Fred’s Dance Barn to close

Alicia Wade
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Fred’s Dance Barn is set to dance in its last Texas Two-Step.

The Dance Barn, located in Carterville, will close Dec. 9 after 39 years of serving as the Home of the Dancing Pig and live country music. The Carterville Community School District is in the process of acquiring the property.

Bill Capie, president of the Carterville Board of Education, said the barn would be used as a storage facility. The district hopes to build a high school in the area, and acquiring the property would allow for an entrance and exit onto Grand Avenue from the high school parking lot, Capie said.

“This makes sure we have a good neighborhood there because the neighbor would be us,” Capie said. “But we have never had any problems with Fred’s Dance Barn.”

But with the bring-your-own-cooler environment and social reputation of the Dance Barn, the acquisition of the property has some in the school district laughing.

“We have a running joke that the school board is going to be having parties there, but that is not going to happen,” Capie said.

Owner Barrett Rochman said the driving force for the closing of Fred’s Dance Barn came from negative media attention when Larry Williams, 23, was shot and killed near the building in late January. Rochman said while the shooting took place between 400 and 500 feet from the establishment, the effect was still felt on the dance floor.

“It became ‘someone was executed at the exit,’” Rochman said. “Friday we had a great night. Saturday we had a great night. But the next week there was a huge drop (in attendance).”

He said the dance barn was accustomed to seeing between 300 and 350 people a night, but the number fell to between 100 and 150 people after the shooting.

See FRED’S, Page 5

AIDS Awareness Week events begin today

Sarah Lohman
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Nothing will stop Amy Peradotta from planting 2,454 red, pink and white flags in the lawns of the Student Center at 1 p.m. today.

“We will be out there, rain or shine,” said Peradotta, a coordinator for SIUC’s AIDS Awareness Week, which starts today and ends Friday.

The planting will mark the start of AIDS Awareness Week, sponsored by the Student Programming Council, Student Center Special Programs and Center Events, and the Jackson County Health Department.

The flags will represent the 40 million people who live with AIDS worldwide.

“The pink flags will represent women. We’re trying to raise awareness, especially among women, to help with their decisions to help prevent AIDS,” Peradotta said.

The week features health fairs, free HIV tests, speakers and workshops.

Three workshops will discuss the impact of AIDS on society, and especially women, Peradotta said.

Student Health Center coordinator Christy Hamilton’s workshop, “Sex in the Dark,” is geared toward the entire population. The workshop will offer a chance for people to get answers to sex questions.

“We’re trying to get participants to be able to ask questions in a more anonymous manner regarding something they’re either always wanted to know (but) never had the opportunity to ask, or were too embarrassed to ask,” Hamilton said.

Once the papers are collected, the lights will be turned off. Presenters will have flashlights and will answer questions from the slips of paper.

Hamilton said this provides attendees the opportunity to contact the room and preserve the anonymity.

Hamilton has given workshops of this type before and said she has gotten a gamut of questions dealing with topics that ranged from sexual behavior to myths and misconceptions.

She said she is glad to have the opportunity to help with the week.

“We want people to understand their testing options and how to make responsible decisions regarding their health and sexual decision making,” Hamilton said.

Sarah Lohman can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 255 or sarah_lohman@dailyEgyptian.com.

AIDS Awareness Week events

Tuesday
• Health Fair — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
• Candlelight Walk — 5:30 – 6 p.m.
• Sex in the Dark — 7 – 8 p.m.

Wednesday
• Health Fair — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
• Sex in the Dark — Noon – 1 p.m.
• “Through the Fire” — 7 – 8 p.m.

Thursday
• Health Fair — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
• Free Anonymous HIV Testing — 2 – 6 p.m.

Friday
• Health Fair — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
• “Walking on Sunshine” — 7 – 9 p.m.
• “Sometimes I Cry” — 7 – 9 p.m.
Police investigating restaurant employee’s death

CHICAGO (AP) — Police have arrested a Butler University student and his body was found early Monday morning at the suburban restaurant, officials said.

The slaying appeared to be related to a robbery at the restaurant, according to the Lake County Police Department.

Authorities in this Lake County community were conducting a homicide investigation the first such investigation in more than a year for the village.

Police said the cause of death had been determined. Authorities would not release the woman’s name pending the verification of next of kin.

Lake County Deputy State’s Attorney Jeff Pavlic said the body may have been found near an open safe, adding that police found no money or valuables inside the safe.

Poll: Giuliani, McCain, Obama ranking high with voters, former candidate Kerry in last place

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Americans have their warmest feelings about former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, according to a poll released Monday that shows the popularity of national leaders.

The Quinnipiac University “Thermometer” measure, taken the week after the Nov. 7 election, asked voters to rate their feelings for 20 leaders on a scale of 0 to 100.

Giuliani, a Republican weighing a presidential bid in 2008, was in the lead at 94, while Obama and McCain, who are also considering a 2008 campaign, finished next at 88 and 87.

President Bush was 15th out of 20 while his secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, was fourth and former President Clinton 88th.

Blagojevich hasn’t paid for video lawsuit

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s administration has not ordered him to pay $510,200 in legal fees it was ordered to pay after losing a lawsuit over regulating video games, leading the game industry to ask a federal judge for help.

The judge ruled in August that the state must pay the legal costs of the video-game industry, which successfully blocked the Democratic governor’s plan to prohibit the sale of violent and sexually explicit video games to minors.

But lawyers from Jenner & Block in Washington, D.C., say they haven’t received the money or an explanation for the delay, according to court documents. They say they were back to the courtroom earlier this month to ask the judge to force the administration to comply.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly, who struck down the video game restrictions in December as unconstitutional, is scheduled to rule next month whether the case is still pending.

He could set a deadline for the state to pay.

Blagojevich spokesman Gerardo Cardenas would not discuss the matter beyond saying the state “will comply with any court order.” He refused to explain why the administration hasn’t complied with the Aug. 9 court order or when it will do so.

POLICE REPORTS

Criminal damage to state property occurred at 9:34 a.m. Sunday on West Columbia Row. A window was reported damaged. There are no suspects at this time.

A burglary occurred between 2:40 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. Thursday at the Residence Center. A wallet and cellular telephone were reported stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

A theft occurred between 5:10 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. Sunday at the Administration Center. A wallet and cellular telephone were reported stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

SUMMARY

• Blagojevich’s administration has not ordered him to pay $510,200 in legal fees it was ordered to pay after losing a lawsuit over regulating video games.

• The case is pending.

• There are no suspects at this time.

Weather

A cold front moves into the region late Tuesday.

A winter storm will bring snow and a high of 30 degrees to the area Wednesday.

Thursday will be sunny with a high of 42 degrees.

Temperatures will be in the mid-20s to low-30s from Friday through Saturday.

Temperatures will be in the upper-20s to low-30s Sunday.
Smoke doesn’t clear in Carbondale

David Lopez

After petitions, studies and numerous rallies, the Smoke-Free Carbondale Coalition’s push for clean air has suffered a major setback.

According to Simon, a two-hour delibera-
tion at the Nov. 21 City Council meeting, the council failed to pass the Carbondale Clean Indoor Air Act that would have banned smoking in all the city’s bars and restaurants. The motion required a four-vote majority to pass among the seven-member council.

Councilman Steven Hayes abstained from voting on the matter because of a conflict of interests. He noted that his other job was working as manager of a Kroger grocery store that sells cigarettes. Because of his missing vote, the council was split evenly 3-3, and the motion failed to pass.

Lisa Mann, chairwoman of the Smoke-Free Carbondale Coalition and a representative of the American Cancer Society, was disappointed at the ruling but remained hopeful.

“We’re going to continue to be present in the community, this doesn’t change a thing,” she said. “Our main goal is still to protect people.”

She said there currently are no plans for any rallies or actions, but that they still encourage people to make their voices heard through yard signs.

Paulette Sherwood is part of the Smoke-Free Carbondale Coalition and was at the City Council meeting.

“We’re not denying anyone the right to vote on personal issues, but clean indoor air should not infringe on my health,” she said.

Smoke-Free Carbondale held a rally in the Student Center on Nov. 16, the Thursday before the City Council meeting, to raise support for the proposed ordinance. About 75 people attended, including councilwoman and League.

At the Nov. 21 city council meeting, to raise support for the proposed ordinance, the ordinance will some day come to fruition,” Simon said. “I think they’re taking our freedoms away,” said Becky Denon, owner of JW’s Lounge in Springfield. Dennis commented that several area bars are close to shutting down because of lack of business.

While several restaurants have actually seen an increase in revenue in Springfield, there has been a bar-sponsored push to amend Springfield’s ordinance to exclude bars that make most of their revenue from alcohol. At the Nov. 21 city council meeting, the amendment was defeated by a 4-6 vote.

Despite the setback, many advocates of Smoke-Free Carbondale feel the ordinance will some day come to pass.

“It will be clear in the next meeting, said Simon. “I think it will come before the City Council again, Simon said. “I believe it’s only a matter of time before Carbondale joins other college towns and major cities and goes smoke free.”

David Lopez can be reached at 618-536-3311 ext. 253 or david_lopez@dailyegyptian.com.
Justice Department watchdog to review domestic spying program

WIRE REPORTS

IRAQ

U.S. jet crashes in Iraq, oil facility set on fire

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Mortar rounds crashed into an oil processing facility near the northern city of Kirkuk on Monday, igniting a huge blaze, and a U.S. Air Force jet with one pilot crashed while supporting American soldiers fighting in Anbar province, a hotbed of Iraq’s Sunni Arab insurgency.

The fire at the pipeline filtering facility shut down the flow of crude to the northern Iraq, shutting the flow of crude to a major refinery. And a U.S. Air Force jet crashed while supporting American soldiers fighting in Anbar province, a hotbed of Iraq’s Sunni Arab insurgency.

The facility is 15 miles northwest of Kirkuk, a city which sits amid some of Iraq’s richest crude oil deposits.

Earlier Monday, a bomb exploded beneath an oil pipeline south of Baghdad and set it on fire, and Iraqi and American forces were deployed to secure the area, police said.

JERUSALEM

Olmert urges Palestinians to return to table

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert reached out to the Palestinians on Monday in one of his most conciliatory speeches yet, saying he was prepared to grant autonomy to Palestinian Authority-controlled areas, provided the Palestinians made the peace move.

Olmert appealed to the Palestinians to form a new, moderate Cabinet committed to a return to the U.S.-backed peace process and implementation of the road map.

Olmert’s remarks sealed a dramatic policy shift and built on a day-old truce meant to end five months of violence in the Gaza Strip, but new rocket attacks by Palestinian militants threatened the latest rapprochement.

“Let us work to rebuild a peace in peac e between our Palestinian neighbors in the hope that it won’t be returned empty,” Olmert said.

“The peace move that we have just started is a genuine peace move that is based on the rule of law and the desire of the双方 to choose the path of peace.”

Robert Dupont issued a statement on behalf of the River of Life Ministries. "We were warning of the flames. The home had 32 residents and two employees inside when the fire was reported around 1 a.m. The dead ranged in age from early 20s to elderly. Another 18 people were taken to hospitals, and six were treated at the scene, authorities said.

"Firefighters found a woman in the fire, and the home, and the other nine were residents, Blunt said. Authorities did not plan to release names until relatives were notified.

"Officials refused to say how the victims died or whether they had any warning of the flames. The home had fire alarms but no sprinklers. Authorities said that they were called to the home by a neighbor who had seen the smoke."
Cole said the gang task force was disbanded before he was elected in 2002, and the idea for an intervention task force came from last year's major case in Carbondale. He said he received a report at the conference that discussed gang intervention and violence prevention.

"I'm not saying we have the Crips and the Bloods here in Carbondale," he said. "What I'm saying is we have young people, and there are things we can pick out of their daily lives and some of their activities that will indicate where we have problems." Cole said the task force could help resolve issues such as increasing instances of graffiti. He also said youth employment, such as the clean-up program, and identifying areas where the kids have both in school and in the city could have a positive impact on kids and the community as a whole.

"If somebody doesn't think there are problems out there with young people, then they're incredibly naive," Cole said. "This isn't saying that we have huge problems — every community has something — we just need to be in front of it, instead of cleaning up after it." Steve Sabens, superintendent of Carbondale Community High School District 165, said Cole and the City Council have been supportive of the school district in the past, and he looks at the new initiatives as preventative measures.

"It's more of a proactive approach and looking for the issues and trying to define the problems and find the solutions," Sabens said. He said the schools and the city have the same goal — to make Carbondale a better, safer community — and he said trying to head off potential problems before they get too bad would have a positive impact on the whole community.

Cole said the group, which should be in place by the end of the year, could be larger than normal and could have as many as 17 or 18 members. He said he is looking for a cross-section of the community and wants to find people from "the trenches" who work with youths every day on a personal level. He said the task force would work with city officials on a daily basis and make recommendations to the city council if any formal action was deemed necessary. He also said the task force would not use the city's money, unless one of their recommendations required the council to dip into the general fund.

Brandon Augsburg can be reached at 536-3314 ext. 262 or brandon_augsburg@dailyEgyptian.com.

**Court turns down New York Times in leak investigation**

_Lubna Takruri_  
**WASHINGTON** — Authorities briefly closed the Lincoln Memorial on Monday after finding suspicious containers and a note reading, "Do you know what anthrax is? Do you know what a bomb is?" The memorial was reopened less than three hours later. No injuries were reported.

W Benton, a battalion chief with the District of Columbia fire department. Cole said the gang task force would "track gang patterns and have data to define the problems and find the solutions." Sabens said. He said the schools and the city have the same goal — to make Carbondale a better, safer community — and he said trying to head off potential problems before they get too bad would have a positive impact on the whole community.

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Dawgs can fly

A spacey Saluki is nothing new, but a Saluki in space, that’s something to make note of. On Dec. 7, SIUC alumna Joan Higginbotham will become the first graduate of this school to take part in a space shuttle mission. Higginbotham’s history with NASA stems from her first job as a payload electrical engineer, which came after her graduation in 1987.

Since then, she has built herself up with a distinguished career. The Chicago native has received acknowledgment from her alma mater (a Distinguished Alumni award in 1999), from national publications (one of Essence Magazine’s Top 50 Women of 2004) and from various other organizations.

The logic seems to be: Instead of “wartime recruits” who enlisted in October, Rangel, a Korean War veteran, said he’s serious about threatening to bring back the draft. Generals don’t want conscripts in place of volunteers. Republican and Democratic leaders see the idea as political poison. Even Rep. Charles Rangel, who says he’ll introduce a draft bill in the new Congress, voted against his own son. Even Rep. Charles Rangel, who says he’ll introduce a draft bill in the new Congress, voted against his own son. Even Rep. Charles Rangel, who says he’ll introduce a draft bill in the new Congress, voted against his own son.

Look through the annals of SIUC’s history, and you’ll find plenty of proud Salukis, such as Higginbotham — folks of great substance and little flash. We’re not just Jim Belushi and Walt Frazier here. When speaking about what makes this school special those names often pop up, but there are many others in all walks of life making a difference. These people can be seen every day on the walls of the Recreation Center.

In being an African-American and a female in her position, Higginbotham makes her difference by simply making it to where she is. Among the many who will keep track of Higginbotham when she goes on her mission will be a group of SIUC employees and alumni who are traveling to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for the launch. When asked about Higginbotham, Interim Chancellor John Dunn said “the Saluki spirit soars.” With the newest space shuttle member, it indeed does.

Military draft talk irrelevant

Nobody really wants to bring back the draft. Generals don’t want unravelling concepts in place of volunteers. Republican and Democratic leaders see the idea as political poison. Even Rep. Charles Rangel, who says he’ll introduce a draft bill in the new Congress, voted against his own son.

As Higginbotham disproves the belief that Dawgs can’t fly, let all of us who can’t make the trip wish Godspeed and a safe return home.
Brown bag people

Peter A. Brown

MCT

Dear Editor:

While we are disappoited that there was no clear consensus at last Tuesday's City Council meeting regarding a smoke-free Carbondale, we applaud our council members McDaniel, Prider and Simon for their affirmative vote to protect the health of all Carbondale workers. Sincerely,

Address: Just a couple more questions. You did not vote to protect public health, even though 67 percent of Carbondale voters support a smoke-free Carbondale. Do you think that your constituents were concerned with the health of workers in Carbondale? If so, what were the health concerns of your constituents?

The Smoke-Free Carbondale Coalition will re-direct its efforts in the coming weeks and months until all workers and patrons are protected from secondhand smoke with a comprehen- sive smoke-free law. We are prepared to spend 3,200 unduplicated petition signatures and 48 stickers from businesses and individuals.

We urge all Smoke-Free Carbondale sup- porters to keep their yard signs and encourage their neighbors to put up more. Express your displeasure with the Carbondale City Council members through letters, e-mail and phone calls.

When we learn in December who is running for City Council positions in the April election, let them know how you feel.

The City Council must listen to the majority of Carbondale voters who want a comprehensive, smoke-free Carbondale for all workers.

Mary Pohlmann, M.D., Ph.D.

Chairwoman, Smoke-Free Carbondale Coalition

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Guest columnist

Move smart move by Pelosi

Colleen Lindsay

Brown bag people

Colleen Lindsay is a junior studying...
Today’s Birthday (11-27-06). This year you don’t have the luxury of hiding out in your ivory tower. Theory won’t be enough for you. Also master the practical applications.

To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - There’s a reason so many Aries people join the armed services. There are lots of reasons, actually, but one is self-discipline. When you’ve got it, you’re invincible.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - Don’t let your excitement show, even if you have a good hand. You win not from luck but from expertise, and having a good poker face.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Put in the extra effort, and go the extra mile. Keep telling the others you know they can do it, too. Together, you will.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You know a person who always wants to tell you what to do. Pretend you don’t already know, and you might actually learn something.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - You’re lucky and, as everyone knows, that’s better than being smart. And you’re smart enough to know that your luck improves if you pay attention.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - The job is not easy. That’s why you get the big bucks, or you will someday if you don’t now. Be a perfectionist, and succeed brilliantly.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - You’re a visionary but you can also be realistic. You know there’ll be work involved and you’re right. Make preparations.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - The situation is tense, if there’s a lot of your own money involved. Make lists and stick to your budget, to avoid buyer’s remorse.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Don’t give up, even when your brain gets overloaded. Have a cup of something comforting, and get back in the fight.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Use your extra to pay back a favor or debt from long ago. You’ll be amazed at how much better this will make both of you feel.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is 7 - The opposition has just about given up by now, although there are still a few to be convinced. Be prepared when they launch their verbal attack.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - You’re still immersed in a job you wish was over by now, but it’s not. In your imagination, be where you are, doing exactly what you’re doing.

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Salukis struggle
SIU wins one, drops three over the break
Scott Mieszala  Daily Egyptian

Instead of relaxing at home for a week, the SIU women's basketball team had a slate of four games that prevented the players from taking the week off.

So much for a break.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Salukis (1-4) hosted Murray State University and Saint Louis University before traveling to San Francisco to challenge the University of San Francisco and the University of Kentucky in the Odwalla Classic.

The Salukis started the break in good form by defeating Murray State, 77-66, for their first win of the season.

A strong all-around performance from junior guard Jayme Sweere led the Salukis in scoring by converting 18 points, six rebounds, five assists, four blocks and two steals.

“I just put myself into the right position to get my hands on some things,” Sweere said. “I just really focused on penetrating and getting to the basket.”

Freshman forward Dana Olsen led the Salukis in scoring by converting 24 points in the win against the Racers.

Head coach Dana Eikenberg said Olsen showed her assertiveness against Murray State.

“She was aggressive. She wanted the ball,” Eikenberg said. “That’s something we have not been able to get from a freshman.”

Eikenberg said the Salukis played well in the first and last four minutes of each half, periods in which they scored the team to excel.

SIU did that against Kentucky, out-scoring the Wildcats 32-22 during those times.

The Salukis still have to work to improve in other areas, Eikenberg said, such as keeping possession of the ball and following the game plan more strictly — the Salukis led the ball over 18 times in the game.

“We had a lot of energy, really not a lot of energy into that game,” Eikenberg said. “I was really disappointed in the overall plan.”

Then in the Odwalla Classic, the Salukis lost a pair of games to San Francisco, 67-60, and No. 24 Kentucky, 78-59.

Senior forwards Carly Moore led the offensive attack for SIU, scoring a game high 27 points against Kentucky en route to being named to the Odwalla Classic All-Tournament Team.

Moore said she’s taking some positives away from the past week despite the losses.

“We had no intensity and really stopped to watch each time he came to the plate, and cheered every time he hit a home run,” Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark said.

“The ballot says a player’s record and his reputation took hit after hit as he refused to answer, saying he wouldn’t talk about his past.”

Ronald Blum and Ben Walker  The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For one glorious summer, Mark McGwire was bigger than baseball.

Awards ceremonies were crowded with fans who wanted to stop and watch each time he came to the plate, and cheered every time he hit a home run.

“I’m not here to talk about the past,” he said, “Then I don’t want to consider his past.”

McGwire, Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn headlined the ballot that was released Monday. Results will be announced in early January.

“Mark fits the criteria, just like everyone else,” Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark said. “We’ve been very pleased with the judgment exercised by the writers over the past 70 years of voting.

“Just to stay on future ballots.

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McGwire played in the majors from 1986-2001, the first 12 seasons with the Oakland Athletics and the next with the St. Louis Cardinals.

When he hit 70 home runs in 1998 — breaking the mark of 61 Roger Maris had set 37 years earlier — McGwire became a national hero for his Paul Bunyan-like physique and feats. A year later, part of an interstate highway in St. Louis was named after McGwire.

Large signs at both the current and previous Busch Stadium called attention to “Big Mac Land,” ads for McDonald’s referencing McGwire.

With his retirements, McGwire’s fans have begun lining up to talk about the past.

“Everyone wants to imitate her because of her accomplishments,” Ju said. “I want to be on her relay team because she really makes everyone around her better.”

Matt Harvet can be reached at m336-3311 ext. 238 or m336-3311 ext. 282 or matt_harvet@dailyegyptian.com.

Survey shows McGwire may fall short in Hall vote
Ronald Blum  The Associated Press

“I think we’re starting to put the pieces together,” Moore said. “We really could have beat San Francisco, but we weren’t able to play a full 40 minutes.”

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The Payton Award, which is sponsored by the Sports Network, is voted on by 112 media members and media relations professionals covering 1-AA football.

"I never really considered taking him off. I've seen him play, and he is one of the best — if not the best — running back that I have seen," Dougherty said. "Certainly his push in November has really helped him make the final cut.

"Viverto added Whittlock's accolades are great for not only himself and SIU, but also the Gateway," Viverito said. "It is an honor to be validated in our conference," Viverto said. "It is a great honor for the player and the conference, and it just helps with the recognition of this conference. We have great players, great coaches and to see a player in our conference get recognized just validates the conference."
FOOTBALL

Gateway sets records for teams in quarterfinals

SIU, Youngstown, Illinois State are still in playoff hunt

Brian Feldt

The Gateway Football Conference did all it could to solidify itself as an elite Division I-AA football conference.

Three Gateway teams were selected into the NCAA Division I National Championship on Nov. 19 — three remain.

A first-round action, which took place during the Thanksgiving holiday, each of the three Gateway teams won and advanced into this weekend’s quarterfinals.

No. 4-ranked Youngstown State University defeated Tribal James Madison, 35-31, Illinois State University defeated Eastern Illinois, 24-19 and SIU beat the University of Tennessee-Martin, 36-30.

All three Gateway teams won in dramatic come-from-behind fashion — none of the games were decided until the last few minutes of play.

Gateway commissioner Patty Viverito admitted to feeling a bit over-anxious because of all the action surrounding the conference throughout the first round but said that she welcomed the outcome with open arms.

“I felt like a coach over the weekend with all the ups and downs and rooting for the three Gateway teams,” Viverito said. “But I am very happy that all three advanced and couldn’t be more pleased with the way the weekend turned out for us.”

The Gateway, with its three first-round wins, sets a new conference record for opening-round playoff victories — the league has only advanced three teams into the quarterfinals once, in 2003, and has never advanced two teams into the semifinals.

Youngstown, Illinois State and SIU are hoping to change the fact.

The Gateway’s situation is as follows:

Either YSU or ISU will enter the semifinals as a Gateway representative.

The Penguins and Redbirds square off against each other in the quarterfinals, the winner will advance to play the winner of the No. 1 Appalachian State versus Montana State game.

The Gateway teams advancing past the first round, the conference’s national status should rise, which could help the future growth of the conference.

“It’s huge to get three teams advancing,” Dougherty said. “Back in 2003, they got four teams in and three advanced, but no team got past that. At least one team will get to the semifinals this year, which is a really big deal for the conference.”

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I will say that I think the three teams we have in there certainly merit the chance to play for a national championship.

— Patty Viverito

Gateway commissioner

Football

Whitlock a Payton Award finalist

Brian Feldt

SIU running back Arkeel Whitlock added another accomplishment to his already impressive résumé for the 2006 season.

On Monday, Whitlock was named as one of the three finalists for the Walter Payton Award, which honors the top player from all of Division I-AA football. The Payton Award is similar to the Heisman Trophy of Division I-A.

Quarterbacks Jason Murietta of Northern Arizona and Ricky Santos of New Hampshire were also selected to comprise the final list, which will be announced during the day before the NCAA Division I National Championship game.

Whitlock ended multiple cuts to the Payton watch list and was named as one of the final three nominees Monday by the Sports Network.

— after a dominant final stretch of the season.

The senior quarterback rushed for 569 yards and 10 touchdowns in three games in the month of November and has compiled 1,541 yards and 21 touchdowns on the season.

The honor comes five days after Whitlock’s invitation to participate in the 2007 Community Bank Hula Bowl, which honors the top Division I-AA players.

Whitlock rushed for 207 yards and four touchdowns in SIU’s first-round playoff win against the University of Tennessee-Martin.

After his abuse of the UT-Martin defense, Skyhawk head coach Jason Simpson praised Whitlock’s ability.

“He’s as good as advertised, no question about it,” Simpson said in a post-game press conference. “I think he’s very worthy of the Payton recognition. You look at his numbers, they’re outstanding.”

Whitlock, though, prefers to spread the attention elsewhere on the field.

Saluki running back Arkeel Whitlock pushes through the Tennessee-Martin defense during the first round playoff game against the Skyhawks on Saturday afternoon at the McAndrew Stadium.

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Football

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Swimming and Diving

Ju makes transition from role player to quiet leader

Matt Hartwig

Julie Ju has quietly made a tremendous impact for her team.

At the Northwestern Invitational on Nov. 20, the junior from Shanghai never finished below third place and qualified for her first U.S. Open on Thursday.

During the 2005-06 season, Ju won the Missouri Valley Conference title for the women’s 50-meter freestyle with a time of 23.66 seconds — making her the first Saluki in more than 10 years to win the event.

Ju currently owns the top times in the MVC for the 50-100-500-meter freestyle and the 100-breaststroke.

She said her recent dominance comes from hard work during practice and a sense of comfort in the pool away from home — something she didn’t necessarily feel in her homeland.

“Back in Shanghai, I didn’t get the positive feedback I do here,” Ju said. “I got down on myself but everyone is more supportive here.”

The coaching style at SIU has made Ju feel the more productive — SIU’s coaching philosophy refused to let Ju get down on herself after a slow performance in practice, she said.

In addition to the new coaching style, Ju has finally adapted to America after suffering a lot of culture shock since leaving China. Shanghai has about 9 million more people than Carbondale.

Ju said the population differences have helped her focus.

“There aren’t a million people up and about through all hours of the day in Carbondale,” Ju said. “I can focus on getting better without worrying about distractions.”

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