



inTHE NEWS

Greek Week

Greek Week 2017 continues tonight, March 9, with Greek Week Sing at 6 p.m. in the TMB Auditorium and the Greek Week Olympics at the Boys and Girls Club of Jacksonville on Friday, March 10, at 3 p.m. The Penny Wars will also continue from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the TMB lobby through Friday.

SGA 2017 General Elections

Be sure to vote in the 2017 SGA General Elections on Thursday, March 9, from 12 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be candidates for Student Senate, Mr. & Miss Friendly, Mr. & Miss Jaz State, VPOA, VPSS and SGA president on the ballot.

JSU Gives Water

The JSU Gives Water Charity Concert will be held on the TMB lawn from 5-10 p.m. as part of Homecoming King Carson Bruce's philanthropy, NeverThirst. Admission is free but donations will be taken to help build a well in India. The concert will feature local talent The Sunsets, The Frequently, Rapper DPB and The Great Escape.



Dances with Gamecocks

JSU defeats UT Martin to win the OVC and earn first spot in the "Big Dance"

Daniel Mayes/The Chanticleer

The basketball team celebrates its OVC Championship and automatic bid into the "Big Dance" of college basketball--the NCAA "March Madness" Tournament--after a win over UT Martin at the Nashville Municipal Auditorium on Saturday night.

Daniel Mayes
Staff Reporter

"We left Jacksonville with one thing in mind," Coach Ray Harper said. "We didn't come here to play one game; we came here on a mission."

Mission accomplished.

Jacksonville State took down UT Martin 66-55 in the Ohio Valley Tournament Final on Saturday night to secure JSU's first OVC title and the program's first ever trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Harper, who took over a JSU program that went just 8-23 last season and missed out on the OVC tournament, led the team to an immediate turnaround to

a 20-win season, one of the best in Jacksonville State basketball history since they moved to Division I in 1995.

"We're trying to build something at Jacksonville State," Harper said after the win, "and you've got to walk before you can run, but we decided

See CHAMPS page 7

Raisin' the Pete

Coach Ray Harper breathes life into JSU's basketball program

Timothy Cash
Sports Editor

Believe it or not, Jacksonville State University was once in the upper echelon of the basketball world. The men that played in Pete Mathews coliseum were constantly in postseason discussions during the 1980s. However, since that time, the men in

"The Pete" have fallen on hard times.

This season is different. It is much-needed breath of fresh air for the Gamecocks. New coach Ray Harper has brought a proven track record to "The Pete", and a new winning mentality that had all but dissipated from the locker room.

The Gamecocks

were predicted to finish last in the OVC this season, but their nine OVC wins punched a fourth-seed placement into this year's OVC tournament; a place the Gamecocks have not been since 2012. After upsetting regular-season champion Belmont and UT Martin, the Gamecocks returned to

See HARPER page 2



JSU Athletics

Speaker talks Trump and truth at Ayers Lecture

Rachel Read
Staff Writer

JSU welcomed Ms. Kathleen Parker, Pulitzer Prize winner and columnist for the Washington Post as the designated lecturer for the annual Ayers Lecture Series, held on the 11th floor of the Houston-Cole Library on March 2.

Dr. William T. Fielding, the Dean of the School of Business and Industry, gave the opening speech, and Mr. Brandt Ayers, the Chairman and Publisher of The Anniston Star introduced Parker.

The lecture, entitled "Free Speech in the Era of Fake News," was a timely message to the room of budding journalists and journalism enthusiasts alike.

Parker reflected fondly on her years as a writer for the Birmingham Post-Herald.

"My greatest newspaper experience—the reason it was so great here—is because Alabama is absolutely crazy," Parker said. "It's the best story place I've ever known."

Parker, who currently resides in Washington D.C., has written for

See AYERS LECTURE page 2



AYERS LECTURE from page 1

six different newspapers in her 40-year career.

The speech played to Parker's dry wit and humor and included a healthy serving of political jokes, such as, "Free Speech in the Era of Fake News"—which is a metaphor for Donald Trump."

Despite the jokes, Parker made it clear that her speech was not going to be a critique of President Trump, but that bringing up Trump would be inevitable when giving a speech of this nature.

Parker highlighted the importance of the relationship that the press has with the White House and stressed that the treatment of the media as an "enemy" is not fair or right.

"There seems to be a lack of understanding in the general population of the importance of the media and independent press and the First Amendment," Parker said. "It's an absurd notion that [the media

is] the enemy."

Parker also admitted that there is a very real reason the media's reputation and credibility has sunk in the eyes of the general public.

"We have work to do," Parker continued. "We have work to do in winning back the trust of you."

"The way to right wrongs is to shine light of the truth upon them," Parker said, quoting legendary African-American journalist Ida B. Wells. "People do need to remember what journalism is all about and what we actually do."

On another serious note, Parker expressed her desire for President Trump to make amends with the media as a means of creating a more peaceful atmosphere to recover from the hate and negative tension that politics has created in the United States.

"I don't know if that's going to happen," Parker admitted, "but it's the right



Hollie Ivey/The Chanticleer

Kathleen Parker laughs during her presentation at the 2017 Ayers Lecture. Parker received the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2010.

thing to do, and it needs to happen before somebody decides taking out a member of the media is a heroic act."

Parker has firsthand experience with hostility toward the media. Recently, she received a death threat recently that taunted, "Why don't you walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, so the White House can enjoy watching your demise?"

"So I don't wear my red glasses in Washington anymore," Parker laughed, "and I'm selling my house and moving into an apartment."

"That is where we are," she added solemnly. "I have a target on my back because I am a journalist."

Another point Parker made was the importance of media literacy in general education.

"We need to explore greater media literacy — news literacy — in

this country," Parker said and acknowledged JSU's course offerings in media literacy as a wonderful thing. "That is the most important course we can teach students today."

"More than ever, we're going to have to learn whether it's news or whether it's propaganda," Parker said, expressing her fear that the White House is becoming more and more propaganda-based. "Corrective measures equal accountability—and where there's no accountability, we can just make things up, or characterize things according to one's confirmation bias," Parker said. "We call that propaganda. And that's what scares me."

As her closing point, Parker offered a suggestion: "I would like for people in this room to think of subscribing to a newspaper if you do not. If you want news that is reliable, you have to pay people to do the job, and you cannot do that without subscribers."

"As a bonus," Parker mused, "I don't know what sort of pets you have, but I have twenty-eight finches, four canaries and two parakeets, and the newspaper page is the perfect fit."

During a thought provoking question and answer session, in which Parker shed some light on various questions from the audience, including how to launch a career as an investigative journalist.

Parker's suggestion?

"Start local. Every community has stories," Parker said. "In a small paper, you get to do the big stories. I got so much more exposure [at the Birmingham Post-Herald] and so much more good experience than I would have had I been at The Washington Post or some other large paper."

Other items on Parker's tips for success included: read great literature, travel, learn another language and don't work for free.

For the complete story, go to www.jsu.edu/chanticleer



Hollie Ivey/The Chanticleer

Mr. Brandt Ayers of The Anniston Star greets Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Kathleen Parker.

SGA debate brings candidates together before elections

Patrick Yim

Special to the Chanticleer

The campaigns for spring general elections are well underway. On Monday, March 6, the executive candidates took a moment to discuss why they feel they are the best option for the office and issues that are important to the students of Jacksonville State University.

The candidates discussed a pre-selected set of questions from the SGA and took questions from students across campus.

The event opened with introductions by each candidate, including his or her involvement, vision and what they believe is important.

There are six executive positions in the SGA that represent the students: SGA President Vice-President of Student Senate (VPSS), Vice-President of Student Activities (VPSA), Vice-President of Organizational Affairs (VPOA), Chief Justice (CJ) and Director of Publicity (DOP).

As the only candidate for

SGA President, Ranger Rumrill took a moment to discuss his main goal is for the upcoming administration.

"My main focus is the students. I really want to make sure that our students' voices are heard, and that that they know it is being heard. I also want to make sure that the administration gets an accurate representation of what the students want," said President-elect Rumrill "I know we don't have a great relationship with the community of Jacksonville, but I don't want to focus on necessarily what the community of Jacksonville would like or be okay with. I want to make sure that if we do something, that it is for the students first."

From there, the SGA went into debates between the VPSS candidates, followed by VPSA candidates, and lastly the candidates for VPOA.

Many of the candidates discussed the importance

of involvement and the need for diversity within their branches, especially within the Student Senate and the Organizational Council (OC).

During the debate, VPOA candidate Katelin Molan discussed how important it is for the OC to work with its members, so that JSU's organizations grow and thrive.

"When you are a small organization, it is harder to come up with unique events to help your members if there is not support from other places such as the SGA," Molan.

There are a total of nine categories that are being decided. They are the executive positions mentioned above, as well as your choice of three different Student Senate candidates, Mr./Miss Jax State and Mr./Miss Friendly.

Students will have until 4 p.m. On Thursday March 9, to vote for their preferred candidates.



Pstrck Yim/The Chanticleer

Ranger Rumrill speaks to the crowd at the SGA debates on Monday night.

To vote, go to www.jsu.edu/elections

STUDY BREAK

"Cherokee
Rock Village"
by Kate
Dempsey

You can find
this painting
along with
others at the
44th Annual
Student Jury
Art Show at
JSU opening
March 9 from
5-7 pm in
Hammond
Hall.

About the Artist: Kate is a junior art major concentrating on painting. She plans to pursue a marine biology degree after graduating with her art degree. She hopes to be a commissioned based painter and sell her artwork in festivals or shows to raise awareness for keeping oceans beautiful. You can commission a painting by visiting her Instagram @artistkate.

Campus crime report: 3/1 to 3/8

3/2/17
Medical Emergency
Jax Apartments

Assist Other Law
Enforcement Agency
Pete Mathews Coliseum

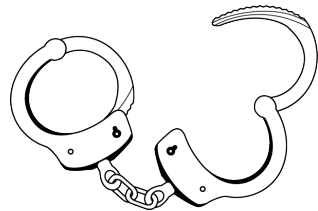
Arrest-Possession of
Marijuana and Drug
Paraphernalia
Pelham Road North

Automobile Accident
Houston Cole Library
Parking Lot

03/3/17
Assault
Colonial Arms Apartment

03/6/17
Assist Other Law Enforce-
ment Agency and Violation of
Student Code of Conduct
Brewer Hall

Information Report - Verbal
Dispute
Meehan Hall



calling all artists!

Do you want your art featured in The Chanticleer? Simply send in a digital copy or high quality photo of your comic, drawing, painting or other piece of art to chantynewstips@gmail.com and use the subject "Artist's Corner." Please include your name, year, major and concentration, career aspirations and social media sites or websites.

CHICKEN SCRATCH

The funniest, realest, deepest, truest, best things
you've said online this week!

"You may now cross Pelham Street." - @JSUCrosswalk

"If you go on a vacation to La Paz, you better take pictures, or no one will Bolivia went there." - @DMayes34

"Alabama: where I can wear a swaeater and jeans and someone else can wear a tank top and shorts and we're both uncomfortable." - @katiebethbug

THIS JUST IN: Live action Beauty and the Beast remake to stir up more controversy in order to convince people to go see yet another terrible rehash!

Why can't I just go live on the beach in a hut wearing nothing but a singed American flag an drinking hard liquor until I die?

I hate when you have to pre-pay for gas and end up having to stretch your neck to breaking point to figure out which pump you parked your car at.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Lauren Jackson/ The Chanticleer

Students Hunter Peterson and Kayla Fowler pose for a photo at the 10th annual SAA Etiquette Dinner on Tuesday night.

Forks on the left, knives on the right SAA hosts at 10th annual etiquette dinner

Lauren Jackson
Staff Writer

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) hosted their annual Etiquette Dinner on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library on Tuesday, March 7. It began at 6 p.m. and lasted until 8 p.m.

This is a free event aimed to help students prepare for job interviews and dinner functions that may follow graduation.

The dinner consisted of a three-course meal with intermittent tips and presentations on proper manners in dinner gatherings and settings. The tips ranged from proper silverware usage to correct handshake form. Hands-on skills and presentations were intermingled to provide practice and instill the topics taught.

Each table consisted of “guests” and a “host”. The host would lead the table in the proper dinner etiquette and correct improper form. They would also address any questions from the presentation that the guest may have.

The table setup allowed for students to practice in a comfortable setting among peers, while learning from professionals.

Sammy Jo Hosler, an SAA Ambassador, has attended the event for three years. Hosler says, “I like being able to see what I already

know, and also what new thing I can learn.”

Hosler is active within SAA, and enjoys the many facets the club has to offer.

“SAA is a club that helps students prepare for life after college, while also having fun in college. There are both professional and fun events,” says Hosler.

Alan Renfroe, the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, co-hosted the event. According to Renfroe, the dinner is in its 10th year. More students attend the event each year and as a result, SAA earns more recognition on campus.

“When we first started it, it was difficult to spread the word. It grew when professors got on board and began offering extra credit for their students to attend,” says Renfroe.

This year, there were 150 seats open for student reservation. The event was announced on Feb. 15 and by Feb. 27, all spots for students had been fulfilled.

With the growing demand from students, SAA is looking for sponsors to help make the dinner possible for both the Spring and Fall semesters.

According to Renfroe, the most rewarding part of providing the event is the feedback.

“Because we have hosted the dinner for 10 years, I love hearing back from young alumni that have used the skills they learned at the dinner. It is one of those things that

you need to know, but do not know you need to know,” said Renfroe.

In addition to the dinner, SAA hosts multiple events for students. Events range from professional to fun. The Tuesday following spring break, March 28, SAA will host mock interviews. This event will be held on the 11th floor of the library and begins at 6 p.m.

Other social events include game nights, dinners, bowling, and oozeball, among others.

“We want to create memories for students on campus,” says Renfroe.

Membership in SAA has tripled in the last several years. “Our organization is just now gaining popularity on campus. Some of the things we have been part of include the ‘Fear the Beak’ t-shirts and slogan,” says Renfroe.

SAA is a branch of the Alumni Association specifically for students. “It is the crossroads of where students and alumni meet,” says Renfroe.

Students can apply for membership to SAA by visiting the Alumni Office Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM, or by mailing applications to: JSU Alumni Office, ATTN: Alan Renfroe, 700 Pelham Rd. North, Jacksonville, AL, 36265.

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i.heart.com

Lots to love at iHeartRadio Music Awards

Alissa Camplin
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The 2017 iHeartRadio Music Awards were held on March 5, 2017. The event took place at The Forum in Inglewood, California. It was shown on the following networks: TBS, TNT, truTV and CTV (Canada). It was hosted by Ryan Seacrest. It reached approximately 2.86 million viewers, the most since the iHeartRadio Music Awards swapped from NBC in 2015.

Beginning in 2014, this is the fourth year for the iHeartRadio Music Awards. It is an award show that aims to recognize the most popular artists and music over the past year, as determined by the listeners themselves.

Voting opened on Tuesday, Jan. 3 and closed on Saturday, Feb. 25. Between this time frame, voters could vote online through the official iHeartRadio Music Awards site, or socially via Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Voters were offered 50 daily votes per category, per day via the website and 50 votes from social media.

Popular R&B artist, Drake, held the yearly honor of having the most nominations, 15. Not surprisingly, he also brought home the most awards at 7. He won big categories like “Hip-Hop Artist of the Year,” “Hip-Hop Song of the Year” with “One Dance.”

Another big winner of the night was “Love Yourself” by Justin Bieber for “Best Song Lyrics.” Bieber also took home an award for “Male Artist of the Year,” a category which

also included Luke Bryan, Drake, Shawn Mendes, and The Weeknd.

Not everything was smooth sailing, though. Only a week after the Oscar flub that was heard around the world, the iHeartRadio Music Awards had a very similar experience.

iHeartRadio announced Zayn Malik as the winner of the “Best Music Video” for his song “Pillowtalk” on Sunday.

However, on Tuesday, iHeartRadio apologized in a strand of tweets, saying, “We want to apologize to all fans for the confusion. Incorrect messaging was pushed out on Saturday night during rehearsals. Combining Online, Digital and Social Media voting, fans voted Fifth Harmony as the winners for #BestMusicVideo at our #iHeartAwards.”

Even worse, Malik had already posted a video thanking his fans for the award alongside with Gigi Hadid.

Rather than leave Malik empty-handed (despite his winning an award for “Best New Pop Artist”), iHeartRadio announced that he had also won a new category, “Best Solo Breakout Artist.”

However, many fans took to social media to point out that specific category was not previously voted upon. iHeartRadio has not commented on this fact.

The stage sparked as performers entertained the night away. Hollywood veteran Miley Cyrus welcomed the stage donned with a sign that said, “I love Noah Cyrus!”, her younger sister that was ready to take the stage with Labyrinth to sing their song, “Make Me

(Cry).”

Miley Cyrus said, “She’s who I want to be when I grow up, and that’s saying a lot because she’s a lot younger than me... Give it up for my favorite person in the entire world, my little sister, Noah Cyrus.”

Katy Perry accompanied by Skip Marley presented their recently debuted song, “Chained to the Rhythm.” This is her first public appearance since she announced her split from actor Orlando Bloom, and first appearance sporting her new pixie cut.

Perry had this to say about the backlash surrounding her new hairdo: “I’m 32 now and I feel great. I’m really accepting of myself and I’ve done a little work in that area and it’s really paying off because I’m having fun and feeling free. I feel the most authentic I’ve ever been.”



USA Today

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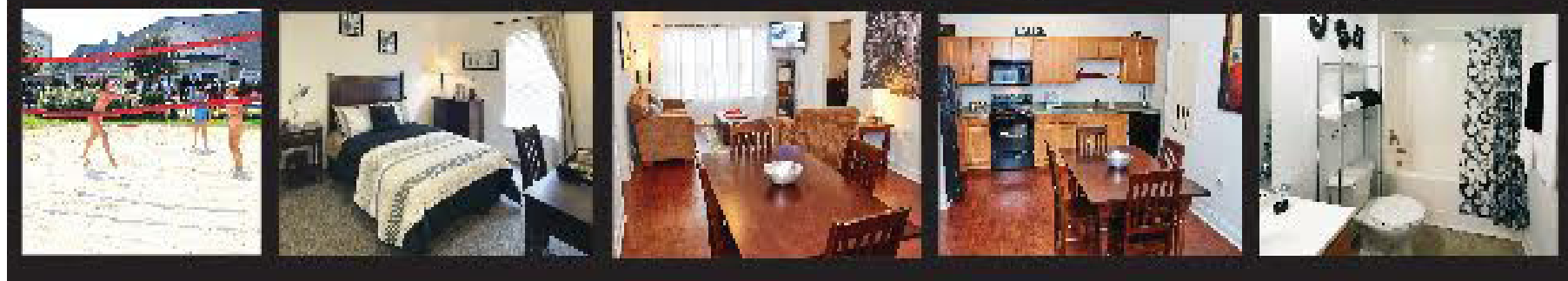
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OPINION & EDITORIAL

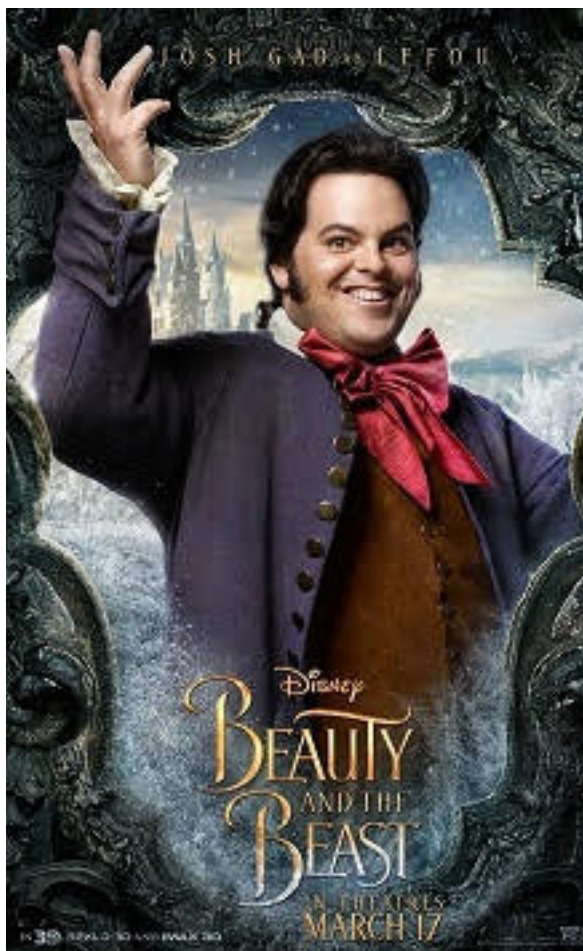
The “Beauty and the Beast” agenda

Rebekah Hawkins
Associate Editor

It seems there’s always something to boycott these days. It’s a Starbucks or a home improvement store or a Target or even a movie. Over and over again.

In case you’ve been hiding under a rock for the past week or so, the director of the new live action Beauty and the Beast movie, Bill Condon, stated in an interview that Gaston’s sidekick LeFou is Disney’s first openly gay character to grace their screens. He said of LeFou, “LeFou is somebody who on one day wants to be Gaston and on another wants to kiss Gaston. He’s confused about what he wants. It’s somebody who’s just realizing that he has these feelings.”

Josh Gad, who plays LeFou on-screen, has said that the whole thing has been blown up. According to Gad there are more important things that people should focus on, “First and foremost, the idea of not judging



Courtesy of Disney

a book by its cover or giving into the fear of that which we don’t understand.”

Gad says that LeFou was a different kind of character in this movie than he was in the original animated version, “LeFou in the original is dumb as a box. We start from a place of maybe he’s dumb as a fox, meaning he doesn’t let on just how much he actually does know and

this blind devotion, there’s a conscience behind it this time around.”

For Gad it was about making the character complex and interesting. So really LeFou is figuring out who he is. Which I think everyone can relate to, whether you’re gay or not gay or somewhere in between. Everyone wants to figure who they are and what they want,



Courtesy of Disney

and that really seems to be the underlying point of the LeFou character. Of course the director also said that LeFou had an “exclusively gay” moment in the movie, and that is what has some people angry.

People are boycotting the movie for pushing a so-called agenda. A movie theater in our own state has decided that they will not show it because it is not something that they agree with. People are saying that Disney is compromising family values and indoctrinating innocent children. Don’t get me wrong they all have a right to say these things and boycott the film, but Disney has the same

rights to introduce a gay character if they want.

Let’s discuss the “exclusively gay” moment that the director talked about a little more to see if it’s really worth getting upset about shall we? I haven’t seen the movie, because it isn’t released to the public until March 17, but the critics have seen it. According to Vulture.com writer Jackson McHenry, the gay moment takes until the very end to arrive after some subtle hinting early in the movie and ultimately concludes with a background scene in which LeFou is shown dancing with a man. McHenry says, “It’s certainly a moment, because it

lasts for two seconds at the most. It’s gay, in the sense that two male characters are doing something that expresses affection, though it feels so platonic they might as well be shaking hands.”

So that’s it. That’s what people are mad about. A two-second dance in the background. It’s not a kiss, or even a hug. It’s a dance barely visible and definitely not something that kids are going to notice. I understand why people are upset and I can sympathize, but come on, is a two-second dance really worth it? I guess to some people it is, but I think, for two seconds, I’ll risk the indoctrination.

Meet Rebekah, our new associate editor!



Rebekah and Milo.
Photo courtesy of Rebekah Hawkins

QUICK FACTS:

- She’s a senior digital journalism major from Oxford, Ala.
- She’s a huge “Harry Potter” and “Game of Thrones” fan.
- She loves music and listens to a variety of artists from Pearl Jam and Soundgarden to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Avett Brothers.
- She has a two-year-old border collie/springer spaniel mixed named Milo.
- When she’s not working, she loves to play video games and watch sports!

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SPORTS

Will and Visscher lead beach volleyball in loss to Austin Peay

JACKSONVILLE – Sophomore beach newcomers Katie Will and Jae-Lyn Visscher led the Jacksonville State beach volleyball team defeating the top duo from Austin Peay in Monday's match.

The Gamecocks fell to the Governors 4-1 overall, but were competitive in every game.

Monday's contest marked the second home beach match for the program after hosting UL Monroe during the inaugural season last year.

Will and Visscher, coming off a win over ULM in Birmingham on Saturday, posted their second-con-

secutive victory of the season playing in the top flight.

The duo are both in their first year at JSU after transferring in to join the beach team.

Will arrived from Carson Newman University where she was a member of the beach team, while Visscher had a farther journey from Concordia University of Edmonton in Canada.

The tandem knocked off APSU's top pair, 2-1, (21-15, 15-21, 15-7) in the final action of the day.

Just before Visscher and Will, Hannah Kirk joined Charis Ludtke

battling to a 21-15, 21-17 hard-fought setback in the No. 2 position.

The freshmen team of Maddie Cloutier and Sadie Anderson played to similar results in their fifth career matches.

At the four-spot, Hailey Hughes and teammate Rachel Perucki took the Gobs to a decisive third set with a 21-15 second game victory.

In exhibition play to begin the day, Jennifer Hart paired with freshman Shayla Schmidt for a 2-0 victory (21-18, 21-16) over APSU's sixth team.

-JSU Sportswire

Gamecock Side Bar

Upcoming Gamecock Action

3/9
- Men's, Women's Tennis vs. Mercer Jacksonville 1 p.m.

3/10
- Rifle at NCAA Championships

- Men's Tennis vs. Chattanooga Jacksonville 1 p.m.

- Softball vs. Missouri State vs. Loyola-Chicago Choccolocco Park, Oxford, Ala. 1 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

- Baseball at Austin Peay* Clarksville, Tenn. 6 p.m.

3/11
- Rifle at NCAA Championships

- Track and Field at Gamecock Quad

- Beach Volleyball vs. UL Monroe vs. Huntingdon College 8 a.m. 2 p.m.

- Soccer vs. Montevallo Jacksonville 1 p.m.

- Baseball at Austin Peay* Clarksville, Tenn. 1 p.m.

- Softball vs. Samford Choccolocco Park, Oxford, Ala. 1 p.m.

3/12
- Beach Volleyball vs. Florida Atlantic vs. Tulane Gulf Shores, Ala. 9 a.m. 4 p.m.

- Baseball at Austin Peay* Clarksville, Tenn. 1 p.m.

- Softball vs. Alabama A&M Choccolocco Park, Oxford, Ala. 3:30 p.m.

3/13
- Men's Golf at Bash at the Beach North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

- Women's Golf at Spring Break Shootout, Dade City, Fla.

3/14
- Baseball vs. Samford Choccolocco Park, Oxford, Ala. 3 p.m.

- Softball vs. Winthrop vs. Winthrop University Field 3 p.m. 5 p.m.

- Women's Tennis at Birmingham Southern Birmingham, Ala. 4 p.m.

3/15
- Baseball at Auburn Auburn, Ala. 3 p.m.

- Softball vs. Western Kentucky University Field 4 p.m.

3/17
- Track and Field at Emory Invite

- Beach Volleyball vs. Georgia State vs. Florida Atlantic at Stestson DeLand, Fla. 9 a.m. 1 p.m. 3 p.m.

- Men's, Women's Tennis vs. Eastern Illinois* Jacksonville 10 a.m.

- Baseball vs. Eastern Illinois* Choccolocco Park, Oxford, Ala. 6 p.m.

BOLD = Home Event * = OVC Event

The current Baseball and Softball standing can be found on page 8

CHAMPS, from page 1

to run a little quicker than anyone thought."

Balanced scoring, the hallmark of this JSU team, led the Gamecocks to victory on Saturday.

Seniors Erik Durham and Greg Tucker scored 17 and 14 respectively, and Malcolm Drumwright, who was named the tournament MVP, tallied 13. Three other Gamecocks, Norbertas Giga, Tyrik Edwards and Jacara Cross, chipped in with six key points apiece.

Christian Cunningham contributed with 11 rebounds, six of which came on the offensive end.

Jacksonville State and UT Martin exchanged made 3-point baskets to begin the game, as UTM's Jacolby Mobley drained one to open scoring, but Durham answered just

seconds later.

Durham's bucket was the beginning of yet another period of hot-shooting in Nashville for the Gamecocks.

Jacksonville State knocked down six threes in the first half against the Skyhawks. The Gamecocks hit on 41.3% of their attempts from downtown throughout the tournament and made a season-high 12 in the quarterfinal win over SEMO.

UT Martin held a 7-6 lead with 13:14 remaining in the first half, but a Greg Tucker jumper gave the Gamecocks back a lead that they would not give up again.

Tucker, who was also named to the All-Tournament team, scored 14 in the opening frame to lead all scorers in the period,

but was limited in the second half due to foul trouble and held scoreless.

Thanks to a 10-1 run to end the first half, which was capped by a Tyrik Edwards lay-in at the buzzer, Jacksonville State took a 36-23 lead into the locker room.

The Gamecocks struggled to score to open the second half, and after Giga drained a free throw to make the score 37-23, the Skyhawks scored eight straight points to cut the score to 37-31.

That was as close as Martin would come for the rest of the game however, as Durham finally hit JSU's first basket of the second half with 11:43 remaining, and then Giga threw home a huge dunk to stretch the lead back to double-digits.

The Gamecocks maintained a lead the rest of the way, as they answered every Skyhawk comeback attempt with points of their own.

With under a minute remaining, Drumwright and Durham both went 2-2 on trips to the line to ice the game at 66-55.

Drumwright dribbled out the final seconds before the Gamecock celebration began.

Jacksonville State, who was the first school to officially punch their ticket into the NCAA Tournament, must now wait to find out who they will play.

The tournament bracket will be finalized on Sunday, March 12 after the conclusion of the remaining conference tournaments next weekend.

HARPER, from page 1

Jacksonville with a ticket to the NCAA's big dance, the March Madness that is the Division-I basketball tournament.

Harper has redesigned the men's basketball program from the ground up.

He wanted to make an atmosphere where the current players would want to stay and get the community to buy in to his mission.

To do that he knew that they would have to start winning.

"We really have some kids that have bought into what we're doing," Harper said.

"To get this program to where it needs to be.

I want to make sure we do the right things on and off the court, get the guys to graduate and win championships."

Getting the community back in the stands was a high priority for Harper when he first came to Jax State.

He organized events where the fans could shoot around with the team before football games.

He set up a basketball goal in front of the main entrance of Burgess-Snow Field so that they could be easily found.

"We just want to make sure we had the opportunity to make sure the commu-

nity knows we wanted to interact with them and just have a good time," Harper said.

"I think we have some good kids, and we wanted the community to come watch them and see that they work hard."

Harper said the shoot arounds were successful, and he wants to continue holding them and build off of their success with the community.

Senior basketball players Greg Tucker and Erik Durham are excited by the turn around the Gamecocks have made, and are happy they get to finish their college career on a high note.

"Man, it's a new atmosphere here," Durham said.

"It's a completely different school, really.

It's enjoyable now that we're winning. We're just all happy."

Tucker is glad that this year the team is winning close games that they would have lost in past seasons.

"I feel like we're having a great season," Tucker said.

We've turned everything around and everyone has bought in.

Last year we were struggling some and losing some close games.

Durham loves the fight and drive that Harper challenges his team with.

"He brings a fight," Durham said.

"Everyday he just wants us to get better, even after a win, we're right back in here trying to get better.

He won't let us let up at all; he's pushing us the whole way."

Tucker, who transferred from Mineral Area College in Missouri, loves the winning feeling that the team is experiencing.

"It's a fun, winning environment," Tucker said.

"When you get a coach that gives you confidence, you can go out there and play the way that [you like to] play it gets everyone excited, and they all want to come and play as hard as they can."

Jacksonville State athletic director Greg Seitz noted that every time that there is a change in the coaching staff it could be a difficult transition on the athletes involved.

"Anytime that you have change," Seitz said.

"There is a period of adjustment, not only for the coaching staff, but also for the student-athletes involved."

After meeting with Harper and hearing him out, both Durham and Tucker were immediately bought in.

"Early on we had a lot of conversations and commu-

nicated a lot, Tucker said.

"He would tell me what he expected from me and from the team from a leadership standpoint.

We went through the ups and downs and just figured it out."

Durham, who transferred in form Lamar State Junior College in Texas, said he chose to come to JSU for the bigger atmosphere the school offered.

He also noted the higher attendance the "The Pete" has had this season.

"It's really exciting [to see fans in Pete Mathews]," Durham said.

"They have been really packing it out.

Last year we didn't get too many [fans], but this is a really good way to go out."

Tucker knows that the successes the Gamecocks are now experiencing is only half of the battle to reach the goals Harper has set out for them.

He also knows that if his teammates keep playing with the same intensity they have played with all season, they will make a run at a championship.

"We're not finished yet; we have bigger goals," Tucker said.

Read the full article online at jsu.edu/chanticleer

Musk, Sink selected to NCAA Championship

INDIANAPOLIS – Jacksonville State will be represented at the 2017 NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Championships in March with the selection of two Gamecocks competing as individuals.

JSU senior Brandon Muske and sophomore David Sink will compete in the smallbore portion of the championships in Columbus, Ohio.

Hosted by The Ohio State University, the championships will be held March 10-11 at French Field House on the OSU campus.

Muske and Sink will be making their first appearance at the NCAA Championships, but Muske does have

some championship experience as he was a member of the 2014 and 2015 JSU club that competed in the NCAA Championships.

The JSU duo will be looking to add to JSU's list of NCAA Smallbore Individual Champions as former Gamecocks Brian Carstensen won in it 2009 and Michael Dickinson won the title in 2007.

Muske, from Brenham, Texas paced the Jax State throughout the 2016-17 season and averaged a 575 in smallbore.

He is coming off his best marks of the season as he posted a season-best 585 in the NCAA Sectionals at the University of Mississippi.



Brandon Musk (LEFT) and David Sink will represent JSU in the NCAA Rifle Championships.

JSU Sportswire

Muske just missed the cut for an individual spot in air rifle after a solid campaign in that discipline.

Muske nearly turned in a perfect score of 600 at Air Force with a 599.

He earned a spot on the Ohio Valley Confer-

ence Smallbore Second Team.

Sink's season average in smallbore mirrored Muske's average with a 574.

The Crumpton, Md. product also had his best shooting performance of the season last week

in Oxford, Miss. with a 582.

He also shot a 580 in Murray, Ky. in January.

The top eight teams in both the smallbore three-position and air rifle events were selected based on the average of the three highest regular-season aggregate scores with no more than one match at any given site.

The average of the three highest scores was added to the aggregate scores from the designated qualifiers to determine the top eight teams.

Muske and Sink were two of four individuals that earned selections.

Makennon Doran and Amy Fister of Memphis were the other two indi-

vidual selected.

A total of 48 competitors will compete in the championships, with 40 competitors coming from the top eight teams selected.

The remaining eight competitors were selected based on the scores submitted from the designated qualifier.

The eight teams selected for the NCAA Championships include – Alaska Fairbanks, Kentucky, Murray State, Nebraska, Ohio State, TCU, Air Force and West Virginia.

The Mountaineers of WVU will be looking to make it five consecutive NCAA crowns after claiming the last four team titles

-JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

Alexus Jimmerson hit her first home run on Saturday to lift the Gamecocks over Bradley.

Softball closes Tennessee Invitational with a win

Rebekah Hawkins
Associate Editor

The Gamecocks closed out their weekend in Knoxville, Tenn. with a 3-2 win over the Bradley Braves on Sunday.

The win over the Braves gave the Gamecocks a 2-2 record for the Invitational and an 11-6 record overall. It marked the first career home run for newcomer Alexis Jimmerson.

Her home run gave the Gamecocks the window they needed for their three runs that won them the game.

It took until the very bottom of the second inning before the Gamecocks were able to score.

Both Bradley and JSU struggled with scoring until Jimmerson stepped up to bat.

Stephanie Lewis singled on the first pitch and stole second to put herself in position.

Hayley Sims stepped up next and singled on a bunt that sent Lewis to third

base. Sims stole second herself right before Jimmerson's turn at bat to give them an opportunity to have loaded bases.

However, there would be no need.

Jimmerson stepped up and homered to right field allowing both Lewis and Sims to make it home and Jimmerson to follow.

The Gamecocks went up by three as they turned the top of the third back over the Braves.

The next several innings went by without another score from either team, but at the top of the fifth the Braves finally made a start.

Two singles and a walk gave Bradley loaded bases to set up the run home that put the score 3-1.

The Gamecocks failed to score again at the bottom of the fifth so the Braves took the top of the sixth to try and catch up.

A homer from Keralia Wysocki gave the Braves their second and final run of the

game. The bottom of the sixth was slow for the Gamecocks.

Taylor Sloan fouled out and both Jamie McGuire and Lewis popped up to the shortstop and turned the inning back over to Bradley.

The top of the seventh was the Braves last chance to tie it up and possibly head into extra innings, but it was a small effort.

Megan Mahaffy walked and Sydney Young was able to make it to second but that was as far as it went. The Gamecocks took the final win of the weekend and gave them a nice high to ride as they head back closer to home for their next tournament.

The Gamecocks head straight into the Choccolocco Classic to be held in Oxford, Ala. at Choccolocco Park.

The Gamecocks play Missouri State Friday at 1 p.m.

JSU heads home on Mar. 14 to take on the Winthrop Eagles at 3 p.m.

Baseball drops rubber match against Dallas Baptist

Grant Benefield
Staff Writer

In the last game of their three-game series at Dallas Baptist on Sunday, the Gamecocks fell 14-11 to the Patriots.

The Gamecocks (6-4) took the series opener 7-3, but the Patriots (8-3) took the second game 10-6.

The Gamecocks started off the scoring marathon in game three with two runs in the top of the first inning off of RBI singles from Trent Simpson and Hayden White.

The Patriots quickly reclaimed the lead in the bottom half of the inning via three straight RBI hits from Matt Duce, Devlin Granberg, and Logan Sepanek.

In the second lead change in as many innings, Gamecock left fielder Nolan Greckel delivered a 2 RBI single to make the score 4-3.

The Gamecocks

added to their lead in the top of the third with RBI hits from Nolan Greckel, Clayton Daniel (2), and Taylor Hawthorne, making the score 8-3. Greckel would finish 1-3 with 4 RBIs. Daniel would finish 3-5 with 2 RBIs, and Hawthorne would go 2-4 with 2 RBIs.

The Patriots quickly closed the gap, however, scoring four runs in the bottom of the fourth to make the score 8-7 JSU.

Another RBI single from Hawthorne and a sacrifice fly from Simpson made the score 10-7 in the top of the fifth.

The Patriots tied the score in the bottom of the fifth with RBIs from Tim Millard and Austin Listi, and a fielding error by the Gamecocks.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Patriots would retake the lead on another error by the Gamecocks, making the score 12-10.

Another Gamecock

error in the seventh and a Millard RBI in the eighth would cap the Patriot scoring at 14.

The Gamecocks began a rally in the ninth with a Greckel sacrifice fly that scored Andrew Naismith, chasing Patriot pitcher Travis Stone.

With the score 14-11 in the ninth, Patriot reliever Seth Elledge closed the door on the Gamecock rally, earning the save for his team.

Stone (2-1) would work four innings in relief and earn the pitching win.

Simpson (0-1) would take the pitching loss for the Gamecocks. He would also go 3-4 at the plate with 2 RBIs.

The Gamecocks hit the road to play Austin Peay in a three game series in Clarksville, Tenn. starting Friday, March 10 at 6 p.m.

Saturday's and Sunday's games are slated to start at 1 p.m.

OVC Baseball			OVC Softball		
School	OVC	O/R	School	OVC	O/R
SIUE	0-0	8-4	Belmont	0-0	14-2
Tennessee Tech	0-0	8-4	UT Martin	0-0	15-3
Murray State	0-0	7-4	Murray State	0-0	15-4
Jacksonville State	0-0	6-4	SIUE	0-0	12-4
SEMO	0-0	6-4	SEMO	0-0	10-4
UT Martin	0-0	6-4	Jacksonville State	0-0	11-6
Morehead State	0-0	7-5	Morehead State	0-0	10-6
Austin Peay	0-0	6-5	Eastern Illinois	0-0	10-6
Eastern Kentucky	0-0	6-6	Austin Peay	0-0	7-7
Belmont	0-0	5-7	Eastern Kentucky	0-0	6-10
Eastern Illinois	0-0	1-10	Tennessee State	0-0	4-13
			Tennessee Tech	0-0	4-15

JSU athletics Twitter handles

Athletic:	@JSUGamecocks	Golf:	@JSUGolf
Baseball:	@JSUMBB	Soccer:	@JSUSoccer
Basketball:	@JSU_MBB	Softball:	@JaxStateSB
	@JaxStateWBB	Tennis:	@JSU_Tennis
Football:	@JSUGamecockFB	Volleyball:	@JaxStateVB



WHERE YOU'RE GOING.