

PC baseball eager to start new season

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Presbyterian College baseball team is a hungry bunch entering the 2019 season - and a young one, too. Eight freshmen and four redshirt-sophomores make up a chunk of the Blue Hose roster that started its seas at Alabama Friday.

But while the group may be young, the team is not lacking optimism.

"We've got a bunch of guys who work and have the right mindset to go out and do some great things," PC Head Coach Elton Pollock said.

Presbyterian enters off a rough 2018 season. The Blue Hose won 15 games and missed out on the Big South Tournament - one year after advancing to the tournament final. Two of the top four hitters from last year's team are gone (A.J. Priaux and T.J. Richardson), and the pitching staff had a season ERA of 6.00.

In 16 one-run games last year, PC won just three times for a 3-13 record in those close contests. Two of those losses came against Campbell during a three-game regular-season series. Campbell went on to win the conference tournament.

"The number of one-run contests we were in was just tremendous. You have to find a way to win those games," Pollock said.

The pitching staff is the critical part of the team this season. PC will look to a host of younger players to help lead the way, with sophomore Andrew Durden chief among them. Durden pitched in 14 games last year and allowed 24 earned runs in 23 innings, while striking out 16 and walking 16 others. Pollock hopes he can mature quickly and compete at a high level.

Jake Rice is a hard-throwing, left-handed junior, and a junior college transfer from Gulf Coast State College, while sophomore Reagan Fowler will likely be the third in



Photo Courtesy PC Athletics

TIME TO TAKE THE FIELD — The Presbyterian College baseball team opened the 2019 season this weekend with a three-game series against Alabama.

the weekend rotation PC throws out at its opponents. Redshirt-junior Jackson Dean and junior Eric Miles should also add depth in the starting rotation, too.

"I feel good about our depth," Pollock said. "The experience factor is where we're going to lean on a guy like Miles, like Dean. They've been on the mound in some critical situations and had a lot of success in the past."

The team also hopes it has its answer at closer with senior co-captain Colton Springs. After being a starter early in the season, Springs was moved to the bullpen and finished with a 3.34 ERA and 2-3 record. Springs walked just 27 batters, but also struck out 44, and hitters posted a .149 batting average against him.

Springs has also received notice around the country for his pitching, being named to the watch list for the NCBWA Stopper of the Year on Monday. The award is given out

to the top relief pitcher in Division I.

On defense the Blue Hose are led by senior Nick Guimbarda, who is one of the captains on the team. Guimbarda will play right field, while junior Zacchaeus Rasberry looks to utilize his speed in center, and redshirt-sophomore Andrew Livingston will likely see time in left.

All-Big South honoree, and senior, Jonathan White will likely see time at second base, while JC transfer Graham Mitchell (junior) will likely be at first. The left side of the infield is more in flux at the start, with players like Livingston, junior Garrett Jones, and freshmen Ashby Smith and Jeremiah Boyd in the running to play those spots. Freshman catcher Johnny Cook is likely to round out the defensive battery.

The offense will be led by White, who led the team in hitting last year (.358, 8 HRs, 39 RBI).

Guimbarda was third in hitting (.308), while Mitchell and Livingston both appear ready to be offensive threats. The trio of Smith, Cook and Boyd should also be solid at the plate for a team that was held to a .263 average and scored a little more than 5 runs per game.

PC was picked to finish seventh in the Big South coaches preseason poll, but has been picked as high as fifth in other votes. The goal, as Pollock noted, is for this year's team to win more of the one-run games than it did a year ago. If the team can get both the key hits and timely pitching it will need to remain competitive in the conference, a season closer to that of 2017 may not be out of reach.

"We have the potential, that is for sure, but gaining the necessary experience and success within the game, in each one of the facets of the game, is going to be key," Pollock said.

Hall

Continued from Page 4

a record for the most catches in a game (11) and most in a career (106), records that stood for more than four decades. Rogers was posthumously inducted into Clemson's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989.

Simmons is in her 28th season as Clinton High's head tennis coach. In her time she's won 33 conference Coach of the Year awards, and led her teams to the state final 13 times, winning the 2000 boys' championship. Simmons has been the SCHSL boys and girls singles tournament director for 24 years.

Nominations for this year's class were taken from Sept. 15-

Dec. 31, with the field of 53 nominees cut down to 10 finalists. From there, an anonymous three-person selection committee cut the field in half for this year's class. To be eligible one must have lived in Laurens County for five years and must be 10 years out of high school.

Those who are interested in attending the ceremony can buy tickets starting March 25 at the Clinton and Laurens Ys. Individual tickets cost \$25 and include a meal catered by Lee's BBQ.

The ceremony will be held April 25, starting at 6:30 p.m. at The Ridge at Laurens.

DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND! Find out what's happening around town & why! Only in...
The Laurens County Advertiser

NEW!! Silhouette
AUTHENTIC EYEWEAR SINCE 1964

OAKLEY

Ray-Ban
GENUINE SINCE 1937

We also carry SUNGLASSES in these brands and more, that are all available with your prescription lenses.

Dr. Tom MacMillan
Dr. Bernadine Donaldson

Family Eye Care CENTER

118 Musgrove Street, Clinton • 864-833-5555
106 S Public Square, Laurens • 864-984-2020
www.tommacmillan.com



Dr. McCarthy & Dr. McClary ORTHODONTICS

Specializing in Braces and Invisalign for Children, Adolescents, Adults

Temporomandibular Joint Treatment

FOR FREE CONSULTATION CALL

833-4343

Conveniently located behind Laurens County Hospital
www.mccortho.com

Vern's Plumbing Service

Vern Mast Master Plumber Quality Service
864-684-0963 Licensed & Insured Done Right!

Sue Douglas Roofing & Repair

Roofing & Repair • Pressure Washing
Deck Building & Repair • Gutter Cleaning
Paint & Stain • Hand Rails
Cool Seal - Mobile Homes

Prompt Response & Reasonable Rates
Call 864-871-2772 or 864-871-5574

Owner Sue D. Penland

On-Site Builders, LLC

General Contractor
-New Construction -Additions -Renovations

On-Site Services (a division of On-Site Builders, LLC)

-Home Repairs -Facility Maintenance
-Plumbing & Electrical Repairs
-Excavating -Brush Removal -Bush Hogging

We accept Cash, Check, & Debit/Credit Card!

Jamie Miller: 864-200-7258
buildersonsite@yahoo.com www.OnSiteBuildersLLC.com
f OnSiteBuildersLLC

S&S SERVICES

HEATING & COOLING

In Business 32 Years 998-4370 • 303-5089
1-800-710-8722 Licensed Bonded Insured

STEVE SMITH

RR PHOTOGRAPHY

Any kind of photo session is available!
Any weekend, anytime, anywhere!

RRPHOTOGRAPHY18@YAHOO.COM

WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

NEW RETAIL WEBSITE

Go to **AugiesGuns.com**

FOR GREAT DEALS!
Certified Gunsmith
Price Matching on Many Items

864-593-6013
Laurens, SC
Near Hwy. 252 & Cain Rd.

SPEAKS

BLOCK • BRICK
MASONRY • STONE
CONCRETE
FINISHING

LICENSED & BONDED

981-6438
CURTIS SPEAKS
OWNER/OPERATOR

TJ'S Scrap Metal & Recycling Center, LLC

Upstates Cleanest Scrap Yard
We Buy Junk Cars, Trucks & All Types of Scrap Metal

WE PAY TOP PRICES!

- Copper
- Lead
- Stainless Steel
- Alum. & Alum. Cans
- Batteries
- Appliances
- Radiators
- Brass

Extra .50 Cents Per 100 lbs. With This Ad*
NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY!!*
Cans Extra .05 Cents Per lb. with This Ad*

HOURS:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
939 Henderson Road, Gray Court, SC 29645 • Office: 876-5595 Cell: 981-1072

Dale Byers Detailing
Car & Truck Accessories

Wash, Wax & Detailing
Window Tinting
"Paintless Dent Repair"
Financing Available

Tonneau Covers • Tool Boxes
Step Bars • Vent Shades
Brush Guards • Spray-In Bed Liners • B&W Hitches
WeatherTech • Vehicle Lettering • And More!

2485 Hwy. 221 S., Laurens
864-681-1656

Spencer & Sons Builders

5228 Hwy. 221S
LICENSED & BONDED
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Free Estimates!
864-684-3755

Roofing, Siding, Window Replacement, Drywall, Interior Trim
Also Seamless Gutters
ALL RESIDENTIAL NEEDS INSIDE AND OUT!

Cuts 'N Such Lawn Care

For any job you need done right, just ask.
Mowing, Trimming, Leaf Blowing & More

Stan Thompson, Owner/Operator
stan.thompson31@gmail.com
864-871-4923

Sherfield's Roofing

Free Estimates
(864) 994-4909
(864) 923-2123
(864) 923-0052

Mountville, SC
Locally owned and operated for over 25 years!
• Licensed & Insured •
Residential & Commercial Insurance Accepted & No Money Up Front
Now Offering Financing

To Advertise Here Contact Us at
984-2586

#1 SIGN DESIGNS ANY KIND or SIZE SIGNS

864-682-7810

COME & SEE OUR NEW DIGITAL PRINTER
We now do sign maintenance.
www.1signdesigns.com

B&B Landscaping & Tree Service

Tree Removal • Stump Removal

- Landscaping
- Lawn Maintenance
- Gravel Driveways
- Irrigation Installation & Maintenance

Remote Controlled Stump Grinder for "Hard To Get To" Places
Will Brown • 864-567-3033
Licensed & Insured