

SPORTS

PC baseball closes out home slate with victory

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Presbyterian College baseball team lifted itself back above .500 on the season with a victory in its final home game of the season Tuesday afternoon, powering past Georgia State, 11-7, at the PC Baseball Complex in Clinton.

Presbyterian moved to 27-26 on the season as it entered its final regular season series of the season — a three-game set that started Thursday at Charleston Southern.

Zacchaeus Rasberry led the Blue Hose with three hits, including a double, and Jonathan White doubled, had two hits and drove in three runs. Garrett Jones added two RBI and teammates Andrew Livingston (two hits), Jeremiah Boyd and Michael Varga each scored two runs.

Leading 2-1, Presbyterian rattled off nine runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take control of the game. White drove in two runs with a double, scoring Livingston and Rasberry and boosting PC's lead to 4-1. Jimmy Marcelli's fielder's choice brought in the third run of the inning and Boyd's RBI single extended the lead to five runs.

Jones and Rasberry later drew bases-loaded walks to each bring home a run, and Livingston was hit by a pitch to bring in another run. White later added a single and Nick Guimbarada used a fielder's choice to bring home the final runs of the inning and give PC an 11-1 lead.

Georgia State did fight back, scoring five runs in the top of the sixth inning before PC stopped the rally. The Panthers then added a single run in the top of the ninth to account for the final margin.

PC starting pitcher Austin Paradis picked up the victory for the Blue Hose, working three scoreless innings. He allowed two hits and struck out two.

Big South: Entering Wednesday's games the Blue Hose remained in fourth place in the Big South standings with a 14-10 mark. They were mathematically still in the hunt for a share of the Big South regular-season title, trailing Radford by three games and Campbell by 2.5 games for the top two spots.

Winthrop holds a two-game lead on PC for third place, while the Blue Hose are a game up on High Point for fifth and two games up on Gardner-Webb for sixth. A combination of PC victories and Gardner-Webb losses totaling two this weekend will give PC a first-day bye in next week's conference tournament and allow the team to avoid a win-or-go-home contest Tuesday in Fayetteville, N.C.

The Big South Tournament pairings are expected to be announced either Saturday night or Sunday. The first two days of games (May 21-22) will be available for view-

ing on ESPN3 while the May 23-24 games will be on ESPN+. The championship game will air May 25 on ESPNU.

Guimbarada honored: Presbyterian baseball player Nick Guimbarada won the Bob McCloskey Insurance Big South Graduate Fellowship Wednesday.

The Big South Conference Graduate Fellowship Program was established in 2005 as a way to recognize academic excellence of athletes in the conference who intend to pursue postgraduate studies upon graduation. Guimbarada holds a 3.94 GPA in biology and graduated earlier this month. He plans on becoming a medical doctor and has been accepted for admission into the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University.

PROFESSIONAL Baseball

Jones average picks up: Former Laurens Raider Thomas Jones has improved his batting average over the last week with the Clinton LumberKings, going 6 for 15 in the last four games - games from May 11 through 15 - including a 3-for-5 performance Monday against Burlington.

One of the three hits Monday was a homer, his third of the season. Jones also had three RBI, pushing his total on the season to 16.

Through Wednesday's games in Burlington, Jones was hitting a season-best .208 on the season, just a hair over his season-best batting average. Jones has 21 hits on the season, including nine extra-base hits, has drawn six walks, struck out 35 times and is 5-for-6 on stolen base attempts.

Clinton (Iowa) is a Class A affiliate of the Miami Marlins, which drafted Jones in the third round of the 2016 MLB Draft.

Laurens announces 2 college signings

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders' athletic program announced a pair of college signings Monday as Will Pontoon signed to wrestle at Presbyterian College and Bailey Goode signed with Spartanburg Methodist to play golf.

Pontoon is the third member of his family to sign with PC. His uncles Ron and Will also attended the Clinton college. Pontoon, who also was a starter on the Raiders' football team, shined with the wrestling program as he was a state qualifier this past season, ranked No. 4 in the state in the 220-pound Division and finished fifth at the state championships. He also was a North-South All-Star participant, going 2-0.

In 2018, Pontoon was the Coastal Clash Champion at 220 pounds, and was a region champion in Class 5A. He followed that up with a second-place finish in the region this season.

Pontoon, in an interview with WLBG, said Limestone and Newberry also offered spots, but he was drawn to PC as it starts its collegiate wrestling program. He is undecided on a possible major.

Goode has picked up his golf game over the previous two seasons, lowering his score by about eight strokes per nine-hole round. In an interview with WLBG, Goode said the biggest improvement in his game has been in his short game.

Goode said SMC won out over Limestone in the recruiting process. He plans to major in business.



Submitted Photos
SIGNING DAYS — Laurens High continued its run of college signings earlier this week when two more student-athletes inked a National Letter of Intent with their respective colleges as Will Pontoon (above) signed with Presbyterian College to join the burgeoning wrestling program, and golfer Bailey Goode signed with Spartanburg Methodist.

PREPS TENNIS

Singles Tournament: Clinton's Ike Waldron took part in the SCHSL Class 3A-2A-A Singles Tournament Monday and Tuesday at the Cayce Tennis Center, and went 4-2 at the tournament.

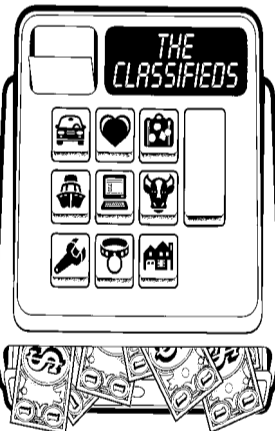
Waldron, in the championship bracket, opened with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Conner Hudson of Hannah-Pamplico on Monday but lost 6-0, 6-2 to Mitchell Deames of Philip Simmons to drop into the consolation bracket.

In the consolation bracket Waldron won two more matches Monday, defeating William Joseph from the Governor's School, 8-4, and Wilson Pope of Camden, 8-2. He then came back Tuesday to win his first match against Academic Magnet's Cameron Dawson, 8-5, but lost in the second match Tuesday to Bishop England's Hector Romero, 8-3, and was eliminated.



Photo by Nick Herman
SHARP FOCUS — Clinton's Ike Waldron took part in the Class 3A-2A-A Boys' Singles Tennis Tournament this week at the Cayce Tennis Center, going 4-2.

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