that you learn from it, so it doesn't happen twice.

The Gamecocks had their moments early in the 2008 season, knocking off SEC opponents Ole Miss and Auburn inside Pete Mathews Coliseum, but JSU sputtered in conference play, dropping 11 of its first 12 matches.

After dropping seven consecutive matches, dreams of making the conference tournament all but vanished, but the Gamecocks didn't give up.

Instead, JSU turned it up a notch, ending the year on a good note with wins in four of their last six matches, something Nold hopes will spill over into the 2009 season.

"We obviously wanted the season to go a different way, but if you finish on a note that kind of gives you a little bit of confidence and a little bit of a taste of success, that can be a good motivator.

"I thought we practiced a lot harder at the end of the year. We just made some little adjustments that I think they really caught on to. For them to be able to see that success, that can really help down the road."

The Gamecocks struggled with inexperience and a lack of depth throughout the season. Nine of JSU's 11 players had one year or less experience under their belts.

But the Gamecocks will likely have everyone back next year with the exception of senior Haley Booker. JSU is also expected to bring in several freshmen to provide much needed depth.

With the late season success and a plethora of returning players, Nold believes that the Gamecocks will be right back in the thick of the OVC championship race in 2009.

"I have every expectation, between the players we have and the players that we will bring in," Nold said, "I said every time that I felt on any given day we could beat anybody, and I believe that wholeheartedly.

"Because of us having everybody back, I think that bodes well for next year. I really expect that — if we do everything that we need to in terms of preparing ourselves and really developing a great mentality — we should be in the thick of things."