**SPORTS**

**Dogs take on Jaxx**

*By Kasey Carty-Campbell  
Staff Writer*

The score was 0-0. Nobody on base, and then Boog Powell came up to the plate. It was his turn from there.

The Baltimore Orioles played an exhibition game against Union University in 1970, winning 1-0 with a home run from Powell. Since that time, Union has not had the opportunity to play a professional team. Union will face local minor league team, the West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx, at Pringles Park on Monday, April 2 at 2:05 p.m. Coach Andy Rushing believes the opportunity will be a “no-lose situation” for the team.

“It’s a neat opportunity for our guys to play against a professional team. The percentage of college players that have this opportunity is very low,” said Rushing. Steven Aldridge, sports information director, echoed this thought “Most college players don’t get the opportunity to play on a minor league field, let alone play against a minor league team.” The Jaxx are an AA affiliate of the Chicago Cubs and will be playing an exhibition game against the Cubs on March 31, a week before their season begins. They will play Lambuth University on Sunday, April 1, before facing Union on April 2.

“We were looking for a way to get our ball club some much needed work between the Cubs game and Opening Day,” said Diamond Jaxx President David Hors. 

Senior Blake Wilsford, shortstop, joins his teammates in looking forward to playing the Diamond Jaxx. “We’ll get a chance to see how we stack up against professional baseball players,” said Wilsford. And does he think they will win? “Of course,” he answers with a laugh. Rushing doesn’t know what to expect from the game. “We’ll try to put every one of our guys into the game so that they can all say that they have played against professional players,” said Rushing.

Students can purchase tickets at the gate for $2 before the game. Proceeds will go to the family of Bill Rashad, a Diamond Jaxx season ticket-holder, who was killed in an auto accident last month.

**... GO Trips**

International GO Trips are ministering in a variety of ways. GO Honduras is spending the week at the Orphanage Emmanuel, a place outside of Guianama where over 200 children live.

The team is leading Christian learning activities and manual labor, such as construction, painting and landscaping.

GO Sénégal is ministering on the streets through drama.

GO Hungary is working in a village outside of Budapest with Christian youth. They will also build a playground for the community.

GO Tunisia will walk through the streets praying for an unreached Muslim group people while building relationships through sharing their faith.

“It’s going to be exciting seeing God move despite the barriers that are going to be in place because most of our team can’t speak the language.”

“Everything is going to be so different. The girls on our team won’t be able to talk to men, and we have to dress very modestly, because Tunisia is a Muslim country,” said freshman Amanda Hornabuckle, GO Tunisia participant.

All of the GO Trips will share their experiences during the April 20 chapel.

**Tennis team focuses on goal**

*By Keelan Cook  
Staff Writer*

“Most of us live in our own little world and we just don’t realize,” said Gary Johnson, head coach of the men’s tennis team about the cultural diversity on his team. “Learn a lot about culture.”

Playing on the tennis team this year are senior Mario Cobo, junior Balazs Tili, Philippe Sylvester, Leandro Carvaldo and Jonathan Labella; and sophomore Sylvestre, Leandro Carvalho and juniors Balazs Tili, Philippe Sylvester.

The team has a total of six players from six different countries.

Cobo and Tili will be finishing their tennis careers this year for the Bulldogs.

During their careers, Union has reached its highest rankings.

Between the two players, one will leave Union with a singles record at Union.

Last year the team ended the season with 17 wins and four losses. This years plan is to do just as well.

According to Johnson the team’s goal is to win their conference and advance to nationals.

For the last two years Union’s team has won the TranSouth conference championships and hopes to accomplish this task once again.

“We have a deep team in which all the players can really play,” said Johnson. The team is confident that they will make it into the top twenty again this year.

So far the team is doing comparable to last year, but due to the amount of rain, they have had to change their schedule.

The most challenging part of the season still remains. Ten regular season games are left before the conference tournament. One problem facing the team this year is its size. Having only six players puts the Bulldogs at a distinct disadvantage by not having substitutes.

Fortunately, the team has not incurred any serious injuries this season.

Johnson has taken his team to the NAIA National Tournaments for three consecutive years.

The team ranked 12 in the NAIA. Johnson earned TranSouth Coach of the Year for the second time last season.

This is Johnson’s fourth season as head coach for the tennis team.

His career coaching record is 46 wins and 10 losses.

Conference Tournaments will be April 18 and 19 in Birmingham, Ala. Regionals will be the following week on the 27 and 28.