Baseball, softball primed for postseason runs

Second-place Bulldogs playing crucial three-game series this weekend at No. 11 Birmingham-Southern.

By Jeff Rushing
Sports Editor

Union’s baseball team travels to Birmingham, Ala., today and Saturday to face No. 11 Birmingham-Southern College with the TranSouth Conference title still in their grasp.

The Bulldogs are 24-19 overall, and 16-3 in the conference, second to NAIA No. 3 Freed-Hardeman who is 17-2 in the TSAC. No. 4 is Berry College at 17-4-1, and BSC stands fourth at 15-4.

Union is utilizing a tough non-conference schedule to stay in the race for the conference title and the chance to go to the Mid-South Region as they did last season. The Bulldogs have played several NCAA schools and four times faced NAIA No. 6 Cumberland, Tenn.

Good pitching and solid hitting, the basic fundamentals of baseball, are key to the Bulldogs’ chances.

Hurlers Michael Hopper and Genus Miller are ranked first and second, respectively, in the TSAC in earned run average.

Offensively, freshman Kevin Overcash gets on the bases with a .431 batting average, but doesn’t stay still for long. He has already set a school record with 51 stolen bases, breaking the mark Saturday against Williams Baptist in front of the homecoming crowd.

Overcash’s 66 hits put him third in the TranSouth, and his 52 runs scored are good enough for fourth place entering this weekend.

Brandon Myhand, a 5-9 junior from Paducah, Ky., has eight home runs, 13 doubles and 46 RBI for the Bulldogs. Jeff Rowland has contributed eight home runs and a .354 average.

Lynde Capogreco (softball) NAIA and Region Pitcher of the Week
Tina Spivey (softball) TranSouth Pitcher of the Week
Emma Hernandez (softball) TranSouth Player of the Week
Ed Grammer (baseball) TranSouth Pitcher of the Week and National Christian Colleges Athletic Association Student-Athlete of the Week
Genus Miller (baseball) NCCAA Student-Athlete of the Week

Union players honored

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“Eighty percent of that money will go to the Carl Perkins Center here in Jackson, and the other 20 percent will be sent to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse,” Joy Williams, vice president of public relations for KD, said.

The winners of the tournament received dinners for two at various local restaurants.

“For schedule and rainout information call the intramural hotline at 661-5039.”

KD
From Page 5

From the tournament and other donations.

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The winners of the tournament received dinners for two at various local restaurants.

“The kids are really playing well,” Dunn said. “They are working hard, our defense has been outstanding and they’re having a good time.”

If Union does slip down the stretch, the Lady Bulldogs can still advance to the region by winning the conference tournament or finishing second if Lipscomb wins. Also, a good showing could give Union one of two at-large bids.

Individually, the Lady Bulldogs are also shining.

Junior Emma Hernandez, a two-time all-conference selection, leads the team with a .467 batting average, and has already set new school records for hits in a season (49) and runs in a season (30).

Pitcher Lynde Capogreco is 12-4 with a 1.10 earned run average, and has 130 strikeouts to just 27 walks in 108 innings.

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Pitcher Lynde Capogreco is 12-4 with a 1.10 earned run average, and has 130 strikeouts to just 27 walks in 108 innings.

Starting pitcher Tina Spivey is 13-4 with a 1.46 ERA; 78 strikeouts and 30 walks in 110 innings.

The TSAC tournament will be held April 25 and 26 at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

For schedule and rainout information call the intramural hotline at 661-5039.”
Lady Bulldog basketball
class of ’97 is best ever

By Jeff Rushing
Sports Editor

The women’s basketball class of 1997 entered in fall of 1993
touted as the “Fab Five.” When Laura DeFew, Kelly Hayes,
Marquetta Hunt, Kasi Knott and Michelle Street graduate in May,
they will have proven to be better
than any other basketball class in
Union history.

The Lady Bulldogs posted a
127-18 record in four years for a
.876 winning percentage, the best
four years in Union basketball, men
and women.

“The five seniors have made
our program better and even better
known, and we’re going to miss them
because they are goal-oriented people on and off the court,” head
coach David Blackstock said. “You
can’t replace these girls, you just
hope the other girls will be
motivated to step up their game and
hope the other girls will be
motivated to step up their game and
will try their best to fill the roles left by
these girls.

What really makes this
quintuple successful?

“The friendships are the main
thing.” Marquetta Hunt said. “When we all got to school one of
the first things we did was go out to
‘Applebee’s like it was yesterday.”

“I think the most important
thing is the friendships we
developed,” Kelly Hayes agreed.
“I’m going to miss these guys as
much as anything.”

Hayes went down in the 13th
game of the season with an anterior
cruciate ligament injury, her
second in a span of nine months.
She did not play the rest of the
season, except to step off the bench
in game one of the NAIA National
Tournament setting a new attendance mark of 41,288 over the
31 games. That shatters the old
record of 39,038 set last season.

After graduating May 31, the
Fab Five will set off in different
directions to begin careers and even
families as Laura DeFew is the first
to get married in July. And you can
bet the other four will be there,
cheering her on off the court just as
they did for four years as Lady
Bulldogs.

But, as Blackstock remarked,
“in everything they do, these
wonderful girls will always be Lady
Bulldogs.”

The class of ‘97’s record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Postseason finish</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>27-6 .818</td>
<td>NAIA second round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>31-3 .912</td>
<td>NAIA quarterfinals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>34-4 .895</td>
<td>NAIA semifinals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>35-5 .875</td>
<td>NAIA runner-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>127-18 .876</td>
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</tbody>
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Hutchens taking leave
of absence next year

By Jeff Rushing
Sports Editor

Assistant women’s basketball
coach Lisa Hutchens announced in
March that she will be stepping down for a
year to focus on
graduate studies at the
University of Memphis.

Hutchens will
remain at Union for
teaching purposes but
will not actively be
involved in coaching
duties.

Women’s head
coach Dr. David Blackstock
emphasized that following
Hutchens’ year of graduate school
she has the option to return to
coaching or to teach and to “evaluate
what she wants to do and how she
fits into Union.”

“We’re just glad that
we can work it so that she
stays with us and has these
options. She is still listed
and considered the
women’s assistant
basketball coach,”
Blackstock added.

Blackstock said that
the department will bring
in another assistant coach
for next season, with a
selection likely to be made in June.

The Fab Five

Laura DeFew

5-1, F, Kuttawa, Ky.

Career Statistics

| 3-point G Fgm-att Pct. Pts/Avg Reb/Avg Ast Stl |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|
|        | 115 | 275-626 .490 2359/16.4 1270/8.8 567 368 |

Kelly Hayes

5-8, G, Dover, Tenn.

NAIA Third Team All-American, 1995-96.
Set record for three-pointers in a season (122)
and tied school record for most three-pointers in
a single game (9).

Career Statistics

| 3-point G Fgm-att Pct. Pts/Avg Reb/Avg Ast Stl |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|
|        | 144 | 914-1844 .490 2359/16.4 1270/8.8 567 368 |

Marquetta Hunt

5-9, F, Huntington, Tenn.

NAIA Academic All-American, 1995-96 and
1996-97.

Career Statistics

| 3-point G Fgm-att Pct. Pts/Avg Reb/Avg Ast Stl |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|
|        | 142 | 328-626 .524 9398/6.6 711/5.0 162 132 |

Kasi Knott

5-8, G, Bradford, Tenn.

 Ranked seventh in the nation in three-point
field goal percentage (.343) in 1996-97.

Career Statistics

| 3-point G Fgm-att Pct. Pts/Avg Reb/Avg Ast Stl |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|
|        | 133 | 148-374 .496 686/5.2 239/1.8 245 69 |

Michelle Street

5-9, G, Bradford, Tenn.

NAIA First Team All-American in 1995-96
and 1996-97.
TranSouth Player of the Year, 1996-97.
College Sports preseason Player of the Year.
Records set: Career games played-144
Most points, season-773
Most points, game-45
Field goal percentage, game-14 of 14
Most free throws, season-180

Career Statistics

| 3-point G Fgm-att Pct. Pts/Avg Reb/Avg Ast Stl |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|
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