Chipola beats OW for third time to take state title

Sections of fans around the Milton Johnson Center gave a standing ovation with every move by the Chipola College men’s basketball team. There was still plenty of time left, but there was no stopping the celebration.

The fans were deafening at the buzzer when it signaled that Chipola had captured its fourth Florida junior-college championship in the last five seasons. The Indians staved off nemesis Okaloosa-Walton College 89-78 in the title game on March 8.

For the third time in four games, the No. 2 Indians were just a little bit better than the No. 6 Raiders.

The Indians led 48-44 at halftime and 74-71 before outscoring the Raiders 15-7 over the final four minutes of the game. “It feels really good,” fourth-year Chipola coach Greg Heiar said after the win, his third state title as the Indians head coach and fourth as a member of the staff. “To do it against such great competition in the best league in the country is just really, really good. OW coach Bruce Stewart has a tremendous team. They made us work hard for everything we got tonight.”

Chipola defeated OW 56-52 and 90-81 in its two regular-season home meetings with the Raiders and lost 68-59 in Niceville.

The Indians were somewhat sluggish in their opening round win over Central Florida before coming back with a dominant performance in an 85-62 win over Indian River Friday night.

Chipola saved perhaps its best game for last, shooting nearly 45 percent from the floor, making ten 3-pointers and dishing out 22 assists to only 10 turnovers, while holding the Raiders to just 33 percent shooting.

“I told them it was stick and move today,” Heiar said. “It’s not about points. It’s not about stats. It’s not about minutes. It’s Continued on page 2
State title, continued from page 1

about stick and move. Boxers stick and move and it’s how a boxer becomes a champion. They are champions.”

The Indians played like a team that wouldn’t be denied for the last 20 minutes, turning back every run that the Raiders made. But the partisan crowd knew it wasn’t over even though their teams held a lead that proved insurmountable for the Raiders.

Chipola’s star sophomore Mario Little was named Tournament MVP with 24 points and seven rebounds on the night. Little said that, despite his team’s great balance and depth, he knew he would have to come up with a big night for his team to prevail. “I knew I had to assert myself offensively for us to win,” he said. “I hadn’t been playing that good in the tournament before tonight, but I knew I was going to have to assert myself if we were going to get it done.”

Little only scored nine of his 24 points in the second half, but the three he put in late in the game after OW’s Tay Waller cut the Chipola lead to 78-74 with 2:49 to play may have been final nail in the coffin.

“That was the biggest shot of the game, no doubt,” Heiar said. After the Indians got a stop on OW’s next possession, Vernon Teel made two free throws with 1:45 to play to give the Indians an 83-74 lead. A 3-point play by Keith Ramsey with 1:34 briefly gave the Raiders life again, making it 83-77. That was as close as OW would get, as the Indians successfully navigated their way through the Raiders’ full-court pressure, getting to the foul line eight times in the final 1:30, making six to seal the win.

“This is my first title ever, so I feel great,” Chipola forward Gary Flowers said after the game. Flowers didn’t have his typical impact on the game offensively and on the boards, collecting just eight points and three rebounds.

However, the long-armed, 6-foot-8-inch freshman more than made up for it by dominating the defensive end of the court, registering five steals and five blocks while altering several other OW shots in the paint.

Flowers said he got some encouragement from Heiar at intermission. “Coach really got on me at halftime. He said I was too worried about offense and not enough about defense,” he said. “That’s why I came out with a defensive mindset in the second half and focused on making plays defensively. That’s how you get five blocks and five steals.”

The game featured nine ties in a fast-paced first-half that featured 12 made 3-pointers combined, six from each team, as the two powerhouses traded punches for the first 20 minutes.

Chipola slowly started to separate in the second half, extending to a nine-point advantage at 59-50 on a Casey Mitchell three at the 13 minute mark. OW kept close, converting free throws to keep contact with the Indians. The Raiders made 8-of-9 at the charity stripe during a 2:38 stretch to pull to within four at 71-67 with 6:26 to play. Two more free throws by Josh Hunter with 3:41 to play made it a 3-point Chipola lead at 74-71.

A tip-in by Mitchell made it 76-71, then Malik Alvin got fouled on a break out after a Flowers block and made two free throws to make it 78-71 with 3:10 to play. But the sharp shooting Waller put in a fading triple to bring the Raiders to within four with just under three minutes to play, for the moment making it seem as though the game was destined to come down to the last shot.

Little’s 3-point answer quashed that notion and vanquished the season of a Raiders team that lost only four times all season, three coming to Chipola on the Indians’ home floor.

Chipola improves to 32-1 on the season and next travels to Hutchinson, Kansas, March 18-22, for the national tournament.

At least one Indian said that coming up short in Kansas would make Saturday night’s celebration an afterthought. “It wouldn’t mean as much, not at all,” Flowers said after the game. “It would just be one step along the way. We’re focusing on going to Kansas, taking four straight games and getting us the ring, the big ring.”

Pendergrass named to FCCAA Women’s Coaches Hall of Fame

Alice Pendergrass, Coordinator for the State Basketball Tournament, was named to the FCCAA Women’s Coaches Hall of Fame during a ceremony on March 7.

For more than a dozen years, Alice Pendergrass has been the “go-to girl” for the FCCAA State Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament.

In her role as Tournament Coordinator, Alice has her hands in every aspect of the event. But her job begins long before the first tip-off and extends well past the trophy presentations.

She personally recruits dozens of college and community volunteers to serve on 23 tournament committees. As tournament liaison to the Chipola Appreciation Club, she coordinates community volunteers and advance ticket sales.

Her financial responsibilities include everything from ticket sales to bill-paying. Following the event, she creates the Final Report which covers all financial, statistical and awards data.

Though the work is demanding, Alice admits that it’s always fun. “We have a great time working with the players, coaches and state officials,” Alice said. “All our guests say they appreciate our hospitality and hometown atmosphere. We have great crowds for all the games and many of the coaches and players tell us they’ve never been treated better.”

Alice has worked at Chipola for 18 years and has served as Tournament Coordinator for 12 of those. When she’s not working on the tournament, she serves as a Departmental Staff Assistant for Chipola’s Workforce Development division.
Graceville Lions establish Wilmer “Slim” Smith Scholarship

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Barber recently presented a check to the Chipola College Foundation to establish the Graceville Lions Club Wilmer “Slim” Smith Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

Mr. Smith or “Slim” as he was affectionately known was born on August 19, 1922, and lived his entire life in the Graceville-Campbellton area.

“Slim” was married to the former Lelah Womble of Madrid, AL, for more than 50 years. He served his country courageously during the World War II European Campaign. After military service, he owned and operated a welding shop in Campbellton for over 40 years.

He taught a welding class at Chipola in the late 1960’s. “Slim” was a member of the Graceville Lions for many years, serving the club in various capacities. His contribution to the Lions Annual Pancake Supper will be greatly remembered. This event was synonymous with Mr. Smith and was a source of great joy for him. He was a Person of great character and an asset to the community and the Graceville Lions.

He was an active member of The First Baptist Church of Graceville, where he served as deacon. “Slim” passed away Dec. 8, 2001.

The Graceville Lions Club - Wilmer “Slim” Smith Scholarship will provide partial tuition and/or books to a Graceville High or Poplar Springs High graduate with a minimum 2.75 GPA. Applicants should complete the standard Chipola Foundation Application which may be mailed to Wilmer “Slim.” Smith Scholarship Committee, Graceville Lions Club, P.O. Box 611 Graceville, FL, 32440 by March 31.

Chipola arts scholarships announced

Scholarship audition dates and deadlines for music, art, theatre, show choir and jazz band at Chipola College for 2008-2009 academic year have been announced.

Music and Theatre Scholarship Audition dates are March 20, and April 24. Visual Art Application and portfolio deadline is April 18. High School graduates with acceptable academic records and music, theatre, and art aptitude who plan to pursue studies as music, theatre or art majors are eligible to apply for scholarships.

Scholarships also are available for Show Choir, Jazz Band, and Chamber Chorus. Show Choir auditions are Tuesday, April 22, at 4 p.m. in the Chipola Arts Center. Students wishing to be considered for scholarship consideration in the Jazz Band and/or Chamber Chorus should contact Joan Stadsklev, Director of Fine and Performing Arts.

Scholarships in various amounts, up to full tuition and fees, are awarded on the basis of talent and academic record. Students with financial need may seek additional assistance through the college’s Office of Financial Aid and the Chipola Foundation.

Applications for art, music, theatre, and Show Choir may be obtained by phoning 850-718-2277 or 850-718-2301, or stadsklevj@chipola.edu. Applications are available on the college web site: www.chipola.edu by going to Departments and clicking on “Fine and Performing Arts.”

Chipola music students attend symposium

Chipola College music students and faculty recently attended the FCCAA Spring Music Symposium. Pictured from left, are: Joan Stadsklev, Administrator, Krysti Temples of Donalsonville, Mindy Shamblin of Donalsonville, Amy Redmond of Altha Jordan Coleman of Dothan, Lynda Henderson of Donalsonville, John Baumer of Altha, Rebecca Boggs of Cottondale, Dr. Josh Martin, professor; James Matthews of Wauchula, A. J. Herring of Marianna, Jason Sawyer of Marianna, David Worley of Chipley, Sam Toole of Chipley, Jeremy Redmond of Altha, Daniel Powell, professor.
Chipola Arts group to meet March 18

The Chipola Regional Arts Association (CRAA) will hold its March meeting on Tuesday, March 18, at the Chipley Women’s Club on Fifth Street at beginning 11:30 a.m.

As one of its many projects, the CRAA awards $200 mini-grants to school teachers in the Chipola District that make application to enhance their arts programming. In past years, 7-10 mini-grants have been awarded annually. This year, all 23 grants were funded thanks to the financial support CRAA receives through its annual fundraising campaign which takes place throughout the Chipola District.

CRAA programs for March will feature seven of the teachers located closer to Chipley and the remainder will share at the April 15 meeting to be held at Jim’s Buffet in Marianna. Teachers will share how they used their grant monies to further arts education in their respective schools.

Teachers presenting at the March 18 meeting will be Richard Davenport and Luwana Locke from Chipley High, Karen Bouton and Roberta Newell from Graceville Elementary, Heather Howell from Poplar Springs Elementary/Middle, and High School, and Christine Lauen and Vicki Steverson from Bonifay Elementary.

Visitors are welcome. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. catered by the Chipley Women’s Club.

Cost of the salad luncheon is $8. Reservations should be made by March 14, by calling either Anita Shealy at 850-718-2277 or Jeanne Lavender 850-638-1612.

Baseball and softball at home this week

Chipola baseball hosts Wallace-Dothan at 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, in the final pre-conference game before opening league play at Tallahassee on March 14, at 4 p.m.

The Indians return home Saturday, March 15, to host Tallahassee at 2 p.m.

Chipola split a twin bill with Meridian, 10-6 and 4-2 on March 9. Kyle Regnault earned the win in relief of Ben Jeffers in game one. Jason Townsend was the losing pitcher in game two.

The defending state and national champion Indians are 23-6-1 on the year.

The (20-4) Lady Indians softball team hosts Hartland College at 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 11.

Chipola begins their defense of the Panhandle title when they host North Florida, Tuesday, March 18, at 4 p.m.

ICUF Scholarship information available

Scholarship information for the ICUF Presidential Access Scholarship is available in Student Services, A-107.

Chipola can nominate two students who are graduating this spring or summer and who are planning to attend one of the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida.

Applicants must be full time, degree seeking, undergraduate, Florida residents, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

JOIN US. Students interested in joining a Debate/Oral Interpretation group are encouraged to contact Erin Witt at 547-5065 or email eronos_lookfar@yahoo.com or Carol Saunders at 526-2761, Ext. 3280. The group plans to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons in Z206.

FREE TAX HELP. Chipola business instructor Lee Shook and student volunteers are providing free tax preparation and free electronic filing. The free service—for individual tax returns only—is available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Fridays, through April 11. The free service usually takes no longer than 30 minutes. Call (850) 718 2368.

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD. SGA will sponsor a blood drive Wednesday, March 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Southeastern Community Blood Mobile will be parked on Indian Circle in front of the Literature/Language Building - Z. All of the blood donated will stay in this region. You need a picture ID to donate. Please donate!

CALLING CHARACTERS. Caricaturist Steve Gipson will be on campus Wednesday, March 19 in the Lobby of Building D from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by and have a free picture drawn. This event is sponsored by SGA.


UPCOMING EVENTS
MARCH
16  Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
18  District Board of Trustees
19  Caricaturist Steve Gipson
20  2008-09 Music and Theatre Scholarship Auditions
24-25 Auditions for Children's Production, Once Upon A Time...
25  Artist Series: Proteus 7
26  Night Student Social
27-29 FCCAA State Brain Bowl Tourney
28  Deadline to Apply for McLendon Scholarship for Summer I
31  Spring Break Holidays
APRIL
1-4 Spring Break Holidays
8 Last Day to Resign From All Classes for Spring Term
9 Spring Frolics — Classes Dismissed

THIS WEEK
“Chipola This Week” is a weekly publication of the Chipola PR Office.
Deadline for the next issue is 8 a.m., Wednesday, March 12. Articles will be printed as space permits. E-mail Evelyn Ward at warde@chipola.edu.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK
11-Mar Janice Holley
11-Mar Kathy Wheeler
16-Mar Robert Dunkle

ACT PREP. Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring an ACT Prep course. March 29 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the ACE Lab. The course is free and limited to the first 80 students to apply. Interested students should call 526-2761, ext. 3225 or ext. 3287.

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