

## Energetic Hewett guides Shepherd past Alderson-Broaddus

BOB MADISON Sports Editor

The gym floors in the WVIAC and Shepherd's Jerica Hewett are on more than just nominal speaking terms.

Hewett is Shepherd's always-moving, always-scrambling point guard. And her burly-but-style of play gives her face-first falls, sliding embraces with the basket supports, and frequent run-ins with opponent's elbows, knees, and even heads.

Hewett usually comes in to Shepherd's games with a blackened eye, bruises the size of cantaloupes, and various scrapes and dents to her body.

Last Thursday, when the Lady Rams faced Alderson-Broad-

dus in another in a long series of WVIAC games, Hewett had more than a nodding acquaintance with the nets at the Butcher Center.

With Shepherd unable to loosen itself from the game-long pursuit of the Lady Battlers, it was Hewett who just kept on giving the Lady Rams points, rebounds, and glue-like defense before a second-half move expanded a smallish lead to a 76-60 win.

Hewett's 15 second-half points spurred Shepherd to a win that helped its overall record reach 10-4 and the conference mark to 8-2 and a third-place standing.

Along the way, Hewett came up limping from a collision with a basket support. But by that time

she had guided Shepherd to a breakaway 15-point, second-half lead with her consistent scoring.

A 7-for-11 showing from the field added to six straight successful free throws after missing her first two gave her 21 points, by far the most of any Shepherd player.

Hewett only shot three times in a first half that saw depth-barron Alderson-Broaddus (now 1-11 overall and 1-9 in conference games) hound the Lady Rams with its outside shooting and general team tenacity.

Shepherd was fortunate to lead 34-33 at the halftime break. The Lady Rams' Jenn Prine had made all three of her three-point attempts for nine of her 10 points.

Scour free throw shooting

(5-for-11) shortened the value of the other categories where Shepherd owned advantages -- such as a 19-14 edge in rebounds, having committed only five turnovers, and committing only four personal fouls.

Alderson-Broaddus had tried only two free throws, but outnumbered Shepherd's six assists by six.

Hewett personally saw to it that the Lady Rams were better aimed toward another win when she opened the last half with two straight on-the-move baskets.

Then reserve center Jimyse Brown joined Hewett as a second reliable Shepherd scorer. Brown would give the Lady Rams 10 second-half points.

Before long, reserve guard Alex Tamez was shooting more than either Hewett or Brown ... and scoring often enough (4-for-12 from the field) to finish with 12 points.

The one-point lead the Lady Rams had was widened as time crept off the scoreboard clock.

But Prine went out with four fouls with fully 14:09 remaining. It was reserve center McKenzie Logan that had several minutes of energized play.

Throughout all of the last half, Hewett seemed to be everywhere she needed to be ... no matter whether it was on the offensive end or the defensive end.

The lead was up to a dozen points with exactly 10 minutes

left.

The flagging Lady Battlers missed their next 14 shots from the field -- almost all of them useless three-point attempts. Shepherd's leads grew to 20 points at 71-51.

The game's latter stages had the Lady Battlers getting seven consecutive points ... but Shepherd had the final five points to wrap up the 16-point victory.

Hewett was still upright when the end came. Her limp was no longer with her. And even though the bruises hadn't gone elsewhere, Hewett had provided the Lady Rams with the general leadership (and scoring) to ward off a decent effort from Alderson-Broaddus.

## Improved Battlers deal Rams a WVIAC loss

BOB MADISON Sports Editor

Way back when the men's basketball season began, Alderson-Broaddus was at Shepherd playing in a mixer tournament that had the Battlers facing Edinboro and Slippery Rock; coach Greg Zimmerman didn't have the same nucleus of players he had started with in other seasons.

Except for center Tommy Harper, his starting lineup was without much height. None of his depth had been with Zimmerman in any of his nine seasons where the Battlers qualified for the Division NCAA national tournament.

The Battlers split those two early-season, tournament games.

When Shepherd traveled to Philippi for a conference game against the Battlers, the Rams wrangled a road victory in a low-scoring game.

Last Thursday at Shepherd's Butcher Center, Zimmerman was back. His team was far more polished. It had changes to the starting lineup. And it was bristling with energy and the confidence

brought by an 8-4 overall record.

Shepherd's starting lineup had changed from its previous meeting with the Battlers in Philippi. And the Rams had been winning lately in moving to 6-7 overall.

Zimmerman had his team paying closer attention to its overall defense. He had a thorough group of effort-givers. And his players were accomplishing things ... even right from the beginning where they took a 6-5 lead that was never changed in Shepherd's favor.

After gaining a seven-point lead by halftime, the Battlers were sent to the foul line so often in the second half that they attempted only 15 shots from the field in the whole of that half.

In all, Alderson-Broaddus tried 28 free throws in the last half when it methodically expanded a 62-55 lead with only 5:28 remaining to a final, resounding, 79-59, verdict.

The Rams were outpointed 17-4 in the last 5:28 of the game.

After it had trailed by seven at the half, Shepherd could never really assault the Battler lead.

Moving to within seven points of the Battler lead was as close as Shepherd could come. And that was when the Battlers crisply put the game out of reach with their 17-4 run of points right to the end.

Where the Battlers took full advantage of all the free throws they were awarded, Shepherd was unable to do the same. Both sides were whistled for 26 personal fouls.

The Rams made just 18 of the 32 free throws they had as Harper fouled out and little-used reserve Cory Neale played only five minutes but collected four fouls.

Alderson-Broaddus was a proficient 31-for-38 from the foul line ... as three Rams -- Jonathan Motichka, Chad Moore, and reserve guard Marcus Pilgrim -- fouled out.

Two of the Battlers had eye-opening free throw shooting statistics. Carl Buck was 18-for-21 and had 26 points. Nate Barnes, who made a steal and converted a challenged dunk on the game's first play, was 9-for-10 from the

foul line and finished with 23 points.

In an unusual circumstance, the Battlers tried only 36 shots from the field ... and still scored 79 points. Shooting 61 percent from the floor will help get a team to 79 points.

Getting outrebounded, 33-26, blurred Shepherd's chances.

Even though it committed only 11 turnovers as compared with the Battlers' 19, Shepherd could not find sufficient positives to outrun its puny 18-for-32 showing from the foul line.

Brantley Osborne had 18 points and Moore had 17 points and a game-high 13 rebounds as Shepherd's only players to score more than seven points.

Alderson-Broaddus was a much-improved team from its mid-November tournament showing at the Butcher Center. Its zest and attention were at high levels.

Poor shooting frayed the Rams. Even from the floor, they were just 18-for-52 (34.6 percent) and that figure quickly stagnated any tiny bit of progress they found.

## Quick-starting Charleston deals Rams a league loss

BOB MADISON Sports Editor

A snail-like beginning to the first half by Shepherd was matched by a snail-like beginning to the second half, and even though the Rams churned through the middle portions of both halves, the rebounding deficit they saw with about seven minutes remaining was too much to overcome in a 70-66 loss to Charleston on Saturday evening at the Butcher Center.

Charleston's full-court press was an immediate thorn in Shepherd's side. As was Charleston's prosperous offense against the Rams' 1-3-1 half-court zone.

Throughout, Charleston's dominant rebounding kept it afloat. The Golden Eagles (now 6-8 overall and 4-6 in conference games) had a commanding 38-24 rebounding advantage over the faltering Rams (now 6-9 overall and 3-8 in conference games).

The Golden Eagles' 280-pound center, Ibrahim Marone, pounded Shepherd with his early-game, inside scoring and rebounding. When challenged by Shepherd's second-half move to-

ward another Charleston lead, it was James Eversley rescuing the lead with most of his 20 points.

Failing early, Shepherd made the necessary inroads against the Charleston first-half lead with Chad Moore and Jonathan Motichka pacing the scoring.

Moore had a dunk during a 7-2 Shepherd run. Motichka and Branley Osborne both hurried in three-pointers as Shepherd managed to get even at 34-34 at half-time.

But Charleston had another jet-assisted start to the second half when it scored the first seven points to move in front again.

A change of defenses to a half-court 1-3-1 helped promote the Golden Eagles to another workable lead.

Both sides were getting tagged with a never-ending stream of personal fouls.

In fact, Charleston was already on the bonus at the foul with fully 12:49 remaining. Shepherd wasn't far behind, reaching the bonus situation with 9:11 still showing.

When Charleston renewed its full-court press, it reaped immediate rewards . . . and a 51-43

lead.

Two steals in eight seconds led to close-in scores. Shepherd needed a timeout and took it.

It was time for the kind of move the Rams had found in the last minutes of the first half. They moved.

Osborne and Motichka made three-pointers. A Shepherd steal and throw-ahead pass to Motich-

ka cut the Charleston lead to 63-60.

With 2:24 remaining, Shepherd had clawed all the way back and made it 64-64 and gotten the crowd's raucous approval.

However, the last 2:24 was not full of Shepherd highlights.

Marcus Pilgrim missed an uncontested layup.

Charleston's Marco Richard-

son made one of the two free throws he tried . . . and the Golden Eagles crept ahead, 66-64 with just 57 seconds left.

The game was gone when the Rams committed two turnovers on the outside of Charleston's defense.

The wide-bodied Marone made one final layup to keep Shepherd chasing the lead.

Too few rebounds by the Rams could not be fully overcome by their 41 percent shooting from the field. With Charleston making 50 percent of its field goal attempts and 75 percent of its free

throws, it combined its faithful shooting with its abnormal rebounding advantage to stop the slow-starting (in both halves) Rams.

## Lady Rams can't catch Charleston

BOB MADISON Sports Editor

A desolate stretch of minutes toward the close of the first half cost Shepherd dearly in its mission of trying to maintain its hard-won, top-three position in the WVAC women's basketball standings.

The Lady Rams went virtually scoreless from the 8:31 mark until the scoreboard clock read 0:00.

The four Shepherd reserves had gone 0-for-9 from the field, had one rebound, committed three turnovers, and hadn't yet done anything positive in the combined 33 minutes they played.

Charleston led by 11 points at the half. And despite a crowd-charged chase after the continuing Golden Eagle lead, Shepherd could never gnaw away all of that lead . . . and dropped an 81-76 conference decision to the feisty visitors to the Butcher Center on Saturday afternoon.

A bleak beginning hampered Shepherd throughout.

Charleston's inside defense blocked Carrie Saunders' first shot. It blocked Shelby Fayak's shot.

On the other end, the Golden Eagles zipped along with a 6-0 lead. Shepherd missed its first five shots and couldn't gather any offensive rebounds from its continual misfiring.

But with its starters returning, Shepherd sliced a 21-11 deficit to 23-18. Early on, Shepherd's typically flimsy inner defense both from its starters and any reserves

was all too apparent.

Charleston's reserves had badly outperformed Shepherd's four substitutes.

The first-half, high water mark reached by Shepherd came when Jerica Hewett's three-point play on a driving layup had Charleston ahead only 25-21.

There were numerous turnovers from both sides. And personal fouls were piling up with Charleston committing 12 in the opening half.

Hewett's 12 first-half points had been bettered by the Charleston rebounding edge and 53 percent showing on its 30 field goal attempts.

Shepherd reserve center Jimyse Brown was 0-for-6 on inside shots . . . and no offensive rebounds were found after her misses.

Down by 11 points to begin the second half, Shepherd showed a much more forceful defensive posture when the first few minutes were shown to the crowd of about 400.

Charleston was unable to counter the Shepherd defensive intensity and committed three fouls in the first 2:59 of the half.

Saunders misfired on two twisting, off-balance tries just in front of Katie Biggs' pair of three-point field goals.

It was a 55-49 Charleston lead before quietly efficient Lindsey Kentner connected on a three-pointer to blunt the budding Shepherd charge.

Kentner's perimeter success

was quickly followed by a short series of Shepherd misfortunes -- forced shots that were missed, a lack of floor balance that had Charleston shooting two layups, a Hannah Safron air ball, and Fayak having two more shots blocked.

After Saunders had two more turnovers, Shepherd was most fortunate to trail by only a 68-58 count.

Reserve guard Alex Tamez connected on two jumpers as Shepherd's catch-up task was still six points at 70-64.

The last dagger in the short-lived Shepherd comeback came when Charleston desperately made a field goal with but one second left on the evaporating shot clock.

On its next possession, the

Golden Eagles scored with three seconds shown on the shot clock.

One of the poorest of starts to any game this season had doomed Shepherd. Its progress was impeded by its porous inner defense and uncooperative shooting from the field -- 25-for-72 (34.7 percent).

Even with its foursome of reserves faring much better in the second half, the Lady Rams finally fell prey to Kentner and three other double-figure scorers.

The Lady Rams were reduced to 8-3 in the conference and 10-5 overall. Shepherd was in fifth place. Charleston advanced to 7-3 in the league and 11-5 overall. The Golden Eagles were in fourth place in the conference standings.

## Ram women fall to FSU

BY BEN GIBSON  
FOR THE JOURNAL

**SHEPHERDSTOWN** — The Shepherd women are suffering their first losing streak of the season after the Rams lost 74-51 to the Fairmont State Fighting Falcons on Wednesday at the Butcher Center.

Poor shooting plagued Shepherd as the team shot only 25.4 percent for the game.

"We tried to stir it up a little but and speed the game up to try to create a few things, and in the second half, it got away from us," Shepherd coach Melanie Ford said.

Though the Rams trailed by only five at the intermission, the Fighting Falcons pulled away from Shepherd in the second half, thanks to a 61.1 shooting percentage and a number of Shepherd mistakes.

"We built a nice cushion,

### WOMEN'S HOOPS

FAIRMONT 74  
FIGHTING FALCONS 11-5  
SHEPHERD 51  
RAMS 10-6

and that's great to have on the road because the home team usually makes a run late," Fairmont State coach Steve McDonald said. "Every time we've played here, it's been tough. This is only the second time we've won here."

With a week off before a road game against the University of Charleston, Ford figured it was time to try to figure out how to end the team's current two-game losing streak.

"We're going to have to fix things quickly or we have a long month or two ahead of us," Ford said.

Despite the 23-point victo-

ry, Fairmont State had its own offensive problems in the first half.

While the Rams limited the Fighting Falcons to a 35.3 percent shooting and just 29 points in the first half, Shepherd's own problems stopped the Rams from building their lead early in the game.

With 10 first half turnovers in addition to a lackluster 28.1 shooting percentage, the Rams struggled to keep pace as the Fighting Falcons improved their shooting and took a 29-24 lead going into the intermission.

The second half proved to be a similar story for Shepherd as it struggled to find its rhythm offensively, shooting a sub-par 22.2 percent, including an 0-for-7 showing from 3-point range.

The Rams went nearly 10 minutes without scoring, while Fairmont State was grinding out an 8-0 scoring run.

## Ram men shock FSU

BY BEN GIBSON  
FOR THE JOURNAL

**SHEPHERDSTOWN** — The Shepherd Rams shocked the Fairmont State Fighting Falcons with a last second shot to earn a 68-66 victory over the West Virginia Conference's third-ranked team.

Freshman guard Marcus Pilgrim spun his way to the foul line and released a 15-foot jump shot to give the Rams a two-point lead with just nine seconds left in the game.

"I was thinking to myself pass it, but it wasn't open and the shot clock was running down so I had to do what I had to do," Pilgrim said.

### MEN'S HOOPS

FAIRMONT ST. 66  
F. FALCONS 10-3  
SHEPHERD 68  
RAMS 7-9

See RAMS D2

## Rams

FROM PAGE D1

Shepherd held on in the final seconds to secure the victory and end a two-game losing skid.

While the game was a team victory, it offered Pilgrim a chance for personal redemption after missing a similar shot against the University of Charleston over the weekend.

Pilgrim was a little rattled after the loss to Charleston, but phone calls from his teammates helped him get his confidence back on track.

"They we're telling me its OK. You have to keep your head up," Pilgrim said.

The Rams fought off a sluggish start, trailing by as much as nine in the first 10 minutes, but Shepherd dug itself out of an early hole and evened things up before the intermission at 36-36.

Freshman guard Brantley Osborne knocked down a buzzer-beating jump shot to end the first half, giving the Rams a bit of momentum heading into the locker room.

"Once we settled down, we started executing," Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. "It was about toughness for us, coming back and being the tougher team."

Shepherd was leading 66-60 with just over two minutes left in the sec-

ond half, but the Fighting Falcons knocked down a pair of shots and two free throws to tie the game, giving Shepherd the ball with 43 seconds left.

The Rams kept the ball moving with a series of passes before Pilgrim spun his way towards the basket and released the game-winning shot as the shot clock expired, leaving Fairmont State with nine seconds to work.

The Fighting Falcons drove inside as Isaac Thornton tried to throw up a last-second lay-up, but sophomore guard Aeron Spencer had him heavily guarded.

Fairmont State coach Tim Murphy wasn't happy with the lack of a foul call and let the referees know, but after the game admitted his team could have avoided a situation where they were forced to take a last-second shot.

"Shepherd did a great job. They outplayed us. I don't know even if we got the call if we deserved to win anyway," Murphy said.

"Obviously I didn't like the ending, but we should have never got ourselves into that position."

The Rams head to Washington Adventist on Saturday to start a three-game road trip before they return home on Feb. 2 to face West Liberty.

## Ram women drawing crowds

*Shepherd leads the West Virginia Conference in average attendance*

BY NATE MACZUZAK  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University women's basketball team is frenetic, resilient and exciting. And fans have taken notice.

As of Jan. 20, the women are averaging 435 spectators for home games, more than double the West Virginia Conference norm of 205. Their home-game attendance is tops in the league. Fairmont State ranks second with an average of 393.

"That is a heartwarming stat to hear," Shepherd coach Melanie Ford said. "We have great fans. We did a meet-and-greet

earlier this season, and I was overjoyed with the amount of people that came out and wanted to know the girls.

"You play for yourself and team, but ultimately, you are playing for the community. I think these girls have learned that."

There is good reason for the following.

The Shepherd women have a track record of success, boasting 10 winning seasons in their last 12 years, with their worst conference record during that

span being a respectable 9-9 mark in 2002-03. Over those 12 years, the Rams are 209-133 overall, 151-72 WVC.

The program's pinnacle occurred during a university record 24-7, 18-2 campaign in 2007-08 as the Rams won the league title and advanced to the NCAA Division II East Region finals.

Shepherd (10-6, 8-3), which is currently ranked fifth in the league, is trying to rekindle some of that past mojo this season.

Ford said the ultimate goal is to win another WVC championship, but the focus week by week is more specific, starting on the glass and extending to getting everyone involved offensively.

Her team has taken note.

Four Rams are averaging double figures. At one point this season they had five, with a sixth player less than a point shy.

Senior guard Jerica Hewett is pacing Shepherd with 12.9 points per game. Shelby Fayak and Carrie Saunders are adding 11.5 points per contest and Emily Daniels is operating at a 10.3 scoring clip.

See CROWDS C2



## Crowds

FROM PAGE C1

Saunders and Katie Biggs are both dangerous from long range. Saunders is shooting 40.6 percent and Biggs 38.6 from 3-point distance.

The Rams are the fifth best 3-point shooting team in the conference with a 35.3 percent average.

Daniels is pulling down 7.9 rebounds a game to lead the conference's third-ranked squad in rebounding margin.

And the Rams rank second with 11.6 steals per

game.

They are fast-paced, well-coached and willing to sacrifice.

"This group wants to do the little things — talk strategy and do the film work," Ford said.

They have a good mix of experience and youth. Ford said they have to rely on some of that youth more than she likes, at times, but she is excited to see those younger players step up and lead in their own right.

"It's a good feeling when

a sophomore steps up and talks strategy and what we need to do to win," she said. "Our young leadership is developing."

The atmosphere promotes player development, and the Rams have bought into the program.

For the loyal fans, it's a great experience.

— Nate Maczuzak can be reached at 304-263-8931, ext. 131, or [nmaczuzak@journal-news.net](mailto:nmaczuzak@journal-news.net)

## Four Rams named All-Americans

PITTSBURG, Kan. — Fullback Bobby Humphries of the Shepherd University football team earned first-team honors and four other Rams were named to the 2010 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-America Team today.

Cornerback Keon Robinson was a second-team selection, running back Tommy Addison was a third-team choice, while offensive lineman Steve Baisey and return specialist Deante Steele were honorable mention selections.

Humphries, who helped key the Ram running game with his punishing blocking, rushed 13 times for 117 yards and a pair of touchdowns. He added nine receptions for 105 yards.

Robinson recorded 10 interceptions on the year, including two that were returned for touchdowns. His 10 interceptions are the most in NCAA II this year, while his .71 average ranks him fourth nationally. He also had 16 kickoff returns for a 21.0-

yard average and nine punt returns for a 9.7 average. Robinson was sixth on the team in tackles with 65 with a team-best 59 solo tackles. He added 11 pass breakups, three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

Baisey, a first-year starter for the Rams, has keyed the offensive line play for the Rams and helped pave the way for Addison.

Steele, who gained All-America honors for the third straight year, had a 20.8 kickoff return and a 9.7 punt return average. He earned West Virginia Conference Special Teams Player of the Week honors after his NCAA II record 11th career kick return touchdown keyed a Shepherd victory over West Liberty.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Eighth grade  
North Middle 56,  
Harpers Ferry 19  
HARPERS FERRY — Daniel Delaware led all scor-

ers with 18 points as North Middle downed Harpers Ferry on Monday.

Steve Brown added eight points for North (8-3), while J.J. Womer led Harpers Ferry with six points.

**Hedgesville 44, South Middle 39**  
HEDGESVILLE — Marcus Gullledge's 18-point effort lifted Hedgesville past South Middle.

Hedgesville improved to 7-4.

**Musselman 40, Shepherdstown 34**  
BUNKER HILL — Noah Miller scored 11 points to lead Musselman past Shepherdstown on Monday.

Michael Tennant led Shepherdstown with eight points.

**St. Joseph's 28, Randolph Macon 14**  
MARTINSBURG — Conner Lippert scored 13 points and Will Snyder added 10 points as St. Joe's downed Randolph-Macon Academy. St. Joe's improved to 8-5.

**Seventh grade North Middle 52, Harpers Ferry 11**  
HARPERS FERRY — Austin Twyman scored a game-high 10 points to lead North Middle past Harpers Ferry on Monday.

Brandon Roberts and Juwan Green had six points for North (10-1), while Harpers Ferry was led by Paul Wilt, Hunter Palmer and Jacob Smoot with three points each.

**South Middle 47, Hedgesville 27**  
HEDGESVILLE — Larry Wilson scored a game-high 21 points to lead South Middle past Hedgesville on Monday.

Owen Elliott paced Hedgesville with nine points.

**Musselman 47, Shepherdstown 31**  
BUNKER HILL — Zach Alvarez led all scorers with 17 points as Musselman defeated Shepherdstown. Alex Tennant had 14 points for Shepherdstown.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Eighth grade  
Musselman 37,  
Shepherdstown 20  
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Brittany Shelton scored 10 points and had nine steals as Musselman beat Shepherdstown.

Logan Kerr added nine points and nine steals for Musselman (6-4). Madison Quina and Jennifer Beibel had six points apiece.

**South 45, Hedgesville 35**  
MARTINSBURG — Hedgesville's Alexis Taylor scored a game-high 21 points, but it wasn't enough as the Eagles lost to South. The Trojans (11-0) were led by Taylor Ferguson with 12 points, Alexus Bonner with eight points and Gabbi Hess and Brandy James with six points each.

**Charles Town 33, Wildwood 25**  
CHARLES TOWN — Mackenzie Littleton scored

14 points and Haely Ramirez added 12 points as Charles Town defeated Wildwood.

Brittany McCoy added six points for the Panthers (4-5).

**Seventh grade Musselman 22, Shepherdstown 10**  
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Maddie LaPole had 10 points and seven steals to lead Musselman past Shepherdstown on Monday. Rebecca Colbert led Shepherdstown with six points. Musselman improved to 6-4.

**South 37, Hedgesville 15**  
MARTINSBURG — Courtney Comer and Daniella Hatcher each had 13 points as South defeated Hedgesville. Sabrina Fox added nine points and 12 steals for South (7-4), while Hatcher grabbed 10 rebounds.

— Staff reports

## Hewett overcomes injuries for successful career at Shepherd

By TIM KOELBLE

koelble@herald-mail.com

10:42 PM EST, January 26, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

It doesn't seem that long ago that Jerica Hewett finished her high school basketball career at Boonsboro High School.

It's been four years since Hewett was a Warrior, and she's nearing the end of her career as a Ram. On Feb. 23, Shepherd University will celebrate Senior Night and Hewett will suit up in her No. 3 jersey for her final regular-season women's basketball game.

"It's the most crazy thing realizing that it's almost over," said Hewett.

It will also give Hewett a chance to step away from the game for a bit and get healthy, something she has to do annually given her array of bumps, bruises and — in some cases — breaks that result from her all-out style of play.

"Right now I've got a huge hip bruise, a broken metatarsil bone in the my left foot, both thumbs are bruised and I got a black eye recently," said Hewett.

Those injuries have not kept Hewett from an outstanding senior season at Shepherd, where she leads the team in scoring (12.9 points per game) and steals and is second in assists and rebounds (6.2) as the Rams have posted a 10-6 record.

"Hustle, heart, competitiveness, the desire to win. Perhaps most importantly, she gives us all of those things every day with such consistency that most people forget how rare those qualities can be," said Shepherd coach Melanie Ford. "She's played through a laundry list of injuries and wills herself to continue no matter the situation. There is no quit in her."

Beginning with her sophomore year at Boonsboro in 2004-05, Hewett helped guide Boonsboro to a 57-15 record in three seasons. In her senior season, Hewett averaged 15.3 points, 8.4 rebounds, 7.1 assists, 6.2 steals and 3.3 blocked shots and won her second consecutive Player of the Year honor from The Herald-Mail.

Hewett strolled into Shepherd, then coached by Jodie Runner, expecting plenty of playing time as a freshman, but that turned out not to be the case.

“I got little minutes as a freshman and was thinking ‘This isn’t how it was going to be,’” said Hewett. “But I told myself there were two senior point guards and to sit down, shut up and take on my role.”

When Ford took over for Runner before her sophomore season, Hewett was asked to pick up her scoring role.

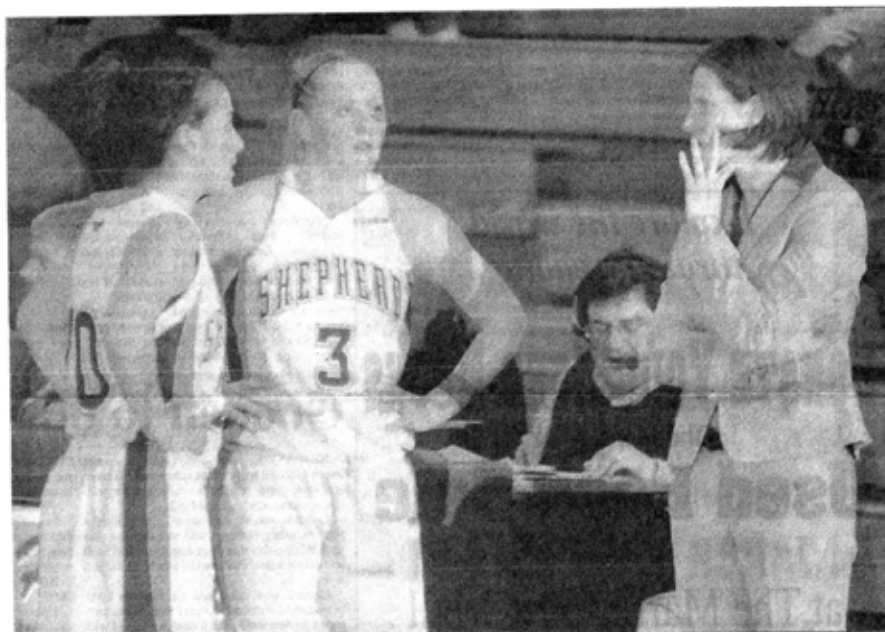
“She does what a point guard should do,” said Ford. “Jerica is a playmaker and one of the most athletic players I have ever coached. She handles her responsibilities.”

As the season winds down, the process of building her future continues. Hewett has applied to graduate schools and is awaiting responses.

“I always have been in school for physical therapy and there is no change there,” said Hewett, a biology major with a minor in chemistry.

And don’t think for a moment the end of her college career means the end of basketball for Hewett.

“A teammate and I have some overseas offers for some tournaments, but the focus is on school right now,” said Hewett. “I know I’ll never stop playing, even with the guys over the summer at HCC.”



Journal photo by Ron Agre

Jerica Hewett, left, Jerica Hewett and coach Melanie Ford of Shepherd talk strategy during a timeout during a game this season. Hewett, wearing black eye, provides a prime example of the kind of work Shepherd puts into games and practices.

## Resilient Shepherd poised for run

BY NATE MACGYZAK  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

**SHEPHERDSTOWN** — For the Shepherd women's basketball team, it may be the best time to develop, hopefully learning that it takes to peak at the right moment. Currently at 10-6 overall, and 8-4 in the West Virginia Conference play, the Rams rank fifth in the conference and are poised to host a first-round game in the WVC tournament. Unfortunately, the Rams are caught in a rare skid, falling in consecutive games for the first time this season, losing to Charleston (81-76) on Jan. 1 and Fairmont (74-51) on Jan. 19. It's far from time to sound the alarm, coach Melanie Ford and Co. They've a chance for some redemption when they return to action tonight on the road against a streaking Charleston, the winner of five straight. "We've definitely not hitting panic button," Ford said. "These two losses showed us what we need to do and how to get better. You don't want to

go through losses to get that, but I expect a bounceback. The best thing about this team is their motto: We believe. "And they have stuck with that. They don't break." The Rams play an aggressive style of basketball, and at times that has gotten the best of them. Ford said that their shooting percentage in their last two games was the most worrisome statistic. She said there are multiple factors that play into that stat — including shot selection and being prepared to shoot the ball — but it takes little things like that to bring the fundamentals back to the forefront. "We've just gotten back to grind-in," she said of the days following the losses. "We know we are the best when we are a team. We have 10-12 players that can get in there and help." Shepherd's entering a two-game road stretch, one that will keep them out of the Batcher Center until Feb. 2. Although the final leg of the season is going to feature tough conference game against some of the WVC's top teams, No. 1 West Liberty, No. 2

Westeyan and No. 4 Charleston, the Rams have demonstrated they have the ability to defeat the league's best. "I do expect a response from the girls," Ford said. "It was a tough week, but they show up to practice to work. They have this look in their eye like, 'We know what we have to do.' "They know it won't be easy, but Championship Week is what you have to get to." Ford thinks the Rams are tough enough to get back to the big show. Leading that all-out blue-collar campaign is tough-as-nails senior guard Jerica Hewett, who looked like an MMA cage fighter after receiving a black eye earlier this season, and then was helped off the court (she did return) in a 102-93 win in the Rams' next contest against Glensville on Jan. 5. "She's definitely the leader of our resilience," Ford said. "She's always been the player that puts her heart out there and is willing to use her body however she needs to. That type of leadership goes a lot further than just telling the younger girls what they need to do. She shows the team what

the need to do to win. "Nothing stops her. That shows the young kids, you play through it, you fight for the win, you don't just roll up." The Glensville victory was the second time this season the Rams women, who are third in the WVC in scoring with an average 78.8 points per game, topped the century mark, having posted a 119-36 win against Washington Adventist on Dec. 7. Reaching triple digits is not a guaranteed victory, per say, but it does give a good example of the type of offensive output these young women are capable of unleashing. Ultimately, Ford is hoping that Shepherd's mix of experience, heart and youthful talent will produce another amazing postseason run, much like the Rams managed during the 2007-08 season as they won the WVC title and fought their way to the NCAA Division II East Region finals. They've certainly done it in the past and have the resilience to do it again. It will just be a matter of a tough team peaking at the right moment.



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**Bishop McNamara grad sinks game-winning shot**

Freshman guard Marcus Pilgrim, of Mitchellville, hit a jumper with nine seconds remaining to lift Shepherd University to a 68-66 win over Fairmont State in WVIAC men's basketball action at Shepherd last Wednesday night.

## Ram men ground Golden Eagles

CHARLESTON — Sophomore forward Chad Moore scored a game-high 23 points to lead Shepherd University to a 79-76 win over the University of Charleston in West Virginia Conference men's basketball action at Charleston on Thursday night.

Moore drained 9 of 14 shots from the floor and was 5 of 8 from the foul line.

Sophomore forward Sidney McCray added 14 points, while redshirt-freshman guard Brantley Osborne fired in 11.

Freshman guard Marcus Pilgrim dished out a game-high eight assists, while freshman forward Morgan McDonald grabbed a team-high six rebounds. Senior guard Jonathan Motichka added nine points and six assists.

James Eversley and John Liggins

each had 16 points to pace Charleston. John White added 10 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

Both teams shot well as Shepherd shot 46.4 percent (26-56) from the floor, while Charleston posted a 49.1 percent (28-57) effort. The Golden Eagles had a 36-29 edge on the boards.

Charleston led by nine points at 67-58 after Eversley hit a pair of free throws with 6:39 left in the game.

Shepherd used a 16-6 run to take a 74-73 lead when McCray hit a 3-pointer with 1:48 remaining and took the lead for good on a Pilgrim triple at 77-75 with 1:13 left.

Moore hit a pair of free throws down



the stretch and made a steal on Charleston's last possession to seal the win for the Rams.

Shepherd improved to 8-10 overall, 5-8 in WVC action, while Charleston fell to 7-11, 5-9. The Rams return to action at 4 p.m. Saturday when

they travel to West Virginia State.

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Charleston 89, Shepherd 72

CHARLESTON — Lindsey Kentner scored a game-high 29 points to lead University of Charleston to a win over Shepherd University in West Virginia Confer-

ence women's basketball action at Charleston on Thursday night.

It was the third straight loss for the Rams.

Senior guard Jerica Hewett led the Rams with 18 points. She was 6 of 12 from the floor with a 6-of-7 effort from the foul line. Hewett added team-highs of five rebounds and five assists.

Junior forward Shelby Fayak, sophomore guard Alex Tamez and freshman forward Jimyse Brown were also in double figures with 11 points apiece.

Shepherd fell to 10-7, 8-5 in conference action, while Charleston improved to 15-5, 11-3.

The Rams return to action at 2 p.m. on Saturday when they travel to West Virginia State.

— Staff reports