

SPORTS

Kayaking in Pisgah Forest

-by JESSE JANICULA, staff writer-

With Pisgah National Forest only a few miles from the campus, Brevard College attracts a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. From students of Wilderness Leadership to Business, it seems that most everyone participates in at least one outdoor recreational activity. One of the many activities available to Brevard College students is kayaking.

Many students are involved in this sport, as proven by the many kayaks seen strapped on top of cars or sedentary inside and outside of residence halls. Brevard seems to be a hub for kayaking with rivers such as the Green, French Broad, Nolichucky, Nantahala, Ocoee, Pigeon, and Chattooga that are all within a few hours driving distance or less. In fact, Asheville was recently named one of the best kayaking cities in the country.

Pisgah National Forest, while not renown or known outside the immediate area for its rivers, offers the students at Brevard College kayaking opportunities closer to home. Two of the better-known paddling spots in

Pisgah, the north and west forks of the French Broad River, are situated near Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman. They are excellent Class IV and V rivers, situated deep in a scenic river gorge with rapids such as Boxcar Falls, Pinball, Submarine, Vortex, and The Clog. These rivers can easily provide the seasoned boater with non-stop thrills on their technical runs. Every rapid on these rivers is scout-able. These rivers need a fair amount of rain to get them up, the put-in and take-out may be hard to find, and they can be fairly consequential, so it is advisable to go with someone who knows the river.

Two other rivers slightly closer to the college are the Class III and IV Upper Davidson River and the Class IV and V Looking Glass Creek. The put-in for the Upper Davidson is at the parking lot for the Duncan Ridge Trail and its take-out is at the low head dam, up from the fish hatchery. The Upper Davidson is also a scenic run, and holds fun rapids like Whaleback, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, and Shotgun Wedding. Everything on this river is also scout-able. It needs a lot of rain and only gets high enough to run a

few times a year. Looking Glass Creek needs days of rain to run and is only meant for expert boaters.

The expert boater who really wishes to push his or her limits can go to the headwaters of the Pigeon, which starts in Graveyard Fields and runs to Highway 178. This run has only seen a handful of descents. There is Courthouse Falls, a fifty-foot waterfall below Devil's Courthouse, and sixty-five foot Looking Glass Falls, which is not meant to be taken lightly (running it carries a hefty fine and one of the only two people to ever run it compressed four of his vertebrae upon landing).

The local Brevard area has many great rivers to suit the seasoned boater, can be great fun, and provides a challenge without the intimidation or consequence of places like the Narrows. As always, boat with partners, go with people who know the rivers, and use judgement. Don't run things you are not ready for. If any of these rivers are flowing, this boater advocates skipping class to paddle; it's worth it.

BC Men's Soccer

-by DUSTIN FREE, editor-

Fresh off a rebound season the Brevard Men's Soccer program is starting up spring season. The Men's team provided quite the impressive turn around from the year before posting a nine game difference to a 12-6 mark from the previous 2-15 mark. The program missed conference playoffs by one goal, falling short of the preseason goal set by players and new acquired Coach McCray. Under Coach Peter McCray faculty, players, and students did not know what to expect, but McCray has proved to be a bright spot, which is reflecting a positive image back upon the school. The regular season provided three all conference players senior Shane Laplaka, freshmen Tyrik Smith, sophomore Marcellus Sailsman, and academic all conference Chuck Peterson. After bringing in fifteen new recruits and only los-

ing four seniors the program is going to be strong for the next couple of seasons. Coach McCray said, "We are you and need more experience, therefore we are going to look to play as many games as possible and develop the program to a higher level this spring." Current junior and emotional leader of the team, Haitham Aboul-hoson, said, "The team as a whole is working hard. I feel that everybody is upset about not making the playoffs last season and we are using this time to make ourselves stronger and more

confident." The Men's program has already participated in tournaments this year, in Asheville at the SunCom Indoor Arena and the at Tusculum College, at both the team fared well but improvement is still the goal. The mens soccer team recently played in a tournament in Johnson City beating conference foe Bluefield and rival Mars Hill. Good luck to the Men's Soccer team as the work hard this off-season.



BC Baseball



-by KATIE GOETZ, editor-

After a positive fall season, the Brevard College baseball team dives into the spring season with high hopes for a successful year. Ending 42-21 as AAC and Regional 12 champs, and finishing only one game away from the World Series last year, Head Coach Gill Payne plans to repeat as conference champions and earn a place at the regional tournament. "We've got a tough schedule", says Payne. "A tough schedule will prepare us for conference."

Losing four offensive players, each who drove in more than forty runs and a pitcher who holds the record for the greatest number of career wins, Payne looks to his seniors for leadership.

The Brevard baseball team returns with a young infield of four sophomores and one freshman. Sophomores Scott Lefler (third base), Chad Nance (shortstop), Travis Free (second base), and Derek Adkisson (catcher) had lots of playing time last year and are ready for the spring season. Two veterans, Jeff Spears and Caleb Hill return along with freshman Tyler Brooks to the outfield. "Our outfield will definitely be a defensive strength this year," says Payne. Another strength, led by pitching coach, Todd Anderson, is offered by returning pitchers Brent Long, John Shirk, Lee Whisnant, and Jerry Whitman. Long has a 95-96 mph fastball and will have scouts coming to see him play this year for a chance to play pro. Helping Anderson is student assistant and former player Clint Sells. After losing a few big-hitters, Payne is concentrating on "getting guys on, getting them over, and getting them home." Big hits are expected from senior Jeff Spears who hit 400 his first two years and drove in over 40 runs last year. When asked about his expectations for the season, Spears says the season looks promising. His goal: "to be unequivocally, without a doubt, conference champions!" BC baseball went to Nationals in '98 and are working hard to go again. "The great thing about baseball", says Spears, "is that you always get to play the next day."