Lady Indians are Conference Champs; headed to state

The Chipola Lady Indians won the Panhandle Conference title with a 70-61 win over the Lady Raiders on Feb. 21. Sueterrica Key and Auteaonna Gilmore each scored 20 points to lead Chipola. Evelyn Akhator had 15 points, 16 rebounds and 4 assists. Rosemarie Julien had 15 points.

Akhator is this week’s NJCAA Region 8/FCSAA Women’s Basketball Player of the Week for the sixth time this season. A sophomore from Lagos, Nigeria, she averaged 24.5 points, 18.0 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.5 steals and 5.0 blocks in two games during the voting period. She recorded double-doubles in wins against two nationally-ranked opponents. Against Tallahassee on Feb. 17, she shot 14-of-19 from the floor en route to a 34-point, 20-rebound effort. Four nights later, her 15 points and 16 rebounds helped Chipola to a 70-61 win at Northwest and the Indians’ second straight Conference Championship. For the week, Akhator shot 74.1 percent (20-of-27) from the floor and 64.3 percent (9-of-14) from the free throw line.

Chipola plays Miami-Dade in the FCSAA State Tournament, Wednesday, March 4, at noon (CST).

Chipola finished the regular season at 11-1 in the league and 27-1 overall. Northwest (9-3) is the second place team from the Panhandle in the state tournament. Gulf Coast (6-7) beat Tallahassee in a one-game playoff to earn the third place berth in the State Tournament.

The Lady Indians have held on to the top spot in the FCSAA State Poll all season and recently moved up to second in the NJCAA National Poll.

**2 MONDAY**
- Deadline for Summer 2015 Schedule Changes
- SGA Meeting, Bldg. Z rm. 116; 1:30 p.m.
- Application Deadline for March Audition for Music and Theatre Scholarships

**3 TUESDAY**
- Student Ambassadors, Bldg. Z rm. 201; 1:30 p.m.
- Last Class Day for Spring Term B
- Early Reg. Spring Term C; 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Community Chorus, CFA Experimental Theatre at 6 p.m.

**4 WEDNESDAY**
- Grades Due Term B – 8 a.m. Classes Begin - Spring Term C
- Late Reg., Drop/Add & Employee Fee Waiver Reg. for Spring Term C; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**5 THURSDAY**
- FCA Meeting, Staff Dining Room; 7 p.m.

**7 SATURDAY**
- Music Through Performance Hymn Festival, Bldg. H; 9 a.m. – noon

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 Chipola College Show Choir & Special Guests
March 12 & 13, 2015
7:00 p.m. at the Chipola Center for the Arts
Search begins for new men’s basketball coach

Chipola Athletics Director Jeff Johnson on Monday, Feb. 23, announced that men’s basketball coach Patrick Blake is stepping down. The search for a new head coach is underway.

The Indians concluded the season Saturday with a fifth place finish in the Panhandle Conference, and an overall 10-19 mark. Athletic Director Jeff Johnson said, “Coach Blake is a fine young man with a bright future. He has a great record for helping his players graduate and move on to the next level. We wish him the best in his coaching career.”

Blake served at Chipola for five years, the first two as an assistant and three seasons as Head Coach. He compiled an overall record of 62-30. The 2014 season included a Panhandle Conference Championship, NJCAA Region VIII/FCSAA State Championship, and an NJCAA Elite Eight Appearance. He was named Conference and State coach of the year in 2014. His squad was named an All-American Academic team with a 3.12 team GPA. All of Coach Blake’s sophomores graduated during his three-year tenure.

All five starters from the 2013-14 team signed major athletic scholarships: Bowers (Auburn), Sam Cassell, Jr. (UConn), Torian Graham (Houston), Carlos Morris (Minnesota), and Demetrious Floyd (Stephen F. Austin). Sam Cassell, Jr. earned NJCAA All-American honors and was named the FCSAA Male Athlete of the Year.

Coach Blake said, “I’ll miss the great Chipola fans and community support. This is a big-time program with high expectations. I’ll forever be grateful for the opportunity to coach at Chipola.”

In the 2012-13 season, the Indians compiled a 26-5 record, and a 2nd place finish in the Conference.

Before Chipola, Blake served as a graduate assistant under Coach Andy Kennedy at the University of Mississippi. Blake graduated from the University of Louisville with a degree in Business Marketing. At Louisville, he was a student manager for Coach Rick Pitino for four years, serving as head manager for the last two. Blake is a native of Evansville, Indiana.
Chipola, DCF and local partners host third annual Champs Camp

Nearly a dozen youth in foster care or youth receiving services experienced college life during the recent two-day Chipola Champs Camp.

Campers were recognized at a Chipola basketball game and four students participated in a Big Money Sweep which netted cash prizes.

Campers and college students observed science experiments and enjoyed homemade, liquid nitrogen ice cream during a presentation by the Science Club with Dr. Jeff Bodart and Dr. David Hilton.

Later, youth joined with Cosmetology and Automotive students “Cars and Curls,” hosted by automotive instructors John Gardner, Chase Vlieg and cosmetology instructors Paige Vanderwerf and Ada Scott. Campers had the opportunity to indulge in a variety of salon services or analyze the workings of an auto wheel and tire.

Students experienced virtual reality in an Oculus Rift activity led by Glenda Bethel, Technology instructor. Student Activities Director Nancy Johnson and college students organized relay races for the group. Welding Instructor Curtis Jenkins led the students in a welding simulator competition. Theatre Director Charles Sirmon led a program which included activities with the stars of the Wizard of Oz.

Dr. Bryan Craven, Chipola PR Director, organized the camp. He said, “We enjoy having the students on our campus to have some fun and to learn about opportunities for higher education. We appreciate our staff and students for giving their time to the camp.”

All runners and walkers are invited to participate in the Ignite the Night 5K Fun Run/Walk, Friday, March 6, at 6 p.m., at Citizens Lodge.

The Jackson County Take Stock in Children Program along with the Lighting the Way for Kids Foundation of Jackson County are the co-hosts.

Mary Helen Smith, Take Stock Program Manager, says, “Come get your glow on and help us raise dollars for scholars. The race is meant for everyone, not just avid runners. If you can run, jump, walk, skip, or even crawl, we’d love for you join us wearing your glow-in-the-dark gear.” The entire race will be run inside the Citizens Lodge Park to ensure safety. Award medals will be given for first, second and third places overall and in each age division. All money raised will go to Chipola scholarships to help low-income/at risk students in Jackson County.

Registration will also be held at the race. Cost is $20 for adults, $15 for students and free for kids under five. For info, contact Smith at (850)718-2428 or smithm@chipola.edu. Visit www.chipola.edu/tsic or on Facebook at Take Stock in Children-Chipola College.

NEAL IS CHIPOLA EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH— Tammy Neal is Chipola College’s Career Employee for February. Neal serves as a Departmental Staff Assistant in the Public Service Department and has worked at the college since 1998. Pictured from left, are: Steve Anderson, Director of Criminal Justice/Public Service, Tammy Neal and Darwin Gilmore, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development.
Talent search students tour Chipola workforce programs

Some 40 Talent Search students recently toured the Chipola Workforce Development programs. Talent Search is a TRIO program funded by the federal government.

Students visited Public Service which includes Corrections, Law Enforcement and Firefighting. Steve Anderson gave a presentation on job benefits and how these jobs lead to promotions and awarding careers.

Students saw a clip of “Tech Garage,” which stars Chipola automotive instructor John Gardner. He shared some myths about the automotive industry, one being that auto service jobs are for people who can’t get into college. He stressed that today’s vehicles are highly technical and that automotive requires the brightest students.

Ada Scott, Cosmetology educator, demonstrated some of the latest techniques in hair styling and offered information about careers.

Welding instructors, Curtis Jenkins and Johnny Markham discussed job opportunities in the area and the fact that welding is bringing high-skilled labor back to the U.S.

Shanna May from the School of Nursing discussed the latest educational trends in nursing including the human patient simulators and ambulance simulators.

Mark Panichella topped off the Workforce Development experience in the culinary program with information about jobs in the field and a chocolate pastry for the students.

For information about Chipola’s Workforce programs, visit www.chipola.edu or call 850-526-2761 and ask for the specific program area of interest.

Troy University offers two scholarship opportunities to any Chipola student transferring to Troy online, Troy campus or Dothan campus, with at least 45 hours. The Merit Scholarship requires a 3.5 GPA and is a 2-year renewable $3,000 award. The Achievement Scholarship requires a 3.25 GPA and is a 2-year renewable $2,000 award. The application for both scholarships is the same. Students should apply this link https://forms.troy.edu/forms/scholarship/admissions/TransferMeritandTransferAchievementScholarship.html Contact Matthew Wright at 850-747-0634 or matthew.wright@troy.edu

Small Business Seminars set at Chipola

Chipola will offer two small business seminars in March and April. Both will meet on Fridays, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building (M).

“Marketing Series, Using Social Media” is Friday, March 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will learn social media strategy, new marketing techniques, and unlock the secret of the top social media sites to establish an online presence. Topics include search engine optimization, website effectiveness, mobile-friendly sites, connecting with customers and revitalizing image. Honey Nixon will teach the course. Registration deadline is March 11.

“Steps to Starting a Business” is Friday, April 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The course will focus on organizational requirements, licensing for a business, financial assessments, insurance, marketing, loans, defining customers, location and employee requirements. The class will be taught by Johnny Branch CPA, MBA.

Cost of each seminar is $35. Participants may register online at www.northfloridabiz.com, by clicking on Workshops.

The first six Chipola students to sign up will receive free admission. Students should contact Elissa Severson at 718-2441 or sign up in Building M, (108).

For information, call 850-718-2441 or email seversone@chipola.edu