SGA passes new rules
Bills restrict, create Homecoming royalty

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The Jacksonville State University Student Government Association met on Monday, October 13, to consider several new laws that will affect students.

Among the bills considered, Student Bill 47, a measure that would restrict candidacy for Homecoming Queen to biological females.

“I personally like it,” SGA President Jennifer Nix said. “I mean, homecoming queen you think about females, and if you think about homecoming kings, you think about males.”

The SGA also created the position of homecoming king, which will take effect next year.

Senator Michael Finn, senate parliamentarian, recognized that the bill may be construed as discrimination against male and even transgender students, but said that wasn’t the bill’s intent.

“It’s just to keep frat-boys, and people who want to run as a joke, out of the race,” Finn said.

Still, Nix said there was no procedure in place to confirm the gender of a candidate of either race.

“If you present yourself as a female, there isn’t anything we can do about that,” Nix said. “But, if you present yourself as a female and it’s questionable, then we’re going to ask you ‘are you male or female?’”

Finn said some cases would be taken into special consideration.

“If they approach us, and have always lived as female on campus, then exceptions will be made,” Finn said.

SGA Senator Doran Smith, who supported the bill, said while there is no procedure to confirm the gender of a candidate, a trust system will be used.

“At the moment we don’t plan on checking any background records or birth certificates,” Smith said. “But the idea is that if you are listed on your birth certificate as a female, then isn’t any-thing we can do about that,” idea is that if you are listed on your birth certificate as a female, then isn’t anything we can do about that,”

See “SGA,” page 2

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Rogers addresses JSU students about bailout plan

By Jennifer Bacchus
Special to The Chanticleer

Every seat in the auditorium was full and people still lined the walls. While many of those in room 101 of Mervil Building last week were there for extra credit or because their professor had mandated it, all of them were there to hear Congressman Mike Rogers (D-3rd District Alabama) discuss the recent emergency economic stabilization bill passed by the Senate on October 1 and by the House of Representatives on October 3.

“These are tough times, they’re interesting times for the country. When I left Washington last Friday night we called the staff in because for two weeks the staff in Washington and the staff in three of my Alabama offices had just been inundated with phone calls about the economic rescue package,” said Rogers. “I wanted to give them an atta boy and tell them what a good job they did, but I also wanted to emphasize to them that they’re market from what he called “toxic paper” that was preventing businesses throughout the nation from being able to take out the loans they needed for daily operations.

“This was about credit being available, not about these bankers. All of these mortgages that were made in recent years that were sub-prime and bad mortgages were being packaged with good mortgages, put on bank books and then sophisticated derivative sales were being made. As the housing market began to climb nobody knew what all this paper was worth,” said Rogers, adding that banks eventually began to freeze lending. “I had business people calling, telling me, ‘I’m going to be out of business in two weeks. I can’t get anybody financed for a house, even if they’ve got great credit.’”

Rogers also discussed the nation’s energy situation with the students, particularly the dependence on foreign oil.

“We’ve got a problem with supply and we’re too dependent on foreign oil. We have a problem with refining capac-
Getting it Wright
Yearbook editor presents new Mimosa

By Julie Skinner
News Editor

The Mimosa, Jacksonville State University's yearbook staff, recently came out with the newest yearbook that compiles two academic school years. The book is the first in three years and represents a vast amount of work and transitioning.

Jason Wright, editor of the Mimosa, worked hard with his staff to put out the new yearbook and made sure to include a letter of apology to the students and staff of JSU.

"I apologize to students and staff of the University for our tardiness," Wright said. "We had so many problems and in the apology in the first page of the yearbook, I promise that next year will be better."

Problems with the yearbook staff began during the 2005-2006 year when the editor and staff at that time failed to complete the book and lost some information.

"They had a few staff members who finished most of their stuff," Wright said. "But it just wasn’t compiled well, so the editor left." Wright said. "The next editor who came in, tried to fix it, but just couldn’t get a handle on it and that staff didn’t get to learn the knowledge they needed and didn’t have enough time while trying to fix the old yearbook, so another year got behind and that editor left before the year ended."

Wright and his staff worked hard to complete the yearbook that covers the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic school years. Though they wanted to complete a yearbook that was up-to-date, they weren’t allowed to do so until the old one was completed.

"The new yearbook covers as much information as we were able to hold onto," Wright said.

Besides working with old information, the staff was also forced to work with old software. Jessica Stephens, the Mimosa’s organizations editor, found the older technology to be hindering.

"We put in a lot of work, because we actually had to go back and do older work," Stephens said. "Unfortunately, we also had to work with older machines."

Though the setbacks the Mimosa’s staff faced, the important factor is that the yearbooks are freshly printed and ready to be sold. They will sell for $25.00 and will be available all year. The yearbooks will also be sold at this Saturday’s homecoming football game by the stadium starting at 2:00 p.m.

Besides the newest yearbooks, Mimosas dating back to 1969 will also be sold for Alumni who never bought a college yearbook. These will be priced at $15.00.

"Come out and buy one," Wright said. "It’s good to have a tangible record for your memories."

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

The American Chemical Society recently gave honorable mention to JSU’s Jackson State University chapter. The honorable mention was received due to the chapter’s active involvement in promoting chemistry, presenting research, providing public service and for setting up a friendly social environment.

According to their website, the American Chemical Society is "a congressionally chartered independent membership organization which represents professionals at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry and sciences that involve chemistry."

This past March, JSU had nine presenters at the American Chemical Society’s convention in New Orleans.

"The award is meaningful because the national organization has student affiliates from all over the nation, some from the most prestigious universities in the world," Dr. Al Nichols, Professor of Chemistry, said.

We are just one of the many."

Called Ted K. "We are likely to be very competitive at the undergraduate level with other larger universities."

The facts back up Ted K’s assertion. According to Dr. Andrew Helms, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, students from JSU attend graduate schools at Georgia Tech, University of Alabama, University of Tennessee and Stanford University. JSU also has a high rate of students who enter Medical, Pharmacy and Veterinarian Schools. One shining example of a JSU graduate is working on her Ph.D. from Texas A&M, and receives a $42,000-a-year stipend, which is a payment for an internship or apprenticeship.

"We take first generation students and help to make them more competitive in graduate schools and in the job market against graduates from (for example) Vanderbilt or UAB," Ted K said. "Where our students go is just one example of what makes our program so unique. Another example is the research conducted by our students."

Besides the honorable mention received by Chemistry students from JSU, they have also won three awards in the past two years from the American Chemical Society. In an average year, JSU sends 6 to 7 presenters to the AAS.

"There are two kinds of research," Ted K said. "There are scientific breakthroughs and there is research done that contributes to the well-being of science; JSU does the research that contributes to the well-being of science."

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ONLINE @
thechanticleronline.com

QUESTION of the WEEK
How do you spend your free time?

- What’s ‘free time’? - 39%  Watching TV - 29%
- Studying - 11%  Hanging out with friends - 13%

Next week’s question:
What are you doing for Halloween?
ON Campus

Briefs

Mr. Isaac Chappell of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in Calhoun County will be speaking at a seminar on Thursday, October 16 in the Merrill Building, Room 219 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. The seminar will be about identity-theft and is co-sponsored by JSU's Students in Free Enterprise.

Thursday, October 16, will be a chance to meet and greet with Jack Crowe, JSU's head football coach. The lunch provided will be complimentary and will need to be reserved no later than Wednesday, October 15. The luncheon will take place at 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Coxwell J-Club Room at the Field House. Call Ashley Stedham at 831-5656 to reserve your lunch.

Campus Crime

October 7
- A theft of property was reported at Houston Cole Library. Items stolen include a red and black Samsung cell phone valued at $150.00.
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Patterson Hall parking lot. Items stolen include an iPod valued at $100.00 and a Garmin GPS system valued at $150.00.

October 10
- A theft of property was reported at Delta Chi Fraternity House. Items stolen include a car key, room key, doctor's clinic key and a house key valued at $10.00.

What's Happening

Thursday, October 16
- Homecoming Queen Elections, TMB Auditorium 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- SGA J-Day, TMB Front Lawn 11:00 am - 5:00 p.m.
- Step Show Practice, Leone Cole Auditorium 4:30-10:00 p.m.
- University Picture Day/Annual Yearbook Sale, TMB 2nd floor 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm

Saturday, October 18

Taking on the tough issues

Stadium, summer classes among issues discussed at Faculty Senate meeting

by Allison Smith
Staff Writer

Last Monday, October 13, the Faculty Senate meeting was held for October. Every member present actively represented their departments. Many very significant topics were discussed and addressed with great precision. Everything from honors committee business to the new stadium was studied with great detail. Faculty welfare and departments awards where among the first things discussed.

The Faculty Senate President, Dr. Brent Cunningham, spoke about his interest in combination with other noted important subject spoken about. Discussion on students and the scheduling of their future classes involved everything from the textbook adoption policy to working toward choosing the best option for the functionality of future exam weeks.

The Senate discussed several options for the exams days, taking into consideration graduation, grade due dates and dead day.

Summer classes and the significant loss of income in recent years involved with the difficult term and how to better organize the process for the future, was a prominent subject with the members.

During the last few summers, the school lost a drastic amount of money in the form of transfers. The faculty senate saw this as a serious problem that requires a lot of attention and restructuring.

One of the main aspects of the summer scheduling being addressed presently is how to separate the terms and make a decision.
terms and make a decision on the direct result on the student body. The football stadium was one of the biggest projects the group of faculty spoke about. Many well-founded concerns were presented by different members of the Senate, as well as possible alternative measures that could be taken in order to better voice their important input to the people directly involved in the planning of the stadium itself. The Senate, though working constantly to ensure their concerns are noted, are not satisfied with the attention their important opinions are being given. Two of the more prudent concerns in connection with the stadium were the very large bond and the sewer system problem. The bond of course, is very expensive, and with the tremendous economic downturn would help more students who have strong academic standing receive money for school.

Rogers: New sources of renewable energy needed

"We've got cars now that are battery powered. You can buy one, plug it up overnight and drive it 90 miles. I want to take that battery and go to a great research company in this country and say, 'Here's a battery that goes 90 miles. Make it go 400 miles,'" said Rogers, explaining that he doesn’t believe the government is spending enough on research for renewable energy.

SGA: dress code suggested

According to Rogers, "We're going to have to do more drilling, we're going to have to build refineries, we're going to have to build nuclear plants, all those things, but most importantly the real future is renewable energy."

Rogers would like to see more drilling along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic seaboard as well as in Alaska, but he feels the true key is to research and develop renewable energy resources.

We've got cars now that are battery powered. You can buy one, plug it up overnight and drive it 90 miles. I want to take that battery and go to a great research company in this country and say, 'Here's a battery that goes 90 miles. Make it go 400 miles and make it half the size and half the cost. How much money do you need?'" said Rogers, explaining that he doesn’t believe the government is spending enough on research for renewable energy.

"I believe that business casual or professional is appropriate attire," Smith said. "I believe it puts forth a measure of professionalism."

Smith said he hopes appropriately-dressed Senators will cause people to inquire about the SGA meetings.

"If we can get dressed up, other students will ask us 'hey why are you dressed up?' and we can tell them 'there's an SGA meeting today, you should come and join us,'" Smith said.

The bill was tabled until next week's meeting in order to make some provisions for Marching Southerners band members who are also in the SGA. There were some concerns about whether the Southerners would have enough time to change into appropriate attire after coming from band rehearsals.

Smith said he thinks some allowances should be made for those who are participating in other school organizations.

"The more you can do with your time, that speaks volumes about your character," Smith said. "It really shows the kind of person that you are."
On The Verge

How many times have you wanted to strangle somebody? A bit abrasive, I know, but we all go through times in our lives where we have wanted to completely rid the world of someone's existence. Do not dare claim that it has never happened to every single person on the planet. There have been several times in my life where I've wished that somebody didn't exist. It's not that you necessarily wish them any harm, but rather wish they simply didn't exist.

On a very general topic for instance, the world would be a much better place without Paris Hilton. That seems like such a "go-to" remark about her, but there are definitely points to support the theory. Why in the world is she famous? Why are all people that fall into her same category famous? And seriously, if I hear the word "Socialite" used one more time, I may go on a rampage.

Aside from the aforementioned tirade, there have been several instances when we realize that we wish that certain people would just disappear. Why should we have to deal with these people that, for some reason, decide to make our lives hell. We've all felt this anger and sometimes hate, but what do we do with it? Do we stoop to their level and boy into the game, or do we step back and be the bigger person? Who knows? It's all a judgment call.

Help raise breast cancer awareness

The awareness program started in October 1985 and took place during only one week as people realized of how critical it was to inform people about breast cancer. Now, the program has become the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Organization. They are the promoters of October as breast cancer awareness month, and they provide instruction to millions of people and raise money with other breast cancer institutions to support breast cancer research.

According to the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Organization, breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women in the United States. After lung cancer, it is the second leading cause of death among women, and breast cancer is more common in women, men can also develop the disease. According to the Susan G. Komen Organization, less than one in every 100 cases of breast cancer in the United States are diagnosed in male patients.

There are several types of breast cancer, and they are divided into two main categories. These are noninvasive cancers and invasive cancers. The main difference is that noninvasive cancers do not spread to other tissues. The disease has been found to have a strong relationship with female hormones such as estrogen and progesterone.

It is unknown what causes breast cancer or what cures it, yet there are several ways you can do it. Remember what Tolkien meant when he said that "Even the smallest thing can change the course of the future."

Go on, get yourself a nice and tasty yogurt from Yoplait and save...
Everybody knows that I’m as far left without falling off when it comes to politics. Obviously, I’m voting for Obama. No big deal. If you don’t like it, get over it. This is America. Anyway, I seriously heard somebody in my history class say that he’s not voting for Obama because he thinks Obama is a terrorist.

I’ll just let that soak in for a minute.

He said that he’s not voting for Obama – because he thinks Obama is a terrorist. So, what was his reasoning for calling Obama a terrorist?

Get ready for this one, he looks at me with this “Uhh, Hello?!” look on his face and says, “Hello? O-Bama? O-SAMA?”

I couldn’t believe the stupidity coming out of this oxygen thief’s mouth.

Is this really happening? Are people in America so completely idiotic to think that Obama could be a terrorist? Oh, let’s not forget that his middle name is Hussein. Oh lord, let’s kill Obama now because it’s possible that the super-human love-child of Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden could be President of the United States of America.

Are you kidding me? Even right now as I’m typing this out, I’m seriously having a hard time comprehending such idiocy.

Let me point out something. If you are so moronic to suggest anything like what I just mentioned, you are a racist. You are racial profiling, and you are what’s wrong with America.

You are an embarrassment to people like myself and many others around me that take pride in living in a place where everybody is meant to be equal. If you cannot see past something like the color of someone’s skin or if you simply assume something about a person solely based on his or her name, I feel sorry for you.

There, I said it. If you are so unintelligent that you believe something like him being a terrorist – or anything along the same lines – seriously reconsider how you view yourself as a human. Then, think about what other people think of you. If you can’t see past everybody’s little differences like something so simple as their name, life is going to be very lonely.

We have to stop this kind of stupidity. In the big picture, no one is white, no one is black, and no one is any ethnicity. We are all humans – so start treating each other like it.

Help construct something bigger for humanity. That’s right, this is a special month. It is Breast Cancer Awareness month. It is a special time to remember those lost in the battle, the survivors and all others who share a special relationship through cancer, one way or another.

This month, people whose lives have been touched by the disease directly or indirectly come together with friends and supporters in order to get closer to the day when a cure can be found.

According to the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Organization, breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women in the United States. After lung cancer, it is the second leading cause of death. The Organization accounts that about 178,480 women in the U.S. were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 only, and even worse is the fact that about 40,460 will die from the disease.

The main difference is that noninvasive cancers do not spread to other tissues. The disease has been found to have a strong relationship with female hormones such as estrogen and progesterone.

Rugby game, go to Bibb Graves and the Marching Ballerinas and the National Panhellenic Sponsored Step Show. Performances by Southerners and Alumni of Year Awards and Homecoming Queen and Court.

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It is unknown what causes breast cancer or what cures it, yet there are some steps that can be taken in order to help prevent or to diminish the threat of developing the disease. These steps include healthy eating, regular exercising and reducing the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

If you want to help, there are many ways you can do it. Remember what Tolkien meant when he said that “Even the smallest thing can change the course of the future.”

Go on, get yourself a nice and tasty yogurt from Yoplait and save the lid for the ZTA ladies, or buy a coca cola from the telephone center to support Relay for Life. Do something; one cent can go a long way.
Bullet with butterfly wings

One of the numerous benefits of having my heart trampled on recently is that things like Texas 45, Oklahoma 35 don’t really matter so much. The old me definitely whines about dozens of things from that game. The new me only wants to whine about two:

1. I would like to congratulate Oklahoma’s defense for making Ryan Reynolds look like the most irreplaceable player in the history of college football. He got hurt, and OU’s defense turned into UTEP.
2. I really hate 11 a.m. kickoffs. Not only do they — for whatever reason — give the decided edge to the underdog, but a loss makes the rest of the day miserable. Any level of anticipation I had for Okie St./Mizzou (Though unlikely, it’s conceivable that two teams from the state of Oklahoma will play in BCS games and neither one will be OU. That takes mind-boggling to a whole new level.) and LSU/Florida (at least I got that one right) vanished instantly.

By the way, I appreciate the e-mails informing me that Oklahoma lost. Don’t get me wrong, I’d have sent myself a smartass e-mail too.

I have people ask me often if I want Alabama to fail. The answer is an emphatic no. I still think Georgia, Florida and even LSU are better, and I think that will manifest itself over the next couple months. But any sports media in this state, even one as localized as this, will receive more attention if Alabama is relevant.

I understand why Alabama fans — both those in my life and those who read this column — think I am anti-Alabama. Saturday night someone told me he was glad OU lost because Alabama would be number one this week. I laughed in his face because that was obviously never the case.

1 Interceptions doom

Looking at the NCAA’s statistics, Ryan Perrilloux threw five interceptions. The senior quarterback was put under pressure throughout the Gamecocks’ 38-35 loss to the Colonels, throwing five career-high interception. Photo courtesy of George Terrizzi/EKU Photographer
Interceptions doom JSU in surprising loss

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

"We'll lose to anybody in the country if we have four turnovers, not just Georgia Tech."

Ryan Perrilloux said that after JSU's season-opening defeat in Atlanta. Turns out he was right.

Perrilloux threw five interceptions as #18 JSU (4-2, 2-1 OVC) suffered its first conference loss of the year at Eastern Kentucky.

The junior quarterback did throw for 304 yards and rallied the team from a 17-point deficit to a point where the Gamecocks had the ball with a chance to take the lead, but EKU's defense came away with yet another big play.

Trailing by only three, JSU moved the ball to the edge of field goal range at the EKU 33. But Jordan Dalrymple came up with the Colonels' fifth interception, and EKU was able to run out the final two minutes.

The other story of the game was EKU's rush defense, which manhandled JSU. The Gamecocks came into the game averaging 212 rushing yards per game, but were held to 80 against the Colonels.

"A lot of credit needs to go to Eastern Kentucky," JSU coach Jack Crowe said. "I thought they played the best football game they played all year against us. I think that they made the line of scrimmage very physical for us, and we were inconsistent in the way we responded to the way they came after us."

One of the big turning points came as EKU stuffed Calvin Middleton and Alphonso Freeway on third-and-1 and fourth-and-1 from the Colonels' 40. EKU took advantage of the field position to take its first lead of the game at 14-7.

JSU's T.J. Heath intercepted 2007 OVC Player of the Year Allian Holland and returned the ball deep into Colonels' territory. When Calvin Middleton scored from a yard out, the situation seemed under control for JSU. The game was tied at 14 midway through the second quarter, and the underdog Colonels could be losing confidence.

Instead, JSU's next four drives ended the exact same way, with an EKU player celebrating an interception. EKU capitalized and built a 31-14 lead. Included in that sequence was a demoralizing play at the end of the first half.

Trailing by seven shortly before the half, it appeared as if JSU was going to have a field goal attempt right before the half. But EKU's Taylor Long picked off Perrilloux at his own 24 and ran 47 yards downfield before stepping out of bounds with a second left in the half.

Taylor Long's 46-yard field goal only counted for three points, but it must have felt like a punch right to the gut of the entire Gamecock team.

After another interception and EKU touchdown, JSU began its rally, as the Gamecocks virtually ignored the running game in favor of letting Perrilloux make plays with his arm and legs.

He was able to bring the Gamecocks to the brink, but eventually the deficit proved to be too much to overcome.

The loss means that Eastern Kentucky (4-3, 3-1 OVC), not JSU, is in control of its own destiny in the OVC. Despite being less than impressive in several games this season and despite the hype surrounding JSU, EKU has put itself in position to defend its league championship.
Volleyball continues downward spiral

Gamecocks swept by UT-Martin and Murray

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State volleyball team continued its freefall towards the bottom of the Ohio Valley Conference standings after two heartbreaking losses over the weekend.

The Gamecocks (6-14, 2-7 OVC) were swept by both Tennessee-Martin and Murray State, plunging JSU into ninth place in the conference.

The Gamecocks were in a position to win every game of every match over the weekend but couldn’t come up with big plays when they were needed.

“It’s tough,” JSU coach Rick Nold said. “We just didn’t make the plays. We gave them way too many points with a lot of errors. You aren’t going to beat a good team that way. That, to me, is the difference.”

Errors were a key factor in both of the JSU’s losses, as the Gamecocks combined for 46 attack errors to go along with 24 service errors over the two-match stretch.

“Both matches were the exact same thing,” Nold said. “We probably gave up an average of 10 more points a game on errors alone. When you look at a 25-point game, that’s giving them most of their points. There were some things that we did pretty decent offensively, but it’s just a matter of not giving away that many easy points.”

JSU has now reached the halfway point in its conference schedule, having dropped seven of its last eight contests. With just nine matches left to play, the Gamecocks must find a way to turn things around in order to make the six-team conference tournament.

“We have to play with confidence,” Nold said. “Right now, we are almost playing not to lose.

“Sometimes, you get in one of those ruts, and that can be tough to get out of. That is kind of where we are right now. It’s a mentality change that we need to work at as much as anything.”

Junior outside hitter Brittny Whitten comes up with a dig in a loss to UT-Martin Friday night. Whitten has been JSU’s most consistent player throughout the year and is featured in Sports Illustrated’s Faces in the Crowd section this week Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Whitten more than just a face in the crowd

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Brittny Whitten has been nothing short of outstanding during her junior campaign at Jacksonville State University.

The junior from Boonville, Ind., currently leads the Ohio Valley Conference in kills (272), kills per game (3.73) and ranks seventh in digs per game (4.00).

Her efforts have not been unrewarded. Earlier this season, Whitten became the second player in conference history to earn both Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week honors at the same time. During that seven-day period, Whitten set career highs with 28 digs and 24 kills, averaging an OVC-best 4.6 kills per game to go along with 5.44 digs per game.

“She is the most experienced player that we have by far,” JSU coach Rick Nold said. “We rely a lot on her because with the position she plays, we have her touching the ball almost every play. It’s something that puts a lot of pressure on her, and I think she has improved throughout the year.”

Whitten’s latest honor has her gracing the pages of Sports Illustrated in the Faces in the Crowd section of the magazine. But according to Nold, Whitten isn’t about individual accolades. In fact, she always puts her squad first and foremost.

“Hopefully, she (Whitten) can have some weeks like she did before, but we need to have everyone together,” Nold said. “She would be the first to tell you that she would give up every one of those little stories or honors to have everyone on the same page and playing at that level.

“Obviously, she has meant a lot to us. I’m not sure where we would be without some of the things she has done.”

Softball completes fall schedule undefeated

Coming home to rebound
Junior outside hitter Brittny Whitten comes up with a dig in a loss to UT-Martin Friday night. Whitten has been JSU’s most consistent player throughout the year and is featured in Sports Illustrated’s Faces in the Crowd section this week. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Softball completes fall schedule undefeated

From Staff Reports

The Jacksonville State softball team wrapped up its 2008 Fall season last weekend, capping a session that head coach Jana McGinnis thought gave her team a lot of optimism heading into the 2009 slate.

The Gamecocks are coming off one of the most storied seasons in school history in 2008, one that saw them post a 40-16 record, win the Ohio Valley Conference’s regular season and tournament titles and advance to the championship game of the NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional, where they fell to No. 3 Alabama on national television.

"In the fall, our main focus is to take a look at our newcomers and evaluate them and how they’re going to add to our team," McGinnis, who is entering her 16th season as the Gamecocks’ head coach, said. "Secondly, we want to develop chemistry among our team and, lastly, we look to see what areas we need to improve on in order to reach our goals in the spring."

The Gamecocks posted an 8-0 record in fall play, thanks to sweeps in two tournaments and a doubleheader sweep of Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Jax State handed the Yellow Jackets of the Atlantic Coast Conference a 4-2 defeat and then a 15-1 loss on Sunday, during which they beat unbeaten in the Tera Ross Memorial Tournament in Oxford, Ala., and by a margin of 4-1.

"We had many highlights this fall," the 2008 OVC Coach of the Year added. "But obviously, we saw some things we need to work on as a whole to be more successful than we were last year. One of the biggest positives is that we seem to have more depth on our pitching staff."

That staff features three players that have earned All-OVC honors in their careers. Sophomore Ashley Eliasson was the league’s Freshman of the Year and a First Team All-OVC performer in 2008, while senior Melissa Dowling was a second-team selection last year. Also highlighting the staff is senior Karla Pittman, who sat out last season with a knee injury after claiming First Team All-OVC accolades in 2006, but is back to give the Gamecocks what could be one of the most formidable rotations in the country.

"I am very proud of Karla," McGinnis added.

"She went home over the summer and worked extremely hard, and she came back in better shape than I’ve ever seen her. I also think she’s more mature mentally. She’s not exactly where she wants to be, but she’s well on her way."

On top of Pittman, an All-OVC honoree from two years ago, the Gamecocks return 13 players from the 2008 roster, including seven players that earned some sort of All-OVC honor last spring. Among that list is senior catcher Allie Barker, a first-team selection in 2008 and someone that the JSU staff is looking to for leadership in the upcoming season.

"Coming off of a championship season, in the next season you depend greatly on the veterans that helped you win that championship," McGinnis is said. "I can see Allie’s leadership. A lot of times, eyes are on her to see how she is going to react. We always tell our girls that you want your senior year to be your best year, and we are looking for Allie to do a lot for us this season, both on and off the field."

The largest void left on the team is the one left by left fielder Rachel Fleming, who hit leadoff and was one of the Gamecocks’ first Team All-OVC players. In her spot will be Hillary Downs, who transferred to JSU from Central Alabama Community College.

"Hillary will replace Rachel Fleming in left field for us," McGinnis added. "She needs to improve on her power and consistency, but defensively, she is already a great player with a great arm."

The Gamecocks will open their 2009 season on Feb. 6, when they travel to Mobile, Ala., to compete in the South Alabama Jaguar Invitational.

...and so tired of hearing about my dad has lost over $70,000..."

I’m bitter that this guy put that on us. I wasn’t being patient and probably forced a couple of things; I wasn’t being patient and apathetic..."

"I got to put that game behind me and this team got to put that game behind us. We just have to move forward and know that we can’t lose no more."

Despite the poor performance last week, Dupriox feels no pressure this week.

"It’s an opportunity to win the ball game. We’re going into the game trying to be mentally ready and prepared. I think we should come out on top," he said.

"How Perrinloux comes back from what was a very disappointing game is something that’s going to be interesting to watch," Crowe said, "along with how they handle Dupree."'

Senior Maurice Dupree was the primary receiver at JSU when Perrinloux arrived, and the two have developed a chemistry. Perrinloux said this chemistry developed over summer practice and made an interesting observation about Dupree’s abilities.

"I just compared him to the receivers at LSU with the speed, the hands and the quickness. Dupree has that killer instinct as a competitor; he’s a good player," Perrinloux said.

Dupree had a big game against Murray last year, including an 89-yard return, and he is in good position to get that same spotlight for Homecoming. The senior made his mark in this year’s game against Southeast Missouri State with a touchdown catch and another kickoff return for touchdown.

Dupree followed that with perhaps his best performance as a Gamecock receiver, as he had 161 yards on seven receptions and a touchdown in the loss to EKU.

Both offenses feature strong passing games. The offenses possess similar strengths, with major wide receivers and statistically the best two quarterbacks in the league with go-to-guys and major big members behind them on both sides.

"The challenge is probably to whichever defense can control the other team’s offense," Crowe said. "We’re looking forward to the challenge and hope the Homecoming environment is as it always has been in preparation for the game."

Despite losing to EKU, the Gamecocks remained ranked at #23 in the FCS polls. Saturday’s kickoff is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Paul Snow Stadium.

By Edisha Brown
Staff Sports Writer

After a disappointing 38-35 loss at Eastern Kentucky, Jacksonville State looks to refocus and make use of a Homecoming crowd.

The Gamecocks will look to continue to make advantage of their home field of Paul Snow Stadium, where they are 2-0.

His first year starting for only eight games, Ryan Perrinloux made some hasty decisions under pressure against Eastern Kentucky. He steps up, admits them and says he will move forward and learn from them.

"I probably forced a couple of things; I wasn’t being patient and it came back to bite me," he said. "I got to put that game behind me and this team got to put that game behind us. We just have to move forward and know that we can’t lose no more."

Staubs: Random thoughts while wondering why we need a moat on the square

I’ve only seen two people wearing Rays hats this year — JSU baseball player Matt McLaughlin and some guy in the crowd at Piedmont.

I would like to thank all the MLB baseball players who have decided to show their support for both Tottenham Hotspur and myself by growing beards.

My hot friend Amanda is upset that I don’t find her friend, who is a model, attractive. The thing is, Amanda has a kid and she’s still hotter than the model. Several of Amanda’s other friends are hotter than this model. Whatever.

Another Amanda I know (who is neither hot nor my friend) claims she got her driver’s license in Texas even though she’s never lived there. I was a wee bit intrigued when I heard this story, so I didn’t think to question her.

I love these guys who are defined as so clutch because they had one great playoff series or year. David Ortiz has mediocre career numbers in the playoffs and everyone just assumes (because it’s repeated so bleeping often) that he is the best clutch hitter in baseball.

On the other hand, we’re seeing Jason Bay prove himself as one of the best clutch hitters in baseball..."

As a graduate of Gadsden High, it’s hard to care too much about Gadsden City High School.

My pseudo-alma mater had an incredible loss this week, as Joe Billingsley worked his magic again, allowing 42 points to Pell City despite having the most defensive talent in the state. Can you tell I’m bitter that this guy destroyed GHS’s football team this season?"
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