

Monarch Highlights

Upcoming Sporting Events



Men's Basketball

Feb. 17 at home vs. NC Wesleyan, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22 at Christopher Newport
Feb. 23 at Newport News Apprentice
Feb. 27-29: DIAC Tournament at NC Wesleyan

IV Men's Basketball

Feb. 18 at Roanoke-Chowan

Women's Basketball

Feb. 17 at home vs. NC Wesleyan, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21 at Newport News Apprentice
Feb. 22 at Christopher Newport
Feb. 27-March 1: DIAC Tournament at Christopher Newport

Track

Feb. 22: Mason-Dixon Indoor Championships, Lexington, VA

Baseball

Feb. 21-23: Reebok Tournament, Atlanta, GA
Feb. 26 at home vs. York College of PA., 3 p.m.
March 1-2 at Greensboro College

IV Baseball

Feb. 27 at Southeastern CC
Feb. 28 at home vs. Charles CC, 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis

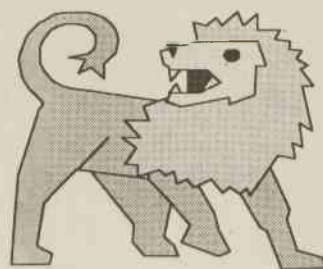
Feb. 28 at home vs. Emory University, 2 p.m.

Softball

Feb. 28 at home vs. Bridgewater College, 2:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis

March 1 at home vs. Ferrum, 2 p.m.



Support the Monarchs!

Sports Roundup

Women's Basketball

The Lady Monarchs are 6-12 and 1-7 in DIAC.

The Lady Monarchs claimed their first DIAC victory of the season upsetting second-place Averett 71-60 Feb. 10. Sophomore center Amy Todd had a team-high 21 points. Todd and freshman forward Jennifer Snead each had a game-high 10 rebounds. Sophomore point guard Priscilla Farhan distributed a game-high eight assists.

The women suffered a pair of heart-breaking two point defeats the previous week losing to Meredith 64-62 Feb. 3 and Greensboro 71-69 (OT) Feb. 6. Todd scored a career-high 27 points in the loss to Meredith while freshman point guard Erin Updegrave had a career-best 18 points for the third time in the loss at Greensboro.

Methodist is currently

ranked fifth in the country in rebound margin. Farhan is rated 12th nationally in assists and Todd is 18th in rebounding.

Indoor Track & Field

With no team score held, the Monarchs racked up outstanding individual performances at the Virginia Military Institute Winter Relays on Feb. 1.

Junior sprinter Hamilton Cuthrell finished third in the 55-meter dash with a 6.44 time to automatically qualify for Nationals. Sophomore William Ray leaped 22 feet, 11 inches in the long jump to win the event and qualify provisionally for Nationals.

Junior Bradley Hicks captured the pole vault title with a vault of 15 feet even, a mere one and 3/4 inches from provisionally qualifying for Nationals.

Weightlifting attracts more women participants

By Mindy Charski
Northwestern University

EVANSTON, Ill.--Women have been weightlifting aside men for years. But with the increased emphasis today on cross training and toning, greater numbers are heading past the aerobics class and cardio machines into the weight room.

But should women be worrying that male lifters' grunts and clanking of iron carry an underlying message--a message that women are not welcome?

Hardly. A random survey of Northwestern University men found that most men not only do not care, but have a positive attitude about women lifting.

"When I'm down there, I'm pretty focused, and it doesn't really hinder or help me," NU senior Allan Daily said. "I think it's really good that women aren't intimidated to come down and lift with a bunch of guys."

The presence women bring to the weight room is refreshing for junior Ted Kunkel. "If anything, I think it helps just to make it less exclusive so it's not like it's all 300-pound guys crashing weights over their heads or something," he said.

Ben Haber, who just graduated, lifts with his girlfriend. "It's nice," he said.

Junior Izzy Aguilera said that he too is generally focused on his routine, but can be distracted by improper form. "If I see them (it doesn't have to be a female, but a man also) doing something wrong, I'll bring it up to their attention," he said. "They're usually appreciative."

NU alumnus Frank Johnson, who has been lifting for 41 years, said

that like 15 years ago when women started lifting with him, no one seems to care that women are in the weight room. He said the issue is actually one of experience rather than gender.

"There are two types of gyms--there are the real gyms that have weights, and there's like the 'Y' things that have all the machines and light weights and towels so you don't sweat, and there you have guys and girls who don't know what they're doing that get in the way, and it's dangerous."

"But in the real gyms, the girls who go there know what they're doing," he said.

Monique McRipley, a graduate student in biomedical engineering, knows what she is doing and is not daunted by the men lifting beside her. Six years ago when she started, it was a little different, however.

"Initially, there's a sense of intimidation, but if you sort of educate yourself about the right technique and form, you can pretty much go in there," McRipley said. "A lot of the clubs I've been to have certain segments for women weight lifting so if you work out amongst other women first and make sure you know techniques, then sort of wear your way into the men's weight facilities, it works out okay."

Freshman Sarah Thomas said older men in her hometown of North Canton, Ohio, seemed offended that she and other women lifters were not intimidated by them, but she has not found that to be the case at the university. "Being in good physical shape is a personal thing for everyone," she said. "I'm not going to let anyone else's ideas discourage me."

Men's basketball team on a roll

The Monarchs remain undefeated in the DIAC and continue to post record-breaking performances.

Staff Report

The Monarchs are 12-7 and 9-0 in the conference as of press time. The winning streak ties the previous record held by the 1976-77 squad, which won 10 in a row on their way to a second (and most recent) NCAA-III National Tournament berth.

The Monarchs defeated Averett 80-70 on Feb. 10. Senior point guard Teyles Bandy scored a career-high 21 points. Senior center Tyrone Bennett pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

The men edged conference rival Greensboro 73-72 at Greensboro Feb. 5. Tyrone Bennett became the 13th Monarch to score 1,000 points with his 16 against Greensboro.

Senior forward Jason Childers became the 14th member of the 1,000-point club by notching 27 on Feb. 8 with the Monarchs' 68-65 defeat of Ferrum.

Conference leaders Bennett (sixth in blocked shots), sophomore guard Montrell McNair (20th in three-point field goal accuracy), and

Childers (48th in scoring) all are ranked among national leaders. As a team, Methodist is currently ranked 16th in NCAA-III in three-point field goal percentage.

In an 82-69 road win against NC Wesleyan Jan. 27, sophomore guard Montrell McNair scorched the opponent with a game-high 28 points. Childers pulled down a game-best 12 rebounds.

On Jan. 31, the Monarchs came back from a 12-point halftime deficit to whip regionally-ranked Christopher Newport 89-77 in front of a standing-room-only crowd. McNair totalled 23 points and Childers had 20.

Methodist defeated visiting Newport News Apprentice 71-62 in a non-conference contest Feb. 2. McNair totalled 25 points and Childers had 21 as the Monarchs overcame an early second-half deficit to lead by as many as 14.

As of press time, the Monarchs have only five more games before heading to the DIAC Tournament Feb. 27 at NC Wesleyan.



Senior center Tyrone Bennett scores two of his now record-breaking 1,000 points in the Monarchs' defeat of Newport News Apprentice. Bennett broke the record during the Monarchs' game against Greensboro College Feb. 5. (Photo by Jamee Lynch)

FOOTBALL from page 4

freshman, this year we had 15 remaining. Seventy-five percent attrition. Some guys get here and realize that they can't afford to stay. Some transfer to play elsewhere. Some decide that college football isn't for them. A small percentage flunk out. Then there are those who have other reasons: "Coach don't like me. Coach plays favorites. The administration won't support football. You're never gonna win here." Former football affiliates all over the place. Yeah, I said it.

In the locker room, there is a sign on the wall. It is old and faded. It has been there since my freshman year. It reads, "Those who stay will be champions."

The Billboard number six song last week was a song called "I Believe I Can Fly." It talks about striving for success, regardless of obstacles or people who try to discourage us from attaining our true potential. The song is from the Michael Jordan movie *Space Jam*. Jordan once played minor league baseball, making him a two-sport athlete like Deion Sanders who plays baseball and football. It always comes back to football.

I have a good friend who is a student here. When she first arrived, her English was not very good, as she is Japanese. I can understand problems with English; between slang, Ebonics, and a southern accent, it's a wonder the Queen doesn't arrest us. But when she was in Japan, people

told her that she was making a mistake. That she would get here and be confused; that her understanding of English was not good enough to learn anyway, so what was the point? Jane Cherry, who runs the international student program, said, "Nonsense. Come over and work hard, and you will do just fine."

The folks back in Japan said she would be sorry. This is her fifth semester. Her first two, she made the dean's list. Her last two, she made the president's list. She also went to a few football games. It always comes back to football...

I went to the basketball game last weekend. The men's team is leading the conference. And they are playing some fantastic basketball. The gym was packed; the fans were screaming so loud it was deafening. The louder we got, the better they played. There were slam dunks, alley oops and three pointers from way downtown. It was pandemonium. I thought at one point I was watching the Harlem Globetrotters. It was true home court advantage.

There is one sport that will never feel that the track team. Because our track does not meet NCAA regulations on surface specifications, we cannot host a track meet. All the competitions are away. I was talking to the relay team yesterday, and a lot of them have shin splints from running

on that surface. They weren't complaining; they were doing their work-out. Coach Cole won't let them complain. Coach Isernia won't let them complain. They don't want to--they want to get better. Despite the track, Coach Cole has trained a team that is a national contender. He has developed athletes with world-class speed. He has to use what he's got...Hamilton Cuthrell, DeCarlos West, Trayfer Monroe...all of whom play football. See, it always comes back.

I am a communications major, and part of that field includes television production. Last year I got an application for an internship at CNN in Atlanta. I really wanted to do it, so I filled out the paperwork. I needed a recommendation from the faculty, so I went to an individual who is not longer on the staff, and requested it.

This faculty member said, "Leon, these things usually go to bigger schools like Georgia Tech and MIT; schools with larger faculties. And you are probably not really prepared for an operation like that." I said, "Thank you."

I took the application and went around the corner to Bob Bloodworth's office. He said, "Sure, Leon." I sent it off. The first professor was right; the five interns all came from Georgia Tech, MIT, and Methodist College. Mr. Bloodworth said, "If you have any problems when you

get to Atlanta, give me a call. Don't call collect, though." From CNN you can see the Georgia Dome where the Atlanta Falcons play. It always comes back to football.

When you first arrive at football camp in August, Coach Syputt tells the team, "Don't concern yourself with individual honors. We could possibly win all ten games and not go to the NCAA playoffs. Because we are not affiliated with the ECAC, there will be no bowl games. Because we don't play in a conference, there will be no conference awards. No regional awards. Anything we do will have to be national, against the entire country." Some say you'll never receive any recognition at Methodist. Funny what you find when you're not looking. In preseason, we had four athletes recognized at the national level and three more in the postseason.

There are a lot of things that we don't have here at Methodist--the glass is half empty. There are a lot of things we do--the glass is half full. We have Coach Syputt, Mrs. Cherry, Coach Cole, and Mr. Bloodworth. So until the computer system is updated, until the new buildings are open, until the surface on the track is redone, and the next 36 holes on the golf course are completed, the burden falls on these individuals and the rest of the faculty. But as illustrated, it is a burden you are more than capable of bearing.

Professional athletes are not usually associated with Methodist College. Not usually. Because of the success of the football program, we received national recognition. And because of that, some members of the football team were invited to try out for professional football. Now when you talk about that on campus, you get the old, "Do you know what the odds are? You really don't have a shot. Just frame the letter and be honored they asked you"--the glass is half empty. But you also get, "Good luck. We'll be praying for you. Go Monarchs"--the glass is half full.

In 1976 or 77, my father took my sister and me to the movies. We stood in line for an hour and a half. The ad for the movie said, "You'll believe a man can fly." Next week, my teammates Tony Bujega, Derrick George, Keljin Adams and I are going to get in a car and drive down to Florida to a tryout for professional football.

We know it's an unexcused absence. We know what the odds are. We are unafraid. Because just like I did in 1977, I believe that a man can fly. That man is me. I'm gonna use what I got to get what I want. And if we don't make it, some will say, "I told you so." And others will offer a ride to the airport. Because one way or another, we can all fly.

FIRST GENERATION

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Those are the findings of Pennsylvania State University professor Patrick Terenzini, who published a study on students who are the first in their family to attend college.

"First-generation students face huge challenges that may jeopardize their chances of survival and success in college," said Terenzini. "One is to overcome the characteristics they bring to college, such as weaker skills in reading and math and minimal involvement with teachers in high school."

The report states that a common profile of a first-generation student is a Hispanic-American woman from a lower-income family who didn't receive much encouragement to attend college.

Terenzini recommends colleges and universities provide better programs to help first-generation students earn their degrees. He recommends enhanced advising and learning labs, offering better financial aid packages, and creating opportunities for these students to work on-campus.