SPORTS

Injuries rule up the dogs

By Kasey Carty-Campbell
Staff Writer

“We’re going to come out and play and let the score take care of itself,” senior William Gray, forward, echoed.

Graduate Assistant Coach Ryan Massey spoke these confidence words when asked about the upcoming Homecoming game against Freed-Hardeman on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 4 p.m.

“If we go out and play hard, smart and together, everything will take care of itself,” junior Autumn Alcott, student Homecoming leader.

The Bulldogs have beaten both Freed-Hardeman and Martin Methodist during this season. After a 65-61 win over Martin Methodist on Thursday night, the player are ready to defeat their local rival, Freed-Hardeman.

With a 21-8 record this season, the Bulldogs are ranked 21 in the NAIA Division I League. Players have not played before a packed gym this season. Senior Anthony Brooks, center, is disappointed in the fan support at Union.

“People give excuses for not coming to the games such as having too much homework, but we have homework, too. It helps us when we see that people care about what we are doing,” said Brooks.

Despite numerous injured players, including Gray and senior Bubba Hoover, guard, the team approaches the Homecoming game with confidence.

“We will be coming out hard because of their last loss to us (59-55), and we will be playing as hard as we would any game,” Brooks said.

Injuries have plagued the team, but the guys have sprung back by becoming more unified as a team.

“The team has had to depend on each other because we can’t do the things that we can normally do,” said Gray.

“We are the strongest we have ever been because we enjoy being around each other and we care about each other,” said Gray.

“It will be a close game, but the guys are getting better and better each game,” said Massey.

Homecoming

Students heard someone who has been on the cutting edge of ministry over the past 15 years, said Brady.

For Friday’s chapel, Brady chose Jody Wysoor, a 1996 Union graduate and 2000 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wysoor has recently returned to the Jackson area to serve as the minister of college and singles at West Jackson Baptist Church.

“I wanted someone who was a fairly recent graduate who has not been in ministry for a long time. Students will relate to someone so close to their age,” said Brady.

A variety of games and contests for students took place Homecoming week. A banner display, Homecoming display, adopt-a-basketball player and Wild Wacky games all won organizations varied amounts of points, ranging from zero to 150.

In 1999, Williams declared a need for revamping Homecoming to make it proactive in student participation.

Since then, the reward for participating in scheduled competitions is the prize of the “highly coveted Presidential Homecoming Cup,” said Williams. The 1999 winner was Zeta Tau Alpha, and Chi Omega followed in 2000.

“One of the most exciting things is that we have nine different organizations participating this year for the Presidential Homecoming Cup,” said junior Autumn Alcott, student Homecoming leader.

“Not only is it (Homecoming) geared for organizations to participate and compete in, but it’s also geared for all students to be involved in a way that they can participate easily and freely whether they are involved in an organization or not.”

“Events such as the coffee house and the ball are both opportunities for everyone to come and have a good time without competing,” said Alcott.

Other events in honor of Homecoming include the Freshman Council sponsored tailgate party and bonfire, men and women’s basketball games against Martin Methodist, Saturday’s Homecoming game against Freed-Hardeman and crowning of the Homecoming Queen.

Homecoming attendees this year include: freshman Julie Black, sophomore Heather Vaughn, junior Autumn Alcott and seniors Ellie Evans, Jennifer McClearen, Mindy Sellars and Kristin Wicker.

In addition to Homecoming activities, All-Sing will be held to night in the chapel at 8:30 p.m. Student Homecoming leader Chad Cushenbourn said, “Putting All-Sing along with Homecoming is going to be really good because I think it is something that the alumni enjoy as well as students. Also, the Alumni Services and SAC sponsored coffee shop with Andrew Peterson was great.”

“He is an awesome record and many students on Union’s campus are aware of him. The fact that he came to lead praise and worship at the coffee shop and during Wednesday chapel is a real blessing for our campus.”

“Seeing students getting involved and giving it their all excites me the most. It creates student awareness and gives excitement to the meaning of Homecoming. Memories are made and are later experienced when returning for Homecoming,” said Williams.

Lady dog shoot for success

By Autumn Harder
Staff Writer

While the majority of Union students stayed at home during Winter term, the Lady Bulldogs were busy dominating the basketball court.

They played a total of eight games during the term and won all of them, seven of which were conference games. The team is currently on a 13-game winning streak.

The first game was against Lindenwood University on Jan. 9. Even though only the Lady Bulldogs played, there was a huge fan turn out.

Senior April Pearson, guard, and freshman Jessica Henson, forward, each scored 19 points. Union defeated Lindenwood with a final score of 71-65.

On Jan. 16, the Lady Bulldogs defeated Union’s second biggest rival, Trevecca Nazarian University, 84-73. Junior Mary Catherine Way, guard, scored a total of eight three-pointers.

She was only one three-pointer away from tying Union’s record of nine.

Kelly Hayes, alumni, holds the record. Currently Mary Catherine Way is fourth in the nation for three-point field goal percentage.

The closest game was Jan. 25 against Freed-Hardeman University. Although Union won 75-64, it was the lowest Union scored during Winter term.

The Lady Bulldogs will have another shot at defeating Freed-Hardeman University Feb. 17, at Union’s Homecoming game.

Tiffany Hill, the Lady Bulldogs’ assistant coach, said, “The game will be an exciting conference game because of the rivalry that has gone on in the last few years.”

“Two strong Christian organizations providing school spirit will enhance the crowd involvement,” said Hill.

“The Homecoming game should be interesting because we are in first place and Freed is behind in second, so this game will have implications on who wins the conference,” said Steven Aldridge, sports information director.

If the Lady Bulldogs win the conference this year, it will be their sixth year in a row.

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