

SIDELIGHTS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOLUME 85, NO. 34

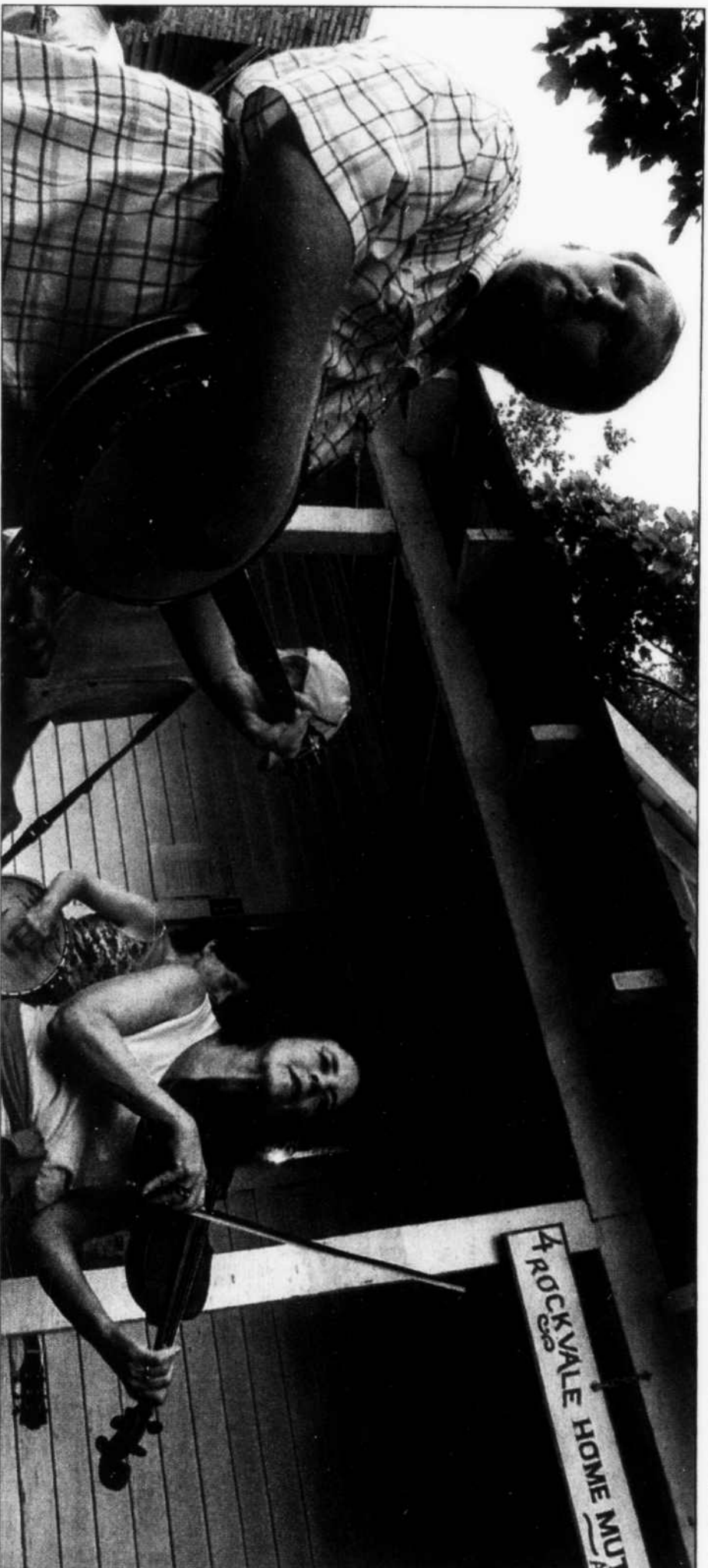


Photo by Erin O'Leary, photography editor

Daniel Wisepmen and Nell Levin gather around with musicians to play old-time folk music at Uncle Dave Macon Days festival in Murfreesboro on Saturday.

Community celebrates Dave Macon

By CALIE DURHAM

Staff Writer

The 32nd annual Uncle Dave Macon Days, a family festival featuring crafts, music and family activities, was held at Cannonsburgh Village to honor the co-median and singer-songwriter.

"My family loves the music, the crafts and all the activities for the families," said Mistry Martin, a parent in attendance. "It is fun for the whole family."

Martin said her favorite part of the festival is torn between the music and the crafts. She said "if you asked my two children, they would say their favorites are the 'bounces' and the food."

The festival had various vendors, selling everything from fresh squeezed lemonade and homemade fried pies to jewelry, candles, garden signs, brooms, wall ornaments, birdhouses and even old fashion jams and jellies. The festival also plays host to musi-

cal performances and competitions.

"We try to keep the competitions as fair and square as we possibly can," said Aunt Lane, chairmen of the judges for Uncle Dave Macon Days. "You'd be surprised; in my past years working in this position there have been hardly any hassles at all regarding a ruling."

Lane said she likes to make sure each judge is knowledgeable, has past experience judging or really knows the genre of music they are judging.

"We are trying to stay as true as we can [to Uncle Dave's form of music], which is difficult to maintain because it is always evolving," Lane said.

Lane said that most of the people who are actually working the event are volunteers. She said people volunteer because the event is an essential part of Rutherford County.

Dessie Bakes, a festivalgoer, said she has been attending the festival for several years.

"I love all of it, but my favorite part of the festival would probably be the bluegrass," Bakes said. "I love listening to the music and meeting new people."

Contestant and violinist, Steven Alonso said he chose to participate in this competition mostly just for personal experience. Alonso said what he likes most about playing the violin is "just the joy of playing an instrument - It's like a sparkle in my eyes."

Steven's mother, Leigh Alonso said her favorite part of the festival is seeing all the children perform and hearing the old bluegrass music.

"It is really becoming a lost art that's dying off with our elderly, and it's wonderful because we are able to come here and everyone is so welcoming and inviting," Leigh said. "There is just a love for music that you don't find everywhere - it's a safe environment and it's hard to find anything like this for kids."

Cyndi Parrott, a festival attendee, said that she likes to go to the festival to see pickers and cloggers. She also said that she loves the craft fair.

"You can always find a lot of unique things like this lye soap," Parrott said. "Some things like this you just can't find anywhere anymore except at craft fairs or maybe a specialty shop."

Sara Bielaczyc, a senior sculpture and ceramics major at MTSU, said she enjoys hanging out with her big brother during the festival.

Bielaczyc was selling some of her own ceramic pieces at the craft fair. Bielaczyc said she is already in business with her two older brothers who do two-dimensional artwork, while she does ceramics.

"It's nice that people from everywhere can gather together and play, even if they don't know each other," said Miranda Holmes, a senior biology major/pre med at MTSU.



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Photo illustration by Chris Carter, production manager

Web site helps students find class availability

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant News Editor

Coursesniper.com, a Web site that alerts students of an open seat in a closed or filled class via text message, is now offering its services to MTSU students.

The Web site charges a \$10 fee to constantly check the availability of possible enrollment until a seat opens in the requested class, said Dmytro Mulyova, operations manager for Coursesniper.com. He said the program would also notify the student of a class cancellation in the same manner.

"As soon as there is an opening, the student receives a text message on their cell phone," Mulyova said. "Now in addition to text messages, we have the option to call the students individually."

Mulyova said the automated program accesses a read-only version of RaiderNet, the same Web site MTSU students use to access the scheduling information. He said the program, which originated in Canada, has been around for two years, but has only been active at MTSU for a few months.

Cathy Kirchner, assistant director of scheduling, said the students can find out about closed, filled and cancelled classes as soon as they begin their search on RaiderNet.

"RaiderNet is dynamic [so] as soon as we make a change in the database, it displays in RaiderNet," Kirchner said. "We have the number of open seats out there

and they can see actual enrollment and maximum enrollment."

Casey Freeman, a freshman nursing major, said that upon returning to MTSU to pursue another degree, she was reclassified as a freshman.

"I already have a degree, so I'm really just working a few prerequisites," Freeman said. "Because I'm considered a freshman I can't get into classes that I need to get into the nursing program."

Kirchner said that most students are able to solve their scheduling conflicts with RaiderNet directly, however, they occasionally receive phone calls concerning error messages or prerequisite sites.

"It is the nature of scheduling for students to call our office if they are getting error messages that they don't understand like a prerequisite error message or a co-requisite error message," Kirchner said. "There is a link in RaiderNet that explains all of those messages, but sometimes if they don't understand or if they want to talk to a person, they'll call us and we will explain it and be able to help them with it."

Mulyova said that the founder of Coursesniper.com was a student who was frustrated with the difficulties in scheduling and began the program to assist other students with similar frustrations.

Mulyova said the Web site offers discounts to students through a referral program and they also provide the first "snipe" free of charge. He also said they have assisted about 90 MTSU students so far.

Rave alerts masses

University implements new system to call students during high risk situations

By BEN UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

To alert students of on-campus emergencies faster, a new automated voice alert system is now in effect.

The Office of News and Public Affairs now transmits voice messages, text messages and e-mail notifications in the event of an emergency on campus. Tom Tozer, the director of News and Public Affairs, now acts as a broadcast administrator for the Rave Wireless alert system.

Tozer said the new voice system adds a "new component" to the university's early warning system. He said students who register their e-mail and phone numbers through the Rave Web site can receive text messages within a few minutes to warn about possible hazards on campus.

"Given the fact about the [recent] tornadoes, it's just smart to be informed," Tozer said. "We're trying to get the word out and educate the students."

The new voice alerts also work to warn visually impaired students, who may lack audio texting features on their phones.

John Harris, the director of Disabled Student services, said he was pleased by the university's efforts to inform every student.

"I think it's a very sound system," Harris said. "I think most visually

impaired students will appreciate it."

Harris said his office maintains a list of students with disabilities in order to send e-mails about events and construction changes on campus.

"If someone really wants to know what's happening, there's no reason they won't know now," Harris said.

Sarah Bell, a senior computer science major, said she thinks a voice alert is redundant.

"I think that if you're getting a text message and an e-mail, there is no need for a voice alert," Bell said. "You can't listen to voice alerts in class anyways, so it seems like it wouldn't be beneficial."

Brad Lebahn, a senior aerospace major, said that to have three different ways to get the same message is pointless.

"I just don't understand why we need an e-mail, text message and voice alert," Lebahn said.

The Department of Public Safety and the Office of News and Public Affairs have the final say about when to send campus alerts out.

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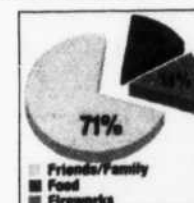
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BEST PART OF
THE FOURTH OF
JULY?

BASED ON VOTES FROM
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Sonic Youth rock the War Memorial

By KRISTINA OUTLAND
Contributing Writer

Last night was everything but an "Anti-Orgasm" for Sonic Youth and its fans in the fully packed War Memorial Auditorium.

The tour is to celebrate the release of the band's new album "The Eternal," which was released on June 9.

Fans oozed in from all corners of the world, including a first time listener, 21 year old Rickard Alden, who flew in all the way from Sweden with a few of his friends.

Alden says he did not regret his pricey round trip plane ticket when the lights exploded in time with the first song on the set list and one of the band's many hits since its official formation back in 1982 called "Sacred Trickster." Appropriately named, this song was considered sacred to many avid fans, includ-

ing Maria Lones from Union City.

"It's kind of like getting saved for non-religious people," Lones says.

Lones wasn't the only one who felt that way about the show, though. By the sixth piece, "Antennae", the fans continued their own form of worship when lead guitarist, Thurston Moore, broke down on his knees while playing, as if to brace himself from the rhythmic chaos that poured from his super-cool green guitar.

"This is a song about letting go of celebrity," Sonic Youth bassist Kim Gordon says to open up the emotionally epic song to follow called, "Malibu Gas Station."

Her guitar screamed harmonic riffs and the band supported her sexy vocals with its synchronized "Woo Hoo's."

The crowd expressed appreciation, but became entranced when the band held everyone in suspense in preparation for the highly anticipated song,

"Sprawl." Nick Daggs from Nashville mentioned that this song was the reason why he showed up to see his favorite band play for the 11th time.

The euphoric song "Anti-Orgasm" was next on the set list and sounded almost scientific. Drummer Steve Shelley played with padded mallets and showcased his talent.

The vintage style opera house captured every sound, causing even the fans in the nosebleed section to feel the steady pulse of the drumbeats in their chest.

A break came by the 12th song called, "Massage History." The lights dimmed blue and Thurston grabbed a stool and his acoustic guitar, ready to serenade the awaiting sea of people, including Joshua Kramer of Louisville, Ky.

"I've been a fan since the summer of '95," Kramer says.

Kramer brought his 16 year old son

who just played in his own first concert, which featured acoustic Sonic Youth songs.

The band continued on to play two more songs, "White Cross" and "Shadow," and then exited the stage, leaving the crowd begging for an encore.

A hell of an encore is what the band gave too, playing two extended songs including "What We Know" and "Death Valley '69."

"It was amazing," says Ryan Bush from Nashville. "They played songs I wasn't expecting and I loved it."

Bush says he has seen Sonic Youth a total of six times in 17 years.

No matter how far fans had to travel to see the show, the majority of them walked away from the War Memorial Auditorium with the memories of an amazing show.

Photo by Kristina Outland, Photo by Kristina Outland

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Werewolf deals with powers, family issues

riter Kirkman and illustrator Howard work together to bring 'The Astounding Wolf-Man' to life

By ANDREW SWANSON
Staff Writer

Robert Kirkman's on going horror/superhero comic about a werewolf trying to do good with his unusual circumstances, "The Astounding Wolf-Man," is in its 17th issue.

The comic follows Gary Hampton, a CEO who was bitten by a werewolf, and his attempt to use his new powers to help people. He starts off well enough, but discovers that once a month, when the moon is full, he loses control and just turns into a rampaging monster.

With the help of a vampire named Zachariah, Gary learns how to control his powers. Even with Zachariah's help, Gary still loses control when the moon is full. On one of these nights, he ends up killing a member of the Actioneers Sergeant Superior.

This is just the beginning of Gary's problems. He gets fired, evicted, his wife is murdered, and his daughter Chloe hates him and thinks he killed her mom.

Issue 17 is the wrap up of the third story arc. The beginning of the arc has Gary running from the police and trying to clear his name. In the end, he is arrested and imprisoned for the murder of his wife.

While this is going on, Chloe has turned to Zachariah to train her to fight. She wants to avenge the death of her mother, but Zachariah has other plans.

Throughout the story, Gary's daughter has let her hatred of him blind her to the truth. She has chosen to ignore Gary's attempts to explain to her what is going on and just wants to kill him.

Her transformation is interesting to watch. She goes from frightened little girl

to sword wielding avenger. Of all the characters in the book, Chloe grows the most. She does not show up in the book as much as I would like, but the end of this issue indicates that might change.

While Chloe is planning the demise of her father, Zachariah has plans of his own. His plans are unknown at this point, but he has been searching for Gary.

To help him, he has turned most the members of the Actioneers into vampires. They have been looking for Gary and finally find him at the prison. The commotion the Actioneers cause helps Gary to escape, but not before he's to face Zachariah and, to his dismay, his daughter.

All this action is brought to life by the creator of the book Jason Howard. Howard's art is excellent and suits the tone of the book well. He uses a very basic, but highly detailed style, that is clean and sharp.

I like Howard's style because it does not take away from the story. Many times there are books that are very stylized and it makes the action hard to follow. At first, it may seem that the art is very busy with a lot going on in it, but I couldn't picture it being drawn any other way.

Many of the characters in "The Astounding Wolf-Man" will be familiar to readers of other Kirkman books. "Wolf-Man" is set in his invincible universe and we see many of its heroes and villains. Wolf-Man even teams up with the universes namesake, with an accompanying crossover between the two books.

This book is great for long time Kirkman fans. With its familiar settings, this book will be an easy read for them, but I would also recommend this to anyone who enjoys fast paced action comics. The many fights and interesting characters will keep readers glued to the pages.



THE LIGHTNING REVIEW

Also check out Kirkman and
Howard's 14th, 15th and 16th
issues of the series.



4/5
Bolts

OPINIONS

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

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FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

CUSTOMS needs better marketing

While working at the Sidelines CUSTOMS booth in the Campus Recreation Center, we have noticed a decline in the number of students attending CUSTOMS this summer.

In fact, numbers have been so low that the 12th session scheduled for August has been cancelled.

Does this mean that fall enrollment will be significantly lower than usual? Or does it mean that our marketing team isn't promoting the university correctly?

Whatever the case, this poses a problem, considering the financial status MTSU is in. The university is going to have to cut \$19 million over the span of two years. As of now, President Sidney McPhee and his Oversight Steering Committee have only been able to come up with a tentative cut of \$11 million.

While tuition might not be the greatest source of income, it certainly helps. However, if enrollment is lower then it could affect the budget crisis.

Plus, the university prides itself on being the No. 1 college in Tennessee with the largest number of undergraduates. So are the budget cuts chasing students away or preventing them from coming here?

Maybe the marketing department should try using a different campaign than "I'm One." While this might have been clever at one point, it tends to get old after six months.

Also, bigger schools like the University of Tennessee and Georgia Tech may not have to constantly advertise on billboards, but MTSU, unfortunately, still needs to.

Marketing issues might not be able to increase the number of students at CUSTOMS but it's a possible solution.

Then again, publicity costs money - monies we just don't have.

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Bullying will never stop

I'd like to think that I'm somewhat of an idealist. I'd like to think that world peace is achievable and the philosophy of "love your fellow man" isn't just meaningless print on a Christmas card.

So why are kids like Carl Walker, 11, and Eric Mohat, 17, killing themselves? Maybe they've been listening to "Teenage Suicide" by Big Fun too much. Or maybe the vicious social hierarchy portrayed in movies like "The Heathers" is reality.

Sirdeaner Walker, mother of Carl, told members of the House Education Committee last week about her son. "What could make a child his age despair so much that he would take his own life? That question haunts me to this day, and I will probably never know the answer."

"What we do know is that Carl was being bullied relentlessly in school."

Her pitiful story was part of a plea for Congress to strengthen anti-bullying practices in our country's education system. Walker, along with reps from the National Association of School Psychologists and "Students Against Violence Everywhere," want more programs that involve an active approach to preventing bullying.

Walker said "faggot" and "gay" were



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper

some of the bullying slurs used against Carl. Likewise, William and Janis Mohat, parents of Eric, filled a federal lawsuit against their local Ohio school district because their son was harassed in a similar way.

In a story by ABC News, Eric's parents say he was publicly told in class to go and "shoot yourself, no one will miss you." The story says that Mohat was commonly called "gay, fag, queer and homo." Part of the lawsuit also involves three other suicide victims who were students in Eric's class.

The lawsuit - filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio - doesn't seek monetary compensation, but asks that Mohat's school admit that the children's deaths resulted from

"bullicide" and the school system put an anti-bullying program in place.

It's pretty safe to say that everyone has either bullied, been bullied or at least witnessed some form of bullying. As adults, we typically refer to this behavior as harassment - which is punishable by law.

But who holds children accountable? Should the court systems get involved? Who is more responsible for the developing social behaviors of children - parents or school officials?

We need to start rethinking and redefining what bullying is. We need to teach children how to stand up against intentional social cruelty and shrug off others who are just being mean.

Most of all, we need to give the next generation a serious self-esteem makeover. We'll never be able to stop people from being mean, but at least we can teach the victims how to overcome it without tying a noose around their necks.

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

For more commentary, check out my blog: sinsofscarlet.wordpress.com

COMICS



Last Ditch Effort

www.lde-online.com

John Kroes

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 8

Key Players: QB Riley Dodge

Dodge's top recruit was his own son Riley, whom he stole away from Texas. In order for his offense to run right and have the Mean Green potentially be able to outscore opponents, Dodge must perform well for his father. If not it may be another 1-11 season for the Mean Green.

Troy University

Last Year's Record: 8-5

Troy walked away with its third Sun Belt Conference championship last year. Its only conference loss was a one point



loss to the University of Louisiana in Monroe. The team even pushed LSU to the limit late in the season but fell 40-31 in Baton Rouge, La. However, very little else went wrong for the Trojans as they led the Sun Belt with 32.8 points a game. They represented the conference in the New Orleans Bowl and lost in overtime to the University of Southern Mississippi 30-27.

Head coach Larry Blakeney is look-

ing forward to this season in which he returns his top offensive weapons.

Toughest Opponent in 2009: Sept. 12 at the University of Florida

This game could possibly be the only loss the Trojans could have at the end of the season. Florida returns 21 starters from a national championship squad that is picked to be ranked No. 1 at the beginning of the year. An upset here would legitimize an up-and-coming program but a loss wouldn't shock anyone.

Key Game in 2009: Sept. 26 at Arkansas State University

A trip to Jonesboro could upset any plans to make it four years in a row as

conference champs. It is also the game before the team plays host to rival MT so it could overlook Arkansas State. If the Trojans do, they could find themselves playing must-win games throughout the remainder of the season.

Key Players: QB Levi Brown and LB Boris Lee

Brown came off the bench last year to lead the Trojan offense to a record-breaking season. Brown must continue to improve though because this year he won't surprise anyone. The Trojan defense is led by all-Sun Belt linebacker Boris Lee. Lee led the team last year with 126 tackles as a junior and headed a defense that had five members named all-conference.

Alysha Clark named POY

STAFF REPORT

Women's basketball rising senior Alysha Clark was awarded the Tennessee Sports Writers Association's Women's College Basketball Player of the Year for 2008-09. She received the honor at a luncheon last Friday.

"Well I was definitely excited about it," Clark said. "I get excited about any award I win because nothing has been handed to me since I started playing."

This award is added to the list of accolades Clark has already received. In March, she was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year and Tournament Most Outstanding Player. She was also placed on the CBSSports.com All-America second team, Associated Press All-America third team and State Farm/WBCA All-America honorable mention.

Clark finished her junior season leading the nation in scoring with 27.5 points per game. Her 50-point output against the University of Troy was a national-high school record and tied the conference record. She also set the school record for points in a season (935).

"A writer from the Knoxville Sentinel told me that this award is usually a 'Lady Vol' award, so to know my teammates and I have helped bring recognition to our program is definitely an accomplishment," Clark said.

The Lady Raiders finished last season with a record of 28-6. Every player from last year's squad returns this year as well as five newcomers. The Lady Raiders' season begins in November.



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Summer Football Preview

Next
Week

Mean Green, Trojans on opposite sides of Sun Belt

By ZAC DEFRADESCA
Staff Writer

University of North Texas Last Year's Record: 1-11

The 2008 season began with North Texas taking on some of the most potent offenses in the country. Tulsa, Rice and LSU each pounded the Mean Green to the tune of a combined 174-49. These offensive juggernauts set the tone for the rest of the season as the North Texas defense gave up less than 40 points just twice all year. The offense, which head coach Todd Dodge was hired for, never got going either. Dodge's vaunted air attack averaged just 8.9 yards per reception last year, worst in the nation.

Head Coach Todd Dodge said this year



will be a good improving year with players more comfortable in the offense.

Toughest Opponent in 2009: Sept. 19 at the University of Alabama

Last season the Mean Green started their year with an uphill climb defensively. This year the start is much easier for them with the only horrific opponent being the Crimson Tide. The

teams' other non-conference opponents are Army, Ball State University and the University of Ohio.

Key Game in 2009: Sept. 26 vs. Middle Tennessee State University

In order to improve in the Sun Belt, and eventually win the conference, the Trojans must win games in the Sun Belt Conference. This will have to start against the first conference opponent of the season which just happens to be their rival, MT. If North Texas wants to return to any sort of respectability they must start with a win against a team they used to dominate.

FOOTBALL, PAGE 7



Photo by Kevin Glackmeyer, Troy Media Relations
Troy LB Boris Lee will be one of the early favorites for conference player of the year.

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