SGA kicks off election season

By Cecily Sanders
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Jacksonville State University Student Government Association kicked off its 2009-2010 election season with candidate speeches in the TMB Auditorium.

Even as the auditorium was mostly empty, many of the candidates pointed out that students need to become more involved in the SGA, and they are all here to help make that happen.

Current SGA President Jennifer Nix called the meeting to order. First up were the candidates for Vice President of Organizational Affairs (VPOA). The VPOA candidates are Kayla Chandler, Timothy Long and Justin Martin.

Chandler was the first to speak. Her platform is Unity. She made it clear that she wishes to unify all of JSU's students, and pointed out that discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. She also believes in more community service for the SGA officers.

Timothy Long's platform is "Star Treatment." Long stressed that every student at Jacksonville State is a star and would be treated as one under his vice-presidency.

Justin Martin said that the SGA's image has been tainted and that he is "Just-IN time for 2009." His platform is a "three-point turn." "I believe there is always room for improvement," Martin said. "If we all do it together the SGA's future will be bigger and better."

The candidates for Vice President of Student Activities are Jasmine George, Jacoby Parks and Jessica Younce.

George stated that she would bring diversity to all events, and give the students a chance to plan the events. "It is all about you, the students" George said. She said that a leader is a dealer in hope, and that is what she has for the next academic year.

Next was Jacoby Parks. He began by apologizing for all of the rumors and misunderstanding from his 2008-2009 term. He said that it was a "wake-up call" and that he has washed his hands of it, and is here for a second chance at a second term. His platform is "ESPN" and his plan is "ACE," which stands for attractions, creativity, and elaboration. He stated that he felt as if he had planned many enjoyable events during his first term, and he knows he can do even better his second time around. Parks said that he has a "passion for this job."

Jessica Younce started out by saying, "Let me lead tomorrow." She says she "knows what it takes to be a leader," which is why she is the one for the job.

The candidates for Vice President of the Student Senate (VPSS) are Kelsey Butler, Laura Rowell, and Brandon Self, a junior at JSU, member of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, organized a rose sale Tuesday in the TMB. Although the sale acted as a fundraiser for the fraternity's trip to the national competition in April, LAE also wanted to provide students with an affordable alternative to expensive florists.

Laura Rowell, a senior at JSU and member of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, organized a rose sale Tuesday in the TMB. Although the sale acted as a fundraiser for the fraternity's trip to the national competition in April, LAE also wanted to provide students with an affordable alternative to expensive florists.

Campaign sheets for SGA elections have already begun popping up all over campus.

Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

Feeling the love

Students get ready for Valentine's day

By Meredith Garrett
Staff Writer

Jacksonville's chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association, Lambda Alpha Epsilon, organized a rose sale Tuesday in the TMB. Although the sale acted as a fundraiser for the fraternity's trip to the national competition in April, LAE also wanted to provide students with an affordable alternative to expensive florists.

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Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer
Stalling actions shut down Alabama Senate

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Alabama Senate has returned to its old habit of stalling.

Tuesday was the first day of the 2009 legislative session that senators could pass bills. But the Senate quickly bogged down with stalling tactics by Democratic Sen. Phil Poole of Tuscaloosa.

Poole said he was upset that legislators from outside Tuscaloosa County were getting involved in a sewer line issue in his home county.

The Senate Rules Committee had proposed several bills for consideration Tuesday, but the Senate never got to them because of Poole’s stalling. The list included a bill to license and regulate commercial tax preparers statewide.

House Speaker Seth Hammett said the Senate has followed the same pattern for three years, with different senators talking at length to keep bills from coming to a vote.

Don’t pity yourself
Sara Adams writes about things to do for single folks on Valentine’s day.

“Funky” Children
James Burton responds to a “Funky Love” opinion piece.

JSU Softball
The Gamecocks get ready for OVC schedule.

Next week’s question: Who would you like to see run for SGA President?
ON Campus

Briefs
JSU Auctioneer School will be performing an auction for the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center, who will use the money to help those in need of the community. Dates for this auction will be Saturday, Feb. 14 – Sunday, Feb. 22 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day at JSU McClellan Rm. 2107.

Campus Crime

February 2
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Stone Center parking lot. Items stolen include a sociology book valued at $120 and a communication book valued at $120.

February 4
- A theft of property was reported at Merrill Hall. Items stolen include a T-Mobile SideKick cell phone valued at $150.

February 5
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Penn House Apartments. Items stolen include a camo wallet, a Regions bank card, a Georgia drivers license, an insurance card and $100.

What’s Happening

Thursday, February 12
- Rudy Currence (R & B Singer) Performance
Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- Sweethearts
2nd Floor TMB, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 100 Year Appreciation/Information Table, 2nd Floor TMB, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Fundraiser sponsored by: JSU Potter’s Guild. 2nd Floor TMB, 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- JSU LGBT Meeting

Picture of the week

Don’t pity yourself this V-day

By Sara Adams
Columnist

Valentine’s Day may sound like a holiday staple. But it doesn’t HAVE to be. Instead of sitting at home alone, cynically thinking about romance and expensive stuff that you KNOW you don’t need, why not have fun, even if you DON’T have a special someone?

I know it’s a radical idea on a day when love is everywhere. But I’m thinking that Valentine’s Day just isn’t a huge deal. Don’t view it as a St. Valentine’s Day Massacre on your heart, because Al Capone is NOT after you.

Valentine’s Day is a good idea in theory, and the history of it is actually more romantic than the present day adaptation of the Hallmark Cards conspiracy. However, the whole idea prioritizes telling that special “someone” that you love them just one day a year. I wasn’t brought up like that. My mom and dad have been married happily for 25 years. Yet, they don’t treat the day as anything significant.

Self-pity. It's a holiday staple. But it doesn’t HAVE to be. Instead of sitting at home alone, cynically thinking about romance and expensive stuff that you KNOW you don’t need, why not have fun, even if you DON’T have a special someone?

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Valentine’s Day is a good idea in theory, and the history of it is actually more romantic than the present day adaptation of the Hallmark Cards conspiracy. However, the whole idea prioritizes telling that special “someone” that you love them just one day a year. I wasn’t brought up like that. My mom and dad have been married happily for 25 years. Yet, they don’t treat the day as anything significant.

When I asked my mom “why” a few years ago, she told me “Your daddy and I love each other every day of the year. If he could only say it ONCE a year, it wouldn’t be worth having.” I agree with my parents. It’s a good idea to be in love with someone all the time. And it’s a great idea to be in love with yourself. But it doesn’t HAVE to be.

Spend the day and the night having an amazing time. One amazingly fun idea is hitting up nightclubs and bars. Some of my favorites include: Club 1120, who will be throwing “the best dance party in Five Points”; The Quest (my favorite “alternative” club) will be throwing a Red Hot Mardi Gras party and handing out free beads at the door; and Brother’s Bar will be playing host to Abject Humanity, who will be playing there all night.

I personally adore the idea of throwing a party. Particularly a “pink, red, and white” party, featuring Cosmopolitans and Strawberry Daquiris, the special Valentine’s Day M&M’s, strawberry frappes, cake, chips and dip, and you are with someone (but they’re a rebound!!!SHHHH!!!), you might end up throwing on your walking shoes and taking a long stroll down memory lane.

Stop. Cease and desist.
Don’t fill your head with “whys” or “what-could-I-have-done-differently”. Despite what may have happened, they are exes for a reason: It wasn’t supposed to work out! Revisiting the incident and assaulting it with a barrage of possibilities or circumstances only reopens old wounds. And trust me, the angry, pus-filled, infected, bleeding battle scars of old relationships are NOT attractive.

So, don’t call it Single’s Awareness Day, celebrate your friends and yourself (because you are one hot piece), and go out and have fun, rather than sitting at home thinking about how tasty you are with someone (but they’re a rebound!!!SHHHH!!!).
Election: SGA season

Eric Osborne, and Terrence Windham.

Butler said there are two reasons why she is right for the position: experience and passion.

Osborne came up with the platform of "LIGHT", which stands for: Lead, involve & integrate, grow, habilitate, and time. He wishes to reach out to everyone and ended by saying, "Help me fight up the future."

Windham pointed out that every student here at JSU is a member of the SGA. His platform is "PAC": proactive, accountability, and communication. He mentioned "The Chanticleer" as a way to better communicate with the student body about the SGA.

The candidates for the position of President are Rafael Ferrell, Michael Finn, Jerry Marzette, and Bryant Whaley.

Roses: love in the air

at practice.

Thinking that he girlfriend might read this article and realize the weight of her ideas secret. Nonetheless, he decided to keep his ideas a reality. He wishes to reach out to everyone and ended by saying, "Help me fight up the future."

Jerry Marzette spoke of getting longer hours for the library, food court, and cafeteria. Whaley wants to get JSU out of the shadows of Alabama and Auburn. He hopes that JSU will stop being a "suitcase" college.

All of the candidates said they are dedicated to making their ideas a reality.

There will be a debate on February 23 at 7 P.M. in the TMB auditorium.
Valentine's Day – the one day of the year where a little rosy-cheeked man has the potential to swoop down, shoot you with an arrow and deliver love.

Or, the day of the year where girls hope their boyfriends will turn into hopeless romantics and sweep them off their feet, and guys pray that their girlfriends will be too distracted with eating chocolate to give them hell for not planning a moonlit picnic on a lake somewhere.

I've been there. I can remember some years when I didn't have a valentine, and I would be waiting around all day on February 14 for something to happen. Anything. A rose might be left on my car, a note taped to my door, a box of chocolates in my mailbox. Right. I can also remember being totally let down by boyfriends in the past because I felt like they just didn't "get it."

The thing is, we build little holidays like Valentine's Day up to be so much more than they should be. Valentine's Day shouldn't be the one time of year where your girlfriend/boyfriend makes you feel special and loved. If you're in a relationship, you shouldn't expect something extravagant. You should feel like any blackened cookies, not like you're waiting around, on it to be proven to you. The proof is the commitment you make over time. That certainly can't be built in one pink and red-drenched day.

Single people always tend to get a little down around this time. Who wouldn't? Every store you go into looks like Cupid threw up everywhere. It's easy to get caught up in the hype, and it's hard to free yourself from feeling like you're the only person without somebody. The truth is, I think more people dread the holiday than look forward to it.

Here's a tip for the guys. If your significant other likes sweets, make them something. The thought will outweigh something raw.

Children of "Funky love"
Age can matter, at least in the eyes of one child

By James Burton
Special to The Chanticleer

I can honestly say that seeing a 40-year old man with a 20-year old girl makes me uncomfortable, but at the same time I can't criticize the relationship because it weren't for people like them, I wouldn't be here.

When my parents got married on Dec. 23, 1983, my mom was 22 years old. My dad was 40. I am the world's worst when it comes to relationships, but, my insight into other people's problems somehow seems fairly accurate.

So here's why I think some women date much older men (and vice versa). Often young women will go out into the world, be it college or the workforce, and consciously she feels and even knows that she is ready to go out on her own. Subconsciously, however, she feels the inseparable bond she had with her father and being away from him is traumatizing. How it gets to this is likely through over-sheltering, babying or something along those lines.

But the stubbornness of herself as a new player in the world makes her insistant that she can go out there, be successful, marry a good man and have lots of children… to make Daddy proud. What she doesn't realize, is that the lack of Daddy will life to help guide her ways has caused her to find the next best thing: A relationship with a man who reminds her of Daddy. Someone who is willing to fill the gap left by Daddy, but at the same time, fulfills all the needs of a relationship. The best of both worlds, right? Like those TVs with the DVD player built in?

Not quite. It's always best to have a DVD and a TV separate, in case one breaks. You still have the other one. If a combo breaks, both have to be sent off for repair.

That's why you don't do the Daddy/Boyfriend combination. When one goes sour, they both go sour. And you may be able to do without the boyfriend part, but you can't live without the daddy part and often the young woman finds herself trapped in a situation she doesn't know how to get out of. My sister (a product of my father's first marriage to a woman who was around her age) is 39 years old, and she commented once that when she met my mother's father (who was only two months older than my dad), he strongly resembled our father.

So you see, my mother, (as many young women do) tried to replace her father with someone who was similar (or at least appeared that way) when she was looking for potential husbands. It's a reverse Oedipus Complex, if you will.

My recommendation for young women: I have no objection with you falling in love with men a lot older than you. Love is love is love. However, look for the signs:

1. If you are say, 21, and your love interest is 40, see how he acts. Does he act his age, or does he also act like he is 21? If you answer the latter, then chances are his fun spirit and youthfulness will become a nuisance because when you mature, he won't. He's stayed acting 21 for the past 19 years for a reason.

2. If he does act his age, expect patronization. If he's old enough to be your father, then there will come a time when he will explain things to you like you were his child. Its not that he doesn't care about you, it's just programmed.

3. If he has more in common with your parents (who are probably around his age) more than you, do, then you obviously have a generation gap that is often almost impossible to fill. (I know. I often had to translate things between my parents because they didn't have a clue what the other was talking about.)

What I want to say in closing is that love does overcome all obstacles, and if you love someone enough to look past things like them being your parent's age or not understanding your "generation" or whatever, then go for it. Best of luck to you. But don't jump into things half-cocked, because you may find yourself in a situation you can't get out of. And when you're in college, don't be so anxious to get married and have fifty children!

Don't rush things, and most importantly don't settle for anyone. If your relationship fails, or you walk away because you know it won't work, don't fret. As the great philosopher Victor Bullinger once said, "Another bus will be along in ten minutes."

Phelps still all-American golden boy
Phelps still all-American golden boy

By Tony Manfred Uwiera

Prominent TV commercial actor and occasional swimmer Michael Phelps publicly apologized Sunday for smoking weed. Phelps was compelled to apologize not because he ripped his first bowl and felt just oh-so awful afterwards, but because some British newspaper published a photo of him smoking out of a bong. As it turns out, weed-smoking swimmers - at least unapologetic ones - lack the ability to sell inappropriate beachwear to old, fat Europeans.

The photo and subsequent admission of guilt have spawned the obligatory backlash from various news and sports media outlets - the main objection being that Phelps is a role model and smoking the reefer is a very un-role model thing to do. Yet, I’d like to point out that even before the bong incident, a kid who modeled himself after Phelps would (a) spend the vast majority of his non-sleeping life swimming back and forth in a vat of chlorine and gross YMCA germs, (b) eat a painful 12,000 calories of crappy food everyday, (c) get a DUI at the ripe old age of 19, (d) date a Vegas cocktail waitress and (e) single-handedly ruin an entire episode of Saturday Night Live.

But reality doesn’t really matter when it comes to role models. Here are some insights, both light and heavy, considering the notion of the American Golden Boy.

People only care about swimming for approximately 45 seconds every four years, and this probably helps Phelps’ case. I mean, Kobe had to play road games while he was still on trial and widely considered a kinda-rapist, but Phelps has four years to let this thing blow over by default.

2. Phelps’ sponsor Omega, a Swiss watchmaker, dismissed the incident as a “non-issue,” which, for the record, seems to be the Swiss stance on everything, including World War II.

3. Speedo finds itself in the precarious position of having to stand by Phelps no matter what he does. As the only important company in a sport with exactly one marketable asset, Speedo’s survival is disproportionately dependent upon Phelps’ ability to woo the 12-and-under crowd. And because his fans are nearly all little kids who will be heartbroken by the fact that their “hero” smokes weed, the bong photo hurts Phelps in this respect. But show me a little kid who knows what a bong is, and I’ll give you a million bucks.

4. If you had to put odds that either Phelps or Jamaican sprinter and possible “Half Baked” extra Usain Bolt would be photographed smoking weed, what would they be? I’d say somewhere between bolt and 40240240202402. If Usain does roll up the occasional blunt, which is likely considering something like two million percent of Jamaicans blaze, that means that the fastest humans in the world on both land and water smoke weed. That’s funny for all sorts of reasons, not the least of which is the possibility of potheads sincerely citing Phelps and Bolt as examples of how weed should be legalized because it makes you sick-nasty at sports.

5. The media dog pile that’s taken place over the last couple days is undoubtedly fueled by society’s contempt for swimmers. Let’s be honest, if anyone who went to high school was forced to define male swimmers in a single word, wouldn’t that word be douchebag? They were the guys who used the word “son” a lot and made sure they knew they practiced this morning at 5 a.m. They were the guys who got really drunk every weekend then tried to hookup with someone else’s girlfriend. Maybe constant exposure to chlorine makes you fall in love with yourself. The arrogance is palpable. They’re like rowers but without body hair and trust funds.

6. Is it possible that this sort of thing doesn’t happen to every athlete, actor or celebrity under the age of 25? Facebook has not only enabled us to systematically organize, sort and comment on embarrassing pictures, it has created a situation where our generation feels obligated to photograph any embarrassing act. Now add this tendency to the terrifyingly intrusive, celebrity-obsessed culture in this country and you have a situation where any transgression will certainly be chronicled for the world to see. Is this the picture of Kevin Durant smoking the Pineapple Express cross joint? Where’s Hilary Duff lying in a pool of her own vomit? Where’s Shia LaBeouf passed out drunk, with stuffed soggy French fries up his nose and a lit cigarette wedged between his lips?

7. For some reason the vast majority of commentary has called Phelps’ decision “stupid.” In what way is it stupid? It would be stupid to blame yourself for having a stranger take a picture of you unknowingly. It’d be stupid to live like a priest for fear that Visa won’t bankroll your stop club visits if you get caught living like a regular human. It’d be stupid to think about the little swimmer boys and girls in Thousand Oaks and Westchester who adore you while you’re having a good time at a party in South Carolina.

And, dammit, it’d be stupid to think that taking the occasional bong rip makes you a bad guy and the object of national criticism.

To me, it’s obvious that Phelps isn’t actually sorry. So why apologize? Imagine if Phelps came out and said, “Yeah that’s me in the picture, it’s not that big of a deal. Someone can smoke weed and still get congratulated for his work ethic.” Get over it.” The media coverage would be a more substantive discussion about marijuana and America, not an obligatory mish-mash of condemnation and corny weed jokes.

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

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

February 19, 2009

Sponsored by Career Services  •  www.cps.jsu.edu
Education Fair
February 19, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Stephenson Hall

Dress professionally and Bring Resumes!!!

Check It Out!  •  Dress for Success!  •  Get an Interview!  •  Network!
List of Schools Attending the Education Fair
February 19, 2009, 8 a.m. - 12 noon
Stephenson Hall

Alabama Schools Attending:

Anniston City Schools: All Majors
Blount County Board of Education: All Majors
Cleburne County Board of Education: Biology, Counseling, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Collaborative Teacher, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics, General Sciences
Dallas County Board of Education: All Majors
Decatur City Schools: All Majors
Fairfield City School System: Elementary Education, Library/Media, Special Education, Mathematics
Huntsville City Schools: All Majors
Jefferson County Schools: All Majors
Leeds City Schools: All Majors
Oxford City Schools: All Majors
Pell City School System: All Majors
Randolph County Board of Education: All Majors
Roanoke City Schools: All Majors
Tallapoosa County Schools: Biology, English/Language Arts, Collaborative Teacher, Special Education, Mathematics, Social Science, Spanish, General Science
Roanoke City Schools: All Majors

Tallapoosa County Schools: Biology, English/ Language Arts, Collaborative Teacher, Special Education, Mathematics, Social Science, Spanish, General Science

Georgia Schools Attending:

Barrow County Schools: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Collaborative Teacher, Mathematics, Social Science


Bremen City Schools: All Majors

Carrollton City Schools: Early Childhood Education, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics, General Science

Clayton County Public Schools: Music Education, Instrumental Vocal/Choral, Early Childhood Education, Collaborative Teacher, Family and Consumer Science, Technology Education

Cobb County School District: All Majors

Coweta County School System: Collaborative Teacher, Mathematics, General Sciences

DeKalb County School System: All Majors

Floyd County Board of Education: Early Childhood Education, English/ Language Arts, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics

Gwinnett County Public Schools: Biology, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Collaborative Teacher, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics, General Sciences

Harris County School District: All Majors

Muscogee County Schools: All majors

Rome City Schools: All Majors
THE STRENGTH TO HEAL
The pride you'll feel in being a doctor increases dramatically when you care for our Soldiers and their Families. Courage is contagious. Our Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) helps you reach your goal by providing full tuition, money towards books and lab fees, a $20,000 sign-on bonus, plus a monthly stipend of more than $1,900.

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Not result-oriented
Gamecocks start 3-2, but focusing on preparing for OVC schedule

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

A lot of times people have a tendency to get worked up over results, both positive and negative.

JSU softball coach Jana McGinnis is of course looking for those positive results, but she is also aware that the non-conference schedule is largely a period of preparing for the OVC season, when her Gamecocks will be dealing with the expectations of winning almost every night.

So when games the Gamecocks aren’t supposed to win — such as Sunday at Alabama and Tuesday against Auburn — don’t see her team come out on top, she is able to keep things in perspective. Despite only two combined runs in those games, McGinnis feels her team is making progress offensively.

“I thought we did a better job (against Auburn),” she said. “(Auburn starting pitcher Jenee Loree) was named SEC Player of the week last week. She pitched 22 innings and didn’t give up any runs. We scored two off her, so that is a plus.

“Our freshman are getting better. You know, they’re not used to seeing this type of pitching. You look at Allison Svoboda, the first two times up she struck out and the third time she drew a walk. It’s getting better, but I’m not going to worry about it. Early in the season it’s sporadic. It’s hard to put back-to-back-to-back hits together.”

The Gamecocks did win their first three games at the South Alabama Jaguar Invitational in Mobile before ultimately losing to then #2 (and current #1) Alabama by a score of 9-0.

The story of the wins figures to be a familiar one this season, at least until the offense comes into its own. The Gamecocks won relatively low-scoring games on the strength of out-pitching their opponents.

Ashley Eliasson started the opener for the Gamecocks against Memphis, and picked up where she left off a year ago. The sophomore struck out seven and allowed only four hits and one run in the complete game victory. Eliasson, who would record a save in JSU’s third win of the season, received OVC Pitcher of the Week honors.

The next two starters were only slightly less dominant.

Karla Pittman, making her first start since 2007 after being redshirted last season due to a knee injury, also pitched a complete game, allowing only two hits in a 6-2 win.

McGinnis and pitcher Melissa Dowling both feel Pittman is pretty close to returning to her form of a couple years ago.

“I think physically she is fine,” McGinnis said. “I think mentally what frustrates her is she hasn’t pitched since 2007, and when she came out this weekend, she expected to pitch the way she pitched back then. When she didn’t, she started getting a little mad at herself and it was taking her out of her game.

“That’s progress. The main thing is that we have her ready for the start of conference season. If she keeps working, I know she’ll get it.”

That would set up a rare situation for the Gamecocks, who have mostly relied on two pitchers in recent seasons, but have a bullpen surplus this season.

“We have five pitchers on this team, and every one of them is worthy of a start,” Dowling said. “Any one of them can go out and dominate the way I pitched well (against Auburn).”

It’s a blessing to have so many arms at disposal, but the situation also lends itself to some of the pitchers in lesser or unusual roles. An early example was Dowling — who won JSU’s third game, going 6 innings and allowing one run — coming in to relieve a struggling Eliasson in the Auburn game.

Trailing 5-2 after 2 1/3 innings and facing a solid Auburn pitching staff, it was mandatory to keep the Tigers’ offense off the board the rest of the way. Dowling did that, allowing no more than one base runner in any of her 4 2/3 innings of work. Though the JSU offense never crossed home plate again, it is that kind of performance that McGinnis realizes will benefit this team down the road.

“One of the bright spots (of the Auburn) game was seeing Doc come in in relief, because that’s something that, in the past, she has struggled with,” McGinnis said. “I thought she came in with a lot of confidence and control and did a very good job.”

McGinnis said that last year Dowling may not have come in and had the same success because she would be too pumped up, but that the senior has shown a new level of maturity and “wanting the ball” in the off-season and early part of this season.

With two other bona fide elite pitchers on the roster, Dowling realizes she must turn in quality efforts if she is going to keep being handed the ball. Still, she said having so many reliable arms is going to be a big plus when it comes to reaching the team’s ultimate goal.

“Whatever my role on this team is going to be, that’s the role I’m going to take,” Dowling said. “It would be nice (to be recognized as the team’s ace), but anything to make this team better and to win another championship... you know, our goal is for the World Series, and anything I can do to get us there, that’s what I will do.”

Melissa “Doc” Dowling pitched 4 2/3 scoreless innings against Auburn Tuesday night. Photo courtesy of James Harkins/JSUFan.com/File
The John Nash Award
To the JSU men's basketball team, who has displayed schizophrenic characteristics all season. At times, it has convinced me (and most other followers) they are among the elite in the OVC, and at other times I have been convinced they will not even make the conference tournament.

The Beatris Kiddo Award
To JSU's women's basketball team. Much like Uma Thurman's character in Kill Bill was buried alive and somehow escaped, the girls' team appears to be trying to rise from a premature burial.

The Shia LaBeouf Award
To DeAndre Bray. LaBeouf continues to receive marquee roles despite odd physical characteristics and no discernible talent. The angle of Bray making the most of his height (5'6" at best) has been beaten into the ground, but his performance against Eastern Kentucky (7 shots, all 3s, all made) was the epitome of maximizing shot selection.

The Geddy Lee Award
To JSU's pep band, the Hardcorps. Much like Rush would be considered one of the greatest bands of all time if its lead singer, Geddy Lee, didn't have a voice that tends to grate on people, the Hardcorps do a lot well, but a couple things that are really annoying.

They are good at pissing off the road fans and players, so that's a plus. The problem is they are loudest when JSU is shooting free throws. Also, how about some non-upbeat music after JSU loses? "Fell on Black Days" is a good song, it can show off your musical ability, and it kind of fits the situation better.

The Tool Academy Award
To the biggest disappointment in professional sports, Curt Schilling. Schilling has long taken it upon himself to throw everyone under the bus, and it shouldn't come as a surprise that he is blabbering on about God knows what now.

The Shia LaBeouf Award
To DeAndre Bray. LaBeouf continues to receive marquee roles despite odd physical characteristics and no discernible talent. The angle of Bray making the most of his height (5'6" at best) has been beaten into the ground, but his performance against Eastern Kentucky (7 shots, all 3s, all made) was the epitome of maximizing shot selection.

What's going on around campus: Rifle wins fifth consecutive OVC championship

From staff reports

After claiming the smallbore portion on Friday, the Jacksonville State Rifle team finished with a 2,324 points to win the Ohio Valley Conference Air Rifle title on Sunday while sealing its fifth straight overall League championship in the process. The Gamecocks swept the league's top honors with Head Coach Ron Frost being named the OVC Coach of the Year. Brian Carstensen was selected the OVC Smallbore and Second-Team All-OVC Air Rifle Athlete of the Year. Carstensen and Dickinson were also named First-Team All-OVC in smallbore and air rifle while Carstensen also earned All-OVC Newcomer honors in smallbore and air rifle.

• Andrea Dardas was named All-OVC Air Rifle Newcomer and to the First-Team Air Rifle squads while teammate Phil Hackathy earned First-Team All-OVC Smallbore and Second-Team All-OVC Air Rifle honors.

Frankie Sallier of the Jacksonville State Rifle team makes a shot during the OVC competition.

Jolie Efekozkhae tops 1,000 points, JSU loses in OT

From staff reports

JACKSONVILLE — Jolie Efekozkhae scored 19 points to become Jacksonville State's ninth member of the 1000-point club as the Gamecocks came up short in an 87-77 loss to Morehead State in overtime on February 5 at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

The Lynn, Mass., native has 1,014 points moving her past Jana Bright for eighth place on JSU's career scoring list.

Jacksonville State held a 53-53 lead in the second half before MoreheadStatechipped away cutting the lead to 69-68 on a Tiffanie Stephens three-pointer with 1:27 left in the contest.

Brittany Pittman's layup with 43 seconds left in the game gave the Eagles their first lead since 16:51 of the first half. Pittman would make another layup with 28 seconds left to push the lead to 72-69 before JSU's Eren McMichael connected on a long three-pointer to tie the game and force overtime.

Wiley scored 14 points as the only other Gamecock to finish in double figures.

Freshman Brittany Wiley catches the ball in the post and prepares to negotiate a double-team against Eastern Kentucky. The Gamecocks blew out Colonels 73-55. Photo courtesy of James Harkins/JSUFan.com

Gamecocks break losing streak vs. EKU

From staff reports

JACKSONVILLE — Jolie Efekozkhae scored 21 points, collected eight rebounds and blocked four shots to help Jacksonville State to a 73-55 win over Eastern Kentucky on February 7 at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

The Gamecocks snapped a four-game losing streak to improve to 5-18 overall and 2-11 in the Ohio Valley Conference. Eastern Kentucky dropped its second game of a two-game road trip, falling to 6-16 overall and 3-10 in league play. EKU had an early 4-3 lead before JSU went on a 13-0 run to take the lead for good. Efekozkhae's three-pointer with 10:51 left in the first half gave the Gamecocks a 15-4 lead.

Brittany Wiley and Candice Carrine each scored 10 points while Wiley had eight rebounds. Danielle Benefy and Zenobia Pitts handed out six and five assists, respectively.

Kayla Drake was EKU's top scorer with 12 points. Nadia Mossong pulled down 12 rebounds followed by Cherie White with 11.

Jacksonville State travels to UT-Martin for a 5:30 p.m. game on Thursday in Martin, Tenn.
Home, sweet home

Gamecocks take two out of three during homestand

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

After a long road trip, the Jacksonville State men's basketball team came home with something to prove.

And the Gamecocks (11-12, 5-9 OVC) did just that, squeaking out two five-point victories over Morehead State and Eastern Kentucky over the weekend.

“We had played well for four games out on the road. We were 1-3 in that road trip but could have easily been 3-1,” JSU coach James Green said. “I really wanted us to play well in front of our fans. Those two games gave us some enthusiasm and excitement amongst our fans.

“I thought it was big, and I think it proves that we can play with people when we are committed to certain things. I thought those were two really good wins — probably our two best wins in league play.”

If there was a common theme in both of the Gamecocks’ wins, it was DeAndre Bray putting the ball in the basket.

Not known for his shooting prowess, the senior point guard from Atlanta started the weekend with an 18-point barrage against league-leading Morehead State, as the Gamecocks upended the Golden Eagles 57-52.

Morehead State took a four-point lead into the half, but Bray’s 13 points after intermission was the difference.

“I just told myself that I was going to make my shots that I take,” Bray said. “I feel like if I make my shots that we will definitely win because I already pass it a lot and distribute it well. If I make my shots, it gives us a better chance to win. I just felt like shooting.”

Evidently he didn’t feel like missing. Bray outdid himself on Saturday against Eastern Kentucky, nailing all seven of his shots from behind the arc to set a career-high in points scored with 21.

“He (Bray) did a great job for us. He let it come in a natural rhythm,” Green said. “He has shot the ball much better of late. It was very timely to do it at home against those two teams. We need him to be able to make shots when the clock is running down.”

Bray wasn’t the only Gamecock to piece together a brilliant performance on Saturday. In fact three JSU players finished with a double-double.

Jonathan Toles didn’t shoot the ball well but managed to set his teammates up with good looks all night long, finishing with 11 points and 11 assists.

Stephen Hall and Nick Murphy both scored 11 points and reached double-digits in rebounds, as the Gamecocks walked away with a 75-70 victory.

Missing out on tourney security

After wins over two of the conference’s best, JSU took the night off on Monday, falling to Tennessee State 80-70.

Despite what Green called a lack of focus, the Gamecocks could have easily been in the thick of things at the end of the game, but free-throw shooting killed any chance of that.

JSU shot 46.9 percent from the foul line, making only 15 of 32 attempts.

“If you are not making free throws, that takes energy away from you,” Bray said. “If you are scoring, I think that gives you energy, but you still have to have your defense there. We were missing, so we had to fight extra hard. We could have made it easier if we had made our free throws.”

The Gamecocks struggled on the defensive end as well, as the Tigers shot 58.5 percent from the floor.

“I didn’t see the focus coming into the game that I felt like we needed,” Green said. “One of the last things we said was — just in case we don’t shoot it well — let’s make sure we get stops. Let’s guard every possession and that will lead to a win.

“We didn’t play good offense, and we gave up 58.5 percent on our home court when we shoot 37.”

The Gamecocks are currently in a three-way tie for seventh place with Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech with four games left to play. The first of those four games is tonight, as JSU travels to UT-Martin, who has won eight games in a row.

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