

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK
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Sports

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Basketball teams point towards region tournament

Jay Smith
Sports Writer

Both of Brevard College's basketball teams finished their regular season on Saturday.

During "Sophomore Night", Brevard's Lady Tornados hosted the Walter State's Lady Senators in a non-conference match-up. The Lady Tornados were unable to hang on to their half-time lead at the final buzzer. In a 62-50 win, the Lady Senators handed the Lady Tornados a 3-14 overall final record and a 0-4 record in Region X play.

"The 1996-97 Woman's Basketball season can best be summed up by the attitude and effort, off the court more than on the court. These players were brought here to change the image of the

program, to improve the grade point average, and to give the women's team a good name and a good reputation", stated women's coach, Tadd Connor. "Certainly they have done that, having the highest grade point average of any team on campus".

He continued, "On the court, we took our lumps! Our starting point-guard tore her anterior crucial ligament, our second string point-guard left because her mother was ill. So, we played all year without a point-guard and had a sophomore run point half the time and a freshman run point the other half. I felt like both of them did a good job, but struggled because it was a new position. We didn't do really well, win-loose wise".

Coach Connor ended by saying, "We played nine top-twenty teams, felt we played hard and certainly improved

week after week! Going into the tournament (Region X), I feel real good about our chances. We've played Spartanburg Methodist College to a 5 point game and a 9 point game. I feel like we are playing our best ball right now. So, we'll go at it as hard as we can this week and do what we can in the tournament".

The men's basketball team hosted the Lenoir Community College Lancers in a final Region X Conference match-up that could end up with a three way tie in the conference. Brevard looked to upset the intense offense of the Lancers with an early lead. This turned out to be a classic battle between two unbreakable teams demanding a win. Shannon Miller's game-winning free throws sealed a three-way tie for second place. The Tornados fought very hard for the 82-78 victory.

"I think that with the young team we have, we did a pretty good job this year coming out 10-15 for the season. I feel we are going into the playoffs with a lot of confidence. We have played Lenoir and won. We have played Spartanburg and won. I think confidence is a good thing going into the playoffs, but I hope we are not over-confident if the opportunity comes to win this tournament", stated men's coach, Dudley Bradley.

Both the women's and men's basketball teams will be going to Louisburg, NC for the annual Region X tournament, hosted by Louisburg College. The women's team will open the first round, playing against Spartanburg Methodist on Friday at 3:00 p.m. The men's team will be playing Lenoir College at 6:00 p.m.

Men's track primed for peak performance

Scott Wolfe
Sports Editor

The Brevard College Tornados Men's Indoor Track teams are set to complete another successful season Saturday when they travel to East Tennessee State University for the last regular season indoor meet of the 1996-97 season.

The Men's squad head's into the meet with a new look as it has added a strong young core of sprinters and jumpers to go along with the already strong distance squad. The results of this young season were evident when on February 7, in a meet at Virginia Tech, the school record in the 4x400 relay was shattered. The squad made up of Sophomore's Mike Hunter and Josh Mitchell, along with Freshman Deriek Edwards and Warren Howell shaved a scant .05 of a second of the record in this very early indoor season. It eclipsed a 5 year old record that had been set by another squad on an outdoor track. The team vows for more record breaking performances in the season to come, and heads to the National Championships with the fourth fastest time in the nation. This should help lead the 4x400 to a Top 3 finish at the Nationals.

The relays are not the only parts of the squad that have enjoyed success. The team has added three very talented freshman jumpers to help with scoring. In the long jump, William Dickey showed in his very first jump of the year that he was going to be a force to be reckoned with when he jumped 23 feet and 7 inches at the USAir Invitational in January. The team has also added two high jumpers in Kijana Corbin and Kevin Wald. Corbin has paced the jump team with a national qualifying effort of 6 feet 8 and 3/4 inches, while Wald has jumped 6 feet 6 inches consistently. Both jumpers point toward the 7 foot barrier as the outdoor season approaches.

Finally, the distance runners have remained consistent performers in the hopes of leading towards a defense of

the National Championship won by the 4x800 squad last season. The team has requalified in the event, and despite the graduation of two key runners from the squad, a host of talent has come in to pick up the slack. The team is poised to do well, as times are improving, and the National meet is just around the corner. Also performing well this indoor season is All-American distance runner Joe Gibson, who despite a few early season setbacks, has stepped forward to lead qualifying in both the mile and the 3000 meter runs. He seem's prepared, and Coach Dave Rinker has his squad ready at the right time.

Overall the Men's squad has qualified all relays, and 15 athletes to compete at the Nationals, which will be held on March 7-8, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Women's track on a roll

Scott Wolfe
Sports Editor

March is rapidly approaching, and this is not only marking the end of winter, but also leads to the end of indoor track.

The Brevard College Women's Indoor track team has enjoyed very good success this season. It has been led by a cast of athletes that has qualified every runner or jumper on the team that is healthy with the exception of one. This is quite an accomplishment from a squad that lacks the size of the men's squad, but makes up for with very steady performers. The team returns All-American Jen Vrobel, who last year was runner-up in the mile run. The team is also supported by a cast of freshman including Kristin Parrot, who currently has the fastest time of all JUCO runners in the 1000 meters.

The squad will be heading to Nationals on March 7-8 following their final competition at East Tennessee State University this upcoming Saturday. Good Luck Ladies!