



COMMUNITY

'Definitely' this month

Owner says Coop DeVille on the verge of reopen



Daniel Mayes/The Chanticleer

Workers prepare Coop DeVille for its re-opening, which owner Guy Emery says will happen this month.

Scott Young
Staff Writer

Several months after Coop DeVille sustained fire damage and closed, Guy Emery, owner of the Jacksonville restaurant, has confirmed to the Chanticleer that the beloved wing establishment is “definitely” reopening in the month of February.

“I’m sheet rocking it this week, doing the ceiling grid,” said Emery. “I’m thinking like two weeks. That’s what I’m targeting.”

Ever since the facility closed in August of last year, many wing fans have been inquiring on social media as to when to

when it would reopen.

“Has anybody got any update on Coop DeVille’s fate? I miss them so bad,” said one fan on Coop DeVille’s Facebook page.

To satisfy eager customers, Coop DeVille released a statement on Facebook updating the public on its progress.

“Hi everyone! We know you are all just as excited about The Coop re-opening as we are! We are trying our very best to open as soon as we can so we can start serving the incredible people of Jacksonville. Once we have a re-opening date set

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International House Presentation: Canada Thursday, February 7, 11:00 a.m. International House

Come learn more about Canada from one of our JSU students!

Blacklight Minigolf Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 p.m.

Mini golf always makes for a fun time and blacklight mini golf is even better! Join us for a super fun event in Leone Cole Auditorium. Bring your friends or come with your significant other for a fun date. This event will be one of the best yet, we hope to see you there!



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Murphy

Dr. Breann Murphy received her Pd.D. from the University of Alabama before landing a job as a new Assistant Professor of Communication at JSU.

CAMPUS

Dr. Breann Murphy ‘dances’ into position as JSU professor

Scott Young
Staff Writer

As a young girl who grew up in Birmingham, Dr. Breann Elizabeth Murphy grew up pursuing her passion of dancing.

She competed in numerous regional and national dance competitions through her high school and college years, where she tip-toed into her distinguished career in communications. Now, she is an Assistant Professor of Communication for Jacksonville State University.

“Communications is so fascinating and stems from so many other fields, such as psychology, sociology, behavioral studies, history, law, philosophy, and so many more,” said Dr. Murphy. “It’s a hot plate for knowledge and education.”

Growing up, Dr. Murphy began dancing at age five and continued dancing until she was in college—ten years at a dance studio in Birmingham, four years in high school and two years in college as a UAB Golden Girl. She even

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CAMPUS

Speed Dating helps Gamecocks find a Valentine

JP Wood
Staff Writer

With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, the SGA looked to play matchmaker on Wednesday night as they hosted a speed dating event in the TMB auditorium. Dozens of students turned up, looking to find new friends and potential partners in time for the 14th.

Those attending were given a set of rules, (like don’t exchange phone numbers or last names) a scorecard, and 4 minutes to make their case to the person sitting across from them. VP of student senate Will Milner, who participated, said it’s a great way to meet new people.

“Especially if you’re not even looking to go on a date and you’re just looking for new friends, which is what a lot of people are here for.”

The scorecards allowed students to score the people they met on a scale of 1-10, and were turned into SGA at the end of the night. The SGA will use the information to tell attendees who they “matched” with before Valentine’s

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News

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received the opportunity to compete in a national dance competition at Walt Disney World for six straight years.

Born and raised in Birmingham, she is southern through and through, and proud of it. She describes the southern way of life as “unique” and “special”.

“There are truly not many other places in this world where you can experience the real meaning of southern hospitality,” said Dr. Murphy. “Our preferences in life are put in the best order in the deep south: family, faith, and football.”

In her spare time, she loves to go to the beach and spend time with her fluffy white cat, who she says is the official princess of the house and holds a special place in her heart.

Dr. Murphy began her extensive academic journey at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, earning a bachelor’s degree in history. Growing up, she had always loved learning new things about different time periods. So naturally, she wanted to tap into the vast amount of culture embedded in history.

Like many students, she had no idea what her field of study was going to be at first. With the many opportunities and majors in front of her, she was overwhelmed with the possibilities.

“It’s okay to be unsure of your future. College is a time to explore all the areas that education has to offer. Take



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Murphy

different types of courses and participate in internships. Because, through all of this exposure and practice, you will truly find your calling, and, once you find your passion, be courageous and never lose your curiosity to learn. Because, with courage and curiosity, anything is possible,” said Dr. Murphy in her message to college students.

Her transition to communications began when she experimented with her elective courses, where she discovered that she really enjoyed communications. After discussing

with her professor, she joined the graduate program at UAB and earned her Master’s degree in Communication Management.

While at UAB, she wanted to gain practical experience in communications by working in the field, so she applied for and was accepted for an internship at a public relations agency. Later on, she became a graduate teaching assistant, where she taught public speaking and assisted in other communication-related courses.

On advice from her gradu-

ate advisor, she transferred to the University of Alabama to earn her Ph.D. in Mass Communication, specializing in public relations. As an author of numerous publications and a dissertation, Dr. Murphy explores the role of female leaders in major corporations and public relations agencies. Through interviewing women in executive positions, she was able to gain an understanding of how women are shaping the field of communications.

To segue into her academic career, she applied for a position at JSU as an assistant professor. As someone who appreciates the small-town, southern environment, she knew that JSU and its southern hospitality would be a perfect fit for her.

“JSU really seems to put the students first. I appreciate how students are allowed to participate and run various student groups and organizations, because that practical experience is so valuable,” said Dr. Murphy when asked why she chose to join the JSU family. “Everyone has been warm and welcoming, and it feels like such a family-oriented environment.”

If you’re in her classroom in the future, she’ll likely be teaching classes such as Intro to Public Relations, Communication Law, and Ethics & Global Journalism. If you see Dr. Murphy around campus, be sure to give her a warm welcome and congratulate her on all of her academic accomplishments.

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Day.

According to SGA President Kasey Gamble, the SGA is always looking to give students the opportunity to get out of their dorms and meet new people.

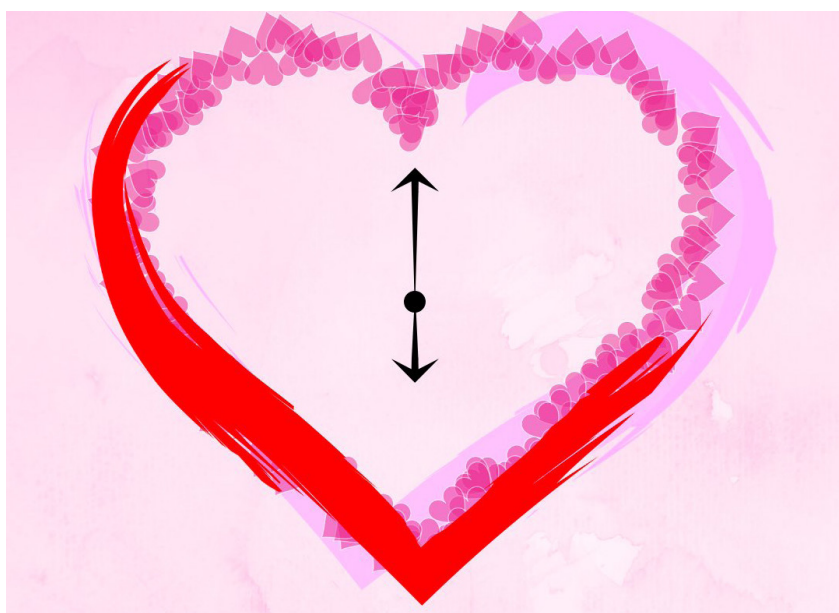
“With Valentine’s Day right around the corner we wanted to do something for people to meet their date and then bring them to blacklight mini golf next week.”

Blacklight Mini Golf will be the SGA’s next event, which will take place next Tuesday

the 12th, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Leon Cole Auditorium.

On hand to help the SGA was JAMM Entertainment, who has helped put on JSU events in the past, like paint parties and silent discos. JAMM teased to The Chanticleer a future event which they weren’t allowed to talk about yet.

“We’ve got a surprise coming up in a couple months, we’re doing something really amazing for you guys here on campus”.



Daniel Mayes/The Chanticleer

Coop DeVille will sport a new sign when it opens.

COOP from Page 1

in stone, we will make sure to get the word out! Please be patient with us during this time. See you soon!” read the Coop DeVille Facebook page.

Following news that Coop DeVille had burst into flames in August, students gathered in the patio of the restaurant to hold a candlelight vigil, singing “I’ll Fly Away” and constructing a shrine in its memory.

Reconstruction has been ongoing since August after initial estimates saw the reairs taking “two to three months.”

As many in the community have been speculating when Coop DeVille would reopen, its grand opening is in sight and the wait is almost over for the community to get their hands on delicious chicken wings.



Viewpoints

Valentine's Day on a Budget

Breanna Hill
News Editor

It's that time of year again; the colors pink and red are everywhere and the giant teddy bears seem to be at every store. That's right, Valentine's Day is right around the corner. With Valentine's Day approaching some of you might be a bit worried about finding the perfect present for your guy or gal, or what to do date-wise, or even more so, how to afford it all. Luckily there are numerous ways to make V-day special without it costing an arm and a leg. Let's face it, most college students and young adults are struggling as it is just to make rent every month and feed themselves something other than Ramen Noodles, so perhaps going to some extravagant restaurant just isn't in the realm of possibilities—which is okay. There are always a few tricks that can be of great use in a manner such as this. One of the biggest factors when coming to Valentine's Day is trying to figure out where to take your special someone. Yes, there are tons of restaurants and other fun attractions that could be considered romantic, but is paying a ton of money to do those things always a choice for everybody? Of course not. There are alternatives. For example, a great option is having a picnic. Not only is having a picnic a cheaper option, but it can also be viewed as more heartfelt and personal. Another great date idea would be either hiking or bike riding to a beautiful destination to enjoy the view. Nothing is more romantic than watching the sun set from a great spot.

Now that we have a couple cheap date ideas in mind we can talk about finding the perfect gift for that special someone. Again, not all of us are able to fork over 50 plus dollars for a giant stuffed animal, and that's perfectly fine. As you've probably heard a time or two before, it's the thought that counts. From a girl's perspective, a



Photo Credit: <http://time.com/>

well-thought out gift from the heart is far more important than the price of it. Just reminding your significant other about your feelings for them is enough to make any Valentine's Day a success. A great gift idea that doesn't really cost anything at all is a letter. Writing a sweet letter to your date just to remind them how special they are to you is one of the sweetest gestures out there. Swing by any store and pick up a box of chocolates or a bouquet of flowers and you're all set.

In the end just make sure you try your hardest to make the day as special as possible and things will fall right into place. Hopefully with these date and gift ideas you'll be able to pull off Valentine's Day on a budget.

Ableism in Video Games



Photo Credit: theodysseyonline.com

James Waller
Staff Writer

Difficult video games are appealing to a lot of gamers for a variety of reasons, like the joy of a challenge or bragging rights, but, when dialogue about the difficulty in video games shifts to accessibility, many people who enjoy games like Dark Souls or Cuphead become filled with such vitriol. They played these games at this level of difficulty, so why should we include anything like an "easy mode" and water down the experience just for the more casual players? Much of this about the pride of those who can capably play these sorts of games. If you're having difficulty in, say, Dark Souls, then maybe it just isn't for you, or you just need to get better at the game. If you insist that something is wrong with the game, rather than your own ability, then perhaps you're just protecting a wounded ego. After all, other people have beaten these games, so shouldn't you be held to the same standard?

London's Metro newspaper, in a 2012 interview with Hidetaka Miyazaki, the creative mind behind Dark Souls and Bloodborne, hinted at potentially making future games easier, to which the playerbase responded with enormous backlash.

But, what do we say when it comes to the matter of people who can never reach certain peaks of performance? Disabled gamers exist. No amount of skill can make abnormally weak muscles perform, rewire malformed nerves, or make perfect use of defective eyes. With this shift in video game culture towards the love of difficulty and no steps towards accessibility taken for disabled gamers, disabled gamers are inevitably left out in the cold. To simply

dismiss any attempt at inclusivity as coddling casual gamers is blatantly ableist.

As an autistic gamer, I frequently experience sensory overload playing games with complex visuals. For example, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate's small characters, bright colors, busy stage backgrounds, and far-away camera view make it incredibly difficult for me to keep track of what's on screen, despite that I enjoy the game. I can't play first-person shooters at all because my motor skills are poorly developed enough that I can't hit anything even with console games' infamous aim assistance. I enjoy and have beaten games like Bloodborne and the Dark Souls trilogy, but if I even minutely less capable of reacting to their stimuli, for example, if I had a disability that affected my joints, they'd be unplayable. It is not ableist to enjoy difficult games for their difficulty, but it is ableist to insist that enjoyment is impinged upon by the inclusion of accessibility measures for other people. Pillars of Eternity, a computer roleplaying game released in 2015, included an optional colorblind mode; this was just a box that could be ticked in an options menu for those who needed it. Pillars of Eternity is still a beloved modern classic roleplaying game. Optional features do not weaken the enjoyment one can gain from a difficult game; difficulty mode choices have long been prevalent through the lifespan of the video game artform.

Video games, as games and interactive art pieces, should be fun and interactable, not needlessly punishing and gatekept. "Hardcore" gamers are a minority, not the body of the market that the game industry caters to, so I don't believe they should be able to dictate the terms by which others may enjoy video games.



FILM REVIEW

Apostle is a scary good period piece

Breihan Dryden

A&E Writer

Most people will look at the films that I watch/review and automatically assume that I only enjoy trash cinema and exploitation horror. Well, those people are wrong. Ehh, ok, maybe they're a little right. While, yes, I do have an undying love for those types of films, I also have a strong love and appreciation for a good period piece. Specifically, period horror. "Apostle" is a great example of period horror done right and that is something that is sorely lacking in modern cinema. Sure, you have "The Witch" and "Bone Tomahawk", but outside of those, period horror hasn't had the impact on mainstream movie goers like I believe it should have had by now.

"Apostle" is written, directed, and edited by Gareth Evans. Now, if you know at least a little bit about filmmaking, this is quite the feat and by God, the man has pulled it off. Gareth knows exactly what story he wants to tell and how exactly he is going to tell it to you. Along with cinematographer Matt Flannery, he has created this wonderfully oppressive world that you, the viewer, has to sit and squirm through while things go from bad, to worse, to even worse than that. Speaking of Mr. Flannery, he has done an impeccable job capturing the world that these people inhabit. At first, I thought that the film was nicely shot, but also very flat and colorless. However, as the film progressed I realized that there was a calculated reason behind this decision and (for reasons that I won't spoil here) color is slowly reintroduced into the world throughout the course of the film. It really is a wonderful thing once you start to notice it.

So, what's the plot of "Apostle"? Simply put, it's about a brother who has to go rescue his sister from a cult. Un-simply put, it's a story about a brother who has been exiled from his family (again, for reasons that I won't spoil) having to infiltrate this island made up of religious followers that descends into a very Lovecraftian style madness. Thomas Richardson has received a letter informing him that his missing sister has broken the rules of this religious "convent" and that he has to come pick her up and pay her dues before she can leave. Seems simple enough, right? Well, it never is in these types of films. About twenty minutes into the film, we find out that she was never apart of said "convent" and was actually kidnapped and held for ransom because she comes from a wealthy family and the cult is running low on funds. You see, they have been smuggling in goods for years alongside keeping crops and livestock. Now, the livestock aren't producing anymore, the crops are dying, and they are becoming desperate. The reasons



Netflix

behind the dying crops and livestock are truly grotesque and once you start to unravel the mysteries surrounding everything, you will truly be hooked.

In the end, "Apostle" is a dark, depressing, and gruesome affair, but that's its style and it sticks with it. The acting is fantastic, the atmosphere oppressive, and the look consistent. I haven't enjoyed a film this bleak since 2010's "Black Death" and I couldn't be happier. If you have Netflix, give it a watch. Just don't expect two hours of happy fun time.

"Apostle" gets 10 Golden Taylors out of 10

FILM REVIEW

"Empire" is what sequels should be

James King

A&E Writer

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back is what sequels should be. In my opinion, what makes a good sequel is that it throws away what didn't work in the previous movie, it builds on the characters without regressing them, and finally, it feels like a step up from the last movie in terms of action and plot. That is delivered in this sequel. Now, this isn't to say that it doesn't have its flaws, but those are minor at most. This is the movie that I think of when I think of a *Star Wars* movie.

Now, this movie has a lot of the same strengths that the previous movie had. The dialogue is witty and fun and the special effects are amazing for the most part. You can still see the seeds of where they made minor changes to things especially in Cloud City. Gone are some of the more mundane things the characters were doing. The quick pace of the movie more than makes up for it because while I got a little bored with some of the lengthy scenes in the first one where little happens, this one moves at breakneck speed moving from place to place from start to finish.

Most of my issues with this movie boil down to personal preference. I didn't like Yoda's reveal to Luke as a Jedi master, as it felt a little bit rushed. The famous "No, I am your father scene" feels a bit out of nowhere, barely hinted at by the rest of the movies up until this point, and it doesn't really feel to me like it has as much gravitas as the movie thinks it does. Though that may be from this particular scene being the most spoiled parts of the whole *Star Wars* cannon.

The movie also suffers the same problem many middle sequels have, in that since it is the middle sequel between a beginning and ending movie it doesn't really have a good ending. I also didn't really like how Obi-wan felt like both a plot device to kick start Luke's story and a way to dump exposition to the audience and characters.

Now, this isn't my first time viewing this particular movie as it was with the first *Star Wars*. Though it is the first time I have seen the movie in a really long time. I had once rented the movie back when movie rental places were still in business. That was after the prequels, but long before *Star Wars* was bought up by Disney. I was glad to see it still held up and it was much better with the added context of the first movie. The romance between Leia and Han Solo felt a lot more organic this time around as well.

This to me is a much stronger movie than the first *Star Wars* and hits all my criteria for a good sequel. It makes me excited to see *Return of The Jedi* and while I still wouldn't say I'm the biggest *Star Wars* fan. I can see where people come from when expressing their love for the franchise based on this movie alone. It does make me want to see more of the franchise. If my editors have anything to say about it, then that will probably be soon.



Square Enix

Series protagonist Sora (left) is confronted by recurring villain Xigbar (right) in the Olympus world

GAME REVIEW

Kingdom Hearts 3: its heart is its power

Taylor Mitchell

A&E Editor

Connections are important. The bonds we develop with people define us and help us grow. In a way our friends and family are what gives us strength. This is the message of *Kingdom Hearts*, and it's a message a lot of people hold dear. For me, it told me that maybe being alone isn't all it's cracked up to be. That is not even mentioning the fact that *Kingdom Hearts: 358/2 Days* is literally the story of a teenager learning to emote and develop friendships. This is something that, to me playing my first game of the series, hooked me in. It was a game that was about something I was going through in a very real way. The thing about this series is that over its 17 year history, a lot of people have stories like this one. It's a series that resonates with people. I remember not long before the game released *Kotaku* and a few other publications made statements that the game wasn't reviewable, at least not unless it was done by a fan. Now in the name of criticism, I wholeheartedly disagree with this assertion. Everything can be reviewed because every piece of media has an objective value, but I understand their sentiment. This game is so wrapped up in its fanbase that it has become, to its fans, as a game outside of the mass market. To these fans it is a product made for them alone. I don't think this follows the intent of the developers, or even the reality of mass media. I can, however, understand the idea. Yet, this is enough philosophizing let us get on with the review.

First off, is the gameplay. This game is all about options. The main form this takes is situation commands, which are a hybrid of *Kingdom Hearts 2*'s reaction commands and *Birth By Sleep*'s command styles. They have a multitude of different effects and unlock requirements and can do several different things. You can summon theme park rides, transform your keyblades, trigger combination attacks. They are optional, but offer a good variance of abilities that make them interesting to use. I specifically like that, for the most part, they don't feel as mandatory as reaction commands could be in *Kingdom Hearts 2*. They can be helpful in tough spots, but you don't really need them which just feels nice. Athletic flow



Square Enix

The series features a cross over between Square Enix characters such as Riku (left) and Disney characters such as King Mickey Mouse (right)

is also a welcome addition to the base formula. Having Sora run on walls and dart from pillars is super fun.

Another part of gameplay are the gummi ship sections. These space shooter sections feel better than they did in 2, due to their greater focus on exploration. The space between worlds feels like an actual world to itself which is something it had previously lacked. Controls can be a bit weird at times, especially when trying to make the ship dive, but you eventually get used to them. While I enjoyed my time with it, I feel like some people may not like the huge gameplay change of these sections. With that in mind, its will likely be up to each player to decide how much they want to engage with it, and some may enjoy it more than others. I will add that the customization options for the gummi ship is the most robust and easy to use it has ever been. So even if you don't like the flying you sure to like the building.

Second, we have the story to look at. I over all thought it really holds up with other games in the series. There are some interesting twists and turns to it. I want to say that I sometimes felt like the trailers showed to much before release, but that ended up not being the case. The game also has some really epic moments, especially when you get close to the end. It still has the problem of not being great for newcomers, but by the end it does give a decent enough explanation for most

things. I also want to say some of the Disney stories aren't the best. Specifically when they are trying to tell the story of the film, like in the *Frozen* and *Tangled* worlds. Since they stick so close to the films they don't really have that much for Sora and the boys to do until the end. The boss fights for these worlds are two of the more creative and epic in the game, but that is their highest point. I am also annoyed that they randomly include songs in the *Frozen* world but not in the *Tangled* one, but that comes down to preference. With that in mind I do want to say the *Pirates of the Caribbean* world doesn't really have this same problem despite telling the story of the franchise's third film. This is generally because it instead chooses not to really focus on that story and instead make it more about the overall plot. The original stories in the other three worlds work much better, they fit into their film stories after they happen and give the gang more to do.

Kingdom Hearts 3 is the game I think most fans wanted. It's a good game that respects its history while trying to welcome new people in. Is it perfect? Not a chance but I don't think it has to be. All it has to be is significant to the people who have been waiting on it for so long. I think it does that very well. I also think that with a bit of a recap, new people can easily come in and enjoy it. It's a game for fans that tries its best to be for first timers.



Study Break

Trivia Answers: Jan. 31st Edition!

1. According to the lyrics of the hit Queen song Killer Queen, perfume came naturally from where?
Answer: Paris
2. What song from the Disney film “Coco” won the 2018 Academy Award for Best Original Song?
Answer: Remember Me
3. Who sang the title song “Grease” in the 1978 musical motion picture?
Answer: Frankie Valli



Super Bowl Trivia:

1. Which NFL team overcame a 25-point deficit to win the 2017 Super Bowl?
A. New Orleans Saints
B. New England Patriots
C. Green Bay Packers
2. Who is the only athlete ever to play in a Super Bowl and a World Series?
A. Deion Sanders
B. Earl Thomas
C. Patrick Peterson
3. Which team won the 2016 Super Bowl?
A. Green Bay Packers
B. Dallas Cowboys
C. Denver Broncos

Riddle of the week...



There are three men and a judge. The judge has 5 hats. Three of them are red and two of them are white. The judge says “Close your eyes, I am going to place a hat on each of your heads, who ever can guess what color hat they are wearing can go free.” Facts: 1. The three men are standing in a line facing the judge. Where person three can see person two, one and the judge. Person two can see person one and the judge, person one can see the judge. Person three opens his eyes first, then person two, then person one goes last. 2. Each person can hear the others response. 3. The additional 2 hats are not visible 4. Person one guesses correctly. Question: What color hat is person one wearing and how do you know?



A few sick punz...

I love when candy canes are in mint condition.

The shovel was a ground-breaking invention.

Pig puns are so boaring.

The tale of the haunted refrigerator was chilling.



**2018-19
JSU
Basketball
Upcoming
Schedule**

Men

At UT Martin
Thursday
Feb. 7
7:30 p.m.
Martin, Tenn.

At SEMO
Saturday
Feb. 9
4:15 p.m.
Cape
Girardeau,
MO.

At Tennessee
Tech
Thursday
Feb. 14
7:30 p.m.
Cookeville,
Tenn.

**Vs. Tennessee
State
Saturday
Feb. 16
7:00 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum**

**Vs. Morehead
State
Thursday
Feb. 21
7:15 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum**

Women

At UT Martin
Thursday
Feb. 7
5:30 p.m.
Martin, Tenn.

At SEMO
Saturday
Feb. 9
2:00 p.m.
Cape
Girardeau,
MO.

At Tennessee
Tech
Thursday
Feb. 14
5:30 p.m.
Cookeville,
Tenn.

**Vs. Tennessee
State
Saturday
Feb. 16
5:00 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum**

**Home
Games in
Bold**

*All times
Central*

JSU FOOTBALL

Gamecocks sign 'top-notch' class on 2019 National Signing Day

JACKSONVILLE - The Jacksonville State football team signed 11 players Wednesday to be a part of their 2019 squad. JSU Head Coach John Grass spoke about the class Wednesday afternoon:

Opening Comments:

"Very excited about this signing class that we have. I believe it's a solid class top to bottom. We filled some needs with some early enrollees and some veteran guys. We also have a balance with the high school guys that we have signed at every position, which will help us down the line. You get in to the clichés about 'It's the best signing class we have had' and really the tell-tell sign with that is two or three years from now about how good this signing class really is. I really feel good about the how all these guys are really good people and come from good families. I think our staff does a really good job of going out and finding that and finding the right kind of person we want. I think this class is full of solid people and really good football players. It is a top-notch class as far as character and athleticism and very excited about this class. We really did not know how to handle the early signing period last year and we were very patient and wanted to make the right decisions. As we learned more about the early signing period, we thought we needed to sign about half of the class early and that is what we did. We signed nine guys early and we have some mid-year enrollees in. It allowed you to sign some of these guys later and I feel good about both – the guys that we signed early as well as the guys we have coming in today. We will probably stay with this formula that we will use going forward."

On concentrating on defensive line and offensive line:

"We lost a lot of those guys that have been here a long time. We needed to build some depth in those areas and I think we did that."

On signing a quarterback:

"We definitely wanted to sign one and you have two that are coming back that can get the job done and we really feel good about Aaron Graham. He is an athletic guy and a developmental guy and he is not a guy that we will ask to come in and play immediately. I thought this was a great choice for him and I think it is a great pick up for us."

I think he is as athletic as any guy we have signed before."

On the new four-game rule before redshirting:

"I really love that rule and it is probably the best rule that we have changed since I have been here. It is great for the players and getting them in those four games, you don't burn a redshirt. It gives you that test to see and it allows that kid the freedom to play and it keeps them motivated the whole year. It is tough on the kid to get motivated to practice if he is redshirting."

On expanding the JSU footprint:

"We always look at the 3-5 hour radius from the school, but we put a real emphasis on the high schools in this state. We want to be visible in every high school in the state. We want to get deeper in to the state of Florida and North Carolina. Our staff has done a really good job of evaluating kids."

Below is a complete list of players that have signed their NLI to join the Gamecocks:

2019 NATIONAL SIGNING DAY SIGNEES (11)

Martavis Barber (OL, 6-5, 308, Talbotton, Ga./Central HS)
Christin Brown (DE, 6-2, 233, Maplesville, Ala./Maplesville HS)
Pete Brown, Jr. (OL, 6-6, 330, Talbotton, Ga./Central HS/Highland (Kan.) CC)
Edward Gipson (WR, 6-3, 195, Pelham, Ala./Pelham HS)
Lemuel Gordon (DE, 6-2, 255, Montgomery, Ala./Carver HS)
Laletia Hale (LB, 6-1, 228, Montgomery, Ala./Carver HS)
Walker Harris (DE, 6-4, 230, Greensboro, N.C./Northern Guilford HS)
Marquez Henry (SAF, 6-0, 186, Phenix City, Ala./Central HS)
Phillip Hopkins (DE, 6-2, 215, Montgomery, Ala./Robert E. Lee HS)
Cade Nayadley (OL, 6-4, 275, Ringgold, Ga./Ringgold HS)
Hudson Petty (SAF, 6-2, 185, Whitwell, Tenn./Whitwell HS)

JSU Sportswire

JSU SOFTBALL

Gamecocks picked second in OVC preseason poll

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Fresh off its third-straight Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title, the Jacksonville State softball team has been picked to finish second in the 2019 regular season.

The Gamecocks, who finished third in the 2018 regular season, led the preseason field with 11 first-place votes but were just behind defending regular-season champion Eastern Kentucky in total votes. The Colonels were picked to repeat with 230 total votes by the league's head coaches and sports information directors, while JSU had 226 total votes.

Austin Peay, who finished second last year, was picked to finish third in 2019 and received the only other three first-place votes. SIUE was picked fourth and Southeast Missouri fifth to round out the top five.

The Gamecocks went 35-25 in 2018, including a 16-6 record in league play. They rolled through the OVC Tournament at Oxford's Choccolocco Park for the third-straight year, beating ECU via the mercy rule in the championship to advance to the NCAA Tallahassee Regional. JSU then advanced to the championship game of the regional after eliminating Auburn and Kennesaw State before

2019 OVC SOFTBALL PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

(as voted on by the league's head softball coaches and sports information directors)

1. Eastern Kentucky (10 first-place votes) - 230
2. Jacksonville State (11 first-place votes) - 226
3. Austin Peay (Three first-place votes) - 204
4. SIUE - 167
5. Southeast Missouri - 160
6. Eastern Illinois - 143
7. UT Martin - 121
8. Belmont - 99
9. Murray State - 85
10. Morehead State - 63
11. Tennessee Tech - 61
12. Tennessee State - 23

falling to eventual national champion Florida State.

JSU made its OVC-best eighth NCAA Regional appearance in 2018 and has made all eight of those in the last 11 years. It was the ninth NCAA appearance in program history.

The 2019 Gamecocks return three All-OVC performers from a year ago, led by senior Taylor Beshears. The Trussville, Ala., native led the team with a .363 average, 11 home runs and 42 RBI in her first season after transferring from Wallace State Community College. She hit .417 in league play.

Beshears was a First Team All-OVC pick in 2018 alongside utility player Alexis Jimmerson, who returns for her junior campaign after hitting al-

most .300 at the plate and posting an 8-6 record in the circle. In OVC games, the Jackson, Tenn., native hit .310 and was 4-3 with a 1.93 ERA.

Senior Faith Sims is back in her second year as the Gamecocks ace in the circle after earning second-team all-conference honors as a junior. The Cordova, Ala., native, was led the OVC in wins in 2018 with 23 but really shined in league play. Against OVC foes, she was 9-1 with three saves and a 1.76 ERA.

The Gamecocks open the 2019 season on Feb. 8 against Army in the Mercer Invitational in Macon, Ga. Their home opener is set for Feb. 23, when they host Southern Miss in a three-game series at University Field.

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JSU MEN'S BASKETBALL

After taking sole lead in OVC, Gamecocks can't hold it

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

JACKSONVILLE — After seizing control of the top spot in the Ohio Valley Conference with a win over Murray State on Thursday, the question for the Jacksonville State men's basketball team was how long it would keep that position.

As Austin Peay assured thanks to its 74-71 win Saturday, the answer was: not long.

The Governors jumped out to a 23-4 lead while the Gamecocks looked like they still had their mind on celebrating their newfound lead in the conference. They rallied but couldn't close it out.

"We've just got to come out ready," 6-foot-3 senior guard Jamall Gregory said. "I know we dug ourselves out of that hole, but it just felt like we were playing catch-up. We caught up, but they finished it."

After that early deficit, JSU (16-7, 8-2 OVC) finally woke up, but in a game that swung back and forth so many times it might make a see-saw blush, the Gamecocks couldn't have been surprised when the last swing ended on the side of Austin Peay (16-7, 8-2).

That 23-4 lead for Austin Peay? Gone shortly after halftime. An eight-point Gamecock deficit with just over two minutes left? Replaced with a 71-70 lead with just 39 seconds left, the first one of the game for Jacksonville State.

There was still time on the clock though, enough for the see-saw to end where the game started — with an Austin Peay lead.

Jabari McGhee was wide-open under the basket on a Governors' out-of-bounds play. Gregory desperately tried to hack McGhee, but it was to no avail. The basket was good, and the ensuing free throw made it 73-71. After a missed 3-pointer by Ty Hudson and another Austin Peay free throw, JSU was left



Grace Cockrell/JSU

Jamall Gregory was heroic against Austin Peay with 19 points, seven rebounds, and four steals, but his efforts left the Gamecocks just short of picking up a win.

to try a final full-court heave with two seconds left. It was deflected, and Jacksonville State's fate was sealed.

Gregory finished with 19 points, seven rebounds, and four steals.

What to know

—The loss forces Jacksonville State back into a tie for first place after controlling the conference briefly after defeating Murray State on Thursday night. JSU, Belmont and Austin Peay are all 8-2, while Murray State was playing late to try to match that.

—Austin Peay's Terry Taylor kept the pressure on the Gamecocks throughout the game, making play after play to make each JSU comeback more improbable. The sophomore scored 30 points and lead the Governors with six rebounds.

—After scoring just two points in the first half, Jason Burnell came alive in the frantic

final minutes, finishing with 12 points and six rebounds. Marlon Hunter scored 17, and Hudson finished with 12.

Who said

—Jacksonville State Head Coach Ray Harper on the start to the game: "I thought we competed, we've just got to do a better job. We were just on our heels to start the game. We have to be better."

Next up

—After the home loss, the Gamecocks hit the road for three in a row, beginning with a road contest Thursday at UT Martin, which sits in last place in the league. Jacksonville State will then travel to Southeast Missouri and Tennessee Tech before returning home to face Tennessee State on Feb. 16 in Pete Mathews Coliseum.

JSU BASEBALL

D1Baseball.com tabs JSU to win OVC crown

The Jacksonville State baseball team has been picked to win the Ohio Valley Conference in 2019, according to D1Baseball.com, one of the most reputable web-based media outlets dedicated to college baseball.

The web site posted its OVC preview with 11 days before opening day on February 15. D1Baseball.com's prognostications for the OVC has the Gamecocks ahead of Morehead State, who won the 2018 OVC Baseball Tournament and the automatic NCAA berth and Tennessee Tech, who won the regular season and claimed an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Golden Eagles advanced to the Austin Super Regional after winning the Oxford Regional. Southeast Missouri and Austin Peay round out the top five teams in the prediction.

The web site also tabbed redshirt junior pitcher Garrett Farmer as the preseason OVC Pitcher of the Year. Tech's Kevin Strohschein earned preseason player of the year honors, while UT Martin's Marcus Eusebio was named the league's freshman of the year. The OVC will an-



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nounce the coaches and sports information directors predicted order of finish and the preseason All-OVC squad on Friday.

Jax State opens the 2019 campaign at the new Rudy Abbott Field at Jim Case Stadium on Friday, 15 at 3 p.m. against in-state rival North Alabama. The season-opening series will continue through the weekend with 1 p.m. starts on Satur-

day and Sunday.

Season tickets are available for purchase online at JSUGamecocksTickets.com, by phone at (256) 782-8499 and on campus at the JSU Ticket Office at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Children 18-years-old and under and JSU students are admitted free.

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