

Meredith Volleyball Player, Cross Country Runner Honored

Leslie Bunch, staff writer

Freshman middle blocker Jasmine Aguinaldo earned Volleyball Rookie of the Week honors this past week from the USA South Athletic Conference, after averaging 4.4 digs and 1.4 kills per set the week before. In a 3-2 non-conference win over William Peace University, Aguinaldo totaled 27 digs, eight kills, six assists, three blocks and one service ace. In a 3-0 loss to Piedmont, Aguinaldo contributed 11 digs, two kills, one service ace and one block. Finally, in a 3-0 win over Mary Baldwin, Aguinaldo tallied ten digs, five kills, two blocks and one service ace.

This marks Aguinaldo's second week earning this honor after being named Rookie of the Week Sept. 3-10. Aguinaldo says "Coming in as a freshman, I was mainly focused on getting to know my new teammates and working my butt off to get some playing time. Titles like this weren't even on my radar."

Come see Aguinaldo and her teammates tonight at the 7pm as they face Methodist and raise awareness for breast cancer with their Dig Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness night.

Cross country senior Morgan Youd was named the USA South Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week for Sept. 10-17. Youd placed 30th out of 99 runners at the Sept. 7 UNC-Wilmington Seahawk Invitational, completing the course in 21:05. She led her team to a third place finish, the top NCAA Division III team in the race.

At the Sept. 14 Adidas XC Challenge, the Avenging Angels placed sixth out of eleven teams. Youd was at the front of the MC pack, finishing with a time of 21:11.9.

One week later, the team split up to tackle two races in a weekend - Friday's Great American Cross Country Festival and Saturday's Greensboro Invitational. On Friday, Morgan Youd finished first for the Angels. Meredith finished ahead of the NC State Club team and Methodist University. On Saturday, Allie Gallagher earned the top spot for the team and finished 11th out of 67 runners with a time of 21:35. Megan Beebe added 19 points for MC with a 22:32 run.

The Avenging Angels travel to Newport News this Saturday to compete in the Christopher Newport Invitational.



Photo courtesy of Meredith College Archives

Equine Enthusiasts Push for New Meredith Program

Cody Jeffrey, staff writer

"The hardest part about coming to college was leaving my horse behind," said Meredith College freshman Nancy Merritt, a successful dressage competitor. In 1943, the same heartache of leaving behind an equine friend made one such freshman, Mary Esther Sadler, ride her two horses to Meredith.

Sadler's horses were kept with two on-campus mules used for plowing and cutting the courtyard grass. According to Jimmie Rucker of The Twig in a 1957 article, Mary's horses created such a buzz that Zeno Martin, then business manager of the college and horse enthusiast, had a swamp filled in to make a front pasture and purchased two more horses and in 1944, equitation was added to the physical education curriculum.

With the help of Mary McKay Edwards, a previous Stephens College saddle seat instructor, several more horses were purchased and donated for the students to use in their equine classes, which consisted of about fourteen women per lesson.

In no time, hundreds of students were piling onto the waiting list, and in 1966, an outside donation allowed Meredith to build a \$50,000 equine facility including a 40-stall barn with a wash pit, farrier area, feed room, restrooms, a classroom, an indoor

arena and an office for Edwards. Approximately 32 horses were kept at the Meredith facility for student classes and a few students who actively competed boarded their personal horses on campus.

Although the equine program boomed at Meredith for some 40 years, it slowly lost interest among students and was discontinued in the late 1980s.

Today, Meredith is home to many equestrian enthusiasts, some of which have been state and world champions. Leah Mooney is one such student, "I

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recently competed in the American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHA) Youth World Championship Show in Oklahoma City with my horse, One Bold Invitation ("Clyde"), in Working Hunter, Hunter Hack and Equitation Over Fences. It was the most amazing experience of my life." Merritt recently won the Virginia Carolina Morgan Horse Club Senior Youth Achievement Award and believes that "equestrians deserve recognition for [our] sport too. We're another community at Meredith that most people don't even know exists as largely as it does. This is my sport, just like volleyball and basketball are to other girls."

The biggest obstacle in bringing equine back to Meredith is the financial and liability -- **cont on page 2**

Wake County Schools Fire Superintendent, Address Issues

Senttra Snowden, staff writer

WRAL reports that last week Wake County Superintendent Tony Tata was fired after a 20-month run. The Wake County Board of Education voted five-to-four to dismiss Tata on Sept. 24. He was given \$253,625 to be released early from his contract that would have ended in December 2014.

Some have alleged that Tata's dismissal is a purely political decision, as the four votes against the release of Tata were from Republican board members while the Democratic majority votes were for his dismissal. The four Republican votes for Tata to stay are the same votes that hired him during the former Republican majority. However, the Democratic majority have defended their decision as not political but pragmatic, saying that the Tata's release from his contract was a result of his lack of leadership skills and inability to develop relationships with other members of the Board. T. Keung Hui stated in the News & Observer that "Wake County school board Chairman Kevin Hill said Friday that former Superintendent Tony Tata's autocratic leadership style created a culture of fear among school system employees."

Now that Tata has been dismissed, Stephan Gainey will act as the superintendent while the board searches for Tata's replacement. Gainey is the Wake County assistant superintendent for human resources.

In addition to Tata's firing, the school year began with thousands of students experiencing bus issues due to the Wake County Board of Education's decision to remove 52 buses. The major decline in buses resulted in longer routes, larger occupancy of students per bus and children sitting on the bus for longer periods of time. Due to the overwhelming number of complaints, the board has added 41 of the 52 buses back to the routes. Also, Don Haydon, the Chief Facilities and Operations Officer submitted his resignation and will be on a paid leave until the end of the year.

The Wake County Board of Education now faces the burden of finding replacements for two major positions and fixing the ongoing bus issues.

NEWS BRIEFS

As many as 13,000 patients have been exposed to a fungal meningitis strain from infected spinal steroid injections, resulting in eight deaths as of Oct. 9. / Romney leads Obama by four points after last week's presidential debate. The vice presidential debate will take place Oct. 11. / Israeli and Gaza militaries exchanged fire in their worst border battle in months. / Venezuela elected Chavez to another term. Opponents think only "illness or an oil price drop will drive him from office." / Two stem cell researchers won the Nobel Prize for their work with cellular reprogramming that has led to advances in cloning. / Brothers Brandon and Blayne Estes won the first World Champion Squirrel Cook Off with their squirrel slider recipe.