

SPORTS



Photo by Amanda Kral

The team listens to advice given to them from their head coach, Christopher Cotton.

Lady Hawk's wings clipped by DuPage

By Eli Rodriguez
Sports Editor

Head Coach Christopher Cotton and the women's basketball team were away this weekend in Palatine taking on the Lady Hawks of Harper.

The teams met earlier in the year on January 24 and DuPage pulled out an exciting win 49-43 in overtime.

This time around the Lady Chaps were on Harper's home court in another important conference match. DuPage came in with a conference record of 3-4 and the Lady Hawks had a record of 4-3.

Harper got off to an early lead at 6-0 then went on to extend it to 12-3. But DuPage would not be silenced as they grabbed 12 points from four three pointers and came back with in one 19-18. The Lady Hawks

however edged out a slim lead 27-23 going into halftime.

It was DuPage that came out strong in the second half. The Lady Chaps caught up to Harper when they sank another three pointer. Then with less than four minutes left to play in the game, Harper's Peggie Parhas made a game tying three point shot, she had 19 points in the game.

But Parhas shot didn't provide any momentum for Harper. In the closing minutes of the game DuPage denied Lady Hawks of any more points and went on to score eight more.

At the end of the game DuPage picked up the win 53-45 and improved their conference record to 4-4.

The Lady Chaps have only three games left in the regular season before hosting the Region IV Tournament. They will take on Moraine Valley at 5 p.m. Saturday at home.

Chaps soar above Golden Eagles

Men's basketball team wins conference match against Rock Valley

By Eli Rodriguez
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team took on Rock Valley Saturday in a conference match up. This was the team's second meeting of the season and the Chaps won the first game by a slim margin 61-60.

This time around was no different, at least not in the first half. Neither team was able to get a decisive lead over the other.

The Chaps were 12-31 in total field goals and only 3-12 in three point field goals in the first half. The Chaps also struggled with their free throws going 5-12 for the half.

The offensive numbers weren't much different for the Golden Eagles as they went 10-32 in field goals and only 3-13 in three pointers. They did manage to 6-7 in free throws but in the end the Chaps were up by three 32-29 going into half time.

Both teams came out playing the second half started but it was the turnovers and fouls that ended up hurting the Golden Eagles.

The Chaps made up for the first half by going 7-10 in free throws. Both teams struggled with turnovers but it was the 24 allowed by RVC that gave DuPage the edge to pull out another win over the Golden Eagles 67-55.

Chaps leading scorer John Shodipo didn't have his best game but was 3-9 and scored 9 points. Deon Thomas had another good performance going 4-7 and 5-5 in free throws with a total of 13 points on the game. Robert Odumuyiwa was also in double digits with a total of 12 points.

RVC top scorers were Adam Hodge, Marcus Foter, and Gene Hodge. All were in double digits with 11, 13 and 13 points, respectively.

The Chaps next game will be a Valentine's Day match up as they take on Moraine Valley at 7 p.m. Saturday at home.

Vatchev hopeful about Track and Field season

As the College of DuPage Track and Field team jumped off to an impressive start on

Feb. 7 at the Bob Keck Invitational at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Coach Jane Vatchev predicts there will be few hurdles impeding her men's and women's teams this season.

"I think we are off to a good start and will be doing some great things this year," she said. "Leading the men's team is a returning athlete, who is a top sprinter."

That sprinter is Dan Benton (Westmont), who placed first in both the 200-meter dash (22.46

seconds), in a field of 47 runners, and 400-meter dash (50.07), out of 38 entrants. Benton had previously placed second (22.88) among 200 runners at an invitational meet at Carthage College on Jan. 31.

"Dan leads by example in practice and competition, nobody works harder," Vatchev said. "He was a three-time national champion last year and is determined to have another top performance at nationals this year. Dan is a team captain this year and is one of the cornerstones of the team."

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Baseball in the Big Easy

Chaparrals take on Deglado and Middle Georgia in New Orleans

By Eli Rodriguez
Sports Editor

Chap's baseball head coach Dan Kusinski and his team are in New Orleans for a baseball filled weekend against two other schools, Delgado Community College and Middle Georgia College.

The Chaps faced off against Delgado to begin the season last year and went 1-2 in their 3 meetings.

DuPage will have their hands full against Delgado led by Joe Scheuermann, who begins his nineteenth year as head coach. The New Orleans based team has a total of 41 players on their roster this year and with 16 freshmen the majority are returning players.

Scheuermann and the Dolphins have had recent success in the past few years. In 2007 Scheuermann took them to the

NJCAA South Central Championship District and the Junior College World Series.

Another roster packed squad is the Chaps' other opponent Middle Georgia. MGC led by Craig Young have a total of 30 players and 17 freshmen. Although only three of the 11 pitchers are returning Travis Barrett, Bryan Blough and Chris Newell.

The Chaps with only 20 players on the roster will be counting on quality rather than quantity. With a strong core of experienced starters Coach Kusinski will look for some good starts from Mitch Smith, Kevan Carpenter, Brian Martin and Isaac Rome.

After games wrap up in the Big Easy the Chaps will head back to Illinois for their next series. DuPage will take on South-eastern Illinois at noon next weekend at Harrisburgh, Ill.

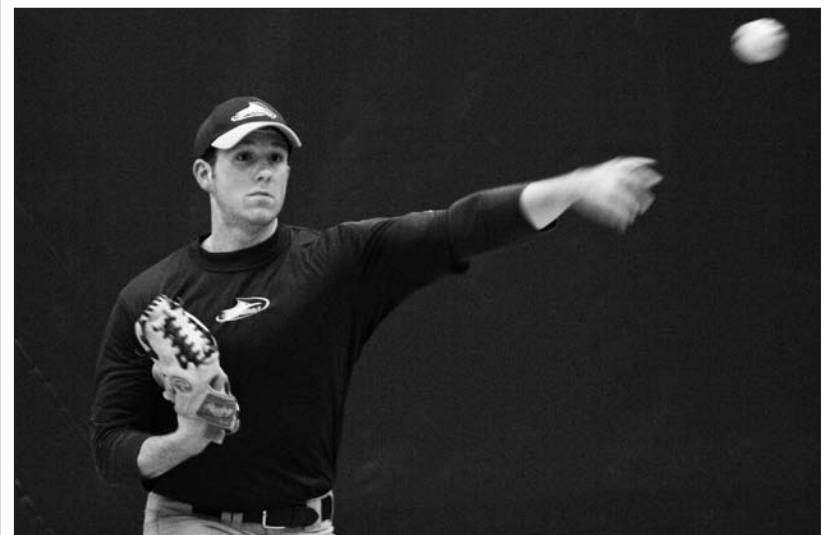


Photo by Rich Malec/ College of DuPage

Returning player Mitch Smith warms up during practice by throwing a few pitches.

Spring 2009 Sports Schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FEBRUARY			
Tue., 3	JOLIET	L 53-64	Sat., 21
*Sat., 7	at Rock Valley	3:00 p.m.	
*Tue., 10	at Harper	7:00 p.m.	
Sat., 14	MORAIN VALLEY	7:00 p.m.	MARCH
*Tue., 17	WRIGHT	7:00 p.m.	Tue., 3 -
*Sat., 21	TRITON	7:00 p.m.	Sun., 8
Wed., 25	REGION IV TOURNAMENT		
	at DuPAGE	5:00 p.m.	
Sat., 28	REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIP		
	at DuPAGE	7:00 p.m.	

MARCH			
Thu., 12 -	NJCAA Division III Nationals		
Sat., 14	at Delhi, NY	TBA	

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FEBRUARY			
*Tue., 3	JOLIET	L 34-62	
*Sat., 7	at Rock Valley	1:00 p.m.	
*Tue., 10	at Harper	5:00 p.m.	
Sat., 14	MORAIN VALLEY	5:00 p.m.	
*Tue., 17	WRIGHT	5:00 p.m.	
*Sat., 21	TRITON	5:00 p.m.	
Thu., 26	REGION IV TOURNAMENT		
	at DuPAGE	5:00 p.m.,	
Sat., 28	REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIP		
	at DuPAGE		

MARCH			
Thu., 12 -	NJCAA Division III Nationals		
Sat., 14	at Rochester, MN	TBA	

SWIMMING & DIVING

FEBRUARY			
Sat., 7	Titan Diving Invitational	11:00 a.m.	
Fri., 13	REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIP	11:00 a.m.	
Sat., 14	REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIP	10:00 a.m.	
	Lincoln College		
	Lincoln, IL		
Fri., 20	Midwest Invitational	6:00 p.m.	

University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Midwest Invitational 10:00 a.m./5:00
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL

MARCH
Tue., 3 -
Sun., 8
NJCAA Swimming & Diving
Championship
Erie Community College
Buffalo, New York

TRACK & FIELD

FEBRUARY			
Sat., 7	Keck Invitational	11:00 a.m.	
	Illinois Wesleyan University		
Fri., 13	Chicagoland Women's	5:00 p.m.	
	Indoor Championship		
	Lewis University		
Sat., 14	Chicagoland Men's	11:00 a.m.	
	Indoor Championship		
	University of Chicago		
Fri., 20	Friday Night Special	2:00 p.m.	
	Eastern Illinois University	5:00 p.m.	
Sat., 21	Dick Pond Indoor Invitational		
	Lewis University		
Fri., 6	Gill Athletics Last	4:00 p.m.	
	Chance Meet		
	Carthage College		
Fri., 13 or	COD INTERSQUAD	TBA	
Fri., 20	College of DuPage		
Sat., 28	Viking Olympics	12:00 p.m.	
	Augustana College		

MARCH			
Wed., 1	Troll Relays	4:00 p.m.	
	Trinity Christian College		
Sat., 4	Mike Poehlein Invitational	9:00 a.m.	
	Purdue University		
Sat., 4	Elmhurst Invitational	10:00 a.m.	

Fri., 10	Elmhurst College		
	Chicagoland Women's		12:00 p.m.
	Championship		
	University of Chicago		
Sat., 11	Chicagoland Men's		9:00 a.m.
	Championship		
	University of Chicago		
Sat., 18	Eagle Invitational		10:00 a.m.
	Benedictine University		
Sat., 25	Regional Championship		TBA
	Loras College		

BASEBALL

FEBRUARY			
Thu., 12	Middle Georgia		12:00 p.m.
Fri., 13	Delgado CC		12:00 p.m.
Sat., 14	Middle Georgia		12:00 p.m.
Sat., 14	Delgado CC		3:00 p.m.
Sun., 15	Delgado CC		11:00 a.m.
Sat., 21	Southeastern Illinois		12:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Southeastern Illinois		12:00 p.m.
Fri., 27	John A. Logan		12:00 p.m.
Sat., 28	South Suburban		3:00 p.m.
MARCH			
Sun., 1	Illinois Central		11:00 a.m.
Sat., 7	Meramec (MO)		12:00 p.m.
Sun., 8	Forest Park (MO)		12:00 p.m.
Tue., 17	Lincoln Land		1:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	Lake County		12:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Waubonsee		12:00 p.m.
Tue., 24	WAUBONSEE		3:00 p.m.
Wed., 25	Moraine Valley		3:00 p.m.
*Sat., 28	HARPER		12:00 p.m.
*Sun., 29	Harper		12:00 p.m.

* = Conference Games

Home games in ALL CAPS



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Athlete of the Week



Name: Amanda Smith
Sport: Basketball
Year: Sophomore
School: Willowbrook



Photos by Amanda Kral

Q: How long have you been playing basketball?

A: Since I was in seventh grade, officially.

Q: What do you like most about basketball?

A: The competition.

Q: What is most challenging part about basketball?

A: Probably switching positions. I start off as a forward then I move to guard and

I'll get confused sometimes.

Q: How do you prepare yourself before a game?

A: I listen to my iPod and just think about what I need to do and what the team needs to do.

Q: Who is your favorite player?

A: LeBron James.

Q: Who inspires you?

A: I would have to say my high school coach, Troy Nelson.

Q: What are your plans after COD?

A: I want to finish and get my associates then maybe transfer and continue to play basketball.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I work but I like reading too.



Photo by Amanda Kral

Team takes advantage of the weather and practices outdoor events.

'T&F' from page 17

Another standout on the men's team is Troy Doris (Bolingbrook), who placed first in both the long jump (6.98m) and triple jump (14.65m).

"Troy comes to us with a wealth of talent from high school," Vatchev said. "What impresses me most about Troy is his attitude in competition. He is focused, positive and determined. Troy

has already qualified for the national meet in the long jump and triple jump."

A standout on the women's team is Bethany Ester (Winfield), who placed second in both the women's high jump preliminaries (1.62m) and finals (1.62m). Ester also placed seventh in the 400-meter dash (1:02.69).

"Bethany is one of the hardest working athletes on the team," Vatchev said. "She is a very talented athlete and will help lead the women's team this year. In indoor competition, she has qualified for nationals in every event she has participated in, high jump, long jump, 400 meter and 4 x 400-meter relay. That's impressive."

Vatchev, who has coached at the University of Nevada, Reno, and Augustana College before coming to College of DuPage nine years ago, pins much of her hope this season not only on her athletes but also on her coaching staff.

"I am very blessed to have a terrific staff," she said. "I have seven out of my nine assistant coaches who are former athletes of mine, and they are very knowledgeable and skillful. I think I have the best staff in the Chicago area. I feel very lucky."

For more information on track and field at College of DuPage, call Vatchev at (630) 942-3329 or e-mail: Vatchev@cod.edu.

Story courtesy of College of DuPage Sports Release



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