Chipola Baseball Alumni Weekend set for Feb. 6-7

Major league baseball players and dozens of other former Chipola College baseball players are expected to return to their alma mater for the annual Chipola Baseball Alumni Weekend Feb. 6-7.

The weekend will include live college baseball action, a Homerun Derby, great food and the chance to rub elbows with the pros, including two-time MLB Homerun champ Jose Bautista and his newest Toronto Blue Jays teammate, All-Star catcher Russell Martin.

The Chipola Indians—the number five team in the NJCAA National pre-season rankings—will play Walters State in two games: the first on Friday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m., and again, Saturday, Feb. 7, at 11 a.m.

Chipola will play two games Sunday, Feb. 8; Columbia at 12:30 p.m. and St. Johns River at 3 p.m.

Chipola’s MLB stars Bautista and Martin will lead their fellow alumni in a Homerun Derby beginning at noon Saturday, Feb. 7. Honorary Chipola Alumnus Jeff Mathis will also compete.

The college will officially retire MLB All-Star Patrick Corbins’s Chipola jersey before the Homerun Derby. Corbin played at Chipola in 2009 before being drafted by Anaheim in the second round. Corbin debuted with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2012, and in 2013 earned a spot on the National League All-Star Roster after posting a 14-8 regular season record.

An MLB Autograph session will follow the Homerun Derby. There is a $10 admission charge to the autograph session. Fans are also invited to purchase fresh Grouper Lunch plates for $10 in advance or at the event.

Chipola alumnus Tom Kotchman, a member of the MLB Scouting Hall of Fame, is scheduled to speak at Chipola Baseball Alumni Dinner and Auction, set for Saturday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m., at Citizen’s Lodge. Kotchman played at Chipola in the late 70’s. His son Casey Kotchman had a nine-year career in the big leagues beginning in Anaheim and ending in Miami in 2013. His daughter Christal played on the Chipola softball team. Visiting big-leaguers have donated thousands in memorabilia to support the Chipola program. Tickets for the Dinner/Auction are $100.

Coach Johnson, says, “We appreciate all the fans and former players who come out to support our program. These guys are so generous with their time and resources. It means a lot to our program.”

Baseball-Reference.Com has a complete list of all former Chipola players selected in the Major League Draft at www.baseball-reference.com/schools/index.cgi?key_school=2d5e45bb

Other alumni-only activities are scheduled throughout the weekend. For information about alumni happenings, email Nathan Marks at nathan@marksinsurance.com, visit www.chipola.edu or phone Brent Shelton at 850-272-0014.
Chipola battling in Panhandle Conference

Chipola hosts Northwest for Homecoming, Saturday, Jan. 31, in the Johnson Center. The women tip off at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men at 7:30 p.m. Chipola president Dr. Jason Hurst and his wife, Alisa, will host a Homecoming Alumni Reception, Jan. 31, in the Hospitality Room beginning at 6 p.m. All alumni, college retirees and friends of the college are invited.

The top-ranked Lady Indians will be looking to avenge their Jan. 17 (67-54) loss to Northwest. In the Chipola’s only misfire of the season, the Lady Indians led 30-25 at the half, but the Lady Raiders outscored Chipola 42-24 in the second half.

The Lady Indians improved to 5-1 in league play with a 60-49 win over Gulf Coast on Jan. 24. Evelyn Akhator led Chipola with 23 points and 14 rebounds. Sueterrica Key had 15 points. Rosemarie Julienne had 10.

Chipola scored a 71-41 win at Pensacola on Jan. 21. Leading scorer for Chipola was Key with 21 points. Julienne had 17 points. Akhator had 14 points and 13 rebounds.

The Indians fell to 1-5 in league play following a 70-53 loss to Gulf Coast on Jan. 24. Dejuan Marrero led Chipola with 12 points. Greg King scored 11, and Ty Baker had 9.

Chipola lost a close 50-42 game at Pensacola on Jan. 21. Dejuan Marrero led Chipola with 19 points and 9 rebounds. Greg King scored 7 points and pulled in 3 rebounds.


Both Chipola teams have a week off before hosting Pensacola Saturday, Feb. 7. The final home game of the season is set for Feb. 17 against Tallahassee.

Jeff Johnson named athletic director

Long-time Chipola baseball coach Jeff Johnson was recently named the college’s Athletic Director. He will continue in his role as head baseball coach.

Johnson said, “I’m excited about the opportunity to lead Chipola’s athletic programs. The college has a great record for winning and preparing student-athletes for success at the next level. I want to build on our strong community and alumni support to continue to make our fans and alumni proud of Chipola athletics.”

In 18 seasons at the helm of the Chipola baseball program, coach Johnson has lead the Indians to an NJCAA National Championship in 2007, three FCSAA State Titles and nine Panhandle Conference Championships. Johnson’s Indians have made the FCSAA State Tournament 13 straight years with seven appearances in the title game. The Indians finished second in the state four times and among the top four eight times. Chipola has made three trips to the NJCAA National Tournament in the last seven years including a 2007 national title.

More than 120 of Johnson’s former players have moved on to play at four-year colleges across the nation. Chipola also has been called a pro-baseball factory with more than 76 players signing professional contracts in Johnson’s 18 seasons. Most notable among the coach’s former players in the pros are Jose Bautista of the Blue Jays, a two-time MLB Homerun champion; Russell Martin, All-Star catcher for the Blue Jays.

Johnson played college baseball at Gulf Coast State College and the University of Central Florida. He set UCF’s all-time career saves record.

Johnson’s wife Nancy is Student Activities Director at Chipola. Their daughter, Shelbie, is an early admission freshman and a Chipola cheerleader.

Ignite the Night 5K Fun Run

Raising Dollars for Scholars
When? Friday, March 6th
Registration at 5:00pm
Race Starts at 6:00pm
Where? Citizens Lodge in Marianna

Reduced Fee for Students K-12th Grade $15 Kids Under 5 FREE
Pre-registration due February 20th
Forms can be printed from JCSC.org
Questions? smithm@chipola.edu or (850) 718-2428

Black History program set for Feb. 20
Chipola will host a Black History Month Program, Friday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m., in the Continuing Education Center. Dinner will be served. The theme for the program is “It’s a Family Affair.” For information about the event, contact Dr. Willie Spires at 718-2232.
There’s No Place Like Home—

Tickets go on sale Feb. 11 for the Chipola College Theatre production of “The Wizard of Oz.” The show opens a five-day run, Feb. 25.

Here, Kate Burke rehearses for her role as Dorothy. Tickets may be purchased online at www.chipola.edu, and at the Center for the Arts Box Office, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon on Friday. For ticket information, call 718-2420.

Brain Bowl wins North Florida Sectional

The Chipola Brain Bowl A Team won the North Florida NAQT Sectional on Jan. 24 earning an automatic bid to the Community College National Championship in Atlanta on Feb. 27-28.

The team went undefeated (9-0) in the tournament. Other competing teams were: Tallahassee, Gulf Coast, Northwest, Pensacola, Florida Gateway, Florida Jacksonville and South Georgia.

Chipola A team members are: Brent Patten, Vallen Driggers, Jimmy Brown and Ben Whiddon. All four members of the well-balanced Chipola finished among the top 16 individual scorers. Vallen Driggers placed 6th, Brent Patten 7th, Ben Whiddon 11th and Jimmy Brown 16th.

Chipola will next play at Gulf Coast Feb. 6-7 in the Panhandle State Regional, and then at the Community College National Championship in late February. Chipola finished as the national runner-up last year, and is the seven-time defending state champion.

Brain Bowl coaches are Stan Young, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and volunteer assistant coach Dr. Robert Dunkle.

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CHIPOLA TALENT SHOW

The student body enjoyed 16 different acts in the annual Homecoming Talent Show held Wednesday. Here, Aaliyah Raines performs in the show.

1st – George Kleinpeter, Daniel Clubb, Alex Layton & Anna Wescot
2nd – Aaliyah Raines
3rd – Debbie Graham, Alex Layton & Alex Ozbun

Chipola will celebrate Homecoming with games against Northwest Florida, Saturday, Jan. 31 starting at 5:30 p.m. Chipola president Dr. Jason Hurst and his wife, Alisa, will host an Alumni Reception beginning at 6 p.m. The homecoming court will be presented during halftime of the men’s game which begins at 7:30 p.m.

CAAP test registration deadline is Feb. 6

All students seeking an Associate in Arts Degree are required to take the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) prior to graduation. Students planning to graduate in May 2015 must register by Feb. 6 for the March 14 exam. Summer graduates may take the CAAP on May 16 with an April 23 deadline.

Students must attain a score of 45 or higher on each CAAP subtest: Writing Skills, Reading, Mathematics, Critical Thinking, and Science.

The CAAP is given three times per year. Registration forms are available in the Testing Center in Bldg A, or you may print a PDF version and fax or mail to the Testing Center. To print a registration form, click the link: http://chipola.edu/instruct/testing/caap.htm A Student User Guide with sample questions is available in the Testing Center. Additional information is available at http://www.act.org/caap/pdf/userguide.pdf

CAAP is a graduation requirement. Students will not receive a degree without meeting minimum scores set for the CAAP. Direct all questions to Becky Davis at 850-718-2283 or email davisr@chipola.edu.

Graduating in spring or summer? Apply now.

Are you eligible to graduate from Chipola this spring or summer? Final responsibility for all graduation requirements rests with the student. You must submit an Application for Diploma to receive your degree and diploma. Graduation is not automatic. The deadline for spring and summer graduates to apply is Feb. 25.

Steps to Graduate

1. Print or obtain an Application for Diploma from the Admissions and Records Office in the Student Services Building A.
2. Meet with your adviser, program instructor, or one of the advisers in Students Affairs and request an Unofficial Graduation Check. If you are eligible to graduate this spring or summer, complete and submit your Application for Diploma to the Admissions and Records Office by the Feb. 25 deadline. Students submitting applications after the deadline may not be listed in the commencement program.
3. Submit a separate application for each degree or certification you are seeking.

The 2015 Commencement Ceremony is Thursday, May 7, at the Dothan Civic Center. To participate, you must complete an Application to March by March 1.

Summer graduates and students who have academic issues that delay graduation may still participate in the ceremony. They must complete an Application to March by March 1.

All degrees must be completed by the Spring 2015 Commencement. Students who plan to graduate in May 2015 must register by Feb. 25.

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Chipola encourages the health and wellness of all employees. To help employees meet their wellness goals, the college offers a 90 for 90 Plan. With supervisor approval, employees may leave their work station for up to 90 minutes a week to engage in approved wellness activities as long as they engage in the activity for up to 90 minutes of their own time.

An example would be to leave work 30 minutes early Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to workout for a total of one hour each of those days. Another example would be to arrive at work 15 minutes late Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to workout for a total of one hour each of those days.

Employees should complete a Wellness Center Administrative Leave and Personal Time Log and submit to Human Resources at the end of each month. Administrative leave does not apply during days the college is closed and may not be accumulated. Leave must be matched with personal time during the same calendar week – Sunday midnight to Saturday midnight. Personal time is not personal leave; it is time beyond the regular work schedule.