Depth is key to Chipola’s ninth National Tourney appearance

The Chipola College men’s basketball program has nine national tournament appearances—more than any other Florida community college men’s team—and first year head coach Greg Heiar thinks this year’s trip will be a memorable one.

Chipola plays Shelton State (AL) in the first round of the National NJCAA Men’s Tournament, Tuesday, March 22, at 2:30 p.m. Shelton is ranked in the top 30. Chipola beat Shelton by 7 earlier in the year.

Heiar said, “Shelton lost their first two games of the season, but they’ve only lost three times since then. They also beat South Georgia Tech to make the national tournament.”

Heiar characterizes Shelton as “up-tempo.” “They press the whole game. They like to play up and down and shoot a lot of threes. They play really a fast game.”

For his team to be successful, Heiar said the Indians must win the turnover battle and contain Shelton’s point guard, who is one of the best in the country. “We’ve also got to win the rebounding battle and limit them to one shot,” said Heiar.

Overall, Heiar is confident about his squad’s chances in the tournament. “I feel good about how we’ve been practicing since state. We’ve improved. We’re a team. Our chemistry and togetherness is as good as it’s been all year. The kids want this.

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Chipola ready for first-ever appearance in Women’s National Tourney

The Chipola College Lady Indians will make their first-ever appearance at the NJCAA Women’s National Tournament on Wednesday, March 23, with a noon (CST) game against Southeastern Illinois College in the Bicentennial Center in Salina, KS.

The double-elimination tournament runs through Saturday, March 26.

In sizing up the Lady Indians’ opponent, second year head coach David Lane, says, “Southeastern Illinois is pretty tough. They’ve got two guards that are 6-0 and 5-11 that shoot the ball really well. They’ve also got a 6’5 post who is very skilled.”

Lane said his Lady Indians will need to do the little things well in order to be successful. “We need to guard and box out. They get a lot of points off of second chances. They’re going to trap in the back court and at half court. They take a lot of pride in their defense. They’re only giving up 30 or 40 points a game in the late season,” Lane said.

The Lady Indians captured the college’s first-ever state Championship with a 54-51 win over defending champion Gulf Coast Community College before a capacity home-court crowd on March 12. Tojalyin “Sweet Pea” Atmore hit a shot at the buzzer to give Chipola the edge. Before the state championship, Chipola had to handle Central Florida (57-45) and Palm Beach (73-56).

Chipola’s Cinderella season began to blossom on Feb. 1, when they scored a 62-40 upset over top-ranked Gulf Coast. The Chipola win was Gulf Coast’s first conference loss in 66 games. Chipola also had to beat Pensacola in a Feb. 28 playoff game to earn their spot in the state tournament.

When asked about his team’s composure since their exciting win in the state tournament, Lane said, “We’re finally back to where we need to be. We had a pretty good practice on Wednesday. We’re trying to get a game plan down.”

Lane is not looking at the Lady Indians’ first trip to the national tournament as a chance event. “We haven’t seen as many teams nationwide, but we came out of a pretty tough region to beat teams like Gulf Coast and Central Florida. Lane has a healthy respect for his team’s prospective opponents in the national tourney. “These are all quality teams. They’re all good enough to be there.

Continued on page 2
When you think about it, there are only 16 teams left out of all the teams that started the season and we’ve certainly earned our spot among them.”

Lane characterizes his Lady Indians as tough and undersized. “I would look at our team on paper and say that we have very little height, but we do have a 6-2 and a 6-3 player and we’ve got some athletic guards and some smart post players. We can be really good or we can be really bad depending on how we’re guarding and rebounding.” Lane said his team’s success in the state tournament was all about defense. “For two days—Friday and Saturday—we stepped up and guarded people.”

“There may be teams that look at us and wonder how we got here. But we beat Gulf Coast when they were ranked number one in the country and still had all of their players,” Lane said.

In preparation for the tournament coach Lane is doing the usual collecting of films of prospective opponents and talking with coaches, but he’s also mentally preparing his squad for success. Lane said, “We’re going to do what we can do to try to win the tournament. That’s our goal. We’re 28-6 and we’ve beaten some good teams. We feel like we can go out and do it. This will be a great experience for our players. Our sophomores really wanted the opportunity and they went out and fought for it.”

All Chipola games will be broadcast on WJAQ-100.9 FM in Marianna. The broadcast may be accessed via internet through a link on www.chipola.edu.

Both teams will depart Saturday, March 19, at 11 a.m. from the Milton H. Johnson Health Center. The teams will travel by bus to Atlanta where the men will practice in the Atlanta Dome, and the women will practice at Georgia Tech. The teams will fly to Wichita, KS, Sunday, and travel by van to their respective tournaments.

A Chipola Fan Bus will depart from the Milton H. Johnson Health Center, Sunday, March 20, at 8 a.m.

Women’s Tournament information is available at http://www.salinakansas.or/NJCAA/general.htm

Teacher Ed Program receives high marks

Chipola’s Teacher Education Program was recommended for full state approval today by the Florida Department of Education visiting team. The visiting team thoroughly evaluated every aspect of the campus and interviewed many faculty, administrators, and students. They were very complimentary of the program, personnel, and campus.

New programs of teacher education must satisfy nineteen rigorous standards to earn approval — our programs met all of them. Some the team’s commendations highlighted our well-designed curriculum, field experiences, clinical, and internship structure, student’s knowledge of subject matter, and our submissions to the state over the last year and a half.

The team expressed appreciation for the accommodations, meals, workroom, and the welcoming spirit with which they were received.
Men, continued from page 1

That’s why I’m so excited. I can tell in their demeanor that they want something special.”

Chipola is ranked fifth in the national poll.

Chipola finished sixth at nationals in 2004, but this year’s squad may have a little more depth. Heiar said, “Number one through 13 on our roster can suit up can all play well. They all bring something to the table. It’s rare to have a team with so many great players that can accept their roles.”

Mario Boggan, a sophomore transfer from the University of Florida is the backbone of the Indians. “Mario is a special player because he’s a team player. He averages 20 points a game, but he’s thinking pass first. He understands the game. He’s a force on the defensive end. He averaged nearly 3 blocks a game in recent outings and he’s playing with energy on both ends of the courts,” Heiar said.

“Brent Crews and Kendaris Pelton have also begun to understand how to play as a team. They make big shots and big plays. They’re great team guys. Brent played hardest three-game stretch I’ve ever seen one man play. He has tremendous much energy and enthusiasm,” Heiar said.

Anderson Ferreira has also improved on defensive end. Coach Heair, said, “He plays with so much energy and fire. When he comes ready to play, we’re a different team, because he’s a weapon. He’s found his role—his niche on this team. He understands that it’s all about winning. When he leaves Chipola, he’s going to have unbelievable opportunities. We’re a team, and Anderson has bought in to the team concept.”

Heiar also emphasizes the team play of freshmen Gerrard Jackson, Stefhon Hannah, Ryne Hamblet, Jimmy Sloss, Akeem Hemingway, Michael Taylor and Victor Gomez. “They’ve all come into their own as players and they’ve really matured and made exceptional plays game in and game out for this team. They’ve sacrificed individual Stardom for the betterment of the team and it’s paying off. Next year will be their time to shine, but for now they’re doing what we’re asking them to do to help us win.”

Heiar said that every player has a different role. “The ultimate role is to win the game. But individual roles can change game in and game out. They key is in understanding their role. If we play with an unbelievable amount of togetherness and confidence and energy it’s going to be hard for a team to beat us.”

Chipola will need four wins to bring home the national championship trophy.

The Championship game of the men’s tournament is set for Saturday, March 26, at 8 p.m. Men’s tournament information is available at http://www.njcaaabtrn.org/

All Chipola games will be broadcast on WJAQ-100.9 FM in Marianna. The broadcast may be accessed via internet through a link on www.chipola.edu

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FIN AID APPL. Summer applications are now available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are planning to enroll this summer session and you have not used all your Pell eligibility for the fall and spring, you need to stop by our office and complete a summer application. This means that if you were not full time in the fall, 2004 and spring, 2005, there is a possibility that you have available Pell money left.

These applications are numbered and must be completed in the financial aid office.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday
2 - 6 p.m.

TECH CENTER HOURS:
Monday-Thursday
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

PBL NEWS! PBL members are to load the bus for State Conference in front of the Arts Center at 3:30 a.m. on March 31. The bus will leave by 4 a.m.

Thank you Chipola students and staff for supporting the PBL Bake Sale. We raised $88. for the Marianna Cancer Relay for Life on April 29.

FREE LECTURE. Instructor Mark Ebel will be giving a lecture on the Mexican film, “Amores Perros” which was nominated for best foreign film in 2001 on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. The free event is open to the public.

FREE E-FILING. In order to help more local citizens get the most refund due them, volunteers from Chipola College, United Way and the Jackson County Development Council will offer free tax preparation, including free electronic filing. The free service will be available April 1 and 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chipola College.

Call 526-2761 x 3268.

UF SCHOLARS. The Department of Entomology and Nematology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Florida announces two upper division, full-tuition scholarships to qualified students interested in majoring in one of the six departmental degree tracks. Applications are available in Student Services.

REP ON CAMPUS. A representative from the University of West Florida will be in Building C from 9 a.m. - Noon on Monday, March 28 to meet with students.

SUCCESS CENTER HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
6 - 8:30 p.m.

TESTING CENTER HOURS:
Monday-Thursday
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
6 - 8:30 p.m.

The Success Center has compiled a TABE study guide that can be picked up in the Success Center, the Registrar’s Office and the Workforce Development Office. For more information concerning specific tests available, call 718-2284.

NEW BOOKSTORE HOURS:
Mon-Thurs 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FAHPERD SCHOLARS. The Florida Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (FAHPERD) is accepting scholarship applications until April 18, 2005. The $450 Scholarship is awarded to rising juniors and seniors who have graduated (or will graduate) from a Florida Community College and intend to attend a Florida college or university and major in Health Education, Physical Education, Recreation, or Dance Education.

Applications are available in Student Services.

GATOR ENCOUNTER. The University of Florida will host Gator Encounter 2005, the spring open house for the University of Florida’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), April 9 from 9 a.m. - Noon in the UF Gym.

This event is an opportunity for community college students and their parents to visit and learn about academic programs and opportunities in CALS.

Participants will learn about majors, pre-professional specializations, admission standards and scholarships in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Additional information, including registration, can be found online at: http://www.cals.ufl.edu/gatorencounter/

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH
28 Last Day to Withdraw from a Class for Spring
29-30 Children’s Theatre Auditions
31 McClendon Appl Deadline

APRIL
5 Mozart’s Requiem
6 Spring Frolics
11 Last Day to Resign from all Classes for Spring
12-13 Early Summer Reg for Currently Enrolled
13 SGA Blood Drive
21 Awards Ceremony
22 College Appl Deadline for Summer
28 Last Class Day - Spring
29 FINAL EXAMS

MAY
2-3 FINAL EXAMS
5 Grades Due 8 a.m.
5 Last Faculty Work Day
5 GRADUATION
6 Clast Reg Deadline
9 College Begins Four-Day Work Week
9 Faculty Returns - SSI
9 New & Returning Student Reg/Drop/Add

THIS WEEK

“Chipola This Week” is a weekly publication of the Chipola PR Office.

Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, March 30. Articles will be printed as space permits. E-mail Evelyn Ward at warde@chipola.edu.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK.
3/23 Bruce Culpepper
3/26 Gene Prough
3/27 Lisa Shores