

## SPORTS

### Men's Basketball

Kevin Hanlon

The Mens Basketball team will begin their season with two scrimmage games the last week of October. The 28th vs Crossfire and the 31st vs Athletes In Action. Both games in the past have been very competitive. We have some new additions in freshmen, Jarquis Lucas and Travis Williams; and transferring from Campbellsville University, Ryan Pride; from Western Carolina University, Christian Tonkins; and from North Carolina

A&T, Charles Crews. We are very excited this year due to the new additions to our coaching staff with new Head Coach Jonathan Bennett and Associate Head Coach Lincoln Walters and their new style of coaching. Some goals this season is to be the strongest and best conditioned team in conference. I hope see everyone at the home games this year. McAlister Maniacs are making a come back this year!

### Women's Basketball

Janel Cox

The Montreat Women's Basketball team has a bit of a different look this season and hopefully will have a different record come March. The new additions are promising, and the returners have come back ready to win. Although there are no freshmen on the team this year, there are three new transfer players: Suititi Takai from Honolulu, Hawaii; Chacie Bullock from Greensboro North Carolina; and Stephanie Morrison from

Davenport, Washington. Iesha Tyler from Shawnee, Kansas will also be playing for the first time this semester. Not only do these four add depth to the Cavalier team, but they add experience and size as well. After a recent trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee over fall break, the new Cavalier Women's Basketball team has come back ready to continue to prepare for the upcoming season. The girls are putting in hard work on the court and

in the weight room in preparation for their season ahead and are excited about the possibilities of success. The season kicks off at the end of October with a scrimmage against NCAA Division II Lenoir Rhyne, followed by an exhibition game versus Tusculum University, also NCAA Division II. The Cav's first home game is October 31, at 7:00 p.m. Come support our team!

### Men's Soccer

Stephen Jackson

This season has been an emotional rollercoaster right from the start. We began the season with a tough first half of the schedule and coupled with the loss of some key players due to ineligibility and other reasons, we got off to a rough start, losing key games to Shorter, King, and Milligan. However, after about five games, we began to receive some good news and have since been boosted by the return of almost all of our players.

Homecoming weekend marked the midpoint of our season and offered us the chance to put the first half of our season behind us and look ahead to the second half of the season. Since Homecoming, we have won three

games on the trot and are playing with a new confidence and a fresh outlook for the rest of the season. The return of Sami Bin and Hasani McKenzie has strengthened our team tremendously and has given all of our guys a massive lift as we move forward. Having lost only one game in the conference, we have set ourselves up for a strong finish and hopefully a push to the national tournament. Our goal is to make school history and reach nationals for the first time. I believe that there are greater things in store for our team around the corner after a hard start, and that we are beginning to peak at just the right time.



### Women's Soccer

Lucy White

It has been a unique season for the Montreat Women's Soccer Team. I'm sure most would agree that our record may stand far apart from what actually is happening out there on the field. This semester we have learned what it means to have passion, how to play passionately, and how to exchange our strength for one that is greater. In the midst of many heartbreaking games where we only lacked one goal, we have been shown joy. We are learning where true joy resides, and a game of soccer is helping point us to that place. There's nothing quite like Ellie Smith's singing on the soccer vans, Katie McGary's infamous pre-game tattoo drawings, Kate Thacker's wonder of a shot, or Coach Maple's ability to bring about rain on every game day. You see, although this hasn't been a season of wins so far, it's not over. We commit to fighting for each other, to endure all trials, and to run freely after the glorious light at the end of the tunnel.

### The Greatest Team You Will Ever Meet... if You Dare

Erin Cross

I have been asked many times, "Erin, when does your season start?" I always reply to this with a smirk and say "Oh, it's started alright." The "softball season" doesn't officially start until February 6th, but that doesn't mean that we have been slacking off. We have played in a tourney and began our workouts, running practices, weights, pitching/

catching...you get the picture.

We ended last season at second place in conference with a near playoff berth. We had some key losses this past season in Amber Summerow, Amy Vogel, and Mandi Pike, but we have been richly blessed to pick up transfers Jamie Lokken, Kristine Valdez, Nicole Denney, and Stephanie Morrison. We also

picked up freshmen Jessie Allen, Ally Cochran, and Elizabeth Walden. Jamie Poling says "I feel like we are still learning to work together because we have a lot of new players, but I feel that God will use that to our advantage and we can do anything if God is on our side."

Ally says "The team is great! I think that we will have a successful season, our team chemistry is

amazing, and I'm ecstatic to be a part of this team." All of us already feel connected and are excited to see what's in store. In our senior season, Kerby Barkdoll and I know what the taste of defeat is like, and we are hungry to never have that bitter taste again. We have a goal of playing in late May in Alabama, and this "off season" will

be our biggest "growing season." We are all hungry to win and will stop at nothing to reach our goal. So, if you see a softball player, talk to us. True, we are ridiculously good looking (take Rachel Stowe for example), we are jacked, but we are nice people.