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Men's basketball wins BracketBuster game in OT

Today: Rain 43/37 Tomorrow: P Cloudy 57/35

Volume 30 - Issue 16

swing for the fences

Tyler Eacott
tyler.eacott@liberty.edu
Research contributed by
Greg Leanne
gregleane@liberty.edu

One could not help but to think that the night of the new Liberty Baseball Stadium was a dream of the late Dr. Jerry Falwell brought to life. Among a flurry of other projects, including academic and residential buildings, construction workers feverishly work on a new state-of-the-art baseball stadium overlooking the mountains on the north end of campus. While time did not allow crews the opportunity to complete the venue, the 2,500 chair-back seat and artificial playing surfaces were ready for a new chapter in Liberty baseball that weekend, Feb. 23-24, when the Flames played their first home series of the season against Penn State.

Even though the Liberty Baseball Stadium hosted many of the amenities that will eventually be available when the $8 million project is complete, 2,658 excited fans came out to pack the home opener Saturday, Feb. 23. "This is Jerry Falwell Jr.'s idea to build a new stadium. It was his idea to build a new stadium. It was his idea to build a new stadium," Liberty Football Vice President and Ritz said, according to Ritz. "The idea he had one was that one baseball stadium, should not be down in a rain or a rain hidden from view, so I thought that our baseball stadium, when the $8 million project is done, should not be down in a rain. It should be up in the sky, and it should be ready for a new championship series to start." The first home game of the season kicked off at the newly-built stadium, where Liberty beat Penn State in front of a crowd of 2,565.

Scholarships increase

Tabitha Cassidy																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															 zero. See STADIUM, A3

EchoLight donation

Malachi Orluck
malachi.l.ork@liberty.edu

EchoLight Studios recently formed an agreement to coproduce five feature films with Liberty University's Dramatic Arts Zaki Gordon Center to make a mark on Christian filmmakers and university film schools. According to a press release from EchoLight Studios, the company had announced a multi-million dollar contribution to support the next generation of Christian filmmakers earlier this year. The latest announcement from EchoLight Studios will offer a limited number of full tuition scholarships to high school valedictorians and salutatorians. The university will also increase the Academic Achievement Scholarship for new students, including those with an ACT or SAT score of 20 or 10%, respectively, in order to be eligible to receive the full tuition scholarship now being offered.

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CIA reveals

Representatives from the CIA visited Liberty University Feb. 19 to meet with prospective students seeking jobs in visual art, graphic design, and communications.

According to the Helen School of Gov-
ernment, CIA officials are in the process of wanting to use their skills to develop a professional career within the agency.

"A number of students have expressed interest in the CIA for the 25 years as the director of art, opened the floor to share his appreciation for the large crowd of students.

"We've had not one but two CIA representatives who expressed interest in a potential career within the agency.

"The2013society'svicepresident,DavidLeite,askedstudentswhattheywantedtogetoutofLibertyUniversity.

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Jerry Falwell Library begins to take shape

With the final steel beam now in place in the Jerry Falwell Library, the structure is beginning to resemble a finished product, said building crews continue in the construction process.

"It has been very much on schedule," Associate Dean of the Integrated Learning Resource Center Jerry Lovell Walters said. As of Feb. 14, crews had at least two eastwall left to pour for the building and were starting to work on some of the interior walls, according to Walters.

When construction was complete, the ILRC will begin the delicate process of preparations for the opening of the old library in the new.

The automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS), better known as the botton system, will contain more than 400,000 items. The sources mostly books that will not go into the system will be split between two locations — both the traditional, two-story reading room and the library book vault, Walters said. Walters also confirmed that the system will conserve space, allowing for more study rooms and overall space efficiency.

"We can do a lot of different things that we really didn't have the space to do in the old library," Dean of the IRLC Molly Pride said.

According to Walters, with the new robotic system, the ILRC is setting for a five-minute turn around instead of getting the items from storage to the customer.

Students were previously limited to the first floor of the ILRC, Dr. Moss when it came to reading books, unless, of course, the book was checked out, Walters said. With the new retrieval system, students will not longer be so limited.

"The books will be able to flow through most of the building, and the building is no longer the wall," Walters said.

This system will allow students to take full advantage of the library's massive space to meet their needs, according to Walters.

"In the new library, we're going to be creating an environment that can meet the diverse needs of students in a better fashion that what we were able to do here in the old library," Pride said.

"Although, construction crews broke ground in March 2012, Walters said that the planning process for the newly-licensed building started over two and a half years ago, when initial plans for the old library were done.

According to Walters, Tyler Voak, who was the scholarship communication librarian, was one of the first to suggest the idea of building a brand-new library when the decision of making improvements to the old library initially began.

According to the Library, News Service, $90 million has been invested in the new project, which boasts an impressive $170,000,000 structure.

Walters said that the new library will seat more than 2,300 students, about 10 percent of the university's future projected goal of 23,000 residential students.

"We believe this facility will become the bridge between Liberty's original vision for academic excellence and the final fulfillment of that vision," Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said.

The grand opening of the Jerry Falwell Library is prepared for late fall 2015.

BARTLETT is a news reporter.

STADIUM continued from A1

Walters added that with the new seating arrangement the game said Falwell that he could pitch the pitcher at M.P.I.

"Afield pretty good for a few minutes until I realized he was only pitch, " Falwell said.

Players and coaches alike are excited to see what this new facility can do for the program in the near future.

"It's going to be awesome for recruiting," Head Coach Jim Torson said.

"We're not really limited at Liberty to have an administration that wants to do this," it was no secret that the law Dr. Falwell shared the same love for sports as his dad for his communities. He knew the players that college athletes at Liberty could have as bringing the Gospel to the multitudes.

One of the last day, Dr. Falwell's favorite sports, and one that he excelled in, was baseball. According to an article on N.C.B.C., Dr. Falwell under­went a religious convers, which led him to transfer to Baptist Bible College in Spring­field, Mo., instead of accepting an offer to play professional baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

"Before my conversion, I had several thoughts about what I would do with my life. For awhile, I thought I would like to play professional baseball," the late Dr. Falwell said in an interview with the News & Advance. "I loved the game. Playing outfield and hitting the ball meant a great deal to me. I probably was not good enough to make it, but I dreamed about trying anyway."

EACHO is the next news editor.

INCRISE continued from A1

or higher, no-fee or an ACT score of at least 16, or an SAT score of at least 500. Rice said, "Our scholarship levels will also increase under the Academy Achievement Scholarship. Basically, the increases range anywhere from $250 more per year to $1,000 per year on top of the Academic Achievement Scholarship students would have already received on the old programs." Liberry's Virginia Scholarship, which is available to residents of the commonwealth who are undergraduate students, will increase from $1,000 per year to $2,500 per year, according to Rice.

"Every new Virginia resident student will have $1,044 per year in four years — enough of their Virginia tuition that comes from the commonwealth of Virginia and which costs from the community," Rice said.

"Basically, the increases range anywhere from $250 more per year on top of the Virginia Scholarship student who would have already received on the old programs," Rice said.

Liberty's Virginia Scholar­ship, which is available to residents of the commonwealth who are undergradu­ate students, will increase from $1,000 per year to $2,500 per year, according to Rice.

CASSIDY is the editor in chief.

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Tendency to waste food is trashy

Signs posted at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall educate students about the magnitude of food thrown away daily

Gabriella Tuller
jtuller@foodsgory.org

February 26, 2013

Wasting what we have been blessed with is a problem. For the past two weeks, signs posted around the dining hall have served as an alarming reminder to students. I believe we have become too used to wasting food.

The posters announce a recent development initiated by Students Against Significant Redundancy in waste on campus. According to Jeffrey Metz, teaching assistant of Dining Services, students marked on a study in which they used just how much food students throw away in order to prove that waste is a steadily increasing problem on Liberty’s campus.

“We were trying to think of a way that we could very simply show the students an impact that they could have on campuses, as we decided to see how much food waste they had within the lunch period for five days,” Prider said.

The results were shocking for just five days, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the dining hall showed approximately 1,000 pounds of food waste. Yes, you read that correctly — more than 1,000 pounds of food was discarded in just five hours.

I am not generally inclined to endorse every call to action made by the environmental movement, but in this case, I believe that the facts posted around the dining hall serve as a call to action. Liberty, we can do better.

We have all heard phrases calling us to reduce and protect the environment. It seems to me that we have to change this logic as eating more than you suspect for the supposed goals of the environmental movement.

The truth is that whether or not we agree with environmental preservation or not, we each have a responsibility to take care of our environment, Prider said. “As Christians, we have certain responsibilities that we need to be good stewards of. We need to be responsible for the things that we do, even the things that we do are for our disposal.”

Now, I know that as students, the world things about a million things in our diets. Every time we walk through the back halls of Delco, a new profusion of commercials and public service announcements play on the televisions. There are fundraisers, site tours, and surveys that we are all aware of.

The solution to waste management is simple, though. As more and more students accept this idea, we can see that food waste is not as simple as making a change in how we eat but more about knowing the impact of eating.

Though you may not be single-handedly responsible for the $50 billion of food that the National Resources Defense Council reports goes to waste worldwide each year, you are accountable for your own actions, your own plate.

It may not seem like a lot, but every plate of food contributes in some way.

Here is the good news you are not in this alone. Students are doing part and as students we can help reduce the food waste. Beyond the obvious steps to bring this issue to the forefront of students’ minds, several other possibilities exist for the future.

In the current study on campus gardens, and we look to the possibility of doing so in middle schools gardens as well. Using these gardens in our arena is a great way to incorporate some of the things that we can actually replace some of the food that we would otherwise lose.

From the cook

By Tatiana Casady

An unappealing cry emanates from the corner of a helpless, furry German shepherd. It’s the dog that the kids use to clean the dog’s bed on the second floor of the dorms. With head held far down and fur fanning out, the dog struggles to stay off the ground, the hair on his back hardnap flattening out. His small pink tongue sticks out, the strain of the itch too much for the dog to bear. The smells are bad, the dead smell and the dog’s skin.

His skin is red, itchy, and inflamed. His ears are raw and his eyes are bloodshot. The typical signs of a skin condition. The dog, a German Sheppard, is one of many suffering from a condition known as Demodicosis.

Death, would you like a grilled differend? Let’s get back. Clamping onto the meat for one more breath, a baby wolf’s body slams to the bare floor of its den. The tail of the white-haired wolf is clearly visible, the hair on his back hardnap flattening out. The dog struggles to stay off the ground, the hair on his back hardnap flattening out. Its small pink tongue sticks out, the strain of the itch too much for the dog to bear. The smells are bad, the dead smell and the dog’s skin.

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Decision to raise minimum wage is not worth it

The proposed increase, the first since 2009, would be harmful to low-income workers and the economy

By Andrew Wolfolk

Imagine this: a television show depicts the Islamic prophet Muhammad as a teenage member of a gang, taunting and beating up anyone who speaks anything bad about Islam. Not the reaction that the general public would have after that episode aired. Muslims and many others would be outraged, completely incensed by the fact that a show would dare blaspheme a man they believe to be the central figure of their faith.

A similar situation has occurred in real life. Just last week, Fox has reportedly bought the rights to a film on the life of Jesus Christ. Muslims and many others, outraged at the fact that a movie about Jesus would be made, have called for a boycott of the show.

During the government's push to increase the minimum wage, the industry was rocked by the news that the show, which many had thought would help lower-income workers, would be made by Shari'a compliant filmmakers, who would not be allowed to show any scenes of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary.

The central thesis of the show, Jesus Christ Goes in Search of God, is that he is the son of God, which is a violation of Islamic Law. The filmmakers have said they will notirement the show, but many Muslims believe this is insufficient.

"This is not just an attack on Jesus Christ," said one Muslim activist. "It is an attack on the entire Islamic faith."

Still, the government has been insistent that the show must be made. "We are committed to promoting interfaith understanding," said the minister of culture. "This show is a great opportunity to do so."

The decision to make the show has been met with a mix of emotions. Some Muslims are angry and outraged, while others believe it is a necessary step in the fight against Islamic extremism.

"We must show the world that Islam is a religion of peace," said one Muslim leader. "This show is a step in that direction."

But others are concerned about the potential backlash. "This is a delicate issue," said another leader. "We must be careful not to make a mistake that could harm our relationship with the Western world."

The decision to make the show comes as the government is also pushing to increase the minimum wage. "We need to do both," said the minister of labor. "We need to help our workers, but we also need to promote interfaith understanding."

The minimum wage increase has been met with mixed reactions. Some see it as a positive step, while others believe it is too little too late.

"This is a good step," said one economist. "But we need to do more. We need to address the root causes of poverty."

"But it is not enough," said another economist. "We need to address the root causes of poverty."

The government has been insistent that it is doing everything it can. "We are doing all we can," said the minister of labor. "But we also need to address the root causes of poverty."

The decision to make the show and increase the minimum wage has been met with mixed reactions. Some believe it is a good step, while others believe it is too little too late.
Keys to success

B. J. Smith
kiss@liberty.edu

The School of Business welcomed special guest Doug Hughes to their convocation service Monday, Feb. 18, where students heard firsthand what it takes to succeed and the ways to get t

Hughes, a chief sales officer at McGraw-Hill, began by introducing himself, and U.S. Citizenship the CEO for Aetna.

"The reason I am here is one of the most impactful companies," Hughes said. "He led the medical field to impact education, and let me dedicate to students to help them achieve.

"Students, companies determine the adaptive learning engine behind McGraw-Hill, a range of Leverage products, according to the Aetna website. "Most importantly, I want you to see what we open up students' eyes to the world of work."

"So above all, we see that students study more when they see the Leaamond Model that's less. Originally, we thought that they would study less. We actually found our answers to the fact that studying is overlaid. Technology has a dramatic impact on students' performance, according to Hughes. Using it can failure rates in half, which is why Hughes said that he is so passionate about it.

Hughes' key to success are keeping your sales commitments, differentiation, communication, loyalty and belief. According to Hughes, these are four things that we have to get right where he is.

Hughes closed his talk with a U.S. Army, where he was encouraged to never quit. thing for that star and to keep pushing forward. He drew from his college experiences to help him start an online training center in the university academic, and that is what he does.

"I was able to use my college office to work on that the Vice President of Sales for McGraw-Hill, and the asked the university. I attended the time, his writing technology and because of all the work that I have done with the students."

Concerning his students that success is simple, but not to confuse the wood simple with easy.

"Look upon that you always think to believe in yourself, even when it looks like you should quit and when you just can't go on a look at what you believe in, and that is the tree to success," senior and business finance major, Kenneth Parry said.

Hughes ended his message with the advice that the law. The Jerry Fishell would have given if he were here today — never quit.

SMITH is a news reporter.

Next, the four panelists engaged in a roundtable discussion on the topic of "The Future of Work." The panelists included Rajeev Suri, President and CEO of Nokia, who discussed the impact of technology on the workforce; Dr. discussed the importance of lifelong learning and the role of universities in preparing students for the future; and panelists shared their perspectives on the future of work, including the role of automation and emerging technologies. The discussion was moderated by an experienced journalist.

The event concluded with a networking session, where attendees had the opportunity to connect with panelists and other participants. The evening was hosted by Liberty University's School of Business, and sponsored by a leading technology company.
Having never traveled to a competition before, the Liberty University Jazz Ensemble made headlines by placing third in the 2013 36th Annual Elmhurst College Jazz Festival in Chicago. According to Kerr, the band played a selection of their favorite pieces, including "Sowetto," a piece by Eric Moses that was premiered at the festival.

Kerr commented on the trip as successful on three fronts—experiencing a festival as both performer and audience members, sharing Liberty's talent with others who have a knowledge of Liberty and learning from and about other groups from around the country.

As newcomers to the competition, Kerr and his band selected pieces strategically—a variety was a priority. The band played a combination of traditional and avant-garde arrangements, sprinkled with vocal numbers, and rotated into the mainstream and contemporary recording series. The band was a unique blend of several styles that showcased their wide range of skills.

"This was a band with a lot of potential," Kerr said. "It's not like we got to learn new things.

For Kerr, "Daddy Gave Me Some" and 'Sowetto" were solo efforts—"one of the high points of Liberty's performance. It set an entire different mood from anything they had heard that day," he said. "There was something like it all day.

"Over contributing a solid performance for Liberty was Joey Diddel Burge, a senior pianist who was given an Outstanding Recognition award for musical improvisation and interpretation of the three top adjudicators—all of whom had spent some attention to the Forward Bocarostet. Burge was featured several times, with his longest solo being the opening theme, "The Sensous Three Blues."

"(Boudfros brings the ensemble together)" junior guitarist Stuart Payne said. "I loved jugal for the 'S Factor'—he brings that to the table."

"We bring in a lot of style and adventure," soprano trombonist Brian Clark said. "(It) was something that the crowd could follow. It had a theme. It wasn't just a collection of tunes."

Liberty had a strong showing in improvisation, but Kerr said that he looks forward to improving the talent as the School of Music moves forward with plans to implement a new jazz studies program—"as soon as next fall."

What is currently a strength on an individual level will become an ensemble strength.

Jazz Ensemble travels to Windy City

Liberty University competitive musicians participated in the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival in Chicago

Kyle Harvey
liberty@liberty.edu

Liberty University competitive musicians participated in the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival in Chicago. According to Kerr, the band played pieces strategically—a variety was a priority. The band played a combination of traditional and avant-garde arrangements, sprinkled with vocal numbers, and rotated into the mainstream and contemporary recording series. The band was a unique blend of several styles that showcased their wide range of skills.

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Eichelkohl continued from A1

Eichelkohl pledges up to $1 million to produce and distribute a new film from the best film winners in the year’s 108 film projects—a faith-focused initiative for artists focused on the media, according to the company’s website.

This action follows similar commitments that Eichelkohl has made, including a $250,000 donation to the San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival and a multi-million-dollar deal over five years with Liberty’s Christian Film Program, according to the press release.

The Cinematic Arts Zole Gordon Center, named in honor of its donors to supporting Cinematic Arts students in 2012.

"For a few years, the program’s goal is to produce and distribute at least five movies each year," said developer Steven Schubert. "These movies will incorporate Liberty’s Cinematic Arts students and staff into the facilities with Eichelkohl’s development and distribution professionals to provide a seamless process for concept to distribution on these movies."

According to Schubert, other course taken in Cinematic Arts will lead students toward the completion of a feature film.

The program will also provide a comprehensive film school that does not include an on-campus system or world setting. The program will be an on-campus system that does not include an on-campus system, a real-world model.

"It will be a real-world model of filmmaking that does not include an on-campus system or world setting. The program will be an on-campus system that does not include an on-campus system, a real-world model."

Liberty University’s Cinematic Arts program released a film called "The Sensous Three Blues."

Schubert said.

Former Liberty University President Bob Lorey, who spoke at the film school’s dedication last September, called Eichelkohl’s multi-million-dollar commitment to Christian filmmakers a "demonstration of faith that is a testimony to the school’s commitment to the Christian film industry."

"This is a significant commitment to not only distribute quality faith and family films, but also to encourage excellence among the new generation of filmmakers," Lorey said in the release.

In addition to the awards supporting new creators, Eichelkohl distributes the works of established filmmakers in the faith and family genre and produces original works, according to the company’s website.

"Who knows what the future holds?"

"What we know is that to continue to make films of excellence and to continue to support those filmmakers is a testament to the faith and the values that we hold dear," said Lorey.

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At a glance

- The Flames victory against the Governors was their first-ever BracketBusters series win.
- As a team, Liberty scored 40 of its 78 points in the paint against Austin Peay.
- JR Coronado had his third double-double of the year with 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, which is a Liberty Vines Center record.
- With three threats against the Governors, Daveo Marshall moved into fourth all-time for three-point field goals in a single season (77).
- John Cablo Sanders has averaged 20.9 points, 6.1 assists and 5.6 rebounds in the last six games.
- Tavares Speaks has averaged 19.5 points in the last four games.

Liberty was downed by Radford University goaltender Chad Docksteader ’s placed perfect shot behind the Flames’ net.

Michael Williams

Liberty University forward Chad Dock他说 placed a perfect shot behind the Radford University goaltender to clinch the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference (BRHC) first-round victory over the Highlanders, 6-3. However, Liberty was defeated by James Madison University 4-3 in overtime.

Throughout the evening, the Flames DDHL hockey team looked sluggish and was having trouble getting into the offensive end, thanks to Radford’s strong and stingy defense. “They (Radford) weren’t going to roll over on us,” Head Coach Tristan Chambers said.

Seven minutes into the game, the Flames finally broke the defense when captain Brandon Carlson scored in a loose rebound. Radford answered back when a clearing shot passed by goaltender John Holm, tying the game, 1-1. The Highlanders took advantage on a power play in the final moments of the game as Nick Peters dapped one.

See TOURNEY, B4

SUSPENSE — Josh Kisting prepares for a blockout against Radford.

**Track’s sweet 16th**

Emily Browne

emilyb@liberty.edu

Liberty continued to dominate in the Big South Track and Field Indoor Championships Feb. 21 and 22, bringing home a men’s conference championship title for the 16th straight year. The women’s squad captured second place in the competition, finishing behind Coastal Carolina.

The Liberty men picked up an easy victory in the 2013 conference championship. The Flames tallied 121.5 points over the two days of competition, with their closest competitor finishing six points back.

Liberty handled the field in the conference meet. The men’s team received a significant number of points after posting five-place finishes in three different events.

Redshirt senior thrower Ryan Smith led the way for the Flames in the field. Smith threw for 190.25, almost 35 feet farther than the second-place finisher, to capture an individual victory in the shot put. The win was Smith’s fourth consecutive victory in the indoor event.

Thus, this was a moral challenge to not crack under pressure,” Smith said. “I needed the competition on the very first throw and had a few chances to take a big throw. Of course I did.”

Smith continued his success in the last event of the competition. The redshirt senior’s 6.58 60-yard dash set a new personal record.

Smith also received 23.03 points in the pole vault. Redshirt freshman Cody Brown put 15.5 for first place in the event, while excellent senior Cody Brown finished runner-up.

See HISTORY, B4

**Flames ousted from tourney**

Liberty falls in the second round to James Madison in OT

Michael Williams

emilyb@liberty.edu

Liberty has entered the second round of the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament, seeded 13th in the Mideast Region and 15th in the West Region.

The Flames will play against the University of Texas at Arlington in the first game of the NCAA Tournament.

The Flames will face the Mavericks in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

See TOURNEY, B4

SUSPENSE — Josh Kisting prepares for a blockout against Radford.

**LU recalls Governors**

Flames outlast Austin Peay State University, win in overtime

Steven Sullivan

smallscool5@liberty.edu

The Liberty Flames basketball team faced-off against the Austin Peay State University Governors in the Ramada Worldwide BracketBusters series, Saturday, Feb. 23. The Flames prevailed 78-73 in overtime. Enure Britton of Austin Peay made two late three-pointers in the second half to send the game into the Flames second overtime game of the season. Liberty made all eight of their free throws in the overtime to defeat Austin Peay.

The Governors averaged 7.3 three-a-game, and in the first half, they almost matched that average with six. Both teams ended the first half shooting 25 percent from the field, but Liberty was down by eight, missed four free throws and their shooters by Liberty attributed to this deficit. "During the first half, we exchanged baskets, and it was kind of hard to get a lead," Tavares Speaks said.

In the second half, Head Coach Dale Layer made some necessary changes in order to help get the team back from an eight-point deficit. "Our defense intensity and rebounding in the second half were the difference in the game," Layer said. "They got into a rhythm in the first half, and I thought we broke them." See RAMADA, B4

**Fire...**

**frieze frames**

AERIAL ASSAULT — John Cabot Sanders splits two defenders to attempt a lay-up.
Take me out to

Home opener, stadium success

Flames take series from the Penn State Nittany Lions in the much anticipated public debut of new ballpark

Greg Leasure
glesasure@gmail.com

**Game One**

Redbirds stocked the stands, and more than 2,500 fans turned as Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr., threw out the first pitch. Almost three hours later, Liberty Flames pitcher Aiden Pettit rocked back and idea a 3-1 win over Penn State's first game of the season.

"It was a blast," Coach Leasure said. "We won the game and got the series off to a great start." Coach Leasure said. "It was fun to get the win in our first game here.

"We wanted to open up our stadium the right way and get a win," Leasure said. A lot of our guys played really well, and the players did great. It was nice to get a win in our first game here.

Catcher and team captains Trey Weller not only on touched one hit on the day, but it certainly made it count. Penn State relief pitcher Cody Lewis got one out in the seventh inning before losing the base on Weller then hit a hard ground ball to third base that deflected off the Penn State player's glove and found its way into left field for a turnover single.

An infield hit by Nick Bozart later than hitting would turn out to be Liberty's lead off in the first inning, but Weller's single would turn out to be the game-winning hit.

"It was a lot of fun," Weller said. "I will remember that for a long time.

According to Weller, the team appreciated having fans to support the team in the stadium, and the win is not the only thing that the Flames players took to Twitter and Facebook almost immediately after the game to give their thanks to the people who attended the home opener despite 90-degree temperatures.

Flames pitcher Carson Hembree was the most impressive pitcher with five innings in the mound, striking out eight and giving up two runs. Relief pitchers Matt Murta, Robert Grady and Aiden Pettit relieved the win and continued to help Penn State to only show him over par in two innings.

"We have four or five different guys who can do it, and we decided to go with March and the matchup lefty, Grady and Pettit today," Leasure said. "It worked, so I'm happy to see that.

According to Liberty Athletic Director Jeff Barker, closeout of the new stadium will continue throughout the season, but it should be completed when the Flames host the Big South Conference Championship Tournament in May.

**Game Two**

The Flames took both games Sunday, Feb. 24, winning the first 12-3 and the second 6-0 and concluding the home opener series with a sweep.

MEMORABLE

A view of the Liberty monogram on the sign. Bottom left: Senior infielder David Syrpe (5) had two hits and an RBI in the final game of the series. Bottom right: Flames players look toward the field from the dugout.

In the first game of two, Liberty agreed with a 5-3 lead in the third inning Friday night. After Penn State came within two in the top of the sixth inning, Liberty added seven more runs on a route to a nine-run victory.

Weller led the Flames with three RBIs off two hits.

**Game Three**

The final game of the series and the Whitney continued to stay hit, going 5-3 on two doubles and a triple. Liberty added these runs in the second inning. Justin Sturm was walked to start the frame by Penn State pitcher Tom Paschke. After a Whitney double and a passed ball, Sturm put the first pitch in the right field. Nick Leasure also scored from third base off a bunt by Nick Bozart.

Library looks to continue its four-game winning streak as the Flames travel to take on the Iowa University Phoenix, Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 3 p.m.

**LEASURE is the feature edition.**
After<br>Jerry Falwell, Jr. gazes out over the field, a few thoughts run through his mind.

"I was thinking how beautiful the new stadium was and that maybe it was a sign of God's future blessings on the team that we won our first game in the new stadium."

-Chancellor<br>Jerry Falwell, Jr.

NEW DEGS — (Top Left) Players from the dugout survey the crowd, (Bottom Left) Pitcher Matt Mashdel delivers a pitch. Mashdel had four strikeouts and zero earned runs against Penn State. Right, Jerry and Becky Falwell take in the sights and sounds of the game with Liberty Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Affairs and Provost Ron Godwin.

Liberty's pursuit of the crown
After a 41-19 record last season, the Flames are predicted to finish first in the Big South Conference in '13
**Flames blank Bears**

Liberty's 7-0 win against Morgan State improves its record 4-1

Country Tyrone

country@liberty.edu

The Liberty University men's soccer team (4-1, 0-4 Big South) defeated the Morgan State Bears (0-4, Mid-Eastern, 3-0) Friday, Feb. 22, denying the Bears their first win of the season.

The Flames’ 1-0 record in this contest is equivalent to its best five-match start in program history.

"The last time we started the year with a 1-0 record was in 1991, so that's the part of a season that has a ton of intensity," junior Shea Thomas said.

Liberty’s sophomore, Faisal El-Faouani and Sean Vaughan entered their two-game losing streak with a win over Morgan State’s Eric Ward and Janicki Task, improving their record to 5-2 this season. Equal Samuels and Thomas took another win for Liberty, as sophomore, Thomas Gangl and Dimitry Borenstine 8-3 and advancing the Flames to a 5-4 record for the season. Liberty’s Segal capped off the win with a hard-fought match, ultimately beating Ward.

"This win shows how good of a team we are and how we can come out and dominate against a team we should not lose to."

In the first half, both teams entered the game with high intensity, and we came out firing on all cylinders," Thomas said.

Tours took the win 6-4, 6-2 over Bonacasa, handing Liberty a 2-0 lead. Thomas defeated Duk Young-Park, giving Liberty the last point needed to take the match. Samuels and Thomas are now undefeated, with a 5-0 record to start the season. Sarno and Vaughan knocked out their opponents in quick matches.

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**HISTORY continued from B1**

Soccer Kid Wheeler returned 10 points as the team’s final tally with a victory in the high jump. Wheeler won the event for the second straight season with a height of 5-9.5. On the track, Liberty controlled the Coastal’s Edith Glover and placed first in the 100-meter run with a time of 11.51. Josh M. Donald finished the 500-meter run in first place, nearly 10 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher.

In the final round of the conference championship meet, the Flames added 17 points to the team total, finishing the victory in the 400-meter relay. In the final trials of the race, senior Paul Ashram edged out Chandler Southern’s anchor to cross the finish line first with a time of 3:26.02. Ashram’s second leg was joined by Aaron Washington, Tyler Weigel and Kyle Gill in the winning effort.

"Really, it was a team effort," Arslan said. "Washington ran a fantastic split and put the team in a great place to win, but everybody did what was necessary to come out on top."

The Liberty men brought home six events, including seven points, to a victory in the first intercollegiate track and field championship.

"The team just went out and performed as we taught them," Arslan said. "We’re blessed to have a very deep team, so even though we didn’t win 100 percent of the event, we still won hands down."

The team’s victory helped Liberty’s chances of improving their success in the Big South. The Flames have already qualified for the conference championships, dating back to the first Big South Indoor Track and Field Championships in 1998.

The team’s field widths mark the longest string of conference championships in any sport in the Big South. Liberty’s record also marks the second-longest active streak of NCAA Division I men’s indoor track and field championships.

On the women’s side of the Big South Track and Field Indoor Championships, Liberty came in as the runner-up, placing second behind Coastal Carolina and scoring 142 points to Coastal’s 182.

With the second-place finish, the Lady Flames failed to secure a South-conference Big South automatic bid.

"In the women’s meet, we knew that Coastal was going to be a problem. They have a very strong team," Head Coach Theresa Toomey said. "In the distance events, we held together really well. We held our own in the field events, but they kind of put it to us in the sprints. I was hoping we would be a little closer in those events than we were."

Despite their position in the final standings, the Lady Flames did secure their individual conference championships. The highlights for the Lady Flames came on the heels of sophomore, Haley Cummings. Her 5-14.25 those in the shot put landed her a new school record and a conference championship title. Cummings received the award as the Big South Women’s Outstanding Field Performer.

Kerry Wilkerson also helped improve the field with a personal best in the javelin throw in the high jump. The junior jumped 5.3 to secure the victory.

On the track, distance runner Jenny Christensen recorded the final line for the Flames with a time of 10:00.12. Teammate Khesina Kanaga finished in second place, scoring 16 points to the Flames’ top point scores, each completing 16 points.

Christensen also placed third in the mile run, her second event of the meet. Kanaga competed in the 5000-meter run and took the runner-up place. The Flames gave the Lady Flames’ top point sources, each completing 16 points.

Liberty will send a number of athletes to the Intercollegiate Association of American Athletes and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston, Mass. The meet will take place March 1-3 at Boston University.

BROWN is a sports reporter.

**TOURNEY continued from B1**

The Flames (1-0) will send a number of athletes to the Intercollegiate Association of American Athletes and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston, Mass. The meet will take place March 1-3 at Boston University.

SULLIVAN is a sports reporter.

The Flames men’s tennis team beat a ranked team for the first time since November 1997, taking a 5-4 lead against Hofstra University in the urn.

"The first time I was sticking toward the goal, I thought to myself, "Don’t miss,"" Nogales said.

The Flames’ first in the game with eight minutes remaining in regulation. Once the Overflow period commenced, freshman John Bailey saved shut after shut from a relentless Hofstra attack. After a scoreless overtime period, the game eventually went to a shootout. Bailey came out to save shots, allowing Buckhardt to rack in the game-winning goal.

Game Two

Liberty’s next challenge was junior Lewis and archivist James Madison University. Having lost the two regular season matches, nothing would have been better than sending the Flames home, but unfortunately, Sam Stone and JMU had other ideas.

The Flames began with two early goals by Mitch Allen and Mournes’ first points on a goal, giving the Flames a 1-0 advantage. Liberty was unable to lead in the final five minutes of the first period, when Chris DeCena made one of two goals on his way tying up the score heading into the first intermission of the season.

The second period was dominated by Hofstra, but an impressive stand by JMU resulted in Liberty’s second straight win against the Pirates.

Klingner broke down the wall when he raced in a loose rebound, giving the Flames a 2-1 lead. However, things began to spiral downward in the closing minutes of the second period, as Liberty capped out the entire 2-3 win against Hofstra.

The Flames’ season on a shot over Hofstra’s headlights.

The Flames finish season with a record of 12-5-1.

WILLIAMS is a sports reporter.
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A n gio u s c h an g e alrea d y in preventin g the flu. Th e 3 8 p er ce nt o f lar mut a ti o n of the nu th a t they con tra c t...
Cancer Center offers connections

Emilie Webster 

"Liberty University's Cancer Center, a relatively recent area to gain momentum in the field of cancer research and treatment, offers unique opportunities to students interested in pursuing careers in oncology. Despite being a relatively new center, it provides an invaluable experience for students to gain hands-on experience in treating cancer patients and contributes significantly to the advancement of cancer research.

"As a mid-level student, I was able to participate in research projects, attend conferences, and interact with leading experts in the field. The center's focus on personalized medicine and precision oncology has been particularly inspiring.

"One opportunity that stands out is the Cancer Center's internship program. This program allows students to gain practical experience in various aspects of cancer care, from patient identification to treatment planning. Students are paired with experienced oncology professionals to learn the nuances of patient management and care. This hands-on experience is invaluable and prepares students for future careers in oncology.

"Another valuable component of the Cancer Center is the Collaborative Cancer Center, which serves as a hub for collaboration among researchers from different disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach fosters innovation and enhances the understanding of cancer mechanisms.

"Liberty University offers a supportive environment for students interested in oncology, providing not only academic opportunities but also a strong sense of community. The Cancer Center's dedication to excellence in research and patient care is evident in the work of its faculty and staff. It is an exciting time to be involved in this field, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of cancer treatment and prevention.

"I encourage all students who are interested in pursuing careers in oncology to explore opportunities at Liberty University and consider the Cancer Center as a potential destination for their academic journey.
Competition attracts young engineers

The Liberty University School of Engineering and Computational Sciences hosts the VEX Robotics Competition

Greg Leasure
gleasure@liberty.edu

Research conducted by Daniel Reeder
dreeder@liberty.edu

Some of Central Virginia's young engineering minds met at the Liberty Christian Academy for the VEX Robotics Competition Saturday, Feb. 26. Hosted by the Liberty University School of Engineering and Computational Sciences (SECS), the VEX Robotics Competition features the top 36 teams of high school students against one another in a competition of skill and style. Although the objectives are different every year, the goal this time around was for teams to use their robots to accomplish the task of moving and placing blocks in different locations in a game called Bucky Attack. Participants spent the morning forming alliances with each other and after a qualifying round, the finals determined the winners.

According to Scott Pleasant, the SECS director of engineering technology, VEX Robotics hosts numerous competitions around the globe that are as qualifying events for the VEX World Championships. Only the top two teams from each competition move on to the national championship, but Pleasant said that teams are allowed to enter as many competitions as they want in order to qualify for the World Championships, provided that they pay the entry fees.

According to Pleasant, representatives from the United States Air Force helped judge the competition, looking for students who displayed qualities such as teamwork or outstanding performance. Additional judges, such as Teleflex and Medford folks companies contributed by sponsors of the competition who were also ratified off. The VEX Robotics team from the Virginia School of Science and Technology made the trip to Lynchburg from Virginia D.C. to represent the VEX Robotics at the event, and as someone who uses math, science and engineering on the job, he said that it is necessary it is for students to enter these fields of study.

"Really, what we're investing in here is game-changing people in the sense that they're going to go off and do great things for America," Chauclathy said.

According to Pleasant, game-changing people in science is even more necessary for America right now due to competition with other countries.

"We're No. 1 in math and science anywhere, so when you develop game-changing programs, that's what turns America around and builds a spirit of innovation that has come to be a tradition in America," Chauclathy said.

The VEX competitions emphasize students' STEM skills — science, technology, engineering and math — that Pleasant said are in high demand by employers today.

According to Pleasant, Liberty gave SECS a total of $48,000 in financial aid to award high school students from the competition, not to mention the $1,000 from the Air Force that was given for constant character, teamwork, and performance.

"Regardless of whether student pursues a career in the military or engineering, technical or non-technical degrees, the concept of innovation will never be lost in these individuals because of the VEX Robotics experience," Chauclathy said.

Liberty student Timothy Vernon, who helped set up Saturday's competition, took home a scholarship of his own as a senior in high school in 2009. According to him, the competition became a principal reason behind his decision to attend school at Liberty.

"It's really neat to see these kids come out here and see their designs and how they compete," Vernon said.

Galadriel Bartlett, a spectator at the event, said that the competition turned out differently than her expectations.

"It's more intense than I thought it was going to be," Bartlett said. "You genuinely into it really early. It takes more strategy than I thought." According to Pleasant, the creativity displayed in the competition and by engineers in general reflects the creativity of the original engineer: God.

Time will tell how many students from Saturday's competition will find their way into a permanent SECS department, but in the eyes of Pleasant, Saturday's competition showed that the future of the field is bright.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

BARTLETT is a feature reporter.
When Andrea Tiller first heard that Third Day would be playing at a Student Activities concert at Sweeney-Baptist Church TRBC, Friday, Feb. 21, she could hardly contain her excitement. A high school senior and a resident of Roundale, Tiller made the trip to Liberty University’s College for a Weekend (C4W) last semester, and even though she did not attend C4W this semester, her family guest list to the Third Day show as a birthday present.

As it turns out, concerts are a familiar place for Tiller. “I have sold T-shirts at country concerts like Carrie Underwood and Jason Aldean,” Tiller said. “Pretty much, you can think of any kind of band that’s been around Charlottesville or Roanoke. I love all of them.”

Sweeney said that if this is where the Lord wanted me, that He would set the door wide open.” Sweeney said, “After the last time fulfillment, God opened the door and I transferred to Liberty to be on the music team.”

It was such a journey to even get to Liberty, and to have to figure out God’s plan has been an overwhelming blessing,” Sweeney said. According to Sweeney, although she looks up to all the members of the band, she sees Kintzel as a true mentor.

“God has a great voice and a warm smile, yet she shows you toward loving God and loving to worship him as much as she does,” Oswalt said.

Sweeney’s family is one of the many volunteers of Liberty University’s Liberty University’s Community Care Initiative. She said, “I’m glad to be a part of a community and share the love of Christ, He said. “But everyone may not be a Christian, it’s awesome that we can come together and help one another.”