

# Men improving, but women struggling

By GRANT LONG

Now that both the men's and women's basketball teams have completed half their schedules, it is time for the Swami to make his mid-season report.

In October, I said that the women's team was capable of winning 16-20 games and to be competitive in their conference. Currently, they are 6-5 going into their Jan. 17 game with Ferrum, the conference leader.

In the same October article, I predicted that the men's team could win 12-15 games, depending on how well they played as a team.

Which brings me to the basketball double-header in the gym

on Jan. 17. Both teams were playing Ferrum, but in the women's game a share of the conference lead was at stake. The men, however, were playing to improve their conference standings.

Even though the first half of the women's game started off slow, with questionable calls by the referees, the game did end on an exciting note.

Midway through the second half, Ferrum went on an 11-2 run, but Wesleyan went 9-4 on its own and came within two points with 4:04 left to play. But despite the Lady Bishops' valiant effort, Ferrum won 63-58.

As for the men's game, even the Earps would have been jealous, because it was an old-fash-

ioned shootout from start to finish.

Both teams got off to a blazing start, but Wesleyan went into the locker room down by three. At the start of the second half, the men came out playing on all cylinders. With 16:31 left to play, Randy Little hit a jumper to give the men a 45-44 lead. The Bish-

ops never really looked back after that, winning by a score of 100-89.

As for my mid-season report, I still am going to stand by what I said in October. I think that the women still have a shot at win-

ning their conference, but they are going to have to go on a tear to do it.

The men also have a shot to do well in their conference. I also think they are starting to come together as a team.

## Sports

### Baseball team faces challenge to continue last year's success

It's going to be hard for the Battline Bishops baseball team this year to equal last year's success.

The Battling Bishops finished the 1995 season with a 34-12 overall record. The team finished in second place in the Dixie Conference regular season, won the second annual Dixie Conference tournament for the second year in a row, earned a 13th consecutive bid to the NCAA tournament but lost in the finals of the NCAA South Regional Championships.

Considering the loss of six starting position players and number one pitcher from the 1994 team that went 42-4, the season was a tremendous success. The Battling Bishops have now won or shared 12 of the last 15 Dixie Conference championships.

Thirteenth year Coach Mike Fox's team will have to deal with the loss of four outstanding seniors from the 1995 squad and junior Chris Bryant who signed with the Baltimore Orioles after being selected in the 14th round of the major league draft. Bryant was a two-time first team All DIAC and All-South Region performer. He was a two-time first team All America and one of the best hitters in school history. Bryant was a three year infield starter and the Bishops in every offensive category in 1994 and 1995. He was also named the college's 1994-95 Male Athlete of the Year.

Marvin Johnson was a four-year starter at second base and

center field and was named first team All-Conference and first team All-South last season. He was one of the fastest players in school history and led the team in stolen bases with 42 (fifth on the single season record list). He ended his career with 111 stolen bases, third best in school history.

Pitcher Carroll Lewis was the team's number one pitcher in 1995 finishing with a 9-2 record, 72 strikeouts and a 3.41 ERA. He threw 97.6 innings which was the fourth highest total in school history.

T.R. Cannon and Rocky Seagroves will also be missed. Both played sparingly but showed great leadership and work ethic. Seagroves now serves as assistant coach for the Battling Bishops.

The Battling Bishops will once again rely heavily on its seniors in 1996. Two senior position play-

ers and four senior pitchers will be called upon to lead the Bishops. Pitchers Stan Mohn, John Cinnamon, Jason Jenkins and Eddie Mintz will anchor the pitching staff.

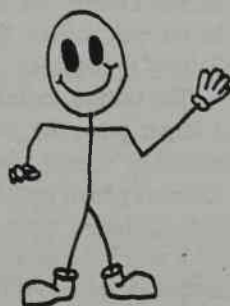
Catcher Ricky Martin and outfielder Kurt Cunningham must have great senior seasons and provide leadership. Martin hit .333 in 1995 and made second team All-Conference.

Cunningham, a transfer from St. Mary's in Maryland, had a solid junior season but will be counted on for more timely offensive production this season.

"We have our work cut out for us this year. After losing five starters an dour number one pitcher from '95, we have a fairly young team in which to compete against a very good schedule," Fox said. "Our pitching staff will need to carry us early until we can jell and improve offensively. I hope we are up to the challenge."

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10. Rainforest chainsaw operator.
9. Millionaires in prison.
8. Drivers with turn signal perpetually on.
7. Las Vegas lounge acts.
6. Unregistered voters.
5. Frozen dinner enthusiasts.
4. Javelin catcher.
3. Someone in express checkout line with eleven items.
2. Chain-smoking gas station attendant.
1. Drug users.

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