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SPORTS

PC women sweep Upstate, Sharp nets 100th victory

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Presbyterian College women's basketball team broke its nine-game losing streak Tuesday and helped head coach Alaura Sharp hit a career milestone.

Salina Virola had a double-double, scoring 15 points and picking up 13 rebounds, and the Blue Hose completed a season sweep of USC Upstate with a 66-58 victory.

The decision marked the 100th victory of Sharp's coaching career. It also moved PC's season record to 5-20 overall and 3-11 in the Big South Conference.

Virola tied Trinity Johnson (seven rebounds, six assists) and Shamani Stafford for team-high scoring honors with 15 points. Kacie Hall added 11 points.

Kathryn Kirkwood had 17 points and 14 rebounds to lead USC Upstate in both categories.

PC led by as many as 15 points in the first half and eventually led 39-26 at the halftime break. Upstate rallied back within five points, 43-38,

with 2:19 to go in the third quarter before a 3-point shot by Hall helped stymie the comeback.

Upstate rallied again in the fourth quarter, getting within 59-55 with just more than two minutes to go, but a pair of free throws and a Virola block on a 3-point attempt essentially ended any hopes for the Spartans.

PC hosts Hampton Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Lewis makes the list: PC men's basketball forward Francois Lewis is one of eight players in the Big South who were named to the Dos Equis 3X3 National Championship Late Season Watch List.

Lewis' inclusion marks the second straight year a PC player made the cut, after Reggie Dillard was included last year.

Campbell's Chris Clemons and Andrew Eudy, Gardner-Webb's David Efanayi, Hampton's Kalin Fisher, Radford's Ed Polite, Jr., USC Upstate's Malike Moore and Winthrop's Nych Smith were also selected as finalists.

Four seniors from each conference are selected to form a

3-on-3 team to take part in a postseason tournament, scheduled for April 5-7 at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. The championship-winning team wins \$100,000. All games will be carried on Twitter or ESPN2.

COLLEGE

Weather leaves schedules soaked: Persistent rains across the state Tuesday and Wednesday have left an impact on the Presbyterian College sports schedule as contests involving the baseball, softball and men's tennis teams were all called off.

PC's baseball team was slated to visit South Carolina Wednesday, but the game was called just before 1 p.m. No make-up date has been announced as of yet.

The softball team had a home doubleheader scheduled for Wednesday with Western Carolina, but the contests were called off Tuesday. The doubleheader is now scheduled for March 20, starting at 1 p.m.

The men's tennis team was supposed to host USC Upstate in a Big South contest, but it was also called off due to the

weather. The teams will now face each other March 7 at 3 p.m.

Women's lacrosse

Furman 19, Presbyterian 3: Natalie Barnett scored two of Presbyterian's three goals Wednesday in the loss to the Paladins in Greenville.

Kayla Koch took the loss in goal for the Blue Hose. She gave up five goals in about 4 minutes of game time before being lifted for Heidi Shafer, who had eight saves.

The Blue Hose (0-4) visit American on March 2.

AREA SPORTS

Archery

Hickory Tavern competes at national event: The Hickory Tavern archery team competed in the National Archery in the Schools Program regional middle school and high school tournament, held last week in Anderson, placing second overall.

Sixth-grader Ethan Patterson won first place in the boys middle school category with an individual score of 287 - third-best in all middle and high schools combined.

Baseball

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"Smith working his legs and upper body helped with his velocity, and he's just throwing strikes," Patterson said.

As for the relief pitching, Jalen Bragg is expected to be the closer. He filled that role a couple years ago but was more of a starter last year. He is moving back to where he was seen as being more effective. Zach Faulkner and Garrett Parker are also seen as relief pitchers Patterson will count on.

Jalen Bragg, when not pitching, will likely play shortstop, while Heath Bragg goes to second and Kobe Williams moves to third. Jaylon Nance is likely to see time at first, but Faulkner could fill some time at first as well as he returns following ankle surgery. Tanner Smith (center) and Aidan Pridgen (left) will likely play two of the three outfield spots, with Garrett Addy, Robertson and Luke Willis in the mix to play in right.

On the offensive side, Laurens will look to a lineup that starts with Tanner Smith, and is followed by Pridgen, Jaylen Bragg, Nance,

and Rice in the top five spots. Patterson said the team has more consistent power than he's had since he's been with the Raiders.

"Our first five hitters are going to be really good, but it's going to take time, take reps at the plate to get them where they need to be," Patterson said.

The region race should be a tight one, with T.L. Hanna and J.L. Mann at the top of the list. Patterson is confident his Raider squad has enough to win the region, but it will have to go through both the Patriots and Yellow Jackets in order to get to the top spot.

"We can win the region, but I know it's going to have to go through those two teams to do it," Patterson said. "If we can knock those two guys off we'll be in good shape with everyone else."

Roster: Kobe Williams, Jalen Bragg, Luke Willis, Heath Bragg, Christian Hill, Tanner Smith, Garrett Addy, Nicholas Robertson, Garrett Parker, Zak Rice, Aidan Pridgen, Eric Jones, Jaylon Nance, Zach Faulkner, Ced McDowell.



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