

Brevard hires new tennis coach

by Angelita Colón-Francia
Asst. Dir. of Public Relations

Brevard College has hired Paul Thomson as head coach of the College's men's and women's tennis program. He comes to Brevard from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where as assistant men's and women's tennis coach, he helped lead the men's team to the 2005 Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) regular season championship and runner-up finish at the 2005 OVC men's tournament. Under Thomson's leadership, Samford's women's team finished last season in fifth place and were fourth in the OVC women's tournament. He

also served as the assistant director of Samford's Bulldog Tennis Camps.

"I am excited about building successful men's and women's teams," Thomson said. "Brevard College's men's team has a



lot of potential for success with the players we have. I am looking forward to building a women's program from the ground up and to quickly recruiting student-athletes."

Since 2001, Thomson has served as a U.S. Tennis Association team coach. Prior to joining the staff at Samford, he worked as an assistant tennis pro at Dothan Country Club in Dothan, Alabama. In his three years as the women's varsity tennis coach at McAdory High School in McCalla, Alabama, he compiled a 24-17 record and led the team to its first state tournament and top 10 ranking in school history. He also worked as the Jefferson County Girls tournament director in Alabama.

Thomson is a Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) certified professional tennis instructor. He earned a bachelor's degree from Samford in history and political science with a minor in psychology and counseling. He is a native of Birmingham, Alabama

Can our baseball team catch a break?

by Kathryn McDade
Sports Editor

As the 2006 spring season rapidly approaches, our head-coachless baseball team has us wondering if the season will strike out.

Former Head Coach and Athletic Director, Gill Payne resigned from his position leaving our boys baseball team batting solo. However, players are putting forth the effort just as they would in any other season.

Talon Rawls, a freshman player says, "As a team, this has given us the chance to step up and the seniors have been given the chance to become the leaders they are." Nathan Free, also a freshman, carries the same positive disposition about the issue. "I don't think we are affected by it. I mean,

we're out there running, batting, and throwing just like any other team."

In the event a coach can not be found, the team has come to the consensus that their Graduate Assistant Coach Mabe will become the head coach.

When asked if they felt like they would catch a break, players responded with a heartily astonishing response. No, they don't think they will, and frankly, they don't want to. They want to make their own opportunities out of the situation at hand. Coach Mabe has a slightly different response. "When you sign up to play baseball at Brevard College, you sign up to play your best on and off the field. This means that despite the coaching situation you have to play your hardest regardless. Will we catch a break this season? Yeah, and we will win as many games as possible."

Fall sports ready for start

2005 is sure to bring an exciting year for Brevard College's fall sports lineup, as the teams look to improve on last year's accomplishments, build team strength through a number of new recruits, and formulate a winning atmosphere on campus as they compete in their final season in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

The Tornado Cross Country teams look poised to take the programs back to the glory days under third year coach Thomas Cason.

The women's team looks to improve upon a second place regional finish, and eyes the possibility of qualifying for NAIA Nationals. The team returns a top 2004 National Qualifier, senior Danielle Deines-Raduly. The team also expects great performances from key returning runners like junior captain Sara Harris Key newcomers include Emily Hulse, a transfer from Jacksonville State final birth in the Appalachian Athletic Conference Tournament with the addition of 15 new players, including five European recruits from Sweden, England, Scotland, and Wales. The Tornadoes opened their season on August 27th with a 3-3 draw against NCAA Division II opponent Limestone College. The men then beat North Greenville College 1-0 four days later and continued their undefeated streak on Saturday, September 3rd with a 0-0 draw at home against North Georgia College. The team will open conference play on Wednesday, September 7th at home against rivals Virginia Intermont College. 2005 will be an exciting season for the Tornadoes as they look to qualify for NAIA regional play for the first time in school history.

Finally, the Lady Tornadoes volleyball team is working hard and starting to play like a team, according to coach Brenda Skeffington. "We're going to have a great improvement on last years accomplishments," Coach Skeffington said. The team goal is to make it to the regional tournament. This will be the last year competing at the NAIA level and, according to Coach Skeffington, it is the three seniors' year to shine. Key returning players for the Lady Tornadoes are junior Marquessa Chappell, senior Beth McGowan, and senior Sandy Tabor. "As the team plays more and more together things are only going to get better and better," Coach Skeffington said.

***The Clarion* needs photographers and writers to cover Brevard College sports.**
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