Students watch history unfold

Campus activities celebrate Inauguration of Barack Obama

By Julie Skinner
News Editor

Thousands stood, stared and listened. Blisterly winds blew an array of colorful scarves flapping around the necks of onlookers. Today, January 20, was the Inauguration of the United States of America’s 44th President and first African-American President, Barack Obama.

Wearing a black suit and red tie, Obama delivered his inauguration speech that lasted around 18 minutes. The former Illinois senator was actually declared president before he was sworn-in because of a law in the U.S. Constitution stating that by noon the president-elect technically already the president, according to CNN live coverage.

Obama began his speech by thanking former President, George Bush, and touched on subjects near and dear to many American hearts tuning in by radio or television.

“Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends, hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism -- these things are old,” Obama stated during his speech. “These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history.”

While many were there to hear the words echo and enter their very own ears at the exact moment he said them, most were watching CNN or listening to some coverage of it on

See “Inauguration,” page 2

“The peaceful transition of the most powerful office on Earth is truly exceptional, and something that all of us, regardless of political party, can celebrate as Americans. I congratulate President Obama on his historic election and inauguration and I look forward to working with him.”

-Alabama Gov. Bob Riley

Losing a friend
**Losin\-\-g a friend**

TV 24 cameraman remembered by those who knew him best

By Jalon Turner
Senior Writer

Kenny Callahan, cameraman at TV 24 here at Jacksonville State University, passed away on Monday evening.

Kenny Callahan may be gone, but he is remembered by all of his friends. Close friend Tony Castaneda, remembers how lively and uplifting Kenny’s attitude was at work.

“He loved to have fun,” Castaneda said. “He loved to embrace people and bring out the good qualities of people. He loved to share good news with everybody, and if you needed something, he was willing to help.”

Kenny was awarded the key to the city of Anniston on January 14 before he passed away at his home in Sacks.

Kenny loved to ride his motorcycle. He owned a Harley Davidson and was a member of one of the local Harley chapters. He had several sets of fenders in different colors for his Harley Davidson. When asked why he liked to change his motorcycle color Kenny joked saying "a woman can change her purse to match the way she feels. So I want to do that with my motorcycle. So when he woke up and was ready to ride, he could put on the color fender that he felt enhanced his current mood.

Mike Jerlingan of Harley Davidson in Oxford, Ala., said "Ken played a big role over the past few years with the Hog Rallies. I have worked with and have known Ken for over thirty years. Ken was one guy who could bring his work and his hobbies together.”

The Harley chapter is having a benefit at Coyote Mikes on highway 202 from 12-4 p.m. this Saturday. The benefit will feature a battle of the bands with proceeds going to the Callahan family.

Kenny was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and liver cancer on December 17. He was scheduled to have a second opinion on January 22 in Birmingham with a leading cancer specialist.

“Right after he was diagnosed we sat at his house and talked,” Castaneda said. “I told him to live every day to the fullest, and that’s what he did.”

He was glad to see Alabama have a good football season and was glad to see people enjoy themselves. He was excited that the station was going to be moving to a new location at the Quintard Mall. Though he was sick, he wanted to come back to work every day.

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**One on One with Miss JSU**

The Chanticleer’s Cecily Sanders sat down with the new Miss JSU, Kristie Osborne

**Enjoyable Opera?**

Trenice Chandler reviews JSU Opera’s Cossi Fan Tutte

**Angry readers respond**

We got letters last week. Oh did we get letters.

Next week’s question:

What issue should President Obama focus on first?

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**QUESTION of the WEEK**

What are you looking forward to most this semester?

- [ ] JSU Drama’s Sweeney Todd
- [ ] Fun with my Friends
- [ ] Spring Break!
- [ ] Graduation
- [ ] Reading the Chanticleer

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**What went wrong with last week’s issue**

Special Comment

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

Last week’s issue of The Chanticleer was eye catching and generated a lot of buzz, but not for the reasons we would have liked. Most of our headlines were printed in the wrong font with all of the spaces removed so words ran together.

It was extremely frustrating to wake up on Thursday morning to find the newspaper that we had worked so hard to put together looked so awful. And we got letters. Boy, did we get letters. Boy, was that the number of letters we got! The printer published the file exactly as they received it, without the missing font, which caused the headlines to cramp together as you saw them last week.

The staff of The Chanticleer has worked with our friends at the Jacksonville News and Anniston Star to make sure this wont happen again. We apologize for the look of the paper last week and we hope this week’s issue will meet or exceed your expectations for us in the newsroom.
Inauguration: Obama sworn in with fanfare

Cold temperatures dominated the area from the mid-week last week through this week. If you would like to see your photo as 'Photo of the week', email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com. Photo by Anita Kilgore/Consolidated News Service

Inauguration brings joy to Ala. civil rights sites

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press Reporter

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Watching Barack Obama's inauguration on a large TV screen in an auditorium crowd-screen in Birmingham — a city where blacks protesting legalized racial segregation faced fire hoses and snarling police dogs in 1963.

The old hall felt like a church revival with songs, in Greenwood, Miss., worked in the civil rights movement and campaigned for Obama.

"I knew it would happen, but to see it happen in my lifetime is so powerful and so significant for this whole nation," there is still much work to be done. It's my prayer that President Obama inspires many young people, especially in the African-American community," said Roper, who is black.

On Campus

Briefs

According to Jacksonville State University's newswire, registration is now open to enroll for summer classes at Dauphin Island where students can earn credit by participating in Dauphin Island's sea lab. There will be a May session lasting from May 18 – May 29, the "First Session" lasting from June 1 – July 3 and the "Second Session" lasting from July 6 – August 7.

Each session deals with different subjects varying from Marine Biology, Marine Botany, Shark and Ray Biology, Marsh Ecology, Hurricanes of the Gulf Coast, Coastal Birds of Alabama and more. More information about this program can be found by visiting www.disl.org and clicking on "summer programs." Or, you can call Sally Brennan at (251) 861 – 2256 or emailing her at sbrennan@disl.org.

Jacksonville State University will host the Alabama Conference for Inventors on February 26 at the Houston Cole Library. All inventors or potential inventors are invited to attend. The conference will be sponsored by Jacksonville State University Center for Economic Development, the JSU Small Business Development Center, INVENT ALABAMA and the Alabama Small Business Institute for Commerce.

Campus Crime

January 14
• A theft of property was reported at Crow Hall. Item stolen was a JSU Student ID (FlexCard) valued at $76.00.

January 15
• Justin Dominique Houston was arrested for possession of marijuana.

January 18
• Whitney Omar Jordan was arrested for obstructing government operations.

Inauguration: Obama sworn in with fanfare

"I was very much looking forward to the Inauguration," Wyatt said. "I was tempted to go onto Amazon.com and buy one of those countdown clocks for when Bush would be out of office. It's time for the nation to celebrate."

Wyatt organized the event at The Grove's clubhouse, but didn't heavily advertise for it due to not being able to pay for everyone to eat. However, he wanted the event to be a time for everyone to come together.

"Everyone is invited and welcome to come," Wyatt said. "We want this to be an open time of celebration."

Democrats weren't the only ones to make their way to the festivities of Inauguration Day at JSU. Eric Osborne, a member of the JSU College Republicans, attended and talked with his friends belonging to the JSU College Democrats.

"President Obama got elected now and I just think it's important that we all rally around him and support him even though he's not my ideal candidate," Osborne said.

Members from other organizations, such as WISE (Women's Issues Support and Empowerment) were represented at the gathering. Among them, Trace Fleming-Smith, alumni leader of WISE finds the issues Vice President Joe Biden stands for to be moving.

"I am looking forward to America getting away from some of the pettiness and moving into a new age," Fleming-Smith said. "And it doesn't hurt that Joe Biden helps support rape crisis centers and domestic violence centers. That's awesome."

Today, Americans had to put aside at least for a while, who they voted for and why. That point is useless now. Today marked a historic event that will go down in history books for new generations to study and read. Today is a day that America, trickling down to even small colleges in small towns, will remember.
Inauguration brings Joy to Ala. civil rights sites

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press Reporter

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Watching Barack Obama’s inauguration on a large TV screen in an auditorium crowded with jubilant people, Karen Dennis turned toward her two infant children.

Cheering and waving a little U.S. flag, Dennis was overwhelmed to realize the pair, ages 1 year and 4 months, would get their first notion of an American president from someone who shares their skin color.

“It means they don’t have any limitations on them,” said Davis, 35. “They see hope from the start.”

Her private joy was reflected in a surge of celebration that swept across civil rights landmarks in Alabama on Tuesday as Obama became America’s first black president. In cities large and small — at historic Boutwell Auditorium in Birmingham and the bridge where marchers were attacked in Selma — people marveled that an African-American was president less than 50 years after blacks won the right to vote in Southern states.

“It’s like I’m somewhere else. It’s like I’m not in America,” said Beverly Branson, who teaches at Alabama State University in Montgomery.

Dennis was among thousands who gathered in Boutwell Auditorium to view the inauguration on a huge video screen in Birmingham — a city where blacks protesting segregation faced fire hoses and snarling police dogs in 1963.

The old hall felt like a church revival with songs, raised hands and flag waving. Balloons and confetti fell from the ceiling as Obama completed the oath of office, which was shown on three big video screens.

“I never thought it would ever come,” said Ted Roberts, 77, who marched in civil rights demonstrations 45 years ago when white segregationists still held power. Today, Birmingham’s government is controlled by blacks.

In Montgomery, where voting rights marches led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. arrived on a journey from Selma in 1965, about 3,000 people packed the basketball arena at historically black Alabama State University. A huge cheer went up when Obama was sworn in.

Matthew Harris, a senior at Booker T. Washington High School in Tuskegee, was among many students from the Montgomery area watching the festivities on a big screen.

“I’m proud to be part of a generation that’s starting a new era and fulfilling the dream that Martin Luther King had,” he said.

Tonea Stewart, the 60-year-old chair of the theater department at Alabama State, was brought to tears. She grew up in Greenwood, Miss., worked in the civil rights movement and campaigned for Obama.

“I knew it would happen, but to see it happen in my lifetime is so powerful and so significant for this whole nation,” she said.

A small group in Selma marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where state troopers once beat voting rights protesters, and then watched the inauguration at a nearby cafe. Some sat transfixed by the epic scene; some cried.

About 200 people, many of them students, watched the inaugural in rural Lowndes County at a National Park Service center marking the route of the Selma-to-Montgomery marches.

Central High School teacher Sheryl Nelson particularly wanted her students to see the ceremony.

“They are not familiar with the burdens others have experienced, but they have seen some of the prejudices and they understand this is a real blessing for them,” Nelson said.

At the Birmingham inaugural event, Police Chief A.C. Roper, said it was ironic that a municipal auditorium where segregationists once met to maintain white supremacy was now the site of a mass celebration for the election of a black man as president.

“Times have changed. I really shows the progress we have made as a society, but there is still much work to be done. It’s my prayer that President Obama inspires many young people, especially in the African-American community,” said Roper, who is black.

Yet Roberts, the civil rights veteran, was disappointed that the crowd watching the inaugural festivities was overwhelmingly black and included only a sprinkling of white faces.

“It says there is still a lot of prejudice. A lot of people think it’s over because we have a black president, but it’s not,” he said.

The crowd mirrored the findings of post-election exit polls that showed near-universal support for Obama among minorities in Alabama and only 10 percent of whites voting for the Democrat.

Times are tough, and not everyone had time for the inauguration. Matthew Norwood, a laid-off oil worker from Thomasville, said he missed the swearing-in because he had errands and a doctor’s appointment in Mobile.

“Obama has got a lot of work ahead of him. I hope and pray everyone will get along. The country is in a lot of trouble,” said Norwood, 56.

Associated Press writer Phillip Rawls in Montgomery; Bob Johnson in Lowndes County; and Garry Mitchell in Mobile, contributed to this report.
Auto companies should bail themselves out

By James Burton
Special to the Chanticleer

Something that has bothered me for quite some time is the government's insistence that we bail out the automobile industry. While I see the good intentions behind this act, I also think of my great-grandfather's saying, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions."

The Big Three in Detroit has been digging their graves for at least twenty years, and everyone has overlooked their decline, much like how everyone overlooked the decline of the farming community before the bottom fell out during the Stock Market Crash of 1929. It's called, "if we pretend it isn't there, maybe it will go away."

My father has sold cars for over thirty years, and I've watched and read and examined just about every piece of material that ever crossed his path for numerous different companies. He has sold GM, Chrysler, Ford, Nissan, Mazda, Kia, and thats the only ones I can remember. And the one company that made him complain and bellyache and used the most expletives was General Motors. He knew the company was going down the toilet in the late seventies, but they never listened to him. They never listened to anyone. They certainly don't listen to the consumer. I should know. I'm a History major, too.

I make it my job to learn things like this for fun. Look at their current marketing strategy: Arrogance. You look at Ford or Chrysler and they tell you what is good about something and yeah, they'll say it's better than this or that, but GM, particularly Chevy, with their "An American Revolution" motto, just says "we're better because we say so."

How is it you are better when all of your divisions are losing money except for Cadillac, which is tied with Lincoln as the vehicles with the highest depreciating value on the market?

Now Ford, on the other hand, has always found a way to make their consumers happy. They find something that's good and they stick with it, and yeah. Occasionally they do something new and outrageous that doesn't go over well, but they find a way to make consumers happy in the end. Chrysler, bless their hearts, tries to do what Ford does and please the consumers and lately have succeeded at doing so (Thanks to people like Home Depot co-founder Bob Nardelli who knows how to make a business thrive). But for years they lagged behind in third with the occasional super badass car (i.e. the Viper.) But how many of you reading this can actually afford a Viper? And yeah, I mean you, personally afford, and not your daddy.

Very few.

That doesn't do us a lot of good, the consumer, who is stuck with what my dad calls throw-away cars like the Dodge Neon (which isn't a bad car but face it. You're lucky if it makes it past 100K miles.) Even Ford had a throw-away car. The Taurus, which admit it, has never really been that great of a car, sells like hotcakes.

When the Taurus was replaced with the Fusion in 2005, loyal Taurus owners were angry. They wanted their car.

So what did Ford do? They renamed the Five-Hundred the Taurus, and they were happy. Something Ford and Chrysler have done for years (with differing results) is attempt to make the consumer happy. Give them what they want. Ford straight up listens to the consumer, Chrysler makes something sort of like what the consumer wants and convinces them that "hey, this'll do just fine." GM on the other hand has this lovely reputation of making whatever the hell they want because they think the American public is too stupid to know what they want in a car, and they really aren't that far from the truth when someone refuses to buy a Chevy Blazer but will walk over and buy an Oldsmobile Bravada without even haggling when it is the EXACT SAME CAR. And as long as Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon sport something that says its a Monte Carlo SS or an Impala, people will keep buying them blindly. It's no different than buying a small child a carton of orange juice just because Donald Duck is on the cover.

But on the NASCAR mention, look at these facts. Chevy, Ford, Dodge and Toyota all race in the Sprint Cup Series with their respective Impala, Fusion, Charger and Camry brands. The Impala and the Charger are manufactured in Canada. The Fusion is manufactured in Mexico. Guess where the Camry is made: Kentucky. See where I'm going with this? In manufacturers terms, the only domestic car that is raced competitively is a TOYOTA.

You want to know why the Big Three suffer so much? Why the American automobile is struggling to survive? I'll tell you why, and it's got very little to do with gasoline prices either. It's because they took out the key ingredient: The American autoworker. You take away the American autoworker and you take away the heart and soul of what makes a Chevy, a Ford, a Chrysler...American. And to think Chrysler and GM had the nerve to think about merging. Do they not remember what happened to American Motors? You keep buying each other out, merging and doing this and that, you lose your identity on the market and you start buying other peoples things to put in your car. Next thing you know you're being carved up among everyone else like the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I.

So here's a couple of ideas... Go ahead with the bailout, but make the oil industry pay for every dime of it. How? I don't know. Ask Obama.

But, considering we are all suffering in this great nation of ours while big oil continues to be fat and sassy making record profits to this day, let them pay to bail out the big three.

If it weren't for the big three, they'd not be sitting nearly as high and pretty as they are.

If it were me, I'd say sink or swim. If people need a car, they'll get something even if they don't like it. Hey its transportation, right? And if General Motors were to cease to exist entirely tomorrow, I might shed one tear, but with their mismanagement, I'd say they deserved it.

Finally, dear old dad's solution is this: We bail them out, but boycott Detroit until they pay back every single penny of the money that was handed to them. And I say, why not? We're not hurting the American autoworker by doing they. They're all busy in Smyrna, Tennessee making Nissans, or Lincoln, Alabama making Hondas or Georgetown, Kentucky making Toyotas.

The Big Three are not fighting to survive because the American abandoned the American automobile. The principle of the American automobile abandoned the American.
The greatest compliment in the world is giving your significant other freedom, and finding that they've chosen you to spend their time with.

Sometimes I forget what it's like to forget about the things I feel obligated to do especially school. And if I did let go, I'm usually half-way hanging out while I'm doing so. So this weekend, my best friend Rachel and I decided to go see "My Bloody Valentine 3D."

No boys.
No talk of how stressful school and work is.
No absolutely no counting calories while we stuff our faces full with Mexican food and gospel.

It reminded me of us back in the 6th grade as we both sat in the dark theater munching on our giant pickles that streaked our entire section, causing the people around us to give us British evil eyes. We slurped on our fries, squealed at every appropriate and inappropriate moment and if only for a bit, totally forgot about our lives as young adults. It felt great.

To be productive and fair to ourselves, balance is necessary. Balancing time with your honey and your friends can be tricky, but if they care about you, they'll say, "Have fun, baby," as you pursue your merry way. Also, balancing schoolwork and free time is essential in keeping yourself energized, alert and still giving a damn. We can only take so much before we break.

Now, go practice your tightrope routine.

If you have a relationship question for Julie or a question you would address in the Dating/Love column, please send them to chantycampus-cleve@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor: After last week's deadline deadline, we received a few complaints about the layout of The Chanticleer and the look of the headlines. Here are some of our readers' reactions.)

Crammed headlines
When I picked up The Chanticleer this week, one feature stood out on the front page that I was surprised by and this demanded my closer attention. The headlines of the front page are all lacking spaces in their primary and secondary title lines. I looked further and found cases of this on each page, with the exception of the full-page advertisement on page four. I am unsure if this was intentional or not. If it was intentional, it was not amusing. Our student paper has been struggling for credibility with the student body and mistakes like this don't go unnoticed. Personally, I hope that was an error made by the printer and not by our editing staff. The complication lies in the fact that the paper was distributed in this state at all. I'm sure that there will never be a defense of Communication students that will be able to skip this particular issue.

-Jeff Kretzschmar
Ohatchee, Ala.

Why are there barely any spaces in the titles of the articles in this week's paper?
That's highly unprofessional. Either come up with shorter titles or have a better layout.
-Tyler Volz

I was shocked to see the front page of The Chanticleer on Thursday! What in the world is going on at Self Hall?
The students of JSU deserve better than this and I hope that this was a mistake instead of some kind of new design. If it is, I hate it.

-John P.

Who messed up the Chanticleer?
Fix it!
-R.F.
Royalty on campus

By Cecily Sanders
Staff Writer

I met Kristie Osborne last week at the library. She arrived wearing skinny jeans, flats, a gray top, and a bright smile. My first impression of her was that she was a very beautiful and happy young lady.

Miss Osborne, from Hartselle, was crowned Miss Jacksonville State University 2009 on January 9 at the 27th annual Jacksonville State University Scholarship Pageant. She is a sophomore at JSU, and is majoring in marine biology. When asked what she wants to do with her degree, she answered that she wishes to be a dolphin trainer, and might also work with animals needing physical therapy.

She has always loved anything to do with the ocean and dolphins, especially. She decided to major in marine biology because she feels that is her calling and will make her the happiest.

Osborne cheered in high school and was a cheerleader for JSU her freshman year. She is a member of the sorority Alpha Omicron Pi and Phi Eta Sigma. Her sorority has helped raise money and awareness for Juvenile Arthritis, and they also participated in “Adopt A Mile.”

Nine young ladies competed for the title of Miss JSU 2009. All of them went through an interview process and a swim-suit, evening gown and talent competition. For her talent, Osborne performed a jazz dance and tumble routine. She told me that she had never actually taken a jazz class, but she did cheer for seven years. So with her experience, Osborne created her own dance with moves from jazz, cheerleading and the movie Footloose, and was very successful at it.

Osborne’s platform for the pageant was “Save the Ocean-Recycle.” She is a firm believer and supporter of recycling and urges everyone to do their part in helping make this Earth a better place to live.

As the winner of Miss JSU 2009, Miss Osborne walked away with a 1-year full tuition scholarship, $1000 and 25 additional prizes, which consisted mainly of various gift cards. She also gets the opportunity to compete in the Miss Alabama Scholarship Pageant. Not only did she get all of those amazing prizes, but she also took away with her great friends in the girls she competed with, proper speaking skills and many wonderful and cherished memories.

Her ultimate inspiration in life is her late Aunt Judy, who passed away after battling cancer.

“She was always so strong and never gave up,” Osborne said with a sad but admirable look in her eyes. Seeing the strength in her aunt has made Kristie a stronger, braver person.

I asked Kristie to give all of our readers and I a piece of advice for life in general.

“Always have confidence in yourself, and never change who you are for anyone,” Osborne replied.

After talking with Kristie and getting to know her, I fully understand why she won this pageant. When she walks into a room, she lights it up with her beauty, grace and her happy-go-lucky smile.

Review: Cossi fan tutte opens eyes to opera

By Trenice Chandler
Staff Writer

The sisters, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, are caught comparing pictures of their beloved when found by Don Alfonso. They are told that Cherubino is in love with their father, but Fiordiligi does not fall for Ferrando. Fiordiligi then decides they must join their lovers at the battlefront, but Ferrando quickly wins her over. A wedding is held, with
Review: Cossi fan tutte opens eyes to opera

By Trenice Chandler
Staff Writer

Opera.
Mozart.

These words make any college student in their right mind cringe and shudder.

Mozart.

So much to live up to. So much power, intellect and dare I say it, smoothesness.

The opera, Cosi Fan Tutte, is about a man named Don Alfonso who argues with friends, Ferrando and Guglielmo, about women's consistency in relationships.

The friends are sure of their lovers' (Dorabella and Fiordiligi) faithfulness to them. But in their positive thoughts of their lovers, they make a bet with Don Alfonso. If they do everything told by Don Alfonso, he will prove that their lovers are the same as any other woman... unable to make up their mind.

The sisters, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, are caught comparing pictures of their beloved when found by Don Alfonso. They are told that their lovers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, have been sent away to the battlefield. Comforted by their maid, Despina, they are appalled to hear Despina's outlook on men--that all men are liars and cheats.

Don Alfonso convinced Despina to help him in his bet and she agrees. They both introduce the "new" men to the sisters, Ferrando and Guglielmo in disguise. The sisters refuse the men, making them secretly happy.

Alfonso later brings in the "new" men again, claiming they have taken poison. With Despina in disguise to draw out the poison with a magnet, the sisters' thoughts of their lovers start to waver.

In Act II, each of the sisters are told by Despina to pick a favorite.

Guglielmo succeeds in wooing Dorabella, but Fiordiligi does not fall for Ferrando. Fiordiligi then decides they must join their lovers at the battlefront, but Ferrando quickly wins her over. A wedding is held, with Despina back in disguise. Then the original lovers return and the sisters force their new husbands to hide. The sisters beg to their original lovers for forgiveness, and are forgiven. The men hope that the sisters have learned their lessons.

Personally, I am not a fan of operas. This was my first and I saw it as a learning experience for me.

All of the actors have beautiful voices that keep your attention through each song. The orchestra also did a fabulous job as they performed Mozart. I can't say that I like opera after this, but I can say that this has definitely opened my eyes to experience new types and forms of art and music.
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.

To learn more about the U.S. Army Health Care Team, call Maj. Katherine Murdock at 877-351-6753, email katherine.murdock@usarec.army.mil, or visit healthcare.goarmy.com/info/mchsp1.

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Sports

Lights out Lester

Hudson and the Skyhawks extend Gamecocks’ losing streak to four

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

After a brilliant start that included upset victories over Massachusetts and VMI, the Jacksonville State men’s hoops team has struggled of late, falling to the bottom of the Ohio Valley Conference standings after a four-game losing streak.

After dropping road contests at Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State, the Gamecocks (8-8, 2-5 OVC) came home to Pete Matthews Coliseum looking to turn things around, but that didn’t happen.

JSU turned the ball over 23 times in a 63-56 loss against Murray State on Thursday. The Gamecocks played well in the first half, taking a two-point lead into the locker room, but the Racers took control early in the second frame and never looked back.

Saturday presented an even greater challenge for JSU, as the nation’s second leading scorer Lester Hudson and his UT-Martin teammates came to town.

The Skyhawks jumped on the Gamecocks early, shooting 60% from behind the arc in the first half on their way to a 92-73 victory.

Hudson, who was defended by Jeremy Bynum throughout the majority of the contest, led the Skyhawks with 16 points in the first half.

Marquis Weddle was just as dangerous with the ball in his hands, knocking down four three-pointers, as UT-Martin headed into the locker room with a 50-31 advantage.

“I thought we didn’t play very well, and I thought they played great,” JSU coach James Green said. “They are probably the most talented team we have played so far in the league.

“They really shot the ball well in the first half. We can’t score points the way they score points, so we had to try to shoot and we didn’t.”

Hudson added 11 in the second half, bringing his total to 25 for the game. The senior from Memphis, Tenn., has earned OVC Player of the Week honors five consecutive weeks and is averaging 27.4 points per game. Only Davidson’s Stephen Curry averages more.

Hudson’s reputation as a premier scorer often times frees teammates up for open shots, and that is exactly what happened Saturday night. UT-Martin made 14 of 27 three-point attempts throughout the contest.

Many of these shots were contested, but the Skyhawks were not phased.

“Hudson will score 50 on you if you don’t pay attention to him,” Green said. “I think he makes everybody on that team a lot better. He is so poised. Not only is he able to catch and shoot, but he is able to get the ball in the hands of other people.”

The Gamecocks will take the court again on Thursday as they open up a four-game road trip against Tennessee State.

Green knows he has a young squad that will need to continue its maturation process before it can compete with the top teams in the conference, but if the Gamecocks gel and bring a good attitude to the court every night they could be dangerous when tournament time rolls around.

“We have to have our guys glue themselves together and be determined that they are going to fight and fight and fight,” Green said. “When we learn how to do that, then we will be able to do some other things in games, but I think we have to focus on us more so than anything out there.

“We have a really tough road trip coming up, and if we don’t pay attention it will be tough to win games. I’ve told our guys, I’m not asking them to go win a game. I just want them to want to win the game as bad as I do.”
Women's track posts solid finishes

Boone, N.C. — The Jacksonville State women's track team competed in its second event of the season at the Appalachian State Open, posting six top five finishes on the afternoon.

Amber Wiley claimed second place in the Pole Vault with vault of 11-feet, 5 ¼ inches while Takisha Parham took second place in the long jump with a jump of 18-feet, 2 ½ inches. Veronica Citreag clocked a 2:21.52 for second place in the 800-meter run.

Lesley Binning posted an 11:05.86 to wrap up third in the 3000-meter run and the 4x400 relay team captured third in its respective race.

Tashelia Jones ran a 59.76 and Stephanie Watts followed with a 59.84 to finish fifth and sixth respectively in the 400-meter dash.

Crystal Estes posted sixth place finish with a 44-44, 8 ¾ toss in the weight throw and claimed ninth in the shot put with a 36-feet, 9 ½ inch throw. Andrea Hoke finished seventh in the shot put with a throw of 37-feet, 8 ½ inches.

Jacksonville State returns to action next Saturday in the Blue Raider Invitational hosted by Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Meet the softball team

JSU's softball team will be hosting a fan day on Sunday, February 1 at 1 p.m. The event is expected to last about an hour.

Visitors will receive free snacks and will have an opportunity to play games and win prizes. Softball players will be signing autographs, and JSU mascot Cocky will be there as well.

The softball team is looking to build on a 40-16 season that ended with a loss to Alabama in the NCAA Regional Final.

The Gamecocks hit the road for a weekend tilt at Tennessee Tech on Saturday at 8 am.

Diagnosing the ills of JSU basketball

By Jared Staubs
Sports Editor

I'm writing this on January 20, the day that our new president begins to fix the weaknesses in our nation's economy.

I can't really help with that, but — just to make things clear for those who don't watch the team play very often — here are some of the issues plaguing the JSU basketball team.

Before everything else, I don't think the UT-Martin game is indicative of JSU's defensive prowess. Perhaps the Gamecocks over-committed to defending Lester Hudson early, but the reality of that game was that Martin just couldn't miss a shot.

Any time the opponent shoots over 50 percent from behind the arc, it's tough. But to be fair to the Gamecocks, the majority of those shots were contested.

The defense played on Hudson was actually outstanding. I never realized how good a defender Jeremy Bynum was, but he played UT-Martin's All-American as well as anyone has all season. Hudson hasn't been held below 20 points all year, and he had to work very hard for his 25 Saturday evening.

Defense is James Green's calling card. He feels that is how this team will move up the OVC standings over the next couple seasons, and he's probably right.

Here are the weaknesses currently keeping the Gamecocks near the bottom of the standings this season.

• No interior scoring

I'm a pretty tall person by normal standards, but not by D-I college basketball standards. Yet I was taller than JSU's five starters Saturday evening.

It's just difficult to win without someone who can get easy inside baskets. Amadou Mbojji is really tall, but he's a defensive-minded player and his offensive skills are far from fully developed.

The two players who gravitate to the inside are Nick Murphy and Geddes Robinson, but both are badly undersized (respectively 6'4" and 6'5") to play the 4 or 5.

Jacques Leeds is the only other player on the active roster who has shown a proficiency inside, but he has been utilized almost exclusively in garbage time.

• No go-to-guy

UT-Martin really doesn't have a quality offensive big man either, but they do have the unanimous OVC Player of the Year in Hudson. You have to have one or the other.

If you don't have someone dominating inside and getting easy baskets, you have to have a player who transcends the game. Sort of the Cleveland Cavaliers formula, or the Michael Jordan Bulls formula.

It's also the UT-Martin formula.

Hudson makes everyone on that team better by getting them uncontested looks and forcing everyone on the court to be conscious of potentially having to help the player guarding Hudson.

Jonathan Toles has that mindset — he loves Mike LaPlante didn't leave the talent to the inside are Nick Murphy and staying out by the three-point line on the offensive end, and it has to be as realistic as anyone has all season. Hudson hasn't been held below 20 points all year, and he had to work very hard for his 25 Saturday evening.

Defense is James Green's calling card. He feels that is how this team will move up the OVC standings over the next couple seasons, and he's probably right.

• A strangely assembled team

Mike LaPlante didn't leave the talent cupboard bare, but it seems like a hard team to coach.

You can't say enough about what DeAndre Bray has done for the team and off the court. But I have to imagine it's difficult to step in and know how to properly utilize Bray.

The same is true of Mbojji. He's certainly valuable, as he makes it virtually impossible for opponents to get easy baskets when he is guarding the rim. But he isn't a factor on the offensive end, and it has to be as frustrating for Green as it is for JSU fans.

As a result, we see things like Brandon Crawford playing center and staying out by the three-point line on the offensive end.

Crawford is a competent perimeter shooter, and his freakish athleticism is best suited to play the 3. The problem is that half the roster is comprised of guys who are natural 3s.

Of course, injuries haven't helped, and getting Stephen Hall back will help with interior scoring and in defining roles for players like Crawford and Murphy.

I'm not trying to throw Green under the bus by any means. I loved Mike LaPlante, and I can honestly say that I think the team is better off with Green.

We were supposed to do one more issue before Christmas break, and I wrote a rambling column that I can't seem to place. Anyway, I wrote about Green in that column that will never see the light of day:

"Is it too early to call the James Green hire an absolute home run?"

I can't believe how fast he's turning the program around. It's a shame that he'll be the head coach at Alabama next year.

I'm joking, I think.

My point (besides the obvious dig at Mark Gottfried) is this. Let's not forget that this team has already won more games than it did a year ago. Early success bred expectations that are probably unrealistic. This team isn't going to win the OVC this season.

That doesn't make this season a failure. There are clearly identifiable holes on this team.

But Green has made a splash in recruiting, in the classroom and with some quality wins. I'm sure he will iron out these weaknesses sooner rather than later.