Chipola Brain Bowl wins sixth straight state championship

For the sixth straight year, Chipola College has won the State Brain Bowl Tournament, defeating Valencia 915-50 in the finals of the Florida College System Activities Association Tournament on March 17.

Chipola’s six consecutive championships breaks the old record of five straight set by Broward College. Broward still has the most state titles with seven. Chipola also set a record for the largest margin of victory in a final round with the 915-50 win over Valencia. The Chipola team answered 29 of the 36 questions in the finals.

Chipola MVP Paul Kelson was the David Elhert High Point Winner in the tournament with 1,120 total points and an average of 131 points per game. Kelson also was named to the All-Tournament team for the second straight year. Chipola head Coach Stan Young, says, “Paul Kelson is the best community college player in the country and maybe the best at any level.”

Other Chipola Blue team members are: Katelyn Miller, William Singleton and Becca Delgado. Miller finished seventh in individual scoring in the tournament.

The Chipola White Team finished eighth in the State Tournament and was led Wesley Chevillot who finished eighth in individual scoring. Other Chipola White members are: Bobby Gause, Jamie McCoy and Faith Tice.

Chipola will next play in the Intercollegiate Championship Tournament (ICT) in Chicago, April 12-13, as one of only six community colleges invited to the tournament. Chipola won its third straight NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournament) Community College Championship Tournament in St. Louis on March 2. Based on that performance, Chipola received the number 5 seed in the

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Chipola women win first round game at national tournament

The Chipola Lady Indians’ postseason run continued Monday with a 78-62 win over Southwest Illinois in the Women’s Basketball National Tournament in Salina, Kansas.

Chipola’s Rayven Brooks led the Lady Indians in nearly every category with 29 points including 6 of 9 three pointers, 11 rebounds, 5 assists and 4 steals. Kristine Brance and Lashonda Littleton each scored 13. Littleton also grabbed 8 rebounds. Treyvonna Brooks scored 11 and pulled down 8 rebounds. Jasmine Crawford also added 8 points.

The win pits the Lady Indians (26-6) against Southern Idaho (21-11) in a 3 p.m. game on Wednesday, March 20. The winner moves to the Thursday, March 21, 5 p.m. game to face the winner of Central Arizona (21-1) and Crowder (29-5).

Chipola’s games will air on WJAQ-100.9. All tournament games will be aired live on NJCAA TV at www.njcaa.org

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ICT, behind only Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Brown.

Chipola math professor Stan Young is head coach of the Brain Bowl team with volunteer assistant Dr. Robert Dunkle.

About Chipola’s run of six straight, Young says, “You can find intelligent people everywhere. We’re in this small community college with just over 2,000 students and we’re competing with Ivy League schools. It just goes to show you that intelligence can come from anywhere. If you take that and put in a lot of hard work and prepare yourself, it just kind of shows you what you can do,” Young said.

Chipola Blue Team members are, from left: Becca Delgado, Katelyn Miller, Paul Kelson and William Singleton.

Top employees at Chipola

LEFT—Joyce Traynom is Chipola’s Career Employee for February. Traynom serves as an Executive Assistant in the Chipola College President’s Office and has worked at the college since 1982. Here, Traynom (right) is congratulated by Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough.

RIGHT—Casey Bush has been selected the Chipola College Faculty/Administrator/Other Professional Award of the month for March. Bush has served as an instructor in Chipola’s Teacher Education program since 2010. Here, Bush (right) is congratulated by Dr. Lou Cleveland, Director of Teacher Education.
Chipola wins conference opener at Tallahassee

A seven-run second inning was the catalyst for FCSAA No. 6 Chipola College in a 13-6 win over No. 2 Tallahassee Community College March 18 in the opening game of a three-game series.

Chipola, playing its PC opener, improved to 23-11. Monday’s game featured plenty of offense - the teams combined for 19 runs and 31 hits, including 18 by Chipola - but it was a defensive play that was, arguably, the biggest of the game. After Chipola’s Bert Givens hit a solo homer in the top of the first, Tallahassee threatened to answer and then some in its half.

With the bases loaded and two outs, John Price, Jr. hit a hard liner that had eyes for the right field corner, but Chipola first baseman Chase Nyman dove to his left and nabbed the one-hopper to save two, possibly three, runs. Instead of grabbing an early lead, Tallahassee left the bases loaded for the first of four times in the game.

A leadoff double by Nyman started the Indians’ big second inning. While Chipola took advantage of five hits, two wild pitches, a passed ball and an error, Tallahassee head coach Mike McLeod trotted out four different pitchers to try and stop the bleeding.

By the time the last of the four - Ryan Deckert - came on, the Indians had scored six runs. A fielders’ choice plated the seventh run of the inning and gave Chipola a commanding 8-0 lead.

Tallahassee got on the board in the bottom of the second, scoring three runs. After a double-play resulted in a run, Clay Fenwick drove in a pair with a two-out double.

Chipola scored two runs in the fourth and three more in the fifth and was poised to end the game via the mercy rule on two different occasions but, each time, the Eagles staved off defeat and extended the game.

Down 13-3, Price, Jr., led off the fifth with a triple and scored on James Abbatinozzi’s single to center. An inning later, Price, Jr., picked up an RBI with a one-out double. In the seventh, Chipola reliever Taylor Lewis hit three Eagle batters - the last, Trent Higginbothem, with the bases loaded, to score Kevin Cruz and again keep the game alive.

Five different players enjoyed multi-hit games for Tallahassee - Anthony Torres, Price, Jr., Abbatinozzi, Tyler York and Kevin Cruz. Fenwick was 1-for-4 with two RBI.

Every Chipola starter collected a hit and scored a run. All but right fielder Cameron Gibson had at least two hits. Ian Rice went 3-for-4 with a run scored and an RBI. Givens finished 2-for-6 with two runs scored and three RBI.

Cody Alling took the loss for Tallahassee. He allowed four runs in one-plus innings. Mikel Belcher, who replaced Chipola starter Carlos Misell after just 1.2 innings, picked up the win in relief with 3.0 innings of work.

Tallahassee and Chipola will continue its series on Wednesday with a 6 p.m. eastern game in Marianna.

Chipola Theatre attends Southeastern Theatre Conference

Students and faculty from the Chipola College Theatre department recently participated with thousands of students, educators and professional companies at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in Louisville, Kentucky. SETC is the largest theatrical organization in the country.

Chipola Director of Technical Theatre Connie Smith serves as the Job Contact Service Onsite Manager for SETC. In this role, she oversees production interviews and job placement with more than 110 professional companies. She also leads a production resume workshop with professional company representatives on her panel.

Chipola Theater Director Charles Sirmon served the SETC observing more than 200 high school student auditions and recruiting for his own program. Sirmon says, “After three days of work, the SETC recognized Chipola and its strong theatre program. I am very proud of our team.”

Chipola students served as volunteers and recruitment for Chipola. Many of the Chipola students received offers for summer employment across the country, including Josh Tetlow with Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico and Aaron Black with Shenandoah theatre in Winchester, Virginia.

Online evaluations of courses and faculty set

During March 4-22, each student will have an opportunity to complete an anonymous online evaluation of his/her classes quickly and conveniently. Students can access the evaluation form on the college website beginning March 4. After semester grades are posted, student confidential feedback will provide information on instructional practices and instructional needs. Student participation in this process is very important. Chipola’s administration and faculty use the candid responses to assess teaching and learning.
Chipola College graduate Casey Lathem has high praise for the Chipola College TRIO programs which put her on the path to college. She now serves as an Admissions Officer with Florida State University/Panama City recruiting students and advising them on their academic paths.

Lathem was recruited by Chipola’s TRIO program - Talent Search when she was an eighth grader at Hosford Elementary and Junior High in Liberty County. The purpose of TRIO is to expose students to college experiences, and to encourage college enrollment and success in school. TRIO targets students early in their academic careers to help them remain focused on their academic success. TRIO also helps students with study skills, financial aid and college admissions. Lathem said, “Having the support of TRIO allowed my twin sister, Kelly, and I to better understand the process of college-readiness. It is a wonderful program”

As a student at Hosford, Lathem was visited regularly by Kristy Mosley, former TRIO advisor, current Student Support Services Director of TRIO. Lathem said, “Ms. Mosley and other members of the TRIO staff helped me understand the decisions related to attending college as well as which college was right for me.”

After graduating from Chipola, Lathem transferred to Florida State University in Panama City where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Professional Communication in 2012. Soon after earning her B.S., she was hired as an Admissions Officer with FSU/PC. Here job includes recruiting students to FSU as well as advising them on their major of choice.

Lathem said, “I am truly thankful to have been part of such a great program. TRIO really does set the foundation students need to succeed. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to meet such wonderful people like Judy Riviere, Kristie Mosley, Kristy Pleasant and Mandy Suggs, who really want to help students succeed. I am also fortunate to have a job in which I can provide the same support for students.”

TRIO was given its name because it started as a group of just three federally funded programs. There are a total of eight programs that fall under the umbrella of TRIO. Chipola has two of the eight programs: Talent Search and Student Support Services. A total of 600 students in the five-county area are currently enrolled in the TRIO program - Talent Search. The TRIO program - Student Support Services serves 140 students enrolled at Chipola. For information about Talent Search, contact Angie Tyler. For Student Support Services, contact Kristie Mosley. Phone 850-718-2431 or visit www.chipola.edu

Free seminar for veterans set at Chipola

Advisors in TRIO take students on tours of area colleges and universities to help them choose the college and program that is best suited to their interests. They also provide information about the financial aid process, scholarships and grants.

After graduating from Liberty County High School, Lathem chose Chipola College, where TRIO director Judy Riviere, now retired, advised her through her Associate in Arts degree. Lathem said, “Not only was Mrs. Riviere my advisor, she became a mentor as well. Most importantly, she helped me believe that I could achieve my goals and pursue a bachelor’s degree.

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