Women's basketball dominates home opener

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

The women's basketball season tipped off on Saturday, Nov. 9 at James Moore Field House, defeating Georgian Court University Lions 105–33.

For the second year in a row, the university hosted the Mercy University, Saint Anselm College and Georgian Court in a Saturday–Sunday tournament.

The Owls started strong with a 16–2 lead at the end of one period. Nine different players saw the court at one point or another during the period, keeping the players fresh while attacking the Lions.

An onslaught began, as the Owls outscored the Lions 43–10 in the second period alone. Fans in the crowd were in disbelief as the lead kept growing.

"We have a lot of new players, so it's just making sure everyone feels comfortable," forward Katie Williamson, a graduate, said. "We've been working so hard these past two months preseason–wise, so it's nice to finally execute."

In 24 minutes, Williamson finished with one block, two steals, two assists, eight rebounds and 25 points. Though, she was not the only thorn in the Lions' side defensively. The Owls had seven blocks and 21 steals overall.

"That was one of the things that we're really happy with. We've been working on putting pressure on other teams," Head Coach Kate Lynch said. "We just got to focus on staying out of foul trouble as well. When you're aggressive, you got to make sure to keep your hands off."

The Owls had 21 personal fouls, and the Lions had 28, sending the university to the free throw line, completing 27 of 36 shots.

Though it did not matter Saturday, some games come down to free throws. Williamson was the most successful, going 7–7 at the line.

"It's so important that when you step to that line, you have to knock them down. It's free. Why not take them," Williamson said. "We have some of the best shooters in the league on this team."

Williamson also praised the three–point shooting by the team. They were 10–23 from beyond the arch, with three from guard Jillian Martin, a graduate, while guard Delaney Haines, a senior, had four.

"Five of us were in double digits, so we were sharing the ball, and we were hitting shots. When you're at home, the most important thing to do is hit shots," Haines said. "This is our court. We shoot on these hoops every day."

During the second half, the Owls' lead kept increasing no matter who was on the court, as all 13 players saw minutes.

"We got ourselves a lead, which is great. We got to rest a lot of our players and actually get a lot of other players minutes too," Lynch said. "It was a great team effort all around. Everybody that went in made an impact in the game."

As the starters were being pulled, one player that came off the bench making her collegiate debut was guard Gianna Donnarummo, a freshman.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.com



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

After a steal, guard Hope Fox, a junior, races downcourt in an attempt to score.



Guard Ally Sentance, a junior, shoots in traffic.

Volleyball sheds tears vs. AIC

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

As the sun fell on Friday, Nov. 8, two volleyball veterans were being celebrated in a touching scene.

In a 3–0 defeat from the American International College, the senior night ceremony took center stage, bringing many powerful tears. Setter Lily Miller, a senior, and outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate, were both visibly choked up.

"It was an emotional night. I thought I was going to be fine until I saw my parents walk in," Emery said. "I never thought it would end. This has been my life as long as I can remember."

The waterworks were palpable for all who bore witness to the heartwarming interactions with their families and friends in the crowd.

"I cannot be prouder of the effort and then showing up. We just put it all out there," Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said. "Lily, assist–wise today, she showed up and had the most assists for us and led us there."

With 13 in the game for Miller, she added to her total with 251 on the season, followed by setter Madi Roar, a sophomore, with nine.

Preparing for this game did not come easy, as two of their starters; middle blocker Sarah Stark and outside hitter Victoria Pascual, sophomores, suffered season–ending injuries, forcing the Owls to reshuffle their lineup.

"We really had to pull people that have never played that position before," Barbaro said. "Julia really stepped up for us today. She's adjusting. It's a tough spot to be in. I just think she did a great job just learning as she went the last couple practices and then putting it into action today."



PHOTO | DILLON FLANIGAN

Outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate, goes for the kill.

"I have never been this far away from home in my life as far as I can remember. I just hope I am making them proud. They have given me everything, and I am here because of them, so it means a lot to have them here."

— Outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate.

As the Owls hit the floor, they met with a familiar foe in outside hitter Carissa Michel, a sophomore, who had eight kills on the night. Michel transferred from the university in which, as a freshman, her playing time drastically increased down the stretch.

Though with a mostly new group of Owls on senior night, the result did not seem to matter. In fact, facing the Yellow Jackets who were sitting atop the NE10 conference at 7–0, now 8–0, did not seem to mean much compared to the rollercoaster of emotions.

It was emotional, and it was turned into fuel for the Owls who started the first and second set with early leads. However, they bled from a combination of wounds that have been plaguing them all year.

Losing can be disappointing, especially with a team that has had a tale of two seasons in one.

"There's a team that has a lot of potential, and it's frustrating to not be able to finish," outside hitter Isabel Alvarez, a freshman, said. "I feel like the people that had to step up on those roles brought our team together and made us learn how to work better together."

Alvarez finished with one block, seven digs and five kills on 22 attempts, who was bested by Emery, who had one service ace, 11 digs and nine kills on 26 attempts.

Emery said, "I had an off night. I don't think I played my best. I don't know if I was able to recover from my emotions. I'm proud of these girls. We've gone through a lot just this past week. I think we played well given the circumstances."

Recap: Nov. 4–10

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

Women's Basketball:

After a monster victory over Georgian Court University on Saturday, Nov. 9 they defeated Mercy University 77–62 on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Forward Katie Williamson, a graduate, followed up her 25–point game Saturday with a 20–piece Sunday. Guard Delaney Haines, a senior, led the team in minutes with 37, as the team went 17–18 on the free throw line.

Men's Basketball:

The men's basketball team traveled to Staten Island, New York to play in the College of Staten Island Tournament of Heroes on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9–10.

They defeated the College of Staten Island 82–80 Saturday on a buzzer–beater from guard Albert Vargas, a junior.

He finished with one rebound, one assist, three assists and 18 points.

Guard Sean James, a senior, had two assists, two steals, four rebounds and 24 points in 30 minutes of play while forward Cherif Diarra, a junior, had two blocks, seven assists, nine rebounds and 13 points.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the Owls fell to Saint Thomas Aquinas College 88–77.

Forward Antonio Chandler, a senior, had two steals, three blocks, 12 rebounds and 20 points in 30 minutes of play.

Men's Soccer:

The men's soccer team fell in the NE10 conference quarterfinals to Franklin Pierce University 2–0.

Each of the Ravens' two goals were scored towards the end of each half. They took 15 shots compared to the Owls' lonely two, both in the second half.

In the second half, three Owls, midfielder Samuel Nagy, a junior, defender Edward Mensah, a graduate, and goalkeeper Devin Juan, a senior, were given yellow cards.

Juan and midfielders Ozar Razo, a sophomore, and Umberto Catale, a senior, were all ejected with a minute left in the match.

Women's Soccer:

On Wednesday, Nov. 6, the women's soccer team had a draw against NE10, and Elm City rivals the University of New Haven 4–4. No other information was available.

However, on Sunday, Nov. 10, as the number eight seed, they faced the top seed in Adelphi University, falling 4–3 in overtime.

At the half, the Owls were down 2–0. With goals by forwards Nicky Deslauriers, a junior, and Alexie Rosado, a graduate, the score was notched at two apiece.

Later, defender Mimmi Baureus, a freshman, tied it at 3–3 to send it to overtime, but they fell eight minutes into overtime.

Men and Women's Cross Country:

The women held a total of 107 points, placing second, as the men, with 54 points, placed first among 18 teams in the NCAA East Regional.

They both advanced to the Division II National Championship in Sacramento, California on Nov. 23.

Men and Women's Swim and Dive:

On Saturday, Nov. 9 the men's and women's swim and dive teams competed against Adelphi University.

The men were defeated 159–139, as the women won their meet 161–115.

All information has been provided by SCSUOwls.com