Tuition and transit

Students will be paying more in the fall, but JSU is providing a new perk

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees approved a 9.47% raise in tuition rates starting in the fall semester of 2009.

The increase would raise tuition from the current rate of $190 per semester hour to $208. The move comes as the state's university system is in proration, and the budget for the next fiscal year contains even more reduced funding.

"It's across the board," Patty Hobbs, of JSU's special services, said. "We haven't had to let any teachers go or increase class sizes."

One change students can expect to see is the new transit system, which will begin operation this fall. "With gas prices and the parking situation, this is actually going to be a perk for the students," Hobbs said.

According to Joe Whitemore of JSU's special services, the system will be composed of 10 buses traveling three proposed routes. Two routes will cover the east and west sections of campus and one route will ferry students to and from parts of Jacksonville as far away from campus as Wal-Mart and the medical center with service to off campus residential areas such as The Grove and The Reserve.

"It will tremendously alleviate traffic and parking congestion," Hobbs said.

Housing announces restructuring plan

By M.J. Ortiz
Staff Writer

Beginning Fall 2009, the Department of University Housing and Residence Life will be launching the New Housing Two-Year Restructuring Plan.

According to Brooke Bell, the assistant director of student development and educational programming, the purpose is to "help increase the retention of first year students."

"Students will be benefited with more apartment style living facilities and the opportunity to remain on campus as they advance in their college career," Bell says.

Logan and Patterson Halls will be the first to host the new First Year Experience when the new fall semester starts in 2009.

The addition of these apartments increases the total occupancy by 40 beds.

The Housing department said that, starting fall 2009, all apartment leases will be for 12-month lease agreements and will include the costs of all utilities in the housing rent payment.

The department of Housing is currently exploring the option of a first year residency requirement.

In order to accommodate all incoming freshmen, Crow, Dixon, and Patterson Halls will serve as freshman male housing and Curtiss, Fitzpatrick and Logan Halls will serve as freshman female housing.

This transition will not start until 2010, when Logan and Patterson would remain gender specific and convert to all freshman housing.

See "Transit," page 2
Dixon hall was hit with the most pies.
He received 20 pies, to the face.
If this event sounds familiar, it has been a pan of Resident Appreciation Week.”

By Zach Childree
Lighted sign gets needed repairs
Students driving by the Theron Montgomery building at Jacksonville State University on Thursday, might have noticed the large lighted sign was undergoing a face lift. The sign was originally erected 2 years ago to announce events and information to students. Since then, the weather has taken its toll on the sign.

“We’ve had some rain damage to it,” said Stephanie Morgan of JSU’s TV services. “And because of that, we’ve had some ongoing problems with the sign.”

Even though the new sign is in place, Morgan said they are still working to get the sign operational. “The company installer is working right now to get it back up and running,” Morgan said. “We just ask that students bare with us while we get things working again.”

Pie in the sky... and in your face
Department of Housing finds tasty way to raise money for Relay for Life

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

The Department of Housing and Residence Life held a fundraiser event on Thursday, April 9. The event, Pie in the Face for the Human Race, was held on the quad in between the Cafeteria and Bibb Graves Hall from 2 to 4 p.m.

“Pie in the Face for the Human Race” was part of Resident Appreciation Week.

Resident Coordinators volunteered to have a pie shoved in their faces while charging only two dollars per pie. Nalbert Noland Jr., who is Residence Life Coordinator for Crow and Dixon hall was hit with the most pies. He received 20 pies to the face.

If this event sounds familiar, it is because this is not the first time the department has held it. Wesley Todd, the Resident Coordinator for both Logan and Patterson Hall, said “We’ve done this event before, but this is the first time it has been a part of Resident Appreciation Week.”

According to Todd, advertisements for the event were posted in all of the residence halls. The department was prepared for a large turnout and obtained 3 cases of whip cream to make the pies.

“We’ve sold moons and stars from the American Cancer Society, hosted a basketball tournament, and most recently a car wash,” said Todd. “We are looking to trump last year’s total.” This year’s goal for the department of University Housing and Residence Life is $1600. Thursday’s event raised $181, while the same event last year raised just under $300. The total before the event was $1258, giving department a grand total of $1439.

This event is merely one in line of fundraising events held by various departments in order to donate to Relay for Life. Tuesday, April 14, the Financial Aid office hosted a breakfast. There was also a chili cook-off in Martin Hall. All funds raised at these events will sponsor the Jacksonville State University team for Relay for Life.
ON Campus

Campus Crime

April 7
- Brian Edward Mosley-Pratt was arrested at Patterson Hall for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and minor in possession of alcohol.

April 8
- Theft of property was reported at Logan Hall. Items stolen include a flower pendant with a blue and white diamond valued at $700.
- Theft of property was reported at Crow Hall. Items stolen include a laptop computer valued at $400.

April 9
- Theft of property was reported at Crow Hall. Items stolen include a Regions Bank debit card.
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Merrill Hall. Items stolen include a Dimensions of Human Behavior book valued at $150.

April 10
- Theft of property was reported at Fitzpatrick Hall. Items stolen include two Spanish books, each valued at $157 and an Intro to Technology book valued at $130.

April 13
- Theft of property was reported at Jax Apartments. Items stolen include a laptop computer valued at $500.

April 14
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Patterson Hall parking lot. Items stolen include an XM Radio valued at $250.

What's Happening

Transit: reduces carbon emissions from vehicles

"For the past three to four years, the Department of University Housing and Residence Life has experienced an increase in demand for on-campus housing, resulting in waiting lists each summer," said Bell. "In order to increase the housing options that are available for the students of Jacksonville State University, the current offerings must be restructured."

The Housing Department is currently proposing a fall Applications deadline. The recommended deadline would be May 1.

Housing: fall 2009

As for the new stadium housing project, it will not open until the fall 2010 semester, when it would be housing for upper-class Marching Southerners and upper-class panhellenic sorority women.

It would also be housing for sophomores and upper-class students in the new academic honors program.

Sparkman and Daugette Halls (which is to remain with all rooms private) will be made available for residents who have lived on campus for at least one semester, as well as transfer students.
Holocaust survivor Ruth Siegler of Birmingham shares her story during the April 13 Holocaust Remembrance Service at Stone Center. Photo by Angie Finley / JSU Photographer

Students and faculty gather to remember the horrors of the Holocaust

By Matt Tyson
Staff Writer

On Monday, April 13, college and high school students, faculty and an abundance of different people gathered together in the Ernest Stone Center to witness Ruth Siegler tell her story of how she survived the Holocaust.

Every year, the SGA and a committee of faculty join together to put on this event. For more than 25 years, select persons that survived the Holocaust come and tell their account on what happened to them in Germany when it was ruled by Adolf Hitler.

"It was actually a project started by the Wesley Foundation" says Dr. Steve Whiton, English professor and Jacksonville State University and chair member of the Holocaust remembrance committee. "It started with 25 people and look where we are today." Whiton was referring to the fact that over 500 people showed up this year.

Diana Cadwallader, an art professor and also a chair member of the committee spoke about the process of putting the event together.

"It starts with finding a keynote speaker, which is getting harder each year," she said. They also work with students from all over the state who compete in a writing competition called "Imagining the Holocaust." Students submit short stories or poems about the Holocaust and each year a select few are chosen to be read at the event.

When asked about the goal and purpose of the Holocaust Remembrance, Cadwallader says "It's about educating people on the Holocaust, especially the younger people. It's about hearing someone talk about it and listening to their story so we never forget and about preserving the freedom of all people."

The ceremony started with Bryant Whaley, the new president of the SGA, giving his first speech by welcoming everyone to the event. After that David Rice gave the invocation and there was a special candle lighting. Dr. Russel Lemmons gave commentary and talked about the theme for this year which was "never forget". Then came time for the announcement of the winning submissions for the writing competition and two poems read by winning contestants. Dr. Nathan White, accompanied by Cheryl Wight on piano, sang "For You There Is No Song" in honor of those who suffered the Holocaust.

Then came Ruth Siegler, who gave a heartbreaking account on her experience with the Holocaust. She started by giving a background story, talking about her time from birth in 1927 until Hitler came to power and the anti-Semitism she faced as a child. She spoke about how her father was sent away to jail during the Krystal Nacht, escaped to Holland and then was put in a camp there. Her family had plans to retrieve her father from Holland and then immigrate to England. Sadly, the war broke out and they were not allowed to leave Holland. She then told of their time in Holland and how they worked and moved around until they were sent to Auschwitz. While in Auschwitz, she was separated from her family. In fact, there was a day when all the women were forced to come outside for camps. As they stood there, Siegler noticed that all the women to the left were the sickly looking and the women to the right were the stronger looking. By sneaking over to the right side of the line her and her sister were able to stay and survive.

As the only two remaining they spent time in a POW camp and then taken to a concentration camp. After the war she was able to immigrate to America and ended up in Mobile, Alabama by 1946. She has been in Alabama since then.

The ceremony ended with questions from the audience and a reciting of Kaddish by Dr. Whiton. Siegler and members from Temple Beth-EI in Anniston. Afterwards, people gathered to the lobby to reflect on the story and to have a chance to speak with Siegler, which she was willing and happy to do.

See more photos of JSU's Holocaust Remembrance on page 5
Dear Julie:
Religion, mothers and sexuality can come between couples

By Julie Skinner

Dear Julie,

My girlfriend and I have been together for almost a year. I go to her house often, but her mom never really talks when I'm there, and I don't think she likes me very much. I always try to start polite conversation and whatnot. I want to make a good impression, but I have no idea what I'm doing wrong and why she doesn't seem to like me. How can I get on her good side?

-- TLC

TLC,

I'm not sure why your girlfriend's mother doesn't like you. She might just be a dry person or she might be very protective of her daughter. Either way, just keep being respectful and nice. You can't go wrong just being yourself, just don't suck up. Maybe you are sucking up a bit too much, and it's getting on her nerves. You might want to ask your girlfriend about it too. If you haven't already. Perhaps that's just her mother's nature.

Dear Julie,

My girlfriend and I are two different religions. Can we make our relationship work?

-- Wholly Holy

Wholly Holy,

This is really a question for you and your girlfriend: Can you make your relationship work? For years, love has proved to be strong enough to conquer the difference in age, religion, ethnicity and distance. I don't think anyone or anything can determine what makes or breaks a relationship, except for the two people involved. If you and your girlfriend are happy, love one another and can except the other's differences, then go forth and love. If not, then you have to weight what you've gained.

James Burton
Sometimes Columnist

Over the course of the past twenty years, we have seen a multitude of things in our culture be dumbed down considerably, in order to appeal to the masses. This includes things as television, movies, media coverage, you name it. Do you really think our grandparents were sitting around their radios back in 1939 saying, "Wow, I wonder what Susan Hayward is wearing to the Oscars this year?" They were too busy trying to find a way to feed their families during the tail end of the Great Depression. They didn't give a damn whether Vivien Leigh bought a Teacup Chihuahua or not. Jimmy Stewart wasn't in a multi-million dollar motion picture where he gets kicked in the balls. Hollywood and the nation in general actually assumed that the American public had two brain cells to rub together, and they went with that. General Electric made table fans with exposed wires because they assumed that people were smart enough not to make contact with the electrical currents. But you know what they say when people assume, and that's why fans now are encased in a fortress of mostly plastic.

Of all the things to be dumbing down in this nation, the one thing that pisses me off is the fact that not only are people dumbing down Christianity, but people are jumping on the bandwagon faster than you can say "Megachurch". Neo-Evangelism, as I like to call it, consists of a bunch of so-called Christians (who I consider more like hippies) who are all like "Hey, guys! Jump on the Jesus Train! Everybody's going to heaven in this day and age!"

Uh, No.

I refuse to believe that Jeffrey Dahmer is playing shuffleboard with Mother Teresa in heaven. What are these people's major malfunctions? I mean, it states clearly that some people are to be saved and some people are to be damned. There was a time that

tell you that they believe in Hell.

And what is with the music these days?

Gregorian chants are beautiful biblical sonnets sung during services throughout Europe. They display a message. In the 1800s, gospel was sung throughout the South and the Eastern Seaboard, also displaying various messages throughout the bible and other instances in Christian history. What do we have now? We have "Pop-Christian" music played back to back to back, run together like a bad Pink Floyd album, and each song sounds the same and has five lyrics. As a child I used to hate standing up at my grandfather's Methodist church because it took so long and my knees would start hurting. But at least the songs we sang actually told a message and wasn't like brainwashing. You might as well rewrite the Lips, Inc. song "Funky Town" and go around singing "Won't you take me to Jesusland!" fifty times in a row and follow that song immediately with a song that sounds exactly the same and has the exact same message. People are supposed to come to Christ willingly, not by being hypnotized like they were looking into The Penguin's umbrella.

Why in the world people would want to jump on the bandwagon with people who are often the same ones who think that one day "The Chosen Ones" will be beamed off the planet like the Starship Enterprise was picking up their away team. Only the red shirts will be left to fend for themselves. It is documented proof that the notion of "the rapture" was magically pulled out of Daniel 9:24-27 by John Nelson Darby in the 1830s, while most rational theologians have been able to disprove it completely. Note I say rational. The same people who say everyone's going to heaven are also the first people who will condemn you to the Hell they don't believe in as soon as you have a belief that doesn't mirror their cookie-cutter image of puppies, kittens, as long as it mirrors everyone else?

It's Christianity, sweet heart. Not the Stepford Wives. That's why there are many different denominations. I am proud to say I am a Christened and Confirmed member of the Episcopal Church, a liberal but sensible denomination in the United States. Most Neo-Evangelicals either think Orthodoxy is stupid or too hard to memorize. Yeah, well the Nicene Creed is just as easy to memorize as the cheat code on how to get all the weapons on Grand Theft Auto IV. There is order to the Episcopal Church. And order to everything else. And order to the universe. And order to the Stepford Wives.

As a Christian, it is my job to love everyone, including the people who like to judge and/or criticize me on my beliefs. Luke 6:41-42 clearly states:

"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? 'Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is
Dear Julie,

I'm a male in my twenties, and I've been dating the same girl for a few years now. I have come to the realization that I am gay. I've known since I was in my early teens, but only just now have come to accept it. I am afraid to tell anyone, especially my girlfriend. What should I do?

--Trapped in the Closet

Trapped in the Closet,

It's good that you're reaching out to someone and accepting your true identity. However, you need to let your girlfriend know as soon as possible, because the longer you keep her in a relationship that's going nowhere, the more unfair it is for her. If you are not ready to tell her that you are gay, at least explain that the reason you can't be with her is about you and not her. Don't feel ashamed. College is a common time for students to find their sexuality and begin to accept it. Don't shy away from who you really are, and if you're ready, check out groups on campus, such as the JSU Students for Equality, who can help make your transition from the closet to the world a bit easier. They have a Facebook group you can check out. Best of luck.

It's time for THE ABSTRACT

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

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More of what we’re reading

Summer break is upon us and soon you’ll be looking for a book to read as you relax on the beach. Here are some of our picks.

**The Twilight Saga**

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

Given all the hype and fuss about the recent ending of the Twilight Saga and beginning of the Twilight movies, I decided to spend some time reading these books. They did not disappoint and I can see why so many have been entranced by Stephanie Meyer’s works.

The first book, Twilight, found its way onto bookshelves in 2005. Meyers published companion books (New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn) each proceeding year up until the last book released in the summer of 2008. As the sequels were published, the saga’s fan base grew to a number unheard of since the peak days of Harry Potter.

The books are unique; kind of a cross between Interview with a Vampire and The Notebook. Although the books have action and intriguing supernatural elements, the saga is mostly a love story. From the cover art to the titles, Meyer’s work is heavy with symbolism. The titles not only follow the course of a night, but also have very distinct and separate meanings for the futures of all the characters. If all of that is not enough to peak your interest, then perhaps the prologue will. Each book has a prologue at the beginning that seems as if it were a summary of the high part of the story. These prologues range from Shakespeare to Frost to the Bible, and follow the story as if they were each was written for the other. All of this work before one can even read the first page.

The most captivating element of the Twilight saga is its characters. After the first chapter, I felt connected with Bella the protagonist. That connection grows with each new friend and family member that Meyer’s introduces. By the end of the series, I feel as though I know these characters very personally and can see how they would react in any given situation. Meyer’s even says on her website that it was her own personal connection with the characters that drove her to write sequels.

For me, the characters were the most important thing about the story. I even saw the movie first chapter, I felt characters. After the first novel, the action and romance even out to some extent. Despite preconceived notions, these books are not completely sappy and intended for eighth grade, preteen girls. These stories can and should be enjoyed by everyone.

**Marley and Me**

By Roy S. Hill
Special to The Chanticleer

"Marley taught me about living each day with unbridled exuberance and joy, about seizing the moment and following your heart." This quote comes from John Grogan, author of "Marley & Me," a biographical sketch of sorts about a large yellow Labrador retriever and his impact on Grogan and his family.

Marley was John Grogan’s second dog. His first dog Shaun died shortly after he went to college. Years later, he married his college sweetheart Jenny, and she decided taking care of a puppy would be one-step closer to taking care of their future children. At this time the Grogan’s lived in West Palm Beach. John was a news reporter for the Sun-Sentinel and Jenny was a feature writer for the Palm Beach Post’s Accent section.

Even as a puppy, Marley was an exceptionally large dog. He was exuberant. Nothing stopped Marley when he wanted to get going.

This loving, good-natured puppy didn’t appear to be capable of the hijinks that Grogan recalls; yet this behavior seemed to fit him somehow. From swallowing pieces of stereo speakers to digesting and expelling old gold chains, this dog was unstoppable. He was even kicked out of his first obedience school.

What was just as interesting if not peculiar was the dog’s aversion to thunderstorms. Whenever a thunderstorm hit and the Grogan’s were not home, Marley would be locked into the garage so he couldn’t get into any mischief. When the Grogan’s returned after leaving Marley alone for the first time, they discovered what Grogan describes looked like a crime scene. He attempted to dig his way out of the garage, leaving both his snout and paws bloody. Their vet, Dr. Jay, said that he needed a rational way to cope with the effect of the was easier than Patrick’s, Jenny slipped into severe postpartum depression. It was at this time that Marley, up to his usual shenanigans, ripped up the couch. Jenny began to beat him and ordered John to find another home for him.

Desperate to hold on to his best friend and unwilling to watch his wife’s sanity slip away from her, John took it upon himself to enroll the unruly Marley into yet another obedience school. This time with John’s firm hand and a gentler obedience teacher, Marley learned not to jump up on people and to stay at John’s side during walks. Jenny got over her postpartum depression and it was as if nothing ever happened.

Marley was such a wild uproarious dog that
Despite the annoyances I just pointed out, there are other elements of Meyer's writing that entranced me. Her books have a certain rhythm to their words. During different parts and different books, I found myself reading and rereading sentences and even whole paragraphs and remarking in how well they sound. Some sentences in dialogue others in narration; I was awestruck by her choice in words. When comparing the diction in the Twilight saga to the diction of other prolific authors of present time, very few

Beach Reads

As many students head out for summer vacation, here are some other books you might enjoy as you lounge on the beach sipping drinks with little umbrellas.

The Pillars of the Earth
By Ken Follett

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies
By Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith

When You Are Engulfed in Flames
By David Sedaris

Treasure Island
By Robert Louis Stevenson

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies
By Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith

When You Are Engulfed in Flames
By David Sedaris

Treasure Island
By Robert Louis Stevenson
Mrs. Ruth Siegler, at podium and surrounded by members of Temple Beth-El in Anniston, recites the Kaddish during the April 13 Holocaust Remembrance Service in Stone Center. The Kaddish is traditionally recited by mourners at public services after the death of close relatives. It was offered at Monday’s service in remembrance of the millions who were systematically murdered during World War II. Photos by Angie Finley

Students and faculty viewed student produced works of art Tuesday night at the senior art show. The title of the show was “Speak for yourself”. The student artists were on hand to discuss their work. Photo by Zach Childree/ The Chanticleer
Students and faculty viewed student produced works of art Tuesday night at the senior art show. The title of the show was “Speak for yourself”. The student artists were on hand to discuss their work. Photo by Zach Childree/ The Chanticleer.

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Sports

No Perrilloux, no problem

Red Team dominates J-Day after strong performances from the Gamecocks' first-string defense and third-string quarterback

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Without the services of standout quarterback Ryan Perrilloux, it was Jacksonville State’s first-team defense that stepped up during Monday’s J-Day Spring Game, propelling the Red Team to a 34-17 victory behind the big-play ability of defensive backs T.J. Heath and Josh Cain.

Heath, a junior from Alexandria, Ala., was around the football all day long, recording six tackles and two interceptions, one of which he took back 13 yards to the end zone.

“I think T.J. Heath, who had a slow start to the spring, finished like a guy that is going to be playing his third year. He has a chance to be a shutdown corner,” JSU coach Jack Crowe said.

Cain, a senior from Wetumpka, Ala., made several big plays of his own, including a 59-yard fumble return that resulted in another defensive touchdown.

The Gamecocks trotted two inexperienced quarterbacks onto the field Monday afternoon. The White Team was led by Marques Ivory, who lined up with the first-team offense, while Brooks Robinson quarterbacked the Red Team.

Robinson outplayed Ivory for the majority of the contest, using both his arm and his legs to get the job done. The freshman from Opelika, Ala., threw for 132 yards and added 60 on the ground to lead the Red Team in rushing.

Ivory, on the other hand, struggled with his accuracy, throwing three interceptions. However, he did show flashes of brilliance and finished the game with 341 yards passing and one score.

Two plays later, Ivory hooked up with Jeffrey Cameron on a 54-yard strike that knotted the game at seven apiece.

Cameron led all receivers in the game with six catches for 111 yards.

“I think we are going to have a really good receiving core at every position,” Crowe said. “This team, I think, will throw the ball as good as anybody in the conference. It’s a little bit unusual how it is. I went through the same thing.”

Robinson led the Red Team on two more scoring drives before the final buzzer sounded. A five-yard pass to
Two plays later, Ivory hooked up with Jeffrey Cameron on a 54-yard strike that knotted the game at seven apiece. Cameron led all receivers in the game with 113 yards receiving on three catches.

The Red Team would go back on top after Heath's interception, but Brandon George tied the game before halftime with a six-yard touchdown run. George led the White team in rushing on the day, carrying the ball 11 times for 57 yards. Crowe was impressed with George's performance but believes that his team will likely have to pass the ball more than usual next season.

"I think we are going to have a really good receiving core at every position," Crowe said. "This team, I think, will throw the ball as good as anybody in the country. That's a little bit unusual for us. That's not been our tradition."

Cain opened the scoring in the second half after Ivory fumbled, putting the Red Team up 21-14. The White Team would score only three points after the break, turning the ball over three times in six possessions.

"We wanted to get some of our younger players some experience," Perrilloux said. "I thought they did well. There were a few minor mistakes by the White Team, but they were out there competing. Being young, that's how it is. I went through the same thing."

Robinson led the Red Team on two scoring drives before the final buzzer sounded. A five-yard pass to Kevyn Cooper put his squad up 27-17 with 6:29 left in the fourth quarter.

The Red Team's final score came on a Brandt Thomas five-yard touchdown run with time dwindling down. The sideline erupted when Thomas, normally a leader of JSU's first-team defense, bowled over several defenders to get to the end zone.

With spring complete, the Gamecocks can now turn their attention to the 2009 regular season that opens up with ACC powerhouses Georgia Tech and Florida State.

Baseball sweeps Salukais

From staff reports

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Todd Cunningham went 3-for-5 and scored three runs to lead Jacksonville State to an 8-5 win over Southern Illinois in the first game of a double-header on Saturday. The Gamecocks used strong pitching in the second game to claim a 6-3 win to earn the series sweep over the Salukais.

In the opener, Daniel Watts (3-2) allowed just two hits and had a career-high seven strikeouts to earn his third win of the season. Jordan Beistline recorded his first save after getting the final two outs of the game. Nathan Forer gave up seven hits and six runs in four innings to suffer the loss for SIU.

The Gamecocks (19-12) took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first after Todd Cunningham led the game off with a double to centerfield and Blake Seguin followed with a RBI single to center to score the first run of the game.

JSU extended the lead in the third inning when Cunningham tripled to right and Steven Leach followed with a RBI double to right center to give the Gamecocks a 2-0 lead.

Jax State plated four runs in the fourth inning after Sam Eberle had a two-RBI double to left field. Spencer Brandes added a RBI single and Jake Sharrock scored on a wild pitch to push the lead to 6-0.

The Salukais (13-20) scored their first run in the bottom of the sixth inning on a RBI single by Mark Kelly, but Jake Welch drove in a run in the top of the seventh inning to give JSU a 7-1 advantage.

Southern Illinois scored a run in the eighth inning on a RBI triple by Michael Stalter, but the Gamecocks answered with a run by Kyle Bluestein in the top of the ninth inning for an 8-2 lead.

SIU scored three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning, but JSU's Beistline recorded the final two outs for the final margin.

Leach, Eberle and Sharrack each added two hits to go with Cunningham's three hits, while Eberle led the Gamecocks with two RBI.

In the second game, Tanner Freshour pitched 3 1/3 innings of relief and scattered two hits to earn his first career win. Bill Henke recorded the final six outs to record his seventh save of the year. SIU's Adam Cyruwski suffered the loss after giving up five runs and eight hits.

Jax State took a 2-0 lead in the second inning when Heath Wall and Eberle each drove in a run to give the Gamecocks the early lead.

SIU scored a run in the third on a RBI double by Scott Elmendorf to cut the margin to 2-1, but Jax State added three runs in the sixth inning.

Bluestein led off with a double down the left field line and scored when Jake Welch followed with a RBI double to right field. Wall followed with a bases loaded walk to score Welch and Cunningham followed with a sacrifice fly to give the Gamecocks a 5-1 lead.

Jax State pushed the lead to 6-1 in the seventh when Bluestein scored on a wild pitch, but SIU answered with a run in the seventh and eighth innings for the final margin.

Leach, Bluestein, Welch and Eberle each finished with two hits to lead the Gamecocks in the night cap, while Wall drove in a game-high two runs.

Softball continues domination

From staff reports

RICHMOND, Ky. — The offense continued to click for the Jacksonville State softball team on Saturday, when the Gamecocks used a pair of mercy-rule wins to sweep the Eastern Kentucky in Ohio Valley Conference action.

The Gamecocks (26-9, 11-1 OVC) hit four home runs, two from freshman Alison Svoboda, to cruise to a 17-0 win in the opener before using a five-run fifth to hand the Colonels (14-19, 5-8 OVC) a 9-1 defeat in the nightcap. Svoboda, a native of Gardendale, Ala., drove in a school-record seven runs and her two homers tied the school record for round trippers in a game and made her just the ninth player in JSU history to achieve the feat.

Jax State has won its last five games via the mercy rule and are averaging 11.6 runs per game in that span. Saturday's game one win saw the Gamecocks set a school record for runs scored in an OVC game.

In the opener, the Gamecocks scored in the first four innings and put nine runs on the board in the fourth. Svoboda capped a five-run top of the first with a three-run homer down the left field line, the second of the inning for JSU after junior Nikki Prier belted a two-run blast to right center earlier in the frame.

RBIs from Prier and senior Courtney Underwood gave the Gamecocks a 7-0 lead after the second, and another RBI single from Prier in the third pushed the lead to 8-0 and set up the big fourth inning.

Freshman Meredith Sellers started the inning with a solo homer to left center, and Svoboda capped the frame with a grand slam. Svoboda entered the game with just two career homers and 13 RBI, and ended the day with four long balls and 20 RBI.

Senior Karla Pittman (8-1) held the Colonels scoreless on just two hits in her five innings in the circle. The North Canton, Ohio, native struck out four and walked one to win her seventh-straight decision and drop her team-leading ERA to 1.43.

Chelsea Butler (5-3) suffered the loss for EKU after allowing nine runs, six earned, on six hits and four walks in just 1.2 innings of work. Pam Webber and Diane Gallagher recorded the Colonels' lone hits in the game.

In the finale, sophomore Ashley Eliasson held the Colonel offense to a run on three hits to allow the Gamecock offense to put the game out of reach. The Vallesco, Calif., native struck out six in her five-inning complete game to improve to 11-4 and record her sixth win in her last six appearances.

The Gamecocks broke a scoreless tie in the top of the third, when Prier doubled to score junior Hillary Downs, who led off the inning with a double of her own. JSU added three more in the fourth, thanks to Prier's second two-bagger of the game that plated Downs and senior Jackie Jarman. Senior Courtney Underwood followed with a single that drove in junior Crissy O'Neal.

Shyenne Hussey got the Colonels on the scoreboard in the home half of the fourth with a solo home run to straightaway center that broke a string of eight straight batters retired by Eliasson.

Jacksonville State answered in the fifth, a five-run inning that was started by back-to-back doubles from Jarman and junior Mary Beth Ledbetter and capped by a bases-loaded two-run double from freshman Meredith Sellers. Senior Alie Barker also drove in a run in the inning on a single up the middle that plated Downs from third.
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