Summer campaign participation down
Dwight Smith says decline caused by Sept. 11 attacks, sluggish economy

Christy Canady  Staff writer

International campaigns organized through Harding’s Campus Ministry office are facing a tough year after a drastic decline in the number of participants forced the cancellation of several university-sponsored summer trips.

According to Campus Minis­ter Dwight Smith, only around 150 students and campaign lead­ers plan to venture overseas this summer to share the gospel, nearly 100 less than last year’s program.

Smith, who is serving in his 12th year as minister, said the number of campaigns has also decreased. At least nine trips have been cancelled as a result of decreased participation, which Smith said he believes to be a direct outcome of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“We have gotten a lot of calls from parents and grandparents concerned about their students’ safety,” he said. “Families have expressed concerns about flying and traveling abroad during this time of political upheaval.”

But Smith and his wife Barbie have tried to convince families that their children will be safe. “We have tried our best to re­assure those who are concerned,” Barbie Smith said. “It’s ironic be­cause people in other countries feel it is safer in their own coun­tries than here in the U.S.”

The Smiths said most of the concern lies with parents rather than students, a fact to which sophomore Amy McAllister can attest.

“The key time for signing up to go on a campaign was right around Sept. 11,” McAllister said. “My parents were really hesitant about me going, but I felt like God was putting it on my heart to stick with it and go.”

McAllister, whose campaign group is traveling to Australia, said she has no doubts about going on the mission trip. “I’m excited about it,” she said. “I’m focusing on spreading God’s will, not terrorism.”

Dwight and Barbie Smith also said they have no personal fears or reservations about traveling to foreign lands to continue their work.

“But of the increased se­curity at airports, this is prob­ably the safest time in history to fly,” Barbie Smith said. “We just trust in the Lord. God’s going to give him his work done and protect us, here and abroad.”

In addition to safety concerns, the economic woes that have plagued the nation since Septem­ber have also affected many stu­dents’ decisions to go on inter­national campaigns this year.

“More students are having to stay home and work because of the economy,” Dwight Smith said. “And students have been worried that they would not be able to secure the $1,800 to $2,500 needed to go.”

The good thing about the campaign groups, however, is that the money can be raised by writing letters to family, friends and church mission committees, he said.

According to Barbie Smith, money is coming in at a rate as good or better than last year.

“We’ve gotten so many checks with sweet notes from people wishing us well and saying how proud they are of us for going,” she said. “People’s hearts have been softened by [Sept. 11], mak­ing them more receptive to giv­ing and receiving. This may be the best time in 20 years to go.”

Despite this year’s setbacks, Dwight and Barbie Smith said they are anticipating being back on track next year.

“A lot of students and leaders have said they could go next year,” Barbie Smith said.

Student Lectureship slated for next week

Rene Lewis  Staff writer

Harding students will hear their peers give advice on how to be “in this world, but not of this world” during the 2002 Student Lectureship.

The theme for the three-day se­ries will be “In But Not Of: An Al­ternative Viewpoint.” Monday through Wednesday, students can attend lectures, classes and panel discussions that will address is­sues ranging from managing money to being single and han­dling temptation.

Last semester, the Spiritual Life Committee began preparations for the lectureship. While brainstorm­ing the ideas, the committee came up with the alternative viewpoint idea. According to the committee, their goal is to change students’ everyday thought pro­cesses.

“God calls us to live for him and that means we must be differ­ent,” said Rachael Harless, co­chairperson of the Spiritual Life Committee.

During the lectureship, seniors Carl Williamson and John Hawkins and junior Jonathan Storment are scheduled to deliver chapel presentations. Students will be giving a lesson on how to live every day for God.

“I want us all to know that this world is temporary and we need to be living for God today and ev­ery day,” Storment said.

Included in the week’s schedule are classes designed specifically for women. In these classes, women will be discussing self-esteem, sub­mission and prayer. Senior Hope Bell will be presenting a class en­titled “Submission Versus Ambi­tion.” The class was designed to give women some direction in bal­ancing a career with family and Christ.

“Along with being a student at Harding, I’m married,” Bell said. “I face these issues of balancing the household, school and God every day. Marriage is great but if it’s one more thing added to an al­ready full plate. This class will stress submitting and keeping pri­orities straight — God is going to get you to heaven, so your hus­band has to be second.”

See Lectureship, page 3

End of the road

Senior Philip Huff throws topsoil as part of a planting project for the city of Searcy at the end of a bike path near the Searcy Sports Complex. Huff was one of around 2,000 Harding students who participated in the Day of Outreach Wednesday. For more on the event, see page four.
The power of drugs on the way to my up with it by any means, but it seems to be board in the letter in my girlfriend's room in Searcy 138 (when the sticky tack actually works). embarrassing prose and mistaken verbiage is a Hall - during you. (We usually limit it to our mutual remember half of the stories and inside jokes behind) Then, and write it on the board for posterity. and blatantly take you were worried half of our plans. Day in and day out, I always knew that come fall i'd be in school and in May i'd be making summer plans. But this May will be different — I'll be making a major move towards my future. I'll be faced with the inevitable realities of the "real world." Now it will be time to pay rent, electric and water bills, and I'll have to buy things like groceries, furniture and silica— all the duties my parents have so graciously taken care of my entire life.

Looking back, it seems that my attitude and personality have done some adjusting and personal remodeling every year at Harding. And on a smaller level, I'm quite confident that I change every day. And I seem to be more and more certain of this everyday. And i'm sure none of you were worried about behind "The Board." But we'll remember the good times, great friends and the fun that is life in a dorm.

"The Board" has become somewhat of a legend among our friends. The term has even been modified into other parts of the English language. Just listen carefully and you'll hear something that is life in a dorm.

"I think [Searcy] will look back at this year and hope fully be able to see Christ through us. Hopefully we will be a great example." Trisha Alley, freshman

"People in the community will see Christ through us..." Brad Dunlap, senior

"...I think this Day of Outreach turned a lot of heads in the community." Myles Turney, freshman

"It's nice to see that Harding is not only helping in missions overseas, but also in the community." Summer Page, senior

The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited, and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The Bison recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting, while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University stands. It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards. Editorial opinions appearing in The Bison are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Signed columns represent the personal views of the authors, while unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board. The Bison is published weekly except during breaks, two weeks and summer sessions by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149. Subscription rates $10 per year, Periodical postage (USPS 577660) paid at Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University Box 1154, Searcy, AR 72143-8663. Contact The Bison office at 501-279-4139 or 501-279-4677 or send letters to 501-279-4172. The Bison is online at www.harding.edu/bison.
HU celebrates black history

Heidi Walden
Staff writer

Harding's Minority Student Action Committee is working to commemorate Black History Month with a host of special activities geared towards promoting unity, diversity and racial harmony.

Each February, people look back to remember African Americans who promoted change and strive for racial equality in America.

From trivia contests, and a writing competition stressing unity among diversity to a special chapel devoted to African-American culture, the committee is striving to incorporate the entire student body in its celebration of black history.

Minority students are not the only ones to participate in this month's events. Senior Tara Ingraham, the committee's president, said students are always asking her what they can do to be more involved. The whole idea of celebrating Black History Month is not only for the black students, but a chance for everyone to come together to share each other's cultures, she said.

"Black history month is a time to reflect on the struggles we came through as African Americans," senior Donald Randles said. "I like to see people getting involved and I think of respect during this time of the year."

Next year, Ingraham said she hopes to be able to do more with other minority groups on campus. February is not only a time to remember black history, but also a time to share cultures, she said.

"We want to integrate our different cultures," she said.

"We want to learn from one another by sharing where we are from and how we got here."

Gospel Explosion, a series of musical performances slated for Feb. 28 to March 3, is scheduled to include the Mississippi Youth Choir, Chapter 2, the Dixie Street Church of Christ and Harmony, a new Harding-based singing group.

"I like that Gospel Explosion brings everyone in from many places and the singing makes me feel like I am at home," junior Rae Holden said.

Petit Jean staff meets last deadline on time

Donda Burright
Staff writer

After nearly a year of planning, preparing hundreds of inches of copy and pouring over hundreds of photographs, the yearbook staff wrapped up its initial work on the 2002 Petit Jean after meeting the final Feb. 19 deadline.

Despite the long hours that plagued the staff during the yearbook's final stages, Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Thompson said the group's closeness helped ease the daily stresses of documenting a year at Harding.

"We take it as it comes and work together," Thompson, a senior, said.

Staff members became acquainted with one another during a three-day field trip to tour the Jostens plant in Topeka, Kan. Jostens has been publishing the Harding yearbook for decades. During the trip, the staff observed the publishing process in an effort to better understand how a yearbook is developed.

However, publishing knowledge wasn't the only thing the staff got out of the trip.

"From the very beginning of the trip, everyone automatically clicked and got along really well," said senior Ashley Johnson, social clubs editor.

In order to staff the meet five deadlines that were required to keep the yearbook's production on track, it was typical for them to work well into the morning hours to finish their pages. The staff said they depended on one another's help to get through the stressful times.

"One of our staff members, [ophomone] Renee Lewis, was very encouraging to all of us," said senior Jalana Hammett, organizations editor.

"Every deadline we surrounded us with thoughtful notes and little goodries," Johnson said. The late nights made working on the yearbook a memorable experience.

"Getting along made the long nights bearable because we are able to have fun," she said.

Staff members also credit adviser Jim Miller with motivating the entire Petit Jean team to strive for excellence.

"He has been very patient with us and has helped me polish my copy editing skills," said senior Laura Daniel, copy editor.

Johnson said Miller's patience allowed the staff to relax under pressure, giving them the opportunity to exceed their goals for this year's Petit Jean.

"I have worked with him for two years and have always been impressed with his patience and enthusiasm," Johnson said.

Deadlines occurred about four weeks apart, leaving just enough time to assign, collect and edit stories. Wrapping up the yearbook was a relief, Hammett said.

"It was a very stressful experience along the way and I am glad it is over," Hammett said. "However, I am taking useful knowledge with me that I will benefit from in my career."

Thompson said she's confident the staff's hard work and dedication will be reflected in the pages of the 2002 Petit Jean.

"I am proud of the staff and proud of the effort put into the yearbook," she said. "We hope everyone else enjoys the finished product."

Lectureship begins Monday

Continued from page 1

Seniors Ben Steed and Ryan Kirksey will stress to students the importance of being a soul-winner for Christ.

Kirksey will be concentrating on what it's like to be a Christian in the secular world and will also speak on vocational ministry. Steed will be addressing concerns with going into full-time ministry.

"I hope that people who come to our class will leave understanding that their job in going to be more than something they do," Steed said. "It will be a way to minister."

This year's lectureship was designed to give students practical ways to apply Christian principles, organizers said.

"We hear clichés like "Give God everything you have." We don't really know how to do that," Storment said.

"This week's going to give us the tools we need to do that." "

Harless said this year's lectureship will be different from last year's because the classes will be more interactive. There are also more panel discussions scheduled with talks on change, entertainment and vocational ministry.

Sessions are set for 9:45 and 10:45 each morning and throughout each afternoon. Schedules will be available in the McReynor building and in the Benson after chapel.
Thousands serve during Day of Outreach

Projects included reading to children, visiting elderly, washing windows, planting trees

Ryan Cook
Editor

T

t was a scene her students didn't expect to see.

Kay Gowen, associate professor of communication, had a dead squirrel in her hand.

Along with around 20 students, Gowen was helping clean the lawn outside the Searcy Public Library.

Gowen's editing class joined around 2,000 Harding students, faculty members and staff who spent Wednesday afternoon doing service projects throughout the Searcy area in conjunction with the Student Association-sponsored Day of Outreach.

Organizers said participation was as good as expected.

“We were thrilled with the outcome,” said senior Kim Hobbs, a prep major.

“Everyone just seemed to have a great time and grew a lot from the whole experience. Thanks to everyone who helped out,”

As part of its effort to focus on service, the SA had been planning the event for much of the school year.

“I feel like it’s a culmination of the theme we’ve been trying to promote,” SA President Steve Cloer said. “This day typifies the heart of outreach—going out of the routine to reach out to others. I think that’s at the heart of service and the heart of Christianity, really.”

To allow time for the afternoon of service, all Wednesday classes were cut in half to 25 minutes. Also, chapel was cancelled, allowing the academic day to end by 12:30.

“I wish classes were [short] like that every day,” sophomore Bethany Blankenship said.

After classes were dismissed, students either met with their 9:45 a.m. class or a project or finding or reported to the Benson Auditorium to join another group.

The SA had arranged nearly 50 projects, including many that related to a particular major.

Many education majors went to Searcy’s three elementary schools to help students with reading, writing and art projects.

“I liked it because it made me really visit. I do want to teach,” freshman Brooke Stafford said.

Majors in the physical science department went to McRae Elementary School for science-related demonstrations. They made putty and slime, demonstrated an experimental rocket and exploded a hydrogen balloon.

A number of volunteers visited elderly people around Searcy, including visits to several area nursing homes and visits with shut-ins at their homes.

One group tried to visit retired faculty members Jack Wood and Mattei Sue Sears, but arrived to find the former home doctor.

After a little investigation, the group learned that Jack Wood Sears had been hospitalized Tuesday. The group decided to visit him at Central Arkansas Hospital.

“[The Day of Outreach was] a good idea,” Lawson said. “It’s what we’re supposed to do. It’s just a good opportunity that we don’t always get. It was pretty cool to be able to work alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ to get something done for somebody else.”

In another project, students picked up sacks of groceries in 11 Searcy neighborhoods for a food drive for the Arkansas Food Bank. Around 4,000 sacks had been distributed Saturday.

“It went very well,” senior Jordan Collier said. “We got a ton of food. I was hoping for one out of four houses [to participate], and I know we at least got that, if not more.”

Given the success of this first effort at Day of Outreach, Cloer said he would like to see the event become an annual occurrence.

“From the preliminary feedback, I can see this becoming something that happens every year,” Cloer said. “I think this day is what Harding’s all about.”

Students gathered in the Gurus Athletic Center for a chili supper to mark the end of the day. Others ate at Sonic or Pizza Hut on Race Street to take advantage of special offers for Day of Outreach participants.

Gowen seemed to enjoy the day despite the squirrel cleanup incident.

“[Junior Jamie Fair] was taking in front of the library and found a dead squirrel,” she said. “Just picked it up and put it in the bag.”
n the third floor of the McIntyre building, a small international conference room sits as a home for the 34 stu-
dents enrolled in the Harding School of Biblical Studies. This year, the faculty and staff have worked together to prepare the groups to go into mission work.

Students in the HSBS can choose between four different streams: Christian university, on-campus, off-campus, and missions. Each year the group has been formed and sent out to Latin American cities with the goal of building up a library of research at the center.

According to Richard Watson, coordinator of the Center for Mission Studies, "We have had close to 2000 volunteers participate in the ministry so far, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in the church."

"We are working to provide hope and assurance to those seeking salvation amidst the relative uncertainty of their future incarnations," Rine and Watson said.

Emily Sane
Staff writer

"They can learn, change, be baptized and grow with God. That is success."

Dennis Rine, College Church of Christ dean

College church leads outreach at county jail

The Bison

School of Biblical Studies prepares men for service

DeAnn Thomas
Staff writer

"In Depth"

In the past few years, the program now offers courses to the students in the program. The courses are meant to help the students' spiritual development and to help prepare them for their roles as wives of ministers. Experienced women from around campus and the surrounding area teach the courses on a voluntary basis.

"Often, the students are married with children and jobs. The courses they take are on their own time. The money they receive from Harding students who are married with children and jobs. The courses they take are on their own time. The money they receive from Harding students who are married with children and jobs."

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King book offers WWII love tales

In Review
Jenna LaCaze
Staff writer

My friend Anica got married last week. Just before she walked down the aisle, she said, "Jenna, do you know what I had engraved on Chad's wedding ring?" I asked, "What?" she said. "I've gone after every guy I've ever dated like a thirsty woman in the desert. Until I met Chad, I came up empty handed. Jenna, Chad is not another mirage. He is my oasis."

"Love Stories of World War II," a book compiled by CNN talk-show host Larry King, is a masterwork ensemble of true stories about officers and soldiers who found their oasis amidst the grave adversity of the war, and it produces insight into the thoughts of women at war, and it produces insight into the thoughts of women at war. Some don't. But the story of how Larry King brought us "My Oasis," a book compiled by CNN talk-show host Larry King, is a masterwork ensemble of love stories of men and women in the military during World War II.

The book allows us to see marriage stories to life. Although the book does contain a good bit of military history, it was not designed to be a history book. It was compiled to share the love stories of men and women in the military during World War II. King quotes one man who said, "We've all got war stories. Some of us like to tell them and some don't. But the story of how we fell in love with our wives, well, that's still with us every day, and I know a lot of us can still get a little choked up over it."

The war was a long time ago, one part of our lives. But we're still living the love stories. That's about now as well as then.

Each of the stories is very unique.

Some of the couples knew each other only a short time before tying the knot, although others waited years and years before getting married. Some never married at all.

The book allows us to see more than one point of view. "Love Stories of World War II" gives a well-rounded picture of the war, and it produces insight into the thoughts of women at home, as well as the men fighting on the front lines. This book will be an oasis for your soul.

Harding alumnus directs local show

Ryan Saul
Staff writer

For the past five weeks, Harding graduate Pete Vann has been working as the director of a play for Searcy's 111 Arch Street Theater. The production, "Same Time Next Year," was written by Bernard Slade, was the theater's show for the week of Valentine's Day.

The two-person cast told the story of an adulterous couple that decided to meet at the same time on the same day and the same place every year. Amidst this relationship, the audience witnesses the characters grow and change with each yearly meeting. Vann described the play as, "a good script enhanced by two really talented actors."

While directing the play, Vann worked with Lana Hallmark, the theater's owner and producer, who helped make the set and slide show that was played during the play's scene changes.

Vann became the first person other than Hallmark to direct a production at the theater. "I thought it worked out very well with Pete directing, especially since we were so pressed for time," Hallmark said. "It really gave me a chance to work on other parts of the production while Pete worked with the cast."

Vann had two weeks to work put together all the elements prior to opening night.

"She was great about things, for the most part she stepped out and let me run things," Vann said. "The director of any play has a number of tasks and responsibilities, from set and costume design to helping shape the actor's performances. As the director, you have to be the biggest cheerleader and at the same time, be the biggest critic."

Vann said, "To be good at directing, you have to be able to communicate well." Before all the organizing and critiquing, however, a director must establish trust with the cast. Because actors and actresses can not actually see themselves, they rely on the director to tell them what needs to be changed and what should stay the same.

"You can't have a good production if they don't trust you," Vann said, "Trust is really important."

"Same Time Next Year," was Vann's fourth show to direct. While at Harding, Vann was cast in over 50 plays and was one of chapel's notorious "Grumpy Old Men."

Vann said his lifelong passion was acting. Many times while a student at Harding, Vann would often find himself involved in up to three shows simultaneously.

Vann said he remains determined in the pursuit of his passion. "With a career like this you have to be completely devoted, and that's hard because it takes so long to break into the business of acting and directing," Vann said. "Sometimes it's scary because I don't have any safety nets. You can't, because if you leave your job, you'll be the biggest cheerleader."

Since graduating, Vann has spent much of his time writing scripts. On the side, Vann is an artist and has helped illustrate children's books. He said he plans to move from Searcy in June with the hopes of producing his three original, feature-length scripts.
Eastern sport moves South, takes campus by storm

Jeremy Fabs  
Staff writer

Having as diverse a student body as Harding has, the campus has served as a place for many students to share and learn about other recreational activities. Some popular campus sports aren't so popular elsewhere including Frisbee golf and ultimate Frisbee.

This year, a new sport arrived as it happened to be realized or crushed depending on the outcome of Saturday's game. The Bisons are in a must-win situation against Arkansas Tech at 8 p.m. The Lady Bison lost a tough game to tournament-bound Ouachita Baptist Feb. 18. Harding's final game of the season as they begin play against Arkansas Tech. The Bisons win Saturday, they fall to 7-9 and close the series, they would clinch the fourth place in the conference tournament. We need to have a little depth down low. The Bisons are ready to handle the pressure. The Bisons win Saturday they have some guards that can really shoot. Despite the high stakes of Saturday's game, the Bisons are ready to handle the pressure. "We've been practicing really hard the last couple of days," Farley said. "If we just do what we are supposed to do then we are going to get it done." Farley feels that this is a cross between hockey and lacrosse, "It's a cross between hockey and soccer," Lewis said. "It's a cross between hockey and soccer." Farley has had to handle the full-court press, which means a lot more running and coordination but it can be tough. Farley said. "I'd really like it if more people came out to try it," he said. "We would help them learn." Freshmen Corbin Wilhelmi had never played lacrosse until he stepped on the front lawn for a practice one day. "It was something fun to do and a challenge to learn a new sport," Wilhelmi said. The team, which hopes to join the Gulf South club league and compete against other club teams in the South, enjoys its practices. "It is just so awesome to play," said Corfalone. "And a great workout, too." For more information, contact Lewis at 305-8249.

Bisons in must-win situation

Jeremy Beauchamp  
Sports editor

The Bisons' Gulf South Conference Tournament hopes will be realized or crushed depending on the outcome of Saturday's regular-season finale against Arkansas Tech at 8 p.m. Harding heads into the contest after a tough 82-79 loss Monday in Arkadelphia against Ouachita Baptist. The loss came as a surprise to the Bisons, after having defeated Ouachita Baptist Jan. 24. Harding was led in scoring by junior Aaron Farley, with all 10 of his points coming in the second half. Harding played a miserable first half, shooting only 28 percent from the field. The team shot a season low 2-for-17 from beyond the field. The team shot a season low 2-for-17 from beyond the field. The team shot a season low 2-for-17 from beyond the field. The team shot a season low 2-for-17 from beyond the field. The team shot a season low 2-for-17 from beyond the field.

Morgan says optimistic, "We can get this done." Morgan has been practicing really hard the last couple of days. Harding's budding lacrosse club hopes to share and learn about other Southern sport moves South, takes campus by storm.

Senior Datron Wilson jumps above his opponent on the opening tipoff of a recent game. Wilson and the rest of the Bisons are set to play their last game of the regular season Saturday against Arkansas Tech.

Bisons in Brief

Men's Basketball (14-10, 7-8 GSC): The Bisons face their biggest game of the season as they take on Arkansas Tech at home Saturday at 8 p.m. A win ensures the Bisons a spot in the conference tournament; a loss ensures a longer off-season.

Women's Basketball (10-15, 4-11 GSC): The Lady Bisons lost a tough game to tournament-bound Ouachita Baptist Feb. 18. Harding's final game is Saturday against Arkansas Tech at 6 p.m. in the Rhodes. Ceremonies will follow the game honoring departing seniors Mindy Napier and Kendra Bell.

Baseball (8-2): After claiming victory in the Snowball Classic in Branson, last week, the Bisons lost to Lyon at home Feb. 20. Harding will head to Tableaux, Okla., Friday to play a doubleheader against Northeastern State.

Tennis (Men 4-2, Women 5-1): The men's tennis team smashed Christian Brothers Feb. 14, 9-0. The women's team beat NCAA Division I Louisiana Tech Feb. 14. Both teams played Lyon Thursday, but results were unavailable at press time.

Track: Senior Hanna Rittikallio ran the fastest time at the Central Missouri State University Classic in the 800 meters. Rittikallio turned in a time of 2:12.12. Freshman Reed Fisher took third place in the mile, finishing in 4:20.10. The track team will continue to train for the upcoming outdoor season, which begins March 25 in Russellville.
Black athletes freeze stereotypes in NHL

The great players are getting younger and the sport's influence is spreading and becoming more popular than ever in America.

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Here's a chance for you to match wits against The Bison Sports Editor for the chance to win fame, fortune and popularity! Well...maybe not all those things. But you can win a free buffet and drink from Pizza Pro in Searcy. Simply predict the winners of each game and the exact result of the tie-breaker. Then place this form in the Sports Challenge box on the ledge next to the U.S. Window by Friday, no later than 7:00 p.m. GOOD LUCK!!!

Name ___________________________ Phone # ________________

NCAA Basketball

- (Saturday, Feb. 23)
  25 UCLA @ 10 Stanford
  5 Alabama @ 2 Florida
  Arkansas @ 12 Kentucky
  6 Oklahoma @ Texas

NBA Basketball

- (Saturday, Feb. 23)
  Sacramento @ Dallas
  Philadelphia @ Orlando
  Minnesota @ San Antonio
  Miami @ Washington

- Tie-Breaker: Basketball Game

Guess the winner and exact score of Saturday's game

Arkansas Tech @ Harding

Last week's winner: Scott McFaddin
Editor's pick is in bold.

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The Bison
February 22, 2002

Black athletes freeze stereotypes in NHL

One of the more momentous occasions in black history was the breaking of the color barrier in sports. Jackie Robinson was the first black player to break into the majors. Since that summer of 1947, the sport has seen the rise of thousands of black players.

Today, baseball thrives on ethnic diversity. Black players hold numerous records, including most home runs in a season (Barry Bonds), most career home runs (Hank Aaron) and most runs and stolen bases (Rickey Henderson).

Other sports have been positively affected by black athletes, as well. Football boasts players like Walter Payton, Reggie White, Jerry Rice and Jim Brown. Basketball has seen players like Michael Jordan, Oscar Robertson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson. Boxing has George Foreman and Muhammad Ali. Tennis has Arthur Ashe and the Williams sisters, and golf has Tiger Woods. Track has also had a long desegregated history, seeing athletes like Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis win numerous gold medals. It is easy to see what these sports would be lacking if players such as these were not allowed to play.

Now try to name a famous black hockey player. I know there may not be too many big NHL fans out there, but anybody could name one of the players listed above, whether they thought the sport or not. If you still haven't thought of one, settle in and learn something about black players in the NHL.

Hockey's version of Jackie Robinson was Willie O'Ree, who made his NHL debut for the Boston Bruins in 1958. O'Ree's accomplishment is even more amazing when you consider the fact that he was blind in one eye. After playing in only 45 games in the NHL, O'Ree switched to the Western Hockey League and made a name for himself. Like Jackie Robinson, O'Ree had to deal with racism from fans, as well as fellow players. Unlike Jackie Robinson, O'Ree is not a household name for breaking hockey's color barrier. Perhaps it is because the NHL has never officially had a "color barrier," like baseball and football have. On the other hand, perhaps it is because the next black hockey player to play in the NHL, Mike Marson, didn't join the league until 16 years later, in 1974. By 1991, only 18 total black players had played in the NHL.

Why?

Until the late 1970s, 95 percent of NHL players were Canadian and back then, Canada's black population was around 0.2 percent. Presently, 15 percent of NHL players are from the United States, and Canada's black population has risen to 2 percent. As a result of the percentage shift, there are currently 19 black players in the NHL.

Also, the availability of equipment and rinks has played a part in keeping many possible stars out of the game. Other sports that are more popular in urban areas require little equipment, such as a basketball or a football. The NHL is now taking steps to make street hockey equipment available to neighborhoods with a strong interest in the sport.

Now the number of black players is rising, and so is the popularity of those players. For instance, one of the hottest young players in the league is Jarome Iginla, who started his first NHL game in 1992. O'Ree switched to the Western Hockey League and made a name for himself. Like Jackie Robinson, O'Ree had to deal with racism from fans, as well as fellow players. Unlike Jackie Robinson, O'Ree is not a household name for breaking hockey's color barrier. Perhaps it is because the NHL has never officially had a "color barrier," like baseball and football have. On the other hand, perhaps it is because the next black hockey player to play in the NHL, Mike Marson, didn't join the league until 16 years later, in 1974.

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