Football team makes longest playoff run in its Division I history

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

Nearly a year to the day from the time coach Bill Clark was hired as the new football coach at his alma mater, his Gamecocks were playing in the Quarterfinal round of the FCS playoffs. It was the deepest run Jacksonville State University had made in the program's Division II National Championship.

The incredible postseason run began on November 24, less than 24 hours after the season opened with a 19-17 victory over New Mexico State. JSU had heard its name called on the ESPN selection show to open the tournament, but faced a daunting task in the country’s number one team, McNeese State. The Cowboys were 10-2 and ranked sixth in the world. McNeese won a second round battle against Missouri State to complete a 9-3 regular season.

JSU had heard its name called on the ESPN selection show and was pitted against Samford University in a first round game that would rekindle an old rivalry. The Gamecocks beat Samford 55-14 for their first 10-win season since 1992, the season they won the Division II National Championship. In its fourth try, JSU finally broke through for a playoff win after going 0-3 in the previous three attempts.

A week later, Jan State traveled to Lake Charles, LA for a second round battle against McNeese State. The Cowboys were 10-2 and ranked sixth in the country, but faced a determined JSU team that ran over McNeese for their first 10-win season since 1992, the season they won the Division II National Championship. The Cowboys beat Samford 55-14 for their first 10-win season since 1992, the season they won the Division II National Championship. In its fourth try, JSU finally broke through for a playoff win after going 0-3 in the previous three attempts.

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College Republicans give back

Chelsa Teyor
Staff Writer

While the majority of Jacksonville State University students were returning home for winter break, the College Republicans remained on campus to engage in charitable work for the holidays.

The College Republicans wanted to make their presence known more than it has been in previous years. Their opportunity was quickly met when the Vice President of the College Republicans Bill Stewart heard an ad on the radio requesting volunteers for the Salvation Army Toy Drive in Anniston, Alabama. Stewart responded to the ad and presented the volunteer opportunity to the College Republicans President Will Eriksson. Saturday, December 14, members of the College Republicans assisted the Salvation Army at Walmart to raise toys and money for children in need in the Anniston area. Customers entering and leaving Walmart donated not only toys but coats, gloves, money, and many more items for children of all ages.

College Republicans President Will Eriksson and Vice President Bill Stewart collect donations for The Salvation Army outside of the Jacksonville Walmart on December 14, 2013.

A new organization on campus has the ability to do that and more. The Justice and Civil Rights Initiative is headed by Ed Nathaniel Moore III and his Vice President Torsten Dryden. The Justice and Civil Rights Initiative’s goal is to “provide help to those in the community whose rights have been infringed upon regarding social, civil, and criminal issues,” according to Moore.

The Mission Statement reads, “The Mission of the Justice and Civil Rights Initiative is to assist in the progression of social, civil and cultural understanding for all people, regardless of gender, race, color, creed, ethnicity, nationality, age, sexual orientation or disability.”

Annual bike race moves to JSU

Angela Marino
Staff Writer

The starting line of the 22nd annual April 6 Chastity Challenge bicycle race is moving from Piedmont to JSU. The move is expected to increase the campus’s exposure and build its positive image.

The race is being moved because organizers are hoping to attract more participants which will be too many for the Piedmont Civic Center to service.

The race is expected to begin at the JSU Pete Matthews Coliseum. The course will provide showers, bathrooms, and parking for the estimated 400 cyclists.

“This is a great opportunity for the entire community,” said university President William D. Elmore. “It will also give opportunities for student to work as well.”

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity marks centennial

Vallian Jackson
Staff Writer

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity celebrated its 100th anniversary this week.

President of JSU’s Phi chapter Autuan Brown, Vice President Rajon Hudson, and one of the newest members Caleb Lapsley each took time to express their enjoyment being a part of such legacy and brotherhood.

“Ph Beta Sigma was founded in 1914 at Howard University by A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Moore, and Charles I. Brown,” ac-

See CENTENNIAL, page 2

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FOOTBALL, from page 1

school-record 11 sacks as the Gamecocks won 31-10.

And then there were eight. Only 15 games remained in the FCS playoffs and Ju-Ju was one of them. The Gamecocks earned a trip out to face the third ranked Eagles of Eastern Washington on the red turf of Roach Field.

The Eagles were no stranger to deep postseason runs, having won the 2010 national championship. And they were well prepared for big opponents after knocking off a n.

Thurston Johnson caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from Jenkins that put JSU up 14-7. JSU’s record-setting running back Donald James added to his record number rushing yards, becoming the second-quarter JSU to 21-14 lead, but the Eagles fought back to cut the lead to one point at the half.

The second half was the same all after James and Jenkins went down with game-ending injuries. Troy.

As James ran up the middle 50 miles

n

a reporter for 91.9 FM WLJS

For instance, the brothe...
Faculty, recognized for service at December luncheon, speak out about years of employment

Marie McBurnett
Staff Writer

In the nearly two and a half decades he’s worked for JSU Drama, David Keefer says he’s only ever shown up to work twice.

Keefer, along with 70 other university employees, received recognition for his years of service to JSU at the Staff Awards Luncheon. Keefer was a graduate student in Library Science at JSU before he began his employment. He helped tape and edit interviews for the JSU President position for the Board of Trustees to review. He explained that the only computer he had access to was the mainframe for registering students. "Now everything is computerized," Keefer says. "He'll be retiring in August, but says that he’s enjoyed every day in JSU Drama Department. "The biggest thing is doing something you love doing," he says. "It's never felt like work, coming to work.'

Debbie Taylor, Assistant Director of Student Life and Multicultural Programming, and David Keefer, Technical Director for JSU Drama, were both recognized for their years of service to the university at the December 16 Staff Awards Luncheon.

Brooke Latham/JSU

when asked in an interview what the most memorable aspect of his two and a half decades of employment was, Keefer related two stories about shows forced to stop due to plain bad luck. “There was a dinner theater in Leone Cole Auditorium. One of the two actors was running around backstage and she slipped and broke her arm,” Keefer recalls. The injury resulted in the cancellation of the show.

The other show was a play. “The power flickered and went out,” he remembers. A car had crashed around backstage and she slipped and broke her arm,” Keefer recalls. The injury resulted in the cancellation of the show.

Keefer received an award for his 25 years of employment at the luncheon. When he began working at JSU in 1986, Dr. Theron Montgomery was the president of the university. Keefer was a graduate student in Library Science at JSU before he began his employment. He helped tape and edit interviews for the JSU President position for the Board of Trustees to review. He explained that the only computer he had access to was the mainframe for registering students. "Now everything is computerized," Keefer says. "He'll be retiring in August, but says that he’s enjoyed every day in JSU Drama Department. "The biggest thing is doing something you love doing," he says. "It's never felt like work, coming to work.'

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Honors choir festival open to younger students this year

Jessica Graham
Staff Writer

Move over, big kids. It’s the little ones’ time to shine — the 2014 Children’s Honors Choir Festival is making its way to Jacksonville State University on Saturday, January 4, but this time with a new addition.

In the past, the festival has brought together high school choirs. This year, JSU has added an elementary school component to participate. The 2nd grade choir included grades four through six, according to Dr. Corbin, the Director of Choral Activities at JSU.

This is the first year that children from grades two through third grades will be able to participate in the festival since 1993. Though JSU has had children’s choirs included grades four through six, according to Dr. Corbin, “It was so pivotal to bring in the younger children that we approached the idea of adding a choir composed of children for the first time since 1993. This is the same day, February 1, but this time with a new addition. It was so pivotal that we decided to do this at the next January, and we have been doing this ever since.”

In the past, the program consisted of according to Dr. Corbin. “It’s a Japanese games, exploring kamishibai - a traditional Japanese pictoral storytelling - and other things to further the roots of manga. One year the library had a historian talk about the history of Japan, and Japanese inspired snacks are always served. “We are looking for something new for the teens, and this year we’ll have a mar- tial arts demonstration from Jacksonville Taekwondo school. The students will present this to a crowd favorite.”

The 2nd grade choir, which is held something different for the patrons. Teens were invited to come in costume as their favorite anime or manga characters and began to see more patrons asking about anime. The library had been doing a similar program for the past few years, and began to see more patrons asking about checking out manga from the library. “Whale enthusiasm would be a teens have formed their own manga clubs at the meetings that they attend. They have been or- ganizing meetings to discuss their favorite stories and planning things to do in the future.”

The club founder said they are planning a trip to an anime convention in the future and are making costumes for the trip. “It is exciting to see that they love this art and these stories are motivating them to try new things, meet people, and learn more about another country,” and Wallace asserts that is why they started the program in the first place, to create a foundation for the ground on where the art comes from. It was due in part to the strong support from the other teen programs at the library, that the public library expanded the Summer Read- ing Program to include teens and adults.

This past year, teens and adults that com- pleted the summer reading goal (30 books or 150 pages for teens and a book bingo card for adults) were entered into a drawing for a Kindle Paperwhite, android tablet computer, and other great prizes donated by area businesses.

The annual Manga Madness will be to- night in the Jacksonville Public Library be- ginning at 4 p.m. For more information, visit jacksonvillepubliclibrary.org or call 256-435-6322.

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It’s a bird! It’s a plane! No, it’s the Jackson- ville Opera’s annual Manga Mad- ness program. In the library’s 25th year of existence, Manga Mad- ness is a program designed for teens and young adults to better appreciate the culture that the comics come from.

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The 2014 Miss Jacksonville State Univer-
sity Scholarship Pageant will be held on Fri-
day, January 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Leoren
cole Auditorium on the JSU campus. Miss
JSU 2013, Sara Beth Drake, will crown her
successor.

The Miss JSU Scholarship Pageant is a
pulmonary pageant for the Miss Alabama
Scholarship Pageant, which will take place
in June. The winner of Miss Alabama goes
on to the Miss America pageant. The Miss
America Organization provides millions of
dollars in scholarships each year at the local,
state and national level.

Jacksonville State University has been rep-
tresented well at the national level. Heather
Whittemore McCallum was crowned Miss
America in 1995, and Teresa Chastain Stricklin
was first runner-up to Miss America in 1979.

Other Miss Alabamas who hailed from
JSU included Jeni Jenkins Snow, 1971; Jane
Rice Holloway, 1973; Julie Hoeston Elmer,
1977; Tammy Little Haynes, 1984; and Jamie

General admission for Friday’s pageant is
$10. Student tickets are $5 with JSU ID.

Top right: Elise Carroll poses with her art project, a mock
makeup line inspired by RayBan sunglasses, and said that
his favorite origi

Middle right: Bryan Perez

Top left: Bryan Perez poses with different forms and functions together, but created something
entirely different. The graphic design student used Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to make a piece inspired by RayBan sunglasses.

“the goal was to touch base with every
program, and then make my work come out
of all that together,” Perez says. He
made reference to a series of Ray-Ban ads
that contain elements of different
functions, different forms, and adding them
together.

Bryan Perez also put different forms and
categories together, but created something
different entirely. The graphic design stu-
dent used Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to make a piece inspired by RayBan sunglasses.

“I hand drew the birds and did a little
watercoloring over them and scanned
them into the computer,” Drake says about
the designs on the cards. “Then I did some hand-lettering that’s kind of similar to my
actual handwriting.”

Visitors to the gallery opening asked
Drake if her product, which contained
four thank you cards, four greeting cards,
a notepad and a feather in a hand-painted
box, was for sale. She said that because the
project didn’t make a profit she decided not to sell it. She said that because the
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to sell it.
The 2014 Alabama Legislative Session has begun. What does this mean? More stuff for me to talk about! More stuff that you should care about.

For the past three years, the government of Alabama has been controlled by a Republican Party for the first time in its history. We are now entering the final legislative session with the Republican Party to nail down their record as the state’s government.

In November of this year, that record will be placed on the ballot in what may be one of the most politically significant elections in Alabama’s history. Alabama state government is an interesting and multi-faceted institution, and its significance is undeniable.

Since November 2010, they’ve held this office for three years as their pinnacle of hope. But will it all pan out?

Bob Beasley, Governor Robert Bentley is not facing any significant opposition to speak of at last reporting, the incumbent governor shows a campaign war chest of over $3 million. His only official Republican opponent has a total of $83,483 last reported.

There are no official gubernatorial candidates and no significant announced opposition to speak of, other than Democratic side, although one Democrat has announced his plans to run for Governor.

Traditionally, the former minor league baseball player, business owner, and recently run unsuccessfully for mayor of his hometown. There has also been speculation that former Senator from Clay County, Al. might rise up to oppose Governor Bentley.

Senator Billy Winn later recently inquired in the state saying: “Whether I challenge Bentley or somebody else challenges the governor, he needs to be held accountable.”

As for other political events, Democrats are announcing new offices, and running between as announced to oppose Republican incumbents.

However, pundits across the state are predicting Republicans to win in a majority across the board. What is unsure is how much, if at all, the Democratic votes will fall.

The first source of political power is expected to be fired will come from the legislative session that began this week. The state’s leaders in the legislature have already had some time to think about their hopes for a non-controversial session, naturally.

Democrats will likely find controversy in some issues that we can expect to see throughout the 2014 campaign: Medicaid expansion, Accountability Act, and teacher pay raises, among others.

It’s difficult to say if it will result, you can, folks. Because soon enough, very soon, the people’s government will begin to make a law. Congress shall make no law that abridges the freedom of speech.

It’s not Congress. They shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech. Just as it is not Congress who should have fired Robertson for his opinions. Unfortunately for those worrying about Robertson’s firing at Robertson’s hands, the First Amendment says nothing to do with being intolerant.

It doesn’t. “Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech,” according to Merriam-Webster, is a person who is intolerently devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices. Just as it is not Congress who disagrees with Robertson on the issue of gay marriage, who wants to change freedom of speech despite Robertson’s beliefs.

The word bigot is often applied to those with intolerant opinions. But is it not bigoted to take a step back and agree with a cultural movement it is to Robertson’s hands? The freedom of speech is a constitutional right. According to Robertson, those who are intolerantly devoted to his or her own negative opinions. It is not bigoted to一家子中, 無論他如何, 他總是在. 投票 Robertsons of Robertson. Robertson should eat shellfish.

It’s not time to take a step back and understand the freedom of speech. It’s time for us to take a step back and understand our own behavior.

Before deciding someone is a moron or a bigot for not agreeing with a culturally popular opinion, we should look at the opinions of those people’s beliefs. Before checking our own beliefs, like a nation of third graders, we should take the time to evaluate whether those words come from our own place of bigotry. After that, we can talk about the shellfish.
January 16, 2014

**Gamecock Sports Sidebar**

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- **Football**: FCS season wraps up, JSU finishes in Top 10 rankings
- **Track & Field**: Open at UAB
- **JSU Men fall after slow start**

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**Gamecock Sports Sidebar**

**MONTGOMERY** – Jacksonville State head coach Jim Cas is among four coaches that have been invited to the 2014 season preview coming in football. Softball opens season Feb. 7

1. Tennessee State (2-1) [5-11]  
2. Belmont (4-2) [7-12]  
3. Eastern Kentucky (3-1) [9-6]  
4. Tennessee State (1-4) [2-17]  
5. Jacksonville State (2-3) [8-12]  
6. Morehead State (2-1) [11-7]  
7. Belmont (4-0) [12-6]  

**Rifle (Ole Miss/Nebraska)**

- **Sunday**: M Ten @ Auburn
- **Thursday**: MBB vs Tenn St
  - 12/7 @ #6 McN St. (W 31-10)
  - 11/30 vs #16 SU^  (W 55-14)
  - 11/16 @ #2 EIU*    (L 14-52)
  - 11/2 @ APSU*      (W 42-10)
  - 10/5 @ #22 UTM* (W 41-27)
  - 9/21 @ GSU     (W 32-26) OT

- **25. South Carolina State (9-4)**
- **24. Charleston S'thern (10-3)**
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- **21. Southern Utah (8-5)**
- **19. Samford (8-5)**
- **18. Youngstown State (8-4)**
- **13. South Dakota State (9-5)**
- **12. Maine (10-3)**
- **7. Coastal Carolina (12-3)**
- **6. SE Louisiana (11-3)**
- **4. Eastern Illinois (12-2)**
- **3. Eastern Washington (12-3)**
- **2. Towson (13-3)**

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**JSU’s Coach Case Talks to a Player during a game against Auburn.**

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**Track & Field**: Open at UAB

**BIRMINGHAM** – The Jacksonville State men’s and women’s track and field teams closed out their first weekend of the season at the UAB Invitational on Saturday at the Birmingham Crossplex.

The weekend was highlighted by Shawn Barnett’s start to her senior season. Barnett, a native of Adairsville, Ga., enters her final season as the school record holder and has pulled away for a 5.7 Victory matching Appalachia State as the only team to win three consecutive FCS national championships.

JSU’s season preview comes after the best season in school history with a 3-3, 2-3 record, making their third appearance in the FCS playoffs by Eastern Kentucky. The loss was a result of a 34-10 defeat at the hands of Tennessee State.

The Gamecocks have made their way to Jacksonville State three times, but with the Atlanta Braves on the baseball team.

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**JSU’s Coach Case Talks to a Player during a game against Auburn.**

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The Gamecocks finished the season 1-2-2 (20 percent) from three while shooting just 32 percent (6-of-19) from the field. The Panthers shot well (48 of 61) from the floor and had 30 more points than JSU.

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**Gamecock Sports Sidebar**

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It was a hard earned battle for the Gamecocks’ women’s basketball team as they defeated the Cougars of SIUE 71-68.

While the Cougars managed to pull within three with less than three minutes left on the clock the Gamecocks held them off and earned themselves a second consecutive OVC win. The Gamecocks led early 13-9 after a few shots by Briana Benson and LeQuisha Goodson. However, in the first attempt, in the final 12.2 seconds of play, the Cougars’ three-pointer by Candace Morton tied the score. It wasn’t until around the seven-minute mark that the Gamecocks’ dynamic tandem began. Down by 19, the Cougars used three minutes and five seconds to mount the 19-3 run that brought them within three points. The score sat at 64-61 with 2:39 left to play and after scoreless possessions on both sides JSU’s Miranda Cantrell hit a free throw to bump the Gamecocks’ lead up another point. Another minute had ticked off the clock when the Cougars’ Mhairn Jones managed to score two. It was Candace Morton who hit a basket from the baseline that moved the Gamecocks back up ahead by four.

The score was 67-65 when after the Cougars’ three-pointer made by Jessie Wendell had brought them one within of JSU’s lead, freshman Briana Benson then completed two free throws with eight seconds left in the game to push JSU’s lead back out to three. SIUE was not finished yet and Coco Moore made two free throws of her own with four seconds left to push the Cougars back within three.

With three seconds left in the quarter Candace Morton nailed two more free throws and all but ended the game there. SIUE had one more opportunity to send the game overtime but the attempted three-pointer as the buzzer sounded was blocked by the Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks employed a defense that was like the one they had employed against SIUE last season. They won back-to-back games for the season.

One year after the Jacksonville State saw their first NFL draft, in quite some time, the program hopes to soon add another to the league. Last week, junior safety Pierre Warren declared for the NFL draft early. It’s a decision often brought upon athletes at the larger universities in the state, but Warren’s skills have clearly attracted a lot of attention already. In 2013 JSU’s receiver Alan Bonner was drafted in the sixth round by the Houston Texans after a hamstring injury kept Bonner off the field in his first season. Now, Warren has decided to leave the university and take his skills to the NFL. This past March at the combine at Pratville, AL, was a key leader on the team, much less the defense. He was a first-team All-Conference selection this season in the Ohio Valley after leading the team in interceptions and pass breakups. The hard-hitting secondary defender was never shy of attempting to score again and again but his efforts did not amount to much. This season Warren had an interception returned for a score and a fumble he returned to the opponent’s one-yard line.

The NFL draft will be in May.

The search begins for next volleyball coach

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

In the fall of 2014 the Gamecock volleyball program will be looking under the leadership of a new head coach after former coach Joseph Nold bolted for The Plains when his duties in December. Goodson has hired fifth head coach in the program’s history when he was hired by JSU in July of 2011. Nold’s predecessor was LeQuisha Goodson who was hired in 2002 and took a team coming off four consecutive losing seasons to a 172-98 mark over his nine year tenure. Under Nold, the Gamecocks had post-season play in eight of his nine years after only having one appearance in program history prior to his arrival. He also guided the Gamecocks to the only three NCAA Tournament appearances in school history. However, Nold bolted for The Plains when the opportunity arose to coach in a premier league such as the Southeastern Conference. Under Goodson, it’s safe to say the Gamecocks didn’t fare as well. In his three year tenure Jacksonville State only reached the OVC tournament twice where they were ousted in the first round each time. Goodson was hired away from Wisconsin -Green Bay where he’d been an assistant the previous four years.

He also served on staffs at Georgia and Georgia Tech. At JSU, he went 38-55 with a 23-29 mark in conference play. 2013 was the team’s first season of all finishing 13-18 after losing 10 of their final 11 matches of the season. The highlight of the season was a devastating Tennessee over the Lady Vols. Athletics Director Warren Kegel said the decision, “At this time, we believe the program needs to go in a new direction. We wish coach Goodson nothing but the best in the future.”

A search for the new head coach begins shortly after and JSU is giving about a month to candidates by January 19 and hopes to hire a new coach by February. The university plans to have all the candidates for the program threatened to soon add another to the league. One year after the Jacksonville State saw their first NFL draft, in quite some time, the program hopes to soon add another to the league. Last week, junior safety Pierre Warren declared for the NFL draft early. It’s a decision often brought upon athletes at the larger universities in the state, but Warren’s skills have clearly attracted a lot of attention already. In 2013 JSU’s receiver Alan Bonner was drafted in the sixth round by the Houston Texans after a hamstring injury kept Bonner off the field in his first season. Now, Warren has decided to leave the university and take his skills to the NFL. This past March at the combine at Pratville, AL, was a key leader on the team, much less the defense. He was a first-team All-Conference selection this season in the Ohio Valley after leading the team in interceptions and pass breakups. The hard-hitting secondary defender was never shy of attempting to score again and again but his efforts did not amount to much.

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This marks the first time since 2013 that the Gamecocks have had back-to-back victories in the OVC and the first time since 2008 they have had back-to-back OVC wins.