in THE NEWS

JSU's wins over Kennesaw

JACKSONVILLE - Jacksonville State's men's tennis team claimed a thrilling home opener as it outlasted Kennesaw State 4-3 on Tuesday at the JSU Tennis Courts.

KSU topped the Gamecocks 6-1. The
men's match
came down to a three-set marathon on court No. 6. JSU's Felipe 
Vilamade ousted KSU's Ryan 
Bouttell to clinch the match. After 
"dropping the first set 6-4, Vilamade rebounded to send the match to a third and deciding set after posting a 6-4 win in the middle set. He finished off Bouttell in the third set 6-2.

V-Day in JSU, WISE Presents Monologues

"The play is from the women's perspective about her own body. We saw it as the most effective way to get the word out there about domestic violence," said Dr. Tina Deshotels, faculty advisor of WISE. "Members propose issues and the group then sponsors programs to educate and activate around those issues. We were also interested in having people be ok with saying the word 'Vagina.' We wanted them to see it as something positive unlike it has been portrayed in the media, beyond ways that women can control."

This is the fourth year that "The Vagina Monologues" has been in production at JSU, but this is the first year that it will be on campus.

"The production is performed by students and happens only once a year, but the WISE organization is available to students year round. "Wise stands for Women's Issues Support and Empowerment," said Tinney. "We want to be made visible on campus so men and women can know that they can be a part of the organization that promotes anti violence, a place that they can go if they know someone who has been assaulted. It's a group of people that you can come and be comfortable with and share those experiences if you would like to."

The Vagina Monologues are for mature audiences and is said to "jerk at all
STAFF WRITER

By Lauren Garden

"On the Brink" Brings Southern Writers to JSU

Special assistant and dedicated volunteer

people should be made known to everyone.

Special assistant and dedicated volunteer

people should be made known to everyone.

The Violence Against Women is a very special way of doing things.

and Jackson State University has a

related to the issues of violence.

Violence Against Women is a very

and Jackson State University has a

related to the issues of violence.

Violence Against Women is a very

and Jackson State University has a

related to the issues of violence.

Violence Against Women is a very

and Jackson State University has a
Wacky, Tacky, but True!

Well, isn't this something?!

It's no secret that Snoop Dogg likes to kick back and unwind with a blunt firmly locked between his lips, which is why we imagine he decided to do something about that pesky scent that accompanies the habit - and help create the new odor-reducing rolling spray Blunt Magic! The product apparently is all-natural, and helps reduce the smell and smoke output by spraying it directly on the 'smoking product.' It also comes in grape or blueberry flavor! Yum! Snoop explains "Roll Doggy style with Blunt Magic and see what it do. Check out our product online and in specialty smoke shops and let me know what you think." LOLz! Ohhh man. Well, we're pleased that he has interests outside of his music, and is committed to tending to them with little side projects like this! The stoners of the world are going to be very happy with this, bb! What a thoughtful guy! Ha! Thoughts?

No Scientology Josh Brolin

Let's all just take a moment and think about Scientology! Hmmm. Done? Good. That's exactly what Josh Brolin thinks about it. Brolin recently talked to a source of ours, and shared his run-ins with the religion. It was a quiet time of desperation. He saw some of the Angels" playing in the background. Darn you, Sarah McLachlan and your beautifully depressing commercials! The most amusing reaction I've seen to Gizmo comes from our actual house cat - Stache. As self-appointed queen of the household, Stache's reaction to Gizmo's presence usually results in hissing and swatting. Simply put, girl cats can be mean.

Well, despite the different options of Gizmo the stray. There's one thing I admire about him.

Now, that may seem odd that someone admires the personality traits of a cat; but I think we can all learn a lesson from Gizmo.

If you are fighting for a worthy cause - such as looking for a job, rebuilding a relationship, or in Gizmo's case, looking for some love and affection - the only way you can ultimately lose is if you give up. Failure only comes to those who deny themselves success by quitting.

Determination and endurance are two key qualities that help us become the successful and fulfilled people we were meant to be. Whatever you find yourself fighting for, know that if you stay true to your cause, it will eventually come fruition.

Look at the Egyptian protesters. Here is a group of people who have been under the same dictator for 30 years. For most protesters, former President Mubarak and his regime were the only government they had ever known. Yet, as the entire world has now seen, the vision of a few determined individuals has become the new Egyptian
Ommmm... well, we're pleased that he has interests outside of his music, and is committed to tending to them with little side projects like this! The stoners of the world are going to be very happy with this, bb! What a thoughtful guy! Ha! Thoughts??

Catholic Church: New Confession App For Your iPhone!

Who needs the judgment of a priest when you can just use your phone?!

Ha! This is TOO bizarre!

After Pope Benedict XVI's recent World Communications Address emphasized the importance of the church acclimating to the new, digital world, an iPhone application is set to be released that helps Catholics prepare for the sacrament of confession!

Described as a “personalized examination of conscience for each user,” the app has even been sanctioned and approved by a church authority!

Patrick Leinen, who helped create the new tool, explains: "Our desire is to invite...

Complied by MJ Ortiz, courtesy Perez Hilton.com

Calendar

FEB 19

JSU's Department of English is pleased to present "I Ain't Been Much Farther Than My Mailbox," the fifteenth On the Brink Conference, on Saturday, February 19 at Leone Cole Auditorium.

FEB 24

NPR's Foreign Affairs Correspondent Jackie Northam will be the speaker at the Ayers Lecture Series on the Jacksonville State University campus. The event will be at 1:30 p.m. on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library.

FEB 22

Acclaimed Author and Historian James W. Douglass to visit Jacksonville State University to discuss his award-winning book, JFK and The Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters.

Douglass will present his arguments on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 3:00 in room 1103A of the Houston Cole Library. His lecture is free and open to the public.
OPINION

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, WE ASK YOU, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Join: GOJAXSTATE.COM

Looking for your future husband or wife? Try the BCM dating service. Free 3 week trial. (NO guarantees; 0.1% success rate.)

We've got thrills and shocks, supersonic fighting cocks. Leave your hammers at the box, come inside! Come inside!

Addiction is a treatable disease not a moral dilemma.

I want my fox shirt back. I'm rated M.... for Manly Preston, are you high?

Meet me in the cafe... its going down.

JSU should be known as the college that can't relay information... I am constantly emailing people trying to sort through this mess.

Love isn't a feeling, because feelings change. It is a person.

I don't know who told the Alphas they were cute... you all were LIED to... :)

You rather approach a fudy girl with a big butt than an attractive girl who is actually up here to get an education? ...You are extremely dumb

Why is there a banner ad on The Chanty's website for a different university?

MSBO...Please don't ride my bumper because I choose to respect the speed limit. Just saying.

Thursday Nights the place to go is HEROES - if you want to party then party at HEROES with The Pharaoh

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue; Some Poems Rhyme but this one doesn't.

Date Night with Dr. Hug! Friday Nights 9-11 only on 91.9fm WLJS!

(ANY VIEWS OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY)

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Foothills Series ends on a high note

By: Maurice Winsell
Sports Editor

- Few seats were empty in the Mason Hall Performance Center as many endured the cold Friday night to attend the piano recital of Dr. Robert Palmer. The recital was the season finale of the Foothills Piano Series presented by the JSU's Department of Music.

"This is our fifth year," said Dr. Wendy Faughn, Assistant Professor of the music department. Faughn explained that the series used to be a festival of three to four concerts over a period of three days, however, now it is three or four concerts stretched over a year.

"This way folks can come out at a more leisurely pace than coming out three nights in a row," she added, "we now have packed houses at most of our events."

The night opened up with Beethoven's Andante Favori, Wo057 and Palmer captured the audience's attention right away. "It was very expressive, I could feel what he was feeling," said Courtney Crosso a vocal student at JSU of Palmer's performance.

Palmer took his time between each piece engaging with the audience in providing small stories of the composer and the song itself.

"I like to break down the barriers between performer and audience," Palmer said. "Often times classical musicians just perform and they don't say anything." Palmer stresses that communication between the performer and the audience is important so that the audience feels connected.

Palmer enlightened the audience with a combination of heralded composers such as Brahms, Beethoven, and Chopin with modern and less heard of composers such as Federico Mompou and Francis Poulenc.

The decision to educate an audience on the lesser-known composers shows the educational nature of Palmer. He is currently the chairman of the piano department at Ball State University and the pianist in the American Piano Trio. "I wear so many different hats," he said.

Palmer ended the night dedicating the last song titled Invocation by James Grant to JSU's Dr. Gail Steward. Steward is a professor of music and teaches piano.

"That felt wonderful," Steward said. "I was really humbled at the recognition by the university and JSU's Department of Music."
WOUIO someone please tell that really tall, creepy, old, and loud man in the TMB to go somewhere else?

Lock me down brawza!

Why can’t a heterosexual guy tell a heterosexual guy that he thinks his booty is fly?

Bret, you got it going’ on.

I just want to confess, I think I’m on love with this girl in my BY 102 class MW 8:45. Short, curly haired girl with the iPhone in the pink Otterbox.

JSU should be known as the college that can’t relay information, I am constantly emailing people trying to sort through this mess.

Love isn’t a feeling, because feelings change. It is a perpetual commitment.

The only person I’m interested in saving, is you.

Elizabeth, will you marry me?

THUG talk called pulled off the air for a second consecutive year. BIG SURPRISE

Blue, Some Poems Anyway but this one doesn’t.

Date Night with Dr. Hug!
Friday Nights 9-11 only on 91.9 fh WLJS!

(ANY VIEWS OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE OPINION SECTION OF THE CHANTICLEER ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WRITING AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OR OPINIONS OF THE CHANTICLEER, WLJS, OR JSU OR ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES OR EMPLOYEES.)

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THE CHANTICLEER
The Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

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, Self Hall, or to the mailing address. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyeditor1@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 before the 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.
Entertainment/Health

NEWS ABOUT ART, MOVIES AND MORE

JSU Drama prepares to spread the Gospel......at Colonus

By: Caitlin Harris

Rehearsals for The Gospel at Colonus were held today at four o'clock in the TMB auditorium. Susan McCain and co-director Jason Wright took on this production last spring. It's being performed in honor of Black History month through a grant from the Calhoun County Commission. Jason says he hadn't even heard of this play until a year ago when he saw a film in which a song from 'Gospel' was played. He fell in love with the song and searched until he found the play it was from. Ms. McCain and Jason decided to put on a production of 'Gospel' when they worked on Gee's Bend together last year. This production has been a huge undertaking by all those involved. "Jason's not afraid of doing really big things," says McCain with a laugh. She says she would have never taken on the feat by herself.

The Gospel at Colonus is a play about what happens after the events of Sophocles' Oedipus, and how Oedipus finds his redemption through the rituals of the black Pentecostal church. As explained by the son of a Pentecostal preacher, the suffering of Oedipus is equated to the suffering of the African American people. "Suffering must happen to appreciate redemption," Ms. McCain explained.

Both the director and co-director were kind enough to take time to answer questions and introduce some of the cast and crew that were present in the auditorium. Scott Marzette, of the Komplex Royalty Dance Group, is doing the choreography and performing. Viv Walston, a performer, was at the TMB today practicing a dance for the show. Also in the cast are Issa Pointer, and Michael McDonald. Courtney Lamar is assisting with lighting and tech. The play features a choir and Corvious Scott is working hard alongside Dr. Myrtice Collins as vocal instructors. "We're growing by leaps and bounds," says McCain about the cast and crew. "It's like God is sending us new people. We really need people in specialties." Even people who normally act, like Heather Olsen (costuming), are helping out with behind the scenes work.

Ms. McCain looks forward to the energy between the performers and the audience. "I think we're going to be one big energy ball," she says. "It's a big celebration, really." When asked what he was most excited about, Jason Wright first replied jokingly "getting it done" but he then went on to say that he was excited about the opportunity to be artistic. "It's like this show has been a compass to show me what I want to do with life," he says.

The Gospel at Colonus is set to be performed at the TMB Auditorium on February 24-26. On Thursday the 24th, there is going to be a soul food dinner before the show. The dinner starts at 6 pm, the show starts at 7 and student tickets cost $10 (includes dinner and show). On Friday morning at 10, the doors will be open for area schools and later that evening there is a "pay as you will" showing beginning at 7pm. Saturday evening is a Black Alumni Association night (all students are invited to attend), with dinner at 6 pm and the show at 7.

The cast and crew are expecting a huge turnout. "We have great expectations," said McCain. "We'll probably be turning people away."

Jason Wright adds "Come on out! Everybody come. Tell anyone and everyone."
Group Challenges Beauty Ideals

Love Your Body Week, part of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, will reach out to the U to increase awareness of eating disorders.

The week will be held Feb. 21 through Feb. 25 by Students Promoting Eating Disorder Awareness and Knowledge. SPEAK is a student group that started in 2002 with the goal of educating the public about eating disorders, prevention approaches and body-image issues.

The mission of LYBW is to encourage acceptance and celebration of human diversity through body shapes and sizes, according to its website.

Shelly Guillory, a senior in mass communication and SPEAK member, said the group is made up of students, professionals and health educators who work to create awareness and provide resources to anyone who wants more information about eating disorders and how to deal with them.

“We want to contribute to changing the socio-cultural ideals that equate fitness with health, beauty and happiness,” Guillory said. “They lead to a hatred of fat, and they contribute to the emergence of eating disorders, especially on campus where it’s a really big problem.”

“As many as 10 million females and 1 million males are fighting a life-and-death battle with an eating disorder” in the United States, according to the National Eating Disorders Association. A 1996 study showed that 80 percent of American women are dissatisfied with their appearances, and it is presumed that many cases are not reported because of secretiveness and shame.

Andrea Olson, a first-year master’s student in social work, is co-chairing this year’s LYBW with fellow SPEAK member Maya Miyairi. Olson said she struggled with an eating disorder for more than 20 years.

“It may seem too difficult to change your attitudes and beliefs about yourself, but I want people to know it is possible,” she said. “The last three years of recovery have been full of ups and downs, but they have been the best three years of my life. Give yourself a chance to love your body.”

Being able to show there’s hope and that recovery is possible is what keeps her invested in SPEAK and LYBW, Olson said.

“Knowing that I am making a difference in peoples’ lives is quite rewarding,” she said. “I plan to be involved with SPEAK, in one way or another, for many years to come.”
The Vault

To Wall Or Not To Wall

By Jerry Fuller
Special to the Chanticleer

According to Rolling Stone, in an otherwise slow concert season, former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters met with huge success during 2010 with the tour for his re-imagined version of Pink Floyd's "The Wall." He is touring Europe right now and will wrap up this July in Milan. On a mild evening in November, the tour came to Atlanta's Phillips arena, and I was fortunate enough to have attended.

As we filed into the sports arena, the LED lights flashed advertisements from every angle and people murmured excitedly while others tapped on their cell phones. The stage was littered with various instruments and a mannequin stood lonesome in the foreground wrapped with a black leather jacket.

The stage was flanked by two large chunks of the wall that eventually tapered into a wide opening. Above it all and behind the instruments was a large oval screen. In the crowd you could see a poster connected to a shopping cart wrapped with a black leather jacket.

The show had begun. The two chunks of wall looked harmless enough, but they would soon become an impending 30-foot structure that separated us from the band we came to see. According to the oft-repeated story of the events that led up to this strange idea, it all began with an off-hand comment made by Roger Waters during Pink Floyd's 1977 "In the Flesh" tour.

The band had only recently started playing in huge stadiums, and the intimacy of smaller shows gave way to the frenzied nature of larger crowds. An unruly group of fans near the stage upset Water's so much one night that he spat at them.

This prompted him to express later on that there should be a wall built between the band and the audience. This notion eventually became Pink Floyd's next studio album which explored Water's ideas of alienation in depth. The 36 year old Waters developed an intensely personal album that cataloged a grueling array of personal demons and life events that he felt led to the ultimate sense of alienation he had also described after the '79 tour.

Small unauthorized clips from the first tour can be seen on Youtube and the rock star's haunted demeanor adds a dimension of pathos to the show that was ultimately found to be missing as Water's finally made his way onto the stage. He strolled out among a group of flag waving hammer soldiers to reenact the opening scene of Pink's post breakdown fascist persona, no doubt meant to invoke the disapproving Roger who had spat angrily at his hapless fans. He donned an ecstatic welcoming grin, and coupled with his shock of grey hair, made you feel as though you had just entered the home of an accommodating grandfather. He put on the black leather jacket with the famous crossed hammer insignia on the sleeves and the wardrobe change did little to lighten the effect of his laid back demeanor. It was a strange feeling; it was as though Shakespeare's famously tortured character Hamlet had actually lived through his tragedy and now returned to reenact his famous play after it had already grown well beyond the man into the immense proportions of the myth.

Water's was well aware of this and brought it to the foreground in a dazzling display of stagecraft. When he introduced the song "Mother," Waters explained that back in '79 they recorded a performance of the wall in London and now for this tour he was going to project what he called "the young angry Roger" onto the large screen behind him and play a sort of duet with him. This impressive display reoriented the scope of the wall, bringing a sort of levity to the spectacle that reinforced the gist of the previous resurrection of the rock opera in 1989 celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall. However the gravity that the Wall was generated from had not altogether been excluded as I later came to observe. The idea of alienation among individuals gave way to the much larger scope of alienation among societies. Something that Water's expressed explicitly on his website.

This website also provides the avenue by which people could provide Waters with the pictures and stories of their loved ones that they had lost by result wars which were the implied result of this international alienation. These pictures were among the images that were projected on the wall throughout the show; during intermission they were given exclusive reign of the entire surface of the wall which by that point stretched across the entire stage. Waters also interspersed new imagery among the old animation by Gerald Scarfe that provided implicit renunciations of modern day "bricks in the wall" including corporate logos, dollar signs, and symbols of national identity. The video published on the website wikileaks by the now infamous Australian hacker turned activist Julian Assange of an American helicopter gunning down a group of unarmed men including two Reuters reporters also helped to restate the feeling of desperation and chaos that had always characterized the imposing wall.

As it did in the first tour, the wall eventually came crumbling down and I ended up feeling the same loss of heaviness. Water's show seemed to imply that his victory over alienation could be the world's victory, however this older Roger may be a bit caught up in the whole idea and not paying attention to the possibility that the auspices of the older and wiser may not be useful to those subjected to the overwhelming nature of adolescent tensions and conundrums, but that doesn't change the fact that he brings up a good point: what separates us usually destroys us.
this strange idea, it all began with an off-hand comment made by Roger Waters during Pink Floyd’s 1977 In the Flesh tour. The band had only recently started playing in huge stadiums, and the intimacy of smaller shows gave way to the frenzied nature of larger crowds. An unruly group of fans near the stage upset Water’s so much one night that he spat at.

11

SPRING
EDUCATION FAIR

When: February 24, 2011
Where: JSU Campus
Location: Stephenson Hall Gym
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Education majors are encouraged to attend, dress professionally and bring a lot of resumes!

jsu.edu/careerservices

#215-10 University Publications 12/10

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
JSU Rifle Strengthens Its NCAA Championships Case At Qualifying Meet

MURRAY, Ky. – The Jacksonville State rifle team strengthened its case for a spot in the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Rifle Championships in March with a superb outing at the NCAA Qualifying meet, hosted by Murray State University.

The Gamecocks combined for a 4655 after posting a 2309 in the smallbore competition. Jax State turned in a 2346 in the air rifle portion of the event.

Junior Andrea Dardas fired a 587 in the smallbore to claim the top spot in the event. Sophomore Monica Fyfe turned in a season-best 589 to pace JSU’s air rifle mark.

The NCAA will pick the top eight teams in the nation to go to NCAA Championships, basing it on their three highest scores throughout the regular season, which have to be at three different locations and what was shot at the qualifying meets. The NCAA will average those two scores and take the top 8 ranking teams.

Unofficially, the Gamecocks currently stand sixth in the NCAA standings.

The NCAA Rifle Championships will be contested on March 9-12 in Columbus, Ga., hosted by Columbus State University.

First pitch luncheon showcases OVC’s best

Women’s golf ready for spring season

By Joshua French
Staff Writer

With a spring season quickly approaching, JSU’s women’s golf team seems destined to win the OVC 2011 Golf Championship. Coach James Hobbs is optimistic, despite some shortcomings during the fall season, about his players and their progress.

“Overall we’ve got six good players, and normally we play five here and count four scores, so our competition is going to be really good as to who is going to be in those five spots the rest of the year,” Hobbs said.

Those six players range from freshman to senior level students; each individual working hard for a starting role. “It’s hard to say who will do best,” Hobbs said. “We have some good players.”

Staying on top during this spring season seems to be getting a little more attention than the fall. “Golf is one of those sports where you play in the fall and the spring, but our spring season carries a little bit more importance because our conference championship is at the end of spring season,” Hobbs said.

Hobbs is optimistic about the first tournament of the spring season, which will be held at Kiawah Island S.C., though the preparation has been limited due to weather.

“We obviously get better weather in the fall,” Hobbs said. “We have had a lot of rain, we’ve had some snow; so we don’t get to do the things to get ready for the spring season as
Coaches from baseball and softball discuss upcoming season

By Jared Simpson
Sports Writer

On Wednesday Feb. 9th, JSU’s Athletic Department held the First Pitch Luncheon at the Stadium Towers for the softball and baseball teams. Head coaches Jana McGinnis and Jim Case have their respective programs in a great position as both squads are ranked number one in the OVC’s preseason rankings.

“We have worked hard and are tired of practicing because we are ready to compete,” said McGinnis. McGinnis and Case stressed the importance of helping in preparing the team for the upcoming season.

“Any head coach that says assistant coaches are not important is not true,” said McGinnis crediting Assistant coaches Mark Wisener and Julie Boland for much success of the program. “They hired them to be strong where I am weak and I know we work great together as a team.”

“It would be absolutely impossible for our program to be successful if not for the assistants Steve Gillispie, Travis Janssen, and Shane Kellie,” said Case.

Success on the field is a goal, but success in the classroom is an even greater one.

“When you set high expectations on and off the field for your athletes that are reachable, they tend to work hard to reach that goal,” says McGinnis. The softball team has successfully posted a 3.0 grade point average over the past three years.

“Ten years ago we asked ourselves, what do we want the program to stand for? And said first, we are going to study hard and go to class,” said Case, whose baseball squad combined for an overall grade point average of 3.26.

Pitching and speed was the main focus in the freshman class according to McGinnis. “We have more pitching depth in the freshman class to complete our circle with Tiffany Harbin and Savanna Hennings as we ease them along,” said McGinnis.

Senior softball players want to improve the team from last year as they implement winning elements into their teammates.

“As seniors on the team, we have to be leaders on the field, most vocal, and step up and show our teammates that we are going to give everything we got and we are here for them,” said second baseman Sallie Beth Burch.

Tess Echols, who plays shortstop, agrees with her teammate that if there is a bad situation, with their attitude and vigor they can lift the team and keep everyone in line. “It helps that we are the loudest on the team and our teammates can feed off of us,” said Echols.

With a pair of wins over UAB and Alabama state this past weekend at the Hibbett/Easton All-Alabama Classic; the softball team prepares themselves for the Jacksonville University Invitational on February 18th in Jacksonville, FL.

While the freshmen on the softball team have seniors help guiding the way, the baseball team’s freshmen have few to guide them.

“We are a very young team, but these are four quality student athletes and we expect them only to lead us as players on the field, but also off the field,” said Case.

Shortstops Blake Seguin, Jake Sharrock, third baseman Matt McLaughlin, and pitcher Jordan Beistline make up the only seniors on the baseball team this year, and others are stepping up to help refine the leadership positions. “We want to score runs and improve our defense all over the field and I believe we have the players and pitching to do so,” said third baseman and catcher Sam Eberle.

The baseball team prepares to take their first swings in competition. “We have been working hard, we are very excited about this season, and our schedule will be very challenging as we want it to be,” said Case.

The team opens up the season against Auburn on February 22nd at Auburn University.

JSU’s Stepp Named OVC Softball Player of the Week

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. -- Junior Abbey Stepp made a big splash in her first weekend with the Jacksonville State softball team by earning Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week honors to open the season.

The league’s sports information directors voted Stepp the OVC’s top offensive player for the week after her performance over the weekend.

She hit .417 with two home runs, six runs scored, and five RBI over the Gamecocks’ five games, a stretch that also saw her boast .438 on-base percentage and a 1.000 slugging percentage.

Her career got off to a fast start as she belted a two-run home run in her first Division I at bat against UAB on Friday, a game in which she went 3-for-3 with a double, a homer, three runs scored and two RBI.

— From wire reports