













## **Former Wildcats making** most of opportunities at collegiate level

From Staff Reports

reene County High School continues to have success helping student athletes use athletics to continue their educations at the next level of competition.

This fall has been no different as three former Wildcat soccer players and one former Lady Wildcat hoops star are enjoying success on three different community college campuses.

Pearl River Community College women's soccer coach Jack Byrd has two former Wildcats on his squad and both performed well for the Lady Wildcats this past season.

Peyton Rounsaville Kaitlyn Snyder played in all 17 games for the PRCC team, which got off to a slow start to the season, but finished at 8-8-1 and advanced to the semi-final round of the MACJC State Tournament. Rounsaville was a starter in 11 of those contests as a defender, while Snyder earned starting nods in four games as a midfielder.

Byrd praised the work of both Greene County girls and said he was proud of the season his squad had and wanted to thank his Lady Wildcats (8-8-1) for their resiliency this year.

"In the first two games of the season we got outscored 9-1 and a lot of people thought we did not even have a chance to make the playoffs," he said. "I felt like this team had to battle back through some belief issues and that is tough but they battled through the adversity."

"I can say without a shadow of a doubt the future is very bright," he said. "Our coaching staff's job is to be bigger than the wins and losses; it's about giving these girls a positive college experience here at PRCC and I thought we did that."

Up the road at rival Jones College, freshman GCHS alumnus Justis Casey had an exceptional season as his Bobcat team claimed the school's first-ever Championship and advanced to the national tournament. Casey started all 18 games for the Bobcats and put in 18 goals and added one assist.

Casey will look to play an even bigger role as a sophomore as the Bobcats look to become a perennial force in juco soccer.



Kaitlyn Snyder and Peyton Rounsaville together at PRCC



Ranisha Gunn - Hinds CC

"We did not really set that goal (state championship) at the start of the year," said Jones head coach Brendan Connolly. "We just wanted to have a good season and improve all of the time. I think a couple of weeks into the season we figured out we were a good team. We just kept getting better."

"It's been a long time coming," Connolly said. "We are all set up here to be successful and that's what we want to do here from now on."

On the hardwood, 2018 GCHS graduate Ranisha Gunn is on the roster for the Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs this season. Hinds is just getting their season underway and stats were not available at press time.

Gunn had an incredible career at Greene County and hopes to make an impact at Hinds, where Greene County native Mary Bolton, of McLain, is on staff as an assistant coach.

"Ranisha works hard and is developing her total game," Hinds Head Coach Jackie Martin'Glass said. "She will be a great contributor to our team."



Justis Casey - Jones College





