

sports

BRIEFS

Clemson Club's spring meeting

The Cherokee County Clemson Club will hold its spring meeting on Monday Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Clemson Extension Office in Gaffney. Clemson Football Recruiting Coordinator Billy Napier will speak. A bar-b-que supper will be served for \$10 per person. Please call David Parker at 864-489-3141, ext. 113 (office) or 864-489-6338 (home) or email him at dprkr@clemson.edu to make reservations.

IU mum on Sampson's future

Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson may already know his fate. The college basketball world is still waiting for a clear answer.

University officials met repeatedly throughout the day and debated late into the night what to do about the major allegations surrounding Sampson and the Indiana program. The Hoosiers have not been guilty of a major NCAA infraction since 1960.

Even players weren't immune to the process.

Following a scheduled 3 p.m. team meeting to discuss compliance issues Thursday, Hoosiers left without comment. They met later with athletic director Rick Greenspan and left as a group without saying a word about 7:45 p.m. Greenspan remained holed up in his office late into the night, and his family brought him a pillow.

The question was whether Sampson will still be coaching No. 15 Indiana when the team faces Northwestern on Saturday night, and even the university's board of trustees was unaware of a decision.

"I don't believe the athletic director has even given the recommendation to the president yet," trustee Patrick Shoulders said.

Sampson is accused of making improper phone calls, then providing false and misleading information to investigators from both the university and the NCAA.

Sims scores 14 in win

Donte Minter led a balanced effort with 15 points and Appalachian State routed Furman 90-77 on Thursday to clinch a first-round bye in the Southern Conference tournament.

Jeremy Clayton added 14 points and 13 rebounds and Donald Sims and Kellen Brand added 14 points apiece for the Mountaineers (17-10, 12-6), who snapped a two-game losing streak.

George Brozos scored 17 points and Noah States added 16 for the Paladins (6-21, 5-13), who trailed by as many as 31 points.

Appalachian State was never threatened, racing to a 51-26 halftime lead in moving into sole possession of first place in the North Division ahead of idle Chattanooga. The Mountaineers shot 49 percent and hit 11 of 22 3-pointers in beating Furman for the second time this season.

Furman, which had won two of its last three games, was outrebounded 41-31.

UT coach responds to criticism

Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer is lashing out at criticism about player disciplinary decisions in a newspaper column.

In the column published on The Knoxville News Sentinel's Web site on Thursday night, Fulmer said he has never used a player's skill or athletic success in deciding how he should be disciplined for an off-the-field problem.

"Our internal discipline is based on one factor alone: the course that is most likely to help that individual young man make amends and get his life straight," Fulmer wrote in Friday's edition.

"I've undoubtedly made some mistakes, but I try to do what I think is in the best interest for each young man," he said.

The 15-year coach specifically responded to an opinion piece by News Sentinel columnist John Adams published earlier in the week calling for Fulmer to be fired because of a series of off-the-field discipline problems.

Strickland close to naming coordinator

By LARRY HILLIARD
Ledger Sports Editor
larry@gaffneylegger.com

Gaffney football coach Phil Strickland is moving to closer to selecting a new offensive coordinator.

"It should be soon," Strickland said.

The coach said several of his current assistants and assistants from other football staffs are under consideration.

Strickland said he's looking for a coordinator who shares his offensive philosophy and will blend well with his current assistants.

"I want somebody who believes in what we believe in," he said.

It's the second time in as many years that Strickland has looked for a new offensive coordinator.

Earlier this month, former Gaffney High offensive coordinator Charlie Patterson accepted the head coaching position at Hanahan High School.

Patterson served as the team's offensive coordinator for one season.



PHIL STRICKLAND

He replaced longtime coordinator Greg Lawson, who left last year to become head coach at Laurens High School.

Strickland wasn't surprised Patterson left the staff.

"He obviously had the itch to become a head coach again," Strickland said. "He really deserves this opportunity."

Patterson was the head at West Florence, where he posted a 3-19 mark.

The move to Hanahan High School and the Charleston area also allows Patterson to be closer to his wife's family, and to Goose Creek High School, one of Patterson's assistant coaching spots, Strickland said.

Patterson takes over a 2A program that finished 7-5 this season.



The No. 4-ranked Limestone lacrosse team opened the season Wednesday with a 22-3 victory over Lees-McRae.

Limestone thumps Bobcats, 22-3

STAFF REPORTS

The No. 4-ranked Limestone College men's lacrosse team opened its season with a 22-3 win against Conference Carolinas rival Lees-McRae on Wednesday afternoon at Saints Field.

Limestone's Brendan Storrier and Justin Haworth each scored five goals.

Allen Vaughn, Neil Harris and Jeff Santo each scored twice.

Jake Rogalia, Sam Buppert, Teddy Prager, Brock Spilker, Thomas Langan and Spencer Wims all added goals for Limestone.

Rogalia led the Saints with three assists.

Buppert, Harris, Haworth, Corey Hayward, Prager, Spilker, Storrier, and Vaughn each recorded an assist.

C.J. Ciaravino and Jeff Hunter dominated the faceoffs, winning a combined 18 of 26.

Limestone goalkeeper James Tuohy had one save in 30 minutes of play.

Johnny Rodriguez had two saves and Tony Kvitko posted one.

Kyle Ficken scored two goals for the Bobcats, while Neil Sleight scored once.

Limestone outshot Lees-McRae 43-17.

Limestone hosts Wheeling Jesuit on Sunday, Feb. 24, at noon.

Wildcats to battle Goliath

By LARRY HILLIARD
Ledger Sports Editor
larry@gaffneylegger.com

Play ball!

That's what the Blacksburg High baseball team will be hearing when the Wildcats open the season this weekend at the Chester Natural Gas Preseason Tournament.

The Wildcats will play Gwinnett Christian Academy of Atlanta at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

It appears to be a David vs. Goliath match up. Gwinnett Christian has compiled an overall record of 393-30.

Blacksburg senior Dustin Byars will likely start against the Barons, who are their defending league's national champions.

The Wildcats will face off against Camden Military Academy at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Ryan Dellinger is scheduled to start that game for the Wildcats.

The final game of the tournament will be determined by the win/loss records after the first two games.

The Wildcats are coming off a 9-1 win over Southside Christian in scrimmage action on Tuesday.

"This weekend will be a good test for us, we're facing some good teams," Blacksburg coach Toby Elliott said. "Our scrimmages have been successful and helpful in seeing what we need to work on before the regular season."

"We are excited about our second year in Class 2A and looking forward to another successful season," he added. "Our pitching staff is working hard and we have been able to get the timely hits we wanted at this point in the season. We must stay focused and work on the little things that can help or hurt you when the games are on the line."

Lady Saints drop pair

STAFF REPORTS

Catawba College swept a doubleheader from Limestone on Thursday, 2-0 and 4-3.

Catawba scored the only runs of the opening game in the fourth inning. Sarah VanBuskirk reached to lead off the frame when her line drive to center was misplayed. Ryann Baker followed with a run-scoring double and Erin Witalison doubled her home with one out.

Limestone benefited from three Catawba errors to grab a 2-0 lead after two innings of the nightcap.

The Lady Indians picked up an unearned run of their own in the third on an RBI double then took the lead in the fourth on a two-run homer by Allie Marshall.

The Saints tied the game in the sixth when Heather Mills singled home a run with one out. Limestone loaded the bases on a pair of walks after the single, but failed to score any more runs.

Limestone falls to Lees-McRae

STAFF REPORTS

The Limestone College men's basketball team lost to Lees-McRae 73-57 Wednesday night.

Lees-McRae improved to 4-14 in the conference and the Saints fall to 4-13.

Limestone's Andrae Franklin had 10 rebounds. Shawn Creal led the Saints with 15 points, going 5-for-7 from behind the arc. Marques Williams added 11 points for

Limestone.

Raysean Harrison led Lees-McRae with 21 points and 8 rebounds.

Aaron Woodacre chipped in 16 points.

Limestone trailed 36-24 at halftime, but the Saints cut Lees-McRae's lead to two points with 8:59 remaining in the game. But the Saints couldn't keep their rally going.

In women's action, Lees-McRae

slipped past the Lady Saints 71-68.

The Lady Saints drop to 9-8 in the league and 14-13 overall, while the Lady Bobcats improve to 6-12 in the conference and 7-17 overall.

Limestone's Ariel Lyons had a double-double with 10 assists and 12 points. Lindsay Kyle led the Lady Saints with 21 points.

Essence Greer scored 11 points and posted 8 boards for Limestone, which travels to Mount Olive on Saturday.



Lindsay Kyle had 21 points for the Lady Saints on Wednesday.