Baker responds to NCAA punishments

Latrice WILLIAMS
Staff writer

Georgia Southern Athletic Director Sam Baker responded to a recently published NCAA infraction report that placed the men's basketball team on a two-year probation as a result of academic fraud by two students and two officials.

Baker said that the investigation was a long process and that the report provides closure for GSU.

“We have been involved in this for about 13 months after the allegation was made,” Baker said. “It was a long process and a relief that it finally came to closure, and now the public will know what transpired and the decision that was rendered by the NCAA.”

The NCAA levied 11 penalties against GSU, including the two-year probation for the men's basketball team that lasts until Jan. 19, 2012 as well as the loss of one scholarship for the basketball team each year through the 2011-12 academic year as well as other penalties.

Baker said that he felt the most hurtful punishment was for GSU’s failure to monitor the basketball program.

Baker said, “The lengths that the individuals went through to cover this was almost impossible to have found out because it was such a covert activity, but we’ll live with it, we’ll move on, and we are focused on the future.”

Baker said that a shortage in staff led to the decision to entrust an assistant coach with academic support duties.

“Our academic support staff did a great job, but we were short staffed,” Baker said. “So we had called on a member of our staff that we felt was trustworthy and he had taken over those duties and done very, very well.

“But, there was a moment when he decided to act in an improper manner, and broke NCAA and institutional rules.”

Baker said that he feels that Charlton Young, the head coach for the men’s basketball team, will help the program recover from the penalties and help student athletes understand the importance of integrity.

Baker said, “I feel comfortable that Coach Young is talking about integrity and being responsible for yourself and your own actions.”

Students Vanessa Cole and Dustin Hogan watch as a crew cuts away at the remains of a Laurel Oak tree next to the Williams Center Sunday. A portion of the tree fell as a result of rot and wind. For another photo, see page 7.

Historic oak tree crashes to the ground

Compiled by staff

A large portion of an oak tree that is as old as Georgia Southern itself fell over the weekend, requiring crews to remove the rest of it due to safety concerns.

All that remained of the tree Monday evening was the large stump that crews had pulled from the ground.

Dennis Pope, a horticulturist and arborist with GSU, said that the tree was recommended for removal months ago and that plans to replace it with new landscaping were already in the works.

“We recommended this tree coming down several months ago, probably over a year,” Pope said. “It was a dangerous situation, and we had already drawn up a plan to add where the one tree is, up to five live oaks and tree sized hollys.”

Pope said that there is no way of knowing if this tree is one of the oldest on campus, but that it is “as old as” the university.

While the age of the tree is unknown, the laurel oak had once been dedicated for the Bell Honors Program.
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Alternate course search available
Search tool user-friendly, mobile-compatible

Kelsey SORRELL
staff writer

Georgia Southern adopted a new online Search Course Schedule tool on My Georgia Southern through a joint effort of IT Services, the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Academic Affairs.

This tool was created “to provide prospective and current students a cleaner and faster way to find courses,” said Robby Ambler, the assistant director for the department of academic technical support center.

The new tool contains basic and advanced level searches which include course prefixes and their numbers, days and times in which they are available and even the instructors that are available to teach those courses.

Freshman creative writing major John Jeziorski used the Search Course Schedule for the first time in order to look up a few classes he is interested in taking in the future.

“I used the basic level search to look up classes like English, music, science, history, Japanese and art,” he said. “I thought the tool was really easy to use; it was really user-friendly.”

In comparison to the old search tool, the new one is “faster, more secure and can’t be hacked, which happened in the past,” Ambler said. “Also, the interface has improved; it works in a mobile site, since more students seem to be using their phones, and the tool is just prettier.

“The new search tool also carries the new GSU brand, since it’s still on the GSU Web site, whereas the old one carried the Wings brand,” he said.

The only negative aspect of the new online Search Course Schedule, according to Ambler, is that it exists outside of Wings, meaning students cannot use it to register for classes – they can only look them up.

“There are some improvements we want to add, however, such as a Google map of the campus which will show where all classes are located, and a link to all of the instructors’ personal web pages,” he said.

The new search tool opened right before Christmas break, making it currently available to all students.

Women’s rugby tackles need for funds

Vincent GARRETT
guest writer

Georgia Southern’s women’s rugby team will soon have a tackle-a-thon fundraiser game to help cover this season’s expenses.

“I’d like to see a great turnout at this match in order for people to see what rugby looks like and try something new,” said Ditoria Geddis, co-treasurer of the team.

Geddis wants the team to be exposed to a new audience of people who have no knowledge of the sport or what the team does as an organization.

Each player on the team will be sponsored by a group, coworkers or a business that will pay each player a certain amount for every tackle that is made during the upcoming game against the University of South Carolina.

Last season, the team was able to raise over $800 while playing the University of Georgia and is hoping to exceed that number this season.

The team is trying to raise enough money to travel and play rugby matches from Florida to North Carolina and to purchase new uniforms. One of the events the tackle-a-thon will fund is a super-hero themed tournament.

“I think what sets this fundraiser apart from others is the fact that we have motivation behind executing our tackles and playing to the best of our ability,” Megan Brock, co-treasurer of the women’s rugby team, said.

The match will take place Feb. 13 at 4:30 p.m. at the rugby field across the parking lot from the RAC.

Those interested can sign up to sponsor a player anytime from now until the game, and those interested in assisting the team in counting the tackles at the game should contact Ditoria Geddis at 706-615-1436 or Megan Brock at 678-643-9485.
Our View

There’s no room for chance

Georgia Southern’s solution to the new onslaught of freshmen will displace many upperclassmen next year, and it is an inconvenience for all the students returning in fall 2010.

For students to even be considered for on-campus housing, they must submit their name to a lottery.

So even if students put their name in, there is no guarantee that they will receive a room. The whole process is based on chance.

Should the incoming freshmen take priority over the students already at GSU?

It is fact that the number of first-year students has increased over the past three years and is expected to keep increasing, but couldn’t there be solutions other than a lottery?

Maybe GSU should build more dorms to make on-campus living available to more students, including the freshmen who are now required to live on campus.

So why do we have to have a lottery when Centennial Place was just completed this year?

But let’s not forget, a considerable amount of freshmen were forced to live off campus last fall due to lack of available housing.

Why implement a policy when the university cannot accommodate all of the incoming students or even guarantee them on-campus housing rates when they’re forced off campus?

The whole situation is just another result of the declining economy of the United States. Because the university cannot afford to make more room for students, upperclassmen have to find home elsewhere.

Somehow, however, a better solution needs to be constructed. If non-freshmen want to live on campus, they should have the opportunity to do so.

A nation united on being divided

“Business as Usual,” “Missing the Target,” “Republican Rise,” “A Good Start” — these are all headlines in the Wall Street Journal’s highly anticipated one-year report card on Wednesday.

After picking up an issue in the business building and reading through the articles, I picked up on one major theme — nobody’s happy.

Sure, there are people who think we’ve got the ball rolling, and there are some that wouldn’t be happy no matter what the circumstances, but overall it seems that Americans are united on being divided, which leaves everyone unhappy.

According to polls conducted by the Wall Street Journal, 41 percent of Americans wanted a Congress controlled by the Democrats and 41 percent of Americans wanted a Republican-controlled Congress.

What does that tell me? To me, that doesn’t just indicate that Americans are split on the issue, but rather it’s a major indicator that the issues at hand aren’t being handled well by either party.

When it comes to health care, 55 percent of Americans disapprove with President Obama’s handle on the issue, while 38 percent approve and 7 percent aren’t sure. Now, I’m just calling it like I see it, and the way I see it, Congress needs to stop bickering and handle issues in a bipartisan manner.

In a time when Congress and the president are being evaluated for their performance, I think it’s important to see how the general public feels, regardless of party lines.

When almost 60 percent of the country believes that the United States is in the midst of a fight to pull our country out of one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, and no one can fault him for wanting to provide all Americans with the healthcare that everyone deserves to have, but it seems that instead of listening to different parties and the people within them, Congress has gotten caught up with lobbyists and agendas instead of focusing on the real issues.

When unemployment rates are hovering above 10 percent nationally, millions of people are uninsured and the economy is on shaky ground at best, I think it’s time for us to realize that party lines are meant to be crossed and that America is a nation made of people that are not easily broken.

No one can deny that our president is in the midst of a fight to pull our country out of one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, and no one can fault him for wanting to provide all Americans with the health care that everyone deserves to have, but it seems that instead of listening to different parties and the people within them, Congress has gotten caught up with lobbyists and agendas instead of focusing on the real issues.

When unemployment rates are hovering above 10 percent nationally, millions of people are uninsured and the economy is on shaky ground at best, I think it’s time for us to realize that party lines are meant to be crossed and that America is a nation made of people that are not easily broken.

So Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, it’s time for Americans to get on the same page and unite ourselves for the issues that really matter. Maybe if we get on the same page as Americans, our politicians will be able to do the same.

Aly Rakoczy is a senior marketing major from Decatur, Ga. She is a staff columnist for The George-Anne.
Puppy Kindergarten now accepting applications

Rachel CASON
guest writer

If you have a pint-sized pup between the ages of 12 weeks and six months, you might consider enrolling it into Puppy Kindergarten.

Certified dog trainer Sissy Haskell, owner/manager of Dogs Live Happy, will be presenting this program that will “convert a puppy into an AKC star puppy.”

Judy Hendrix-Poole, program development specialist, said that Puppy Kindergarten begins tomorrow and will meet one night per week for six weeks.

The program cost is $125, according to Hendrix-Poole. Classes will meet at Dogs Live Happy, which is located at 1679 Akins-Anderson Road, off Highway 301 South, next to the FedEx.

Haskell said that the first meeting will be used to break up puppies and their owners into smaller groups that will meet on the most convenient night for owners.

She said, “My theory is to prevent for us to have to do damage control. [Because] puppies take to training so quickly, [Puppy Kindergarten] prevents problems that cause people to give up their pets.”

These classes are also designed to help owners and their puppies bond with one another.

Hendrix-Poole said, “[The class] helps owners to enjoy their pets more. Pets become like a part of the family. [Puppy Kindergarten] helps them bond with their puppies more and spend less time fussing at them.”

By attending the program, puppies and owners will go through most of the same training that bigger dogs go through, but it will be conducted in a more playful and puppy-centric method, according to Haskell.

She said they will learn the commands “sit,” “come” and “down” in addition to leash-walking.

She also said the program will expose the puppies to common things like strollers, skateboards and being on the veterinarian’s check-up table and will teach the puppies how to react to those everyday occurrences.

More information can be found by calling Sissy Haskell at 912-852-2200.

Fitness program kicks off at the RAC

Lexy FARRIS
guest writer

Today begins the Recreational Activity Center’s 10-week fitness program entitled “Lose It, Love It, Live It!”

“It is a weight management class similar to Weight Watchers,” said Julie Kuykendall, the director of the program. “Students weigh in every week, and half the class focuses on nutrition and the other half doing physical activities.”

The program will have a different instructor for each part of the program.

According to Kuykendall, during the program, students will be exposed to many different modes of physical activities in hopes that they will find one they like and stick with it.

There will be a fitness assessment at both the beginning and the end of the program so participants can track their improvement.

This program is not just for someone wanting to make a drastic change, it is for “people who want to have healthier habits and more knowledge about nutrition and exercise,” said Kuykendall.

There are also incentives in the program to encourage participant’s improvement. The instructors will be giving things away such as water bottles, t-shirts, and massage coupons.

Also, new this semester will be cooking demonstrations for the participants to watch in hopes that it will really help them to be able to eat healthier on their own.

To sign up, students need to fill out a form from the RAC. The program costs $30, and the form and money need to be turned in today.
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

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seasonal:
$5 for students
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thursday, january 28, 2010
thursday, february 4, 2010
wednesday, february 10, 2010
thursday, february 18, 2010
wednesday, february 24, 2010

We want your work!

Miscellany Magazine is seeking submissions for publication in the Spring 2010 issue:
Poetry, Non-Fiction, Fiction, Paintings, Drawings, Sketches, Photography and any other type of art or writing!

Contact:
Christina Riley, Editor-in-Chief
miscellany@georgiasouthern.edu
Student Media: Williams Center, Rm. 2015
Deadline for Submissions: February 16, 2010
**POLICE BEAT**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010**
- Officers issued four traffic citations, issued two traffic warnings, assisted 11 motorists, responded to a report of an unwanted person at the Henderson Library and investigated one accident.
- A vehicle was broken into in the Russell Union/Math-Physics Building parking lot.
- A television screen was damaged at Centennial Place.
- A Centennial Place resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.
- Andrea Miroslava Uribe, 19, Kennedy Hall, was charged with financial transaction card theft and financial transaction card fraud.
- Nicholas Craig Waggner, 18, Southern Pines, was charged with possession/consumption of alcohol and possession of marijuana.

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010**
- Officers issued four traffic citations, issued five traffic warnings, assisted four motorists, responded to four alarms and investigated three accidents.

**Thursday, January 14, 2010**
- Officers issued one traffic citation, issued six traffic warnings, assisted one motorist, assisted another agency and investigated three accidents.
- Two book bags were taken from the Henderson Library.
- Christopher David Ellis, 20, Woodland Drive, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and theft by taking (bicycle).
- Justin Lynn Quaid, 21, Second Street, Dry Pong, La., was charged with public drunkenness and disorderly conduct.
- Julia Marie Trossarello, 18, Southern Pines, was charged with DUI and open container violation.

**Friday, January 15, 2010**
- Officers assisted three motorists and investigated one accident.
- A vehicle was broken into at Southern Pines.

**Saturday, January 16, 2010**
- Officers assisted one motorist, responded to three alarms and responded to a drug complaint at Southern Courtyard.
- Cally Lynn Hannon, 19, Southern Courtyard, was charged with possession of marijuana.

**Sunday, January 17, 2010**
- Officers issued one traffic warning, assisted three motorists, responded to three alarms and investigated one accident.
- A Brannen Hall resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

**Monday, January 18, 2010**
- Officers responded to one alarm.

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010**
- Officers issued two traffic citations, assisted one motorist, assisted one sick person, responded to a drug complaint at Eagle Village, responded to a drug complaint at Centennial Place and investigated one accident.
- Several personal items were taken from the Recreation Activity Center.

**Holocaust graphic novel to be talk topic**

**Jessenia MARTINEZ**

**guest writer**

The Multicultural Student Center will host a discussion about the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel “Maus: A Survivor’s Story.”

“Maus” is written by Art Spiegelman and mainly tells the story of his father’s experience in Nazi Poland and in Auschwitz.

The unique thing about “Maus” is that it's depicted in comic book format, and the people in the story are portrayed symbolically as animals.

Lisa Costello, an assistant professor in the writing and linguistics department, will lead the discussion.

“I have some expertise in the text due to my research into memorialization practices and the Holocaust,” she said. “I find ‘Maus' to be a compelling example of a survivor’s story in a modern medium.”

The discussion will start tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Russell Union room 2047.
Hypnotic entertainment

The “world’s best hypnotist” paid a visit to GSU.

Derek JOYCE
Staff writer

On Thursday evening, Eagle Entertainment presented the man who MTV Europe named “The Best Hypnotist in the World,” Sailesh. As part of the Eagle Entertainment series, Sailesh attracted a packed house, with some audience members standing or sitting on the floor.

The show consisted of many hilarious and raunchy acts. After the initial hypnotism, Sailesh’s acts ranged from environment manipulation, opposite gender Dating Show and Rubber Bodies.

“I remember crying while watching a sad show,” said Erica Nelson, a participant in the show. “[The] Jerry Springer [gag] was pretty great,” said Holly Hughes, an audience member. Even getting the participants to sleep was fun, ranging from a command, a touch, and the “sleeping gun.”

At the end of the performance, Sailesh proclaims the participants were the true stars of the show.

“I love the audience. The energy was great, the people were right into it. There were people sitting all the way to the front of the stage. I couldn’t ask for more,” said Sailesh.

He then used his experience as a certified hypnotherapist to give the participants a hypnotic command that whenever they saw themselves, they became happier, more confident and worked themselves closer to the best people they could be.

At the end of the show, Sailesh suggested that the audience members would regain their memories of what they did, but would not be embarrassed.

However, the impact of the memories were mixed.

“I knew what I was doing, I just couldn’t stop myself,” said Robert Figuerola, a sophomore that participated in the show.

After the show, Sailesh gave away one of his three hypnotherapy CDs: Motivation & Meditation, Weight Loss, and Quit Smoking. He sold the same CDs for $10 to the audience and $40 via internet.

Reactions for Sailesh were universally positive. “It was very audience based, it kept the audience drawn in and he kept things at our level so it was easy to understand,” said Hughes.

“I was sitting in the front row. I was blown completely out of my mind, out of this world. This was the greatest experience I ever had,” said an audience member.

Sailesh was born in the Fiji Islands before moving to Canada.

He now lives in San Francisco, California with his wife and child.

Sailesh has been practicing hypnosis for the last 18 years, performing for 15.

“I was hypnotized. I fell in love with it because I did things which I didn’t think would happen, I didn’t believe in it, It was so real, I thought the guy hypnotizing me was God, he controlled me and a bunch of other people on tape. I had to learn how to do that,” said Sailesh.

He has performed in Canada, Finland, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, England, and throughout the U.S.

‘What’s Up, Doc’ to inform men about healthy living

Derek JOYCE
Staff writer

With this week being deemed Men’s Health Week, the Health Services Office of Health Education and Promotion has several programs planned.

Today’s program, “What’s Up Doc?,” is an open forum for men to discuss health and nutrition.

The objective of the session is to allow young men to obtain any information in regards to health issues or concerns that they may be seeking, and to bring information to those who are uncomfortable seeking it.

The program, which is only open to men, will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. tonight in Russell Union Room 2047.

Dr. Brian DeLoach, Chief of Medical Staff of Health Services at Georgia Southern, and Greg Stephenson, Director of Fitness at CRI, will be in attendance to discuss various health topics with the young men. Paul Ferguson, Director of Health Services, will also be in attendance to offer any advice.

An advantage of these speakers’ presence at the program is not only will they be able to share professional information, but they can also identify with many of the issues that may be discussed.

“Many times men do not want to seek primary care and are unwilling to share information concerning their health, and this program is a way to help them get past that,” said Ferguson.

According to LaShanda Johnson, Assistant Director of Health Education, the program is designed to be informal in order to make it a more comfortable experience for the participants. She says the program will benefit the men better if it is informal.

The program’s participants will have the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to health, fitness, and nutrition by either writing them down or asking them aloud.

“Many of these young men are experiencing similar situations, and to realize that they are not the only ones going through these problems can be somewhat comforting,” said Ferguson.

The speakers will discuss several different topics. Some of the main topics of discussion will be making good use of the Health Center and the RAC, lifestyle problems, and stress.

Other possible topics are sexual health, anxiety, depression, and drinking and driving.

Health Services hosts Men’s Health Week every spring, but this is the first time they have made it into a three part series. They also hosted “Relationship Rehab: For Couples and Singles” yesterday evening and they will be hosting “Burr & Wings: A Candid Male Discussion” tomorrow night.

Various topics that have been discussed in past programs include; STD’s, physical activity questions, eating habits, and several others concerns.

Anyone interested in attending the program or any other’s throughout the week can visit the Georgia Southern Campus Calendar on the University website or contact the Health Services Office of Health Education and Promotion at 912-478-1732.
The U.S. Air Force Reserve Band to give back to the Statesboro community

Vincent GARRETT
Guest writer

On Jan. 28 the United States Air Force Reserve Band will be performing at the Performing Arts Center for no charge to attendees.

They are performing at Georgia Southern as the first concert of their regional tour throughout the southeast. Over their history, the band has performed with artists like Bob Hope and Celine Dion. The band is based out of Warner Robins, Ga.

The concert is expected to attract not only students, but faculty and Statesboro natives. The band, which does not charge the audience because they are paid for by this country’s taxpayers, wanted to give back to Georgia Southern and the Statesboro community.

Major Donald E. Schofield Jr. is the conductor of the concert band and sees this upcoming performance as a way to give back to the community for their support of the military.

“This upcoming concert is our way of thanking people for being supportive of the troops all over.”

Albert Pertalion, who is the Director of the Performing Arts Center, sees the Air Force Reserve Band as a lesson for students in perfection.

“In an imperfect world,” he said, “these musicians have practiced being close to absolute perfection in their performances.”

At this upcoming concert, the band will be playing mostly Northern pop songs and old favorites.

Pertalion asked a question to those who are considering attending this concert.

“Do you love your parents and grandparents?” he asked, “Can you listen to the music they loved and understand why they enjoyed it so much?”

Tickets are available by contacting the Performing Arts Center at 912-478-7999.

To learn more about any of the United States Air Force Reserve Bands go to www.usafreserveband.af.mil.

George-Anne & Joe

Come and jump start your morning with a cup of Joe and a George-Anne in hand.

Starting @ 7:30am, Jan. 21 at the Gazebo between the Union and the Library.

SOAR 2010 Service Project

Assist the 2010 SOAR Team by donating children’s books & school supplies! You can drop donations off in collection boxes found on campus or bring them by Lewis Hall on Sweetheart Circle! For more information, visit http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/orientation/.

Help the 2009–10 Eagle Eye WIN a Cover Contest!

Each week is a different round & it’s set up as a single elimination bracket format. The cover that receives the most votes will move on. Vote as many times as you would like - there are no limitations. Voting is easy!

Click the "Cover Contest" link at www.schooldatebooks.com. In the upper left hand corner, select “College/University” as the school level. Find our match up (it’s alphabetical). Support Southern—VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!
1 year old white Whirlpool Roper extra large for best offer. Wayne @912-536-4489

X-box with games and a PlayStation 2 with games for best offer. Full will need a mattress. I also have an

I have a full/twin wood bunk-bed set for $100 or


Black ICON Domain Decay Helmet(MSRP $390) and Black ICON Accelerant Jacket (MSRP $400) and

Survey of Accounting 8th edition. Used. $50 OBO 912-690-2569

A.R.E. LSII Series Truckbed cover for sale. Excellent condition. Currently on a green 2001 Toyota Tacoma 4-door. I am looking to get a full sized camper top, and hope to sell it to a good home. Call 229-942-6231.

Female needed in a 2BR/2BA apt @ The Garden District. All inclusive including all utilities plus wireless internet. W/D in unit. Tanning beds, Fitness Center and a 24hr security. 912-288-4262

1 BR with private bath, large window, fully furnished for sublease now, located at the Points @ Southern. There are 3 great female roommates. Can trade for different apt at complex. $339/w/utilities. Call 678-431-0549.

Roommates needed for Spring semester at Cambridge! Give me a call! Great prices, beautiful pool, and close to campus! 912.681.2262

Sublease Jan - July 31, 2010!

The Exchange
all inclusive, fully furnished
1bed/1 bath in a 2bed/2bath apartment
$469 per month.
call 229-424-2201

I need someone to take over my sublease in The Woodlans for Spring 2010. $490/month all inclusive.
Pets ALLOWED! (deposit and monthly fee already paid) Pool, gym, computer lab! Ready ASAP!! Call 845-642-2030.

Take over rent on master bed in Hammocks until July. 1male roommate there and easy to get along with.

*SUBLEASE: Spring/Summer Semester 2010
- 1 BR/Private Bath (largest bath) in a 4 BR Apt.
- campus crossings: Great Location!
- walking distance to campus
- *3 female roommates
- *friendly, easy going, and clean
**PRICE NEGOTIABLE**
Please contact me at: rachelraubolt@yahoo.com

Spend the next year in a nice 3 bedroom house in Whispering Pines Sub. Close to Campus. Two rooms avail. Only $350 /mon + utilities. call Dan 404.273.9707

This is a beautiful 2-Story Home in a secluded neighborhood near campus. Looking to sublease ASAP, rent is $750 a month + utilities. Please contact me via email.

Sublease 1 br in a 3 br house in the Landings for Spring 2010. Rent: 365 plus utilities, pets allowed. Large living space, large closets, nice backyard, plenty of parking. Contact 678-983-2762

$399 4bd/ba at Campus Club fully furnished, w/d, plenty of parking. Contact 678-983-2762

Large living space, large closets, nice backyard, new furniture. New clubhouse, tanning beds, gym. First stop on bus route. Girl only. First MONTHS RENT FREE, Call (478)397-2801.

SUBLEASE: Spring/Summer Semester 2010
- 1 BR/Private Bath (largest bath) in a 4 BR Apt.
- Campus Crossings: Great Location!
- Walking distance to campus
- *3 female roommates
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Jayson Foster’s journey to the UFL

The Walter Payton Award winner tries to find work in the United Football League

Drew CHESHIRE guest writer

There is an old proverb that claims, “A rolling stone gathers no moss.” This adage refers to the belief that those who never settle down or are always on the move will never be successful.

However, former Georgia Southern quarterback Jayson Foster just might disprove this theory.

After four years of dazzling spectators with his athletic prowess at the collegiate level, he has become a journey man of sorts trying to make it big at the professional level.

A storied career at Cherokee High School in Canton, GA led Jayson to the gridiron of Paulson Stadium, where he excelled as a running back, receiver, return man, and eventually quarterback. Foster’s last season in blue and white saw his legs and his arm en route to winning the 2007 Walter Payton Award as the best player in the nation at the FCS level.

His statistics for the season were unmatched. As an NCAA quarterback, he would record 1,844 yards rushing, 24 touchdowns, 1,203 yards passing, 6 touchdowns.

The student body was so inspired by his performance that “Foster 4 Heisman” T-Shirts sprung up all over Statesboro. These accomplishments seemed to have Foster poised for greatness after college; but when the 2008 NFL Draft rolled around in April, he found himself among many athletes not picked by any of the 32 NFL teams.

Eventually, Foster found his way to Miami, Baltimore, and into the hearts of Eagle fans everywhere. His performance that “Foster 4 Heisman” T-Shirts sprang up all over Statesboro. These accomplishments seemed to have Foster poised for greatness after college; but when the 2008 NFL Draft rolled around in April, he found himself among many athletes not picked by any of the 32 NFL teams.

Then came the upstart United Football League, which sought after college and former NFL players who could not quite make it in the big leagues.

“My agent called right after I got cut from Baltimore and told me they were starting up a new league,” said Foster. “Later that night, the Florida Tuskers called and asked if I was interested. Next day, I was on a plane to Florida.”

Jayson finished as the Tusker’s third leading receiver with 21 catches for 308 yards and 3 touchdowns.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Foster. “They have a lot of good players. A good number of them have some NFL experience, like Tatum Bell, who played with Denver when I was there. There’s not that big of a drop off in talent.”

Although it appears that the Sunshine State has provided a temporary home for him, there’s no telling what the future may hold. He’s currently working out and staying in shape to be ready for whoever calls him, whether it’s the NFL or UFL.

“I’m really just going wherever I’m asked to,” said Foster. “I’d be nice to get another shot at the NFL, but I would also enjoy staying in the UFL. I’m just going to keep working out and doing my best, and hopefully I’ll be wherever’s best for me.”

One thing is for certain though. Jayson Foster has carved his name into college football history, and into the hearts of Eagle fans everywhere.
The George-Anne Eagles fall to Davidson

Derek HARDGE, JR. 
sports writer

The Georgia Southern Eagles (5-16) hosted So-Con rival Davidson (9-11) on Saturday as the Eagles came up short, 91-87. Davidson won the tip-off and scored the opening basket as Eagles guard Willie Powers would be the first to score for GSU. The first half was full of three-pointers for Davidson as JP Kuhlman hit three out of three buckets from downtown territory. As a team, the Wildcats hit eight three-pointers within the first 20 minutes of play.

The Eagles had bright spots of their own as Rory Spencer had three blocks in first half, two of which came on the same play. Those blocks would help give GSU momentum to make a late run, but not enough to gain the lead.

Davidson’s Kuhlman would hit a few more three-pointers in the last couple minutes of the half, giving the Wildcats a 46 to 35 lead entering halftime.

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The first half of play was very foul heavy as four fouls were compiled within first four minutes of play. The first half would end with 10 total fouls in the game.

Davidson led the second half as well, with good shooting percentages by Jake Cohen, Steve Rossiter, and Brendan Mckillop.

The Eagles went on a scoring rampage of their own however, and would hit almost every three-point shot.

Antoine Hanson, Colby Wohlleb, and Powers all hit three-point shots back-to-back adding a quick nine points to the score. It would not stop there as the Eagles continued to fight back. GSU accumulated six steals, five blocks and forced Davidson to turnover the ball over 22 times.

With good shooting from the Eagles, GSU was able to cut Davidson’s lead to single digits late in the game.

The late comeback would not be enough for the Eagles to win however, as the final score was 91-87.

“We showed great signs of fight late in the game,” said Hanson. “We just have to play with more urgency.”

Davidson’s scoring leader would be Steve Rossiter who hit seven out of eight field goals and grabbed five rebounds.

The Eagles scoring leaders included Willie Powers, who finished with eight assists and three three-pointers made; Hanson, who connected with five shots from beyond the arc; and Wohlleb, who made five shots, four of which were from downtown.

The Eagles are now 5-16 overall and 2-6 in the SoCon. GSU’s next contest is set for Thursday, Jan. 28 against The Citadel (10-10) at 7:00 p.m. in Hanner Fieldhouse.

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Guard Ben Drayton III (22) attempts a layup during Saturday’s game against Davidson.

Rob Eakins/STAFF

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