The life and love of Tatum Deason

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

"I’ll definitely miss JSU’s Wonder Woman," Paris Coleman wrote on Facebook. "Wonder Woman" is Tatum Deason, a grounds caretaker at JSU who was killed in a car accident on March 1.

The Anniston Star reported that, at the time of the accident, Deason was traveling north on Alabama 9 into Centre around 8 a.m. when her vehicle left the roadway and flipped. Following the announcement by JSU, hundreds of people expressed their condolences and shared mem- ories of Deason on the Chanticleer’s Facebook page.

"I remember one time when she was landscaping in front of Houst on Cole [Library] and she told me that she had ‘been doing this for 20 years’!" wrote Joseph Read, an ac- counting student at JSU. "I could tell she had actually done a lot of what she was doing perfectly and encouraged her.

Deason was also a JSU student, and many students fondly remember the classes they had with her. "Tatum, in 2014 we shared mul- tiple classes together and then 2015 came and we shared one class,” English language education student Whitney Gillespie wrote. "In that class I learned more about myself from the dialogue we held within our group. Your story and your determination to provide and help others was above and beyond. You were working full time on campus, going to school full time to finish your degree, rais- ing your own children and then supporting sporting events often. Your love and your wisdom will be forever cherished and carried." Old friends of Deason’s spoke of Deason’s childhood and her love of the arts.

The 2012 Employees of the Month, including Deason (second from right): Michael Walker, Linda Prickett, Jennifer Evans, Tony Hulsey (2012 Employee of the Year), Kathy Matthews, Debrah Fragoso, Kerri Reese, Gina Glass, Lora Spivey, and Debra James.

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JSU gets colorful for Holi festival

Lauren Jackson
Staff Writer

The first ever Holi celebration took place at the JSU Internation- al House on Friday, March 2. The event hosted students from all over campus and featured games, pre- sentations and tradi- tional Indian food.

"It’s a big festival celebrated in Hindu countries. It is about celebrating life and colors. This is some- thing that has never been done before at JSU, and we are mak- ing sure that students can celebrate and that we support them," said Stephanie Marmi- on-Smith, Coordinator of International Stu- dents and Programs.

The celebration began with Indian stu- dents sharing the meaning of the event and telling stories of their experiences from home. Holi is a festi- val of colors and love to celebrate the arrival of spring. Guests were given leis and present- ed with a dot of red powder on their fore- head in welcome. Indian students then demonstrated how to use the colored powder or water, as shown above.

Bipartisan Ball unites parties for an evening

Nick Adrian
Staff Writer

On Sunday, March 4, JSU College Republic- ans and Democrats hosted their first Bipartisan Ball. The event was held on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library from 6-9 p.m. and featured speakers from both sides of the political parties.

Doors opened at 5:30 and the event began promptly at 6 with Chairman of the JSU Col- lege Republicans, Jess Battle, welcoming the guests and leading in the pledge of allegiance. College Republicans member Coleman Ama- son gave the blessing for the dinner catered by Sodexo.

Senator Phil Williams was the first speaker featured for the night. He was followed by the department head of Political Science Dr. Timo- thy Barnett, activist Lilly Ledbetter, State Rep- resentative Craig Ford and AlabamaSecretary of State John Merrill. Merrill posted photos on Facebook the fol- lowing day and expressed his support for the students. "These students are leading the way!" Merrill wrote.

See BALL, page 2
DEASON from page 1

Old friends of Deason’s spoke of Deason’s childhood and her caring heart. “I remember becoming friends with Tatam when her mother worked with my family in the store at the crossroads,” Stacey Barnes I haven’t seen her since we were kids, many years ago. Then after many years we reconnected on Facebook on here [at JSU]. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. She was a sweet friend and I will miss her dearly. I don’t know if she ever knew how much I appreciated her friendship on here [at JSU].

“Tatam was the kind of work,” Buffy Lockette, the JSU Director of Public Relations told the Star. “She looked like a Disney princess ripped out of the nest or out of the nest or children that had fallen out of the nest or children that had fallen out of a tree. Tatam had a Disney princess spirit taking in small animals that had fallen out of the nest or a Disney princess spirit taking in small animals that had fallen out of a tree. She was a little hero on campus. [Her loss is] really shocking and sad.”

Deason’s funeral was Sunday. She left behind two elementary-aged daughters and other extended family members. The Jacksonville community has rallied around the family, and Kitty Stone Elementary School counselor Brandie Green started a Take Them a Meal page to help provide food for them in the coming weeks. Individuals or groups can sign up to deliver a homemade meal or send a delivered meal to the family. Dates range from March 7 to May 31. For more information, contact Brandie Green at bgreen@jsu.edu.

On Oct. 19, 2009 Confederate Roses that had been donated to JSU by Mr. Ralph Haggarty were planted on the President’s Home lawn and near Ayers Hall. Pictured from left to right are Tatam Deason, Haggarty and Steven Johnston. Deason was employed by the university since 2007 and was honored as Employee of the Month in November 2012.

HOLI from page 1

play cricket and introduced various games to the attendees. In one game students attempted to pop each other’s balloons while protecting their own. In another, three students attempted to find a penny in a bucket of colored water among other coins. The person that was able to find the penny twice dumped the colored water on the other two players.

Wilson O’Dell, a Junior studying social sciences, said it was an amazing experience with inspirational people.”

“Thank you everyone for attending the event,” said Zara. “It seemed like something fun and different. It was an amazing experience with inspirational people!” said Zara.

“More than 20 people attended the event and the turnout was amazing! It is so awesome to see all these cultures come together.”

Chairwoman of the JSU College Democrats, Alexis Paige, delivered the closing and thanked everyone for attending the event. Campaigning for office on both sides were in attendance. They, as well as the elected officials, students and members of the community stayed afterwards to hear from each other. 

“That was one of the most rewarding experi-ences I have ever had,” said Battles, who was heavily involved with organizing the event. “I want Jacksonville State to be an example of how individuals with different backgrounds can engage in civil discourse with their peers. I am thankful for everyone who helped make this event happen, as well as the students. This was an amazing experience with inspirational people.”

Omore Olayinka was another International Student in attendance to the event. She is studying criminal justice and is from Nigeria. Olayinka said, “I try to support students. I think people should come check out the International House events, because the food is really usually fun. This has been much more fun than I thought it would be.”

The final part of the event took students to the back of the International House where the colored water and powder was used. Indian music played as students drenched themselves—and each other—in colors.

“In India, this is such a big deal and to live in today, she will miss her dearly.”

“Buffy Lockette, the JSU Director of Public Relations told the Star. “She looked like a Disney princess ripped out of the ground. It was an empowering image. She was a little hero on campus. [Her loss is] really shocking and sad.”

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BALL from page 1

The JSU College Republicans meet in Brewer Hall room B100. Food is provided. For more in-formation, contact Jesse Battles at jbattles@stu.jsu.edu.

The JSU College Democrats meet in Brewer Hall room 229 and often host events such as Donuts with the Dems. For more information, contact Alexis Paige at apage1@stu.jsu.edu.
What noise do you make if you are sick in Chicago? An Ill-i-noise.

A female ladder is called a lass-der.

A small wardrobe would be called a battledrobe.

What’s the name of the delivery service started by spurned lovers of U.S. Government Employees? Fed Ex.

What candy makes you verbally combative? Argue-mint.

Chris’ Random Fact:

Austin Richard Post, better known as Post Malone, was born on July 4, 1995 in Syracuse, New York.

Editor’s Hint: Google is still your friend, everyone!

Disney Movies

Across
1. God’s Plan
2. Thunder
3. Young, Dumb and Broke

Down
1. Love is an Open Door
2. Under the Sea
3. A Dream is a Wish
4. I’ll Make a Man Out of You
5. You’re Welcome

Across
6. You Got a Friend in Me
7. Can’t Wait to be King
8. When Will My Life Begin

Down
9. I Can Go the Distance
10. Just Around the River Bend

Last Week’s Solution!

What noise do you make if you are sick in Chicago? An Ill-i-noise.

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The brothers Brewster: JSU faculty find new home in community theater

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

What do a drama professor, an IT worker and the manager of student media have in common? They’re playing the Brewster brothers in CAST’s production of “Arsenic and Old Lace” March 8-11.

Dr. Michael Boynton, an assistant professor of drama; Mr. Glenn Davenport, an IT support analyst; and Mr. Mike Stedham, the manager of the JSU student newspaper and radio station are starring in the Joseph Kesselring comedy as the trio of untamable brothers Mortimer, Jonathan and Teddy Brewster.

A love of theatre runs deep for these men. Boynton has worked as an actor, director and playwright and is now a teacher, but during his undergraduate career at St. Mary’s College of Maryland he studied chemistry, English and film in addition to theatre.

“Usually, you get roped into theatre by a friend,” Boynton said. “I got my start in community theatre. I was in high school when I didn’t know what I was doing. I was a chemistry nerd, and my friends roped me into doing theatre.”

Davenport, too, was “roped into” the theatre world by his friend Danii Raffel, who plays Officer Brophy in CAST’s production, while they were both students at JSU in the early 2000s.

“She wanted me to audition for Into the Woods,” Davenport said, “and I was kind of like, ‘I don’t know, I’d just tell her, ‘If you guys ever do Hamlet, I’ll come do Hamlet!’ And so the next fall, JSU did Hamlet, and I got one of the smallest parts in one of the biggest, longest plays in existence, and I’ve been doing theatre ever since."

Stedham found his acting chops in high school when he was cast as Dr. Frederick Chauable in Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest” his senior year. He carried that passion for performing into his career as a journalist for the Anniston Star and news director at WDING radio.

“My drama teacher told me that there were no small roles, just small actors, and I’ve spent the past 50 years trying to prove her wrong,” Stedham joked.

In 1999, Stedham was approached by a colleague to help start a new community theatre group in Anniston. Shortly after, CAST—Community Actors Studio Theatre—was born.

“We needed a community theatre,” Stedham said. “CAST performed its first show in January 2000 in the Donoho School’s auditorium."

Boynton, Davenport and Stedham each stressed the importance of community theatre.

“I think some people, especially in our culture today, think that art is something that ‘those people over there do,’” Boynton said. “No, we all need to write poetry. We all need paint. We all need to find what we enjoy, whether or not we get paid for it.”

Behind the scenes of “Arsenic and Old Lace” is JSU’s student media manager, Mr. Mike Stedham, the assistant stage manager for the production. But has acted onstage too.

“I enjoy both working backstage and acting,” Kittrell said. “CAST performed our first show in January 2000 in the Donoho School’s auditorium."

“Every student of acting should consider community theatre because it’s a great way to meet people—not only where you’re working or going to school but throughout the community,” Kittrell said. “It’s a great way to make friends and different connections you wouldn’t have made before.”

“As a theatre major, I think it’s important to recognize all aspects of putting on a production and not just what’s happening on stage.”

Boynton sees community theatre as a gateway for people who want to introduce theatre either professionally or as a hobby.

“Everyone gets their start somewhere,” Boynton said.

The theatre, which is supported by a $75,000 Tennessee Arts Commission grant, is in its 20th season.

The play will run March 8-11 at the JSU McClellan Theater (190 Gamecock Circle in Anniston, AL 36207). The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on March 8, 9 and 10 and at 2:30 p.m. on March 11. Thursday, March 8 is “pay what you want” night. Tickets are $10 for students and $20 for adults for all other performances.

Katie Cline
The Chanticleer

March 8, 2018

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Mohammed Salim Patel, 23, has a degenerative eye condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa, which makes him legally blind. He depends on his miniature horse to help him around the streets.

“I have always loved horses but it is good to see the benefits for people who are visually impaired,” Mr Patel told the Lancashire Telegraph. “I also think I will have to give myself an extra hour a day to try to get around my daily routine as people will all want to come and see it and touch it.”

He has a longer lifespan than dogs. Living to be between 45 and 50 years old, which some have argued makes them a more appropriate lifelong companion for blind people.

Ms Smith, who runs KL Pony Therapy, said: “You may have to have two or three guides — and passionate — reaction to move the conversation beyond the emotional bond to them.”

“Another thing is that people may have an allergy, phobia towards horses and it is a sign of good health and reasons in it for a person to choose them.”

She added that Digby wears nappies and is toilet trained.

Mr Patel told The Guardian that despite only having met Digby once before their last interview, “We love these kids and upset, ” Mr. Stack said in an interview. “We’re going to take a stand and step up and tell people our view and, hopefully, bring this conversation to the board, a company spokesman said.

Walmart sells guns in roughly half of its nearly 4,000 supercenter stores, the company said, but the spher scale of its customer base gives its decision significant heft. The sheer scale of its customer base gives its decision significant heft. Every week, more than 150 million people around the country shop at Walmart.

“It got to us. ” It got to us. Mr. Stack said Dick’s hoped to move the conversation beyond the storm over gun politics. Dick’s, “ Professor Winkler wrote in an email response to questions. “It is a choice for people.”

“Another thing is that people may have an emotional bond to them. Guide dogs and then you have to think about another thing as well. "I’m amazed at how good his temperament is, Mohammed Salim Patel with Digby on the streets of Blackburn.

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Stack said. “We said, ‘We don’t want to be a part of this any longer. ’

That response raised rounds of discussions with the company’s top executives and its directors, culminating in the decision to take a stand, Mr. Stack said. He said Dick’s remained a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment and would continue to sell a variety of sport and hunting firearms. Although he has never been a member of the National Rifle Association, Mr. Stack said, “I am a gun owner and enjoys trapshooting.

But when it comes to selling guns to individuals under 21 or stocking assault-style rifles, Mr. Stack said, his company is done. “We don’t want to be a part of a mass shooting,” he said.

The company said that it had not decided what to do with its inventory of assault-style rifles but that they would not be sold in the future.

Legal experts said they saw no likely challenges to Dick’s decision to stop selling assault-style rifles. But the decision to stop selling weapons to anyone under 21, however, could be tested in court.

Adam Winkler, a professor of constitutional law at the School of Law of the University of California, Los Angeles, said Dick’s could be challenged in lawsuits claiming a violation of laws that bar age discrimination. Although federal civil rights laws do not apply, some states, including New York, prohibit businesses from denying goods and services on the basis of age.

“Don’t be surprised if an aggressive attorney general of a gun-friendly state brings an age-discrimination claim against Dick’s,” Professor Winkler wrote in an email response to questions. “The company said that it believe credited its decision was in accordance with the law and that it was implementing the policy immediately.
The kids aren’t all bad

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

Yes, I have an opinion on gun laws. No, that’s not what this op-ed is about. Because no matter what I say, people will get mad. I’m not going to pretend to have all the answers, because that’s not my job.

But I am going to talk about what I see happening right now in this country.

I was three-years-old when the Columbine shooting happened, and, growing up, just the phrase “Columbine” was bone-chilling. And I don’t remember talking about it. It was scary, the idea that I might have to hide under a desk and just hope and pray that I wouldn’t be shot and killed at school. It was a long shot in Jacksonville, Ala., of course, but that made it scarier—every time I thought I’d have to say.

You talking about?” And those thoughts were mates and I had to stop and say, “Which school shooting are we talking about? I’ve seen the Pulse nightclub shooting where 49 people were killed—because of their sexual orientation. And now, the Parkland shooting and everything that happened, and, growing up, just the phrase “Columbine” was bone-chilling. And I don’t remember talking about it. It was scary, the idea that I might have to hide under a desk and just hope and pray that I wouldn’t be shot and killed at school. It was a long shot in Jacksonville, Ala., of course, but that made it scarier—every time I thought I’d have to say. “You talking about?” And those thought about?”

And the difference between the Parkland shooting and everything else? The students who survived are not staying silent. Emma Gonzalez has more Twitter followers than the NRA. Students across the country are organizing walkouts and protests. Schools are trying to retaliate. The government is only half-listening. But these kids are fierce. They won’t stop.

Because these are the kids who were told that they could grow up and do anything. They were raised on “Harry Potter” and “The Hunger Games” and “Divergent” and young adult literature that said, “You don’t have to take this. You can be something bigger than yourself. You can make a difference.”

It’s not until April 7th and 8th that JSU will play a meaningful OVC game in front of their fans at University Field. While Belmont and Tennessee State come to Jacksonville.

A three-series road trip to Clarksville, Tenn. (Austin Peay), Edwardsville, Ill. (SIUE) and Charles Town, Ill. (EIU) within a two-week span could separate contenders and pretenders among the conference standings.

From there, dates with Morehead State (April 26th), EKU (April 29th) and Tennessee Tech (May 4th) round out the regular season, before the OVC tournament begins in Oxford, Ala. on May 9th. While McGinnis and her team have logged a lot of miles so far, this season—the time for throwing up your feet on the red chairs at University Field is quickly approaching. They’re home.

The Chanticleer
March 8, 2018

OPINION & EDITORAL

Ready or not, here come the Gamecocks

Chris Allen Brown
Associate Editor

It hasn’t been the best start to a season for Jana McGinnis and the Jacksonville State softball team this year, but this is a program with a history of coming back, when it matters most. The Gamecocks have a pair of players who are the hero, but they did because no one else would. And that’s where these students are now.

And I mean this on the days of jail.

They’re going to save themselves. Do, so help them do it, like McGonagall did? Haymitch? Like Evelyn? Or do we sit back and watch as Umbridge did? Like President Snow did? Like Jeanne Matthews did?

And the kids are changing the world, with or without us. Which side of history are we going to be on?

Got an opinion? Want to see your name in print? Want to write a weekly column on your favorite topic? WE WANT YOU! Send us an email at chantynewstips@gmail.com or send us a Facebook message and let us know what you want to write about!
Gamecocks take series over FIU

Grant Benefield
Sports Reporter

JSU baseball took a weekend trip to Miami for a three game series with Florida International. The Gamecocks took two-out-of-three—both wins coming in extra innings. Game one of the series featured plenty of free baseball, with the Gamecocks (8-3) and Panthers (5-6) holding a 6-6 stalemate through the seventh inning until the twelfth when Jacksonville State exploded for 6 runs to win 12-6.

Chase Robinson, Nic Gaddis, and Clayton Dumond each had stellar RBI days for the Gamecocks, recording 3, 2, and 2 respectively.

Garrett Farmer started the mound for JSU, surrendering 4 runs over 5.1 innings, along with 2 walks and 4 strikeouts. Gamecock reliever Austin Brewster earned the win for the Gamecocks with an outstanding 2-for-3 with an RBI day for the last 5.2 innings of Friday's game. Brewster allowed no runs, no walks, and just 2 hits along with 4 K's to propel JSU to its big twelfth inning win.

The second game of the series played oddly similar to the first, with JSU breaking another 6-6 tie in extra innings with a huge scoring outburst to take the 13-6 win in tenth inning. This time, the Gamecocks were carried with a phenomenal 6-for-6, 6 RBI hitting performance from Gaddis.

The junior catcher from Trenton, Ga., became just the third player in NCAA Division I history with a huge scoring output that included 6 runs, 6 hits, and no walks with 6 K's on Sunday.

The Gamecocks also put together a final game of the series, tying Sunday's match 7-2 over the struggling Panthers.

The翻开 the series saw the Gamecocks win three out of four contests.

After seeing the Highlanders rally 7-2 over the Panthers on Sunday, the Gamecocks took over the lead in the OVC contest and to the top of the seventh inning.

Caitlin Pate cruised through the sixth innings of his start for JSU, until the Panthers mounted an offensive attack in the seventh inning that chased Pate and resulted in 6 runs. Pate would suffer the loss, surrendering 3 runs in six innings with 6 K's on Sunday.

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JSU catcher Nic Gaddis was named OVC Player of the Week for his performance in the Gamecocks' series win over FIU.

### Softball

Salvages win over Radford

ATHENS, Ga. — Alexus Jimmerson had the last of four straight singles in the seventh and led the Jacksonville State softball team to a walk-off 6-5 win over Radford in the final game of the Georgia Bulldog Classic on Sunday.

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The Gamecocks also put together a final game of the series, tying Sunday's match 7-2 over the Panthers.

JSU catcher Nic Gaddis was named OVC Player of the Week for his performance in the Gamecocks' series win over FIU.

### Gamecocks take series over FIU

**Grant Benefield**  
**Sports Reporter**

The Gamecocks took two-out-of-three—both wins coming in extra innings. Game one of the series featured plenty of free baseball, with the Gamecocks (8-3) and Panthers (5-6) holding a 6-6 stalemate through the seventh inning until the twelfth when Jacksonville State exploded for 6 runs to win 12-6.

Chase Robinson, Nic Gaddis, and Clayton Dumond each had stellar RBI days for the Gamecocks, recording 3, 2, and 2 respectively.

Garrett Farmer started the mound for JSU, surrendering 4 runs over 5.1 innings, along with 2 walks and 4 strikeouts. Gamecock reliever Austin Brewster earned the win for the Gamecocks with an outstanding 2-for-3 with an RBI day for the last 5.2 innings of Friday's game. Brewster allowed no runs, no walks, and just 2 hits along with 4 K's to propel JSU to its big twelfth inning win.

The second game of the series played oddly similar to the first, with JSU breaking another 6-6 tie in extra innings with a huge scoring outburst to take the 13-6 win in tenth inning. This time, the Gamecocks were carried with a phenomenal 6-for-6, 6 RBI hitting performance from Gaddis.

The junior catcher from Trenton, Ga., became just the third player in NCAA Division I history with a huge scoring output that included 6 runs, 6 hits, and no walks with 6 K's on Sunday.

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### Softball

Salvages win over Radford

ATHENS, Ga. — Alexus Jimmerson had the last of four straight singles in the seventh and led the Jacksonville State softball team to a walk-off 6-5 win over Radford in the final game of the Georgia Bulldog Classic on Sunday.

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EVANSVILLE, Ind.—What a game. What a comeback. For Jacksonville State, what a heartbreak.

Even after a furious 20-point second half comeback for the Gamecocks, JSU fell to Murray State 70-63 in the Ohio Valley Tour-

ament semifinals to end their season.

“This kids fought and battled right to the bitter end,” said Coach Harper.

Early on, everything went Murray’s way.

The Racers were scorched hot to begin the game. They raced out to an advantage by knocking down their first four three-point attempts and 10 of their first 13 overall.

After an 11-0 run by the Racers ending at the 9:39 mark of the first, Murray State held a 14-point lead at 27-13, and the crowd, which was overwhelmingly pro-

Racer, became defenestrating.

The Gamecock offense started to catch up with the Racers, however, and the two teams traded baskets for the remainder of the opening period, and the margin stood at 37-25 at the half.

The Gamecocks came out of the locker room looking to cut into the deficit, but instead, it was Murray State that entered the second half seven points up.

After a Jonathan Stark three with 13:48 remaining, the Racers lead reached 20, and it looked like the Gamecocks would be run right out of the Ford Center.

Jacksonville State had been through too much this season to go quietly, how-

ever.

A dunk by Jacara Cross, a three from Jamall Greg-

ory and another slam from Christian Cunningham, and, suddenly, the Gamecocks were clawing their way back into the game.

The run reached 13-0, cutting the deficit to 51-44, before the Racers finally answered. Then the Game-

cocks just kept coming.

With 4:19 left, the JSU comeback was complete. Jason Burnett spun past a defender in the post and laid it in to tie the game at 66-60.

The Gamecocks even took a lead at 63-62 with 2:41 left. If this was a movie, the Gamecocks would have finished off the miraculous comeback and gotten the win. But, sadly for the snaf-

tering of JSU fans in atten-

dance, it wasn’t to be.

Stark hit yet another, then two free throws, then a Shaq Buchanan tip-in gave the Racers a six-point lead with 32 seconds left that sealed it. After the Game-

cocks took their lead, Mur-

ray State scored the final eight points of the game to win 70-63.

Cunningham, Gregory and Marlon Hunter, who were the driving force be-

hind JSU’s comeback run, finished with 16, 15 and 13 respectively.

Senior captain Malcolm Drumwright, who scored the very first points of the game on a three, was held scoreless the rest of the way on 1-10 shooting in the fi-
nal game of a spectacular career in a JSU uniform. The game was also the final for Norbertas Giga, who has also been an in-

strumental part of JSU basketball in the last two seasons.

“Those two seniors have done things in the last two years that haven’t been done [at Jackson-

ville State],” said Harper after the game.

Drumwright and Giga saw Jax State go from OVC basement dwell-

ers to winning 29 games in each of their final two seasons, including the school’s first OVC title last year.

The Gamecocks close the season with a 21-12 overall, a new Division I program wins record.

Can’t turn it on

Record seasons end for Gamecock hoops

Daniel Mayes

Sports Editor

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—They weren’t supposed to be here.

Before the season the Jacksonville State women’s basketball team was predicted by the media to finish 2017-18 as the 10th ranked team in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Yet there the Gamecocks were, going toe-to-toe with Nationally ranked and OVC-undisputed Belmont in the semifinals of the con-

ference tournament. The Bruin’s firepower proved to be just a little too much for JSU to handle, and the Gamecocks fell 65-53 to end their season Friday.

“We did fight them to the end, that’s for sure,” Head Coach Rick Pietri said of the game. “[Belmont] knew they were in a fight today.”

Much like their first tour-

ament win over Morehead State, where they got out to an 8-0 start, the Gamecocks burst out of the gates blaz-

ing once again against Bel-

mont, beginning the game 9-2.

The Bruins struggled from the field to start, and the Gamecocks took ad-

vantage. Tasha Magruder scored the first four points of the game, and Gretchen Morrison nailed a long-

range three to extend the lead. Magruder would score 10 points on the afternoon, tying for the Gamecock scoring lead in her final game with freshman Kiana Johnson.

JSU would lead by as much as seven twice dur-

ing the opening quarter, but a Kylee Smith layup with 4 seconds left cut the Game-

cock lead to just 15-14 at the end of one.

A week before, the Game-

cocks played the Bruins close through a quarter, as they trailed just 9-8 at the end of the first before get-

ting blown out 66-35 in the final home game.

Friday, the Gamecocks stayed right in the game. Jacksonville State held the lead for 19 minutes of game time, and Belmont didn’t take over for the first time until the 2:27 mark of the second quarter. The Bruins held a four-point lead just before the half-

time break, but free throws by Tyler Phelps followed by a buzzer-beating layup by Johnson tied the game up again at 25 at the half.

The Gamecocks seized back the lead again to start the third quarter, but, after trading baskets for most of the period, the Bruins took the lead for good on a Dar-

cey Maggard three-pointer with 4:07 remaining. Bel-

mont used another buzzer-

beating three to push the Gamecock deficit to 41-37 at the end of the third.

By then, the Bruins took control. Maggard hit another couple of clutch shots, and suddenly the margin swelled to double-

digits. The Gamecocks bat-

tled, but Belmont answered every attempt, finally drib-

bling out the clock for a 63-53 victory.

The game was the final contest for JSU seniors Magruder, Phelton and Morrison.

“This group of seniors accomplished a whole lot for this year,” said Pietri. JSU finished out the sea-

son with a 19-12 record, ty-

ing the Division I program wins record, and 12 OVC victories, a new program best.

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ABOVE: The Gamecocks huddle before an attempted free throw.

LEFT: Christian Cunningham led JSU scorers with 16 Points against the Racers.

BELOW: The Gamecocks lock arms during the National Anthem.

The Chanticleer

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