Energetic Hewett guides Shepherd past Alderson-Broaddus

BEN MADISON Sports Editor

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

Hewett is Shepherd’s always-moving, always-scrambling point guard. And her husky-built, tough style of play gives her face-to-face, fist-size outs, sitting entries with the basket setup, 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 canteen cups, and various scars and dents to her body.

Last Thursday, when the Lady Rams faced Alderson-Broaddus in another in a long series of WVIAC games, Hewett had more than a nodding acquaintance with the nets at the Bircher Center.

With Shepherd unable to loot in half from the game-long pursuit of the Lady Patriots, it was Hewett who had just led on giving the Lady Rams points, rebounds, and goalline defense before second half was expanded a smallish lead to a 76-60 win.

Hewett’s 15 second-half points launched Shepherd to a win that helped in its overall record reach 10-4 and the conference mark to 5-2 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 breakthrough 15-point, second-half lead with her consistent scoring. A 3 for-11 showing from the field added to six straight consecutive free throws after missing her first two for the 21-point, by far the most of any Shepherd player.

Hewett only shot two free shots in a first half that saw depaurs-based Alderson-Broaddus (now 11-1 overall, 1-9 in conference) hoard the Lady Rams with consistent shooting and general team tenacity.

Shepherd was fortunate to lead 34-33 at the halftime break. The Lady Rams’ Jerrin Price had made all three of her three-point attempts for six of her 10 points.

Three free throws shooting (5-for-11) shortened the value of the other categories where Shepherd owned advantages -- such as a 10-14 edge in rebounds, having committed only five turnovers, and committing only four personal fouls.

Alderson-Broaddus had tried only two free shots, but cut-numbered Shepherd’s six assists by six.

Hewett personally saw it to it that the Lady Rams were better armed toward another win when she opened the last half with two straight from the ename baskets.

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

Before long, reserve guard Alex Turner was shooting more than either Hewett or Brown... and scoring; often enough (6 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 Price went out with four fouls with only 14:09 remaining. It was reserve center McKenzie Loga that had several minutes of energized play.

Throughout all of the last half, Hewett seemed to be everywhere she needed to be... so matter whether she was on the offensive end or the defensive end.

The lead was up to a dozen points with exactly 10 minutes before long, reserve guard Alex Turner was shooting more than either Hewett or Brown... and scoring; often enough (6 for 12 from the field) to finish with 12 points.

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

Hewett was still upright when the game 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

BEN MADISON Sports Editor

War 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 Zimmermann didn’t have the same group of players he had started the season with.

Except for center Tommy Harper, his starting lineup was without much height. None of his depth had been with Zimmermann 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 rare victory in a losing game.

Last Thursday at Shepherd’s Bircher Center, Zimmermann was back. His team was far more polished. It had changed at 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 November. The Rams had been winning lately in moving to 6-1 overall.

Zimmermann had his team playing closer attention to its overall defense. He had a through group of effort-givers. And the 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 29 free shots in the last half but hit 55 percent and collected those points.

Alderson-Broaddus was a proficient 31-38 from the foul line, as were Rams -- Jerrin Price with four points, Moore with her three points, and reserve guard Marissa Flaherty, fouled out.

Two of the Battlers had eye-opening free throw shooting statistics. Celt Beck was 18-for-21 and had 26 points. Nick Bates, who made a steal and converted a challenging 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 three 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, blunted Shepherd’s chances.

Even though it committed only 11 turnovers as compared with the Battlers’ 19, Shepherd couldn’t find sufficient points to overtake its unary 16-for-32 showing from the foul line. Crenshaw Boswell had 18 points and Moore had 17 in the game and a game-high 4 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 Bircher Center, improved and intensive at high levels.

Pressure defense forced the Rams. Even from the floor, they were just 18-for-52 (34.6 percent) and that figure quickly suggested any tiny bit of progress they found.
Quick-starting Charleston deals Rams a league loss

A small-like, beginning in the first half by Shepherd was matched by a small lead in the second half, and the Rams were unable to overcome the lead of 70-60 set by Charleston on Saturday evening at the Butler Center.

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

Throughout, Charleston's defense was key to the Rams' lead. The Golden Eagles' (now 6-9 overall and 4-6 in conference games) had a commanding 38-24 rebounding advantage over the Eagles (now 6-9 overall and 3-8 in conference games).

The Golden Eagles' 28 points scored against Shepherd with an early-game lead, inside scoring and rebounding. When challenged by Shepherd's second-half move to another Charleston lead, it was James Eby scoring the lead with most of his 20 points. Plagued by Shepherd the entire game, Charleston needed a timeout and took it. It was tied for the first time by the Rams in the last minutes of the first half. The Rams' 1-3-1 helped prevent the Golden Eagles from another workable lead.

Both sides were getting to the goal scoring and rebounding. When challenged by Shepherd's second-half move to another Charleston lead, it was James Eby scoring the lead with most of his 20 points. Plagued by Shepherd, Charleston needed a timeout and took it.

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Lady Rams can't catch Charleston

A desperate streak of minutes toward the close of the first half cost Shepherd dearly in its mission to maintain a hard-won, top-three position in the WVIAC women's basketball standings.

The Lady Rams never held a lead after the 3:11 mark in the game, and were behind by as much as 12 in the second half, and Shepherd was never able to overtake them.

Charleston led by 12 points in the half, and despite a crowd that showed as much support as the Lady Rams, Shepherd did not come close to zeroing in on the Lady Rams in the second half, and Shepherd did not come close to zeroing in on the Lady Rams in the second half.

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Two steals in eight seconds allowed the Rams to score two of their 15 points. Neither Charleston nor Shepherd made the necessary adjustments against the Rams. With 2:24 remaining, Shepherd called timeout and made it 68-64 and got the crowd's reaction approved.

However, the last 2:24 was not enough for Shepherd to highlight. The Golden Eagles scored an uncontested layup, the Lady Rams' one free throw to keep Shepherd chasing the lead.

Too few rebounds by the Rams could not be fully overcome by their 43 percent shooting from the field. With Charleston making 50 percent of its field goal attempts and 55 percent of its free throws, it combined its field goal shooting with an abnormal rebounding advantage to stop the Lady Rams' scoring.

**Dates:** January 19, 2011

**Publication:** The Spirit of Jefferson
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 sit it out a little bit 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 15.2 shooting percentage and a number of Shepherd mistakes.

“We built a nice cushion, and that’s great to have on the road because the home team usually makes a run late,” Fairmont State coach Steve McDonald said. “We’ve played well 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 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 victory, 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 percent shooting, 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 31.7 percent, including an 0-for-7 showing from the three-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, ‘I can do 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.

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’re telling me it’s 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 2 of momentum heading into the locker room.

“Once we settled down, we started executing,” Shepherd coach Justin Nannoli 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 second 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 Aaron 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,” Murphy said.

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

Shepherdstown — The Shepherd University women’s basketball team is frantic, 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 201. Their home-game attendance is tops in the league. Fairmont State ranks second with an average of 193.

“That is a heartwarming stat to hear,” Shepherd coach Melinda 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 6-9 mark in 2002-03. Over those 12 years, the Rams are 269-133 overall, .668.

The program’s pinnacle occurred during a university record 24-7, 16-2 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 locust week by week is more specific, starting on the glass and extending to getting everyone involved effectively.

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 Payak 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

Saunders and Katie Biggs are both dangerous from long range. Saunders is shooting 40.4 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
Four Rams named All-Americans

FEATHERS Nit. — 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 Koen Robinson was a second-team selection, running back Tommy Addox was a third-team choice, while offensive lineman Steve Busby and return specialist Dante Sisic were honorable mention selections.

Humphries, who helped key the Rams running game with his punishing blocking, earned 1.7 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 21.6-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 35 solo tackles. He added 11 pass breakups, three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

Busby, a first-year starter for the Rams, has keyed the defensive line play for the Rams and helped pave the way for Addox.

Steeler, who gained All-American honors for the third straight year, had 29.8 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
Daniel Delawars led all scorers with 11 points as North Middle downed Harpers Ferry on Monday.
Steve Bowles added eight points for North (6-3), while J.J. Womack led Harpers Ferry with six points.

Hedgesville 44
South Middle 39
HEDGEVILLE - Marcus Gullage’s 18-point effort lifted Hedgesville past South Middle.
Hedgesville improved to 7-4.

Masselman 40
Shepherdstown 24
BUNKER HILL - Noah Miller scored 11 points as Masselman beat Shepherdstown on Monday.
Michael Tenant led Shepherdstown with eight points.

St. Joseph’s 28
Randolph-Macon 14
Michael Performer scored 17 points as Randolph-Macon Academy topped St. Joe’s improved to 8-5.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Eighth Grade
Masselman 35
Shepherdstown 30
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Britain Steinbock scored 10 points and had nine steals as Masselman beat Shepherdstown.
Logan Kerr added nine points and nine steals for Masselman. Madison Quinn and Jennifer Bebchuk both added six points apiece.

South 45, Hedgesville 27
HEDGEVILLE — Larry Wilson scored a game-high 21 points to lead South Middle past Hedgeville on Monday.
Owen Elliott paced Hedgesville with nine points.

Masselman 47
Shepherdstown 31
BUNKER HILL — Zach Meade led all scorers with 17 points as Masselman defeated Shepherdstown.
Alex Tennant had 14 points for Shepherdstown.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL

Charles Town 33, Wildwood 25
Charles Town — Mackenzie Littleton scored 14 points and Hatley Ramirez added 12 points as Charles Town defeated Wildwood.
Brittany McCoy added six points for the Panthers (4-5),

South 37, Hedgesville 15
MARTINSBURG — Caylee Cimer and Daniella Hatcher each had 13 points as South defeated Hedgesville.
Sabrina Fox added nine points and 12 steals for South (7-6), while Hatcher grabbed 10 rebounds.

— Staff report
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 metatarsal 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.”
Resilient Shepherd poised for run

Yate Maguzaar

Shepherdstown – For the Shepherd women’s basketball team, in many ways, the regular season is time to develop, hopefully learning but it does not look at the right moment.

Currently at 7-6 overall, and 4-1 in the evenings and 5-1 in the conference and the Rams poised to host a first-round game in the NCAA tournament.

Unfortunately, the Rams are caught in a race on hitting consecutive three on the first time this season, owing to Charleston’s (8-7) win on Jan. 1 and York (7-5) on Jan. 19. It’s far from time to send the alarm coach Melanie Forder and Co. They’ve a chance for some redemption the Rams can get in on their upsets. 2011.

Shepherd is entering a two-game road stretch, one that will keep them out of the Frontier Center until Feb. 2. Although the final leg of the season is a trip to West Liberty on Feb. 1 before finishing with a home game against Lake Erie on Feb. 12.

While the Rams have lost their last two games, they have shown improvement. The team is scoring more points per game and is shooting better from the field. "We’ve definitely not hitting percentage," Forder said. "These two losses showed us what we need to do and do get better. You don’t want to go through losses to get that, but expect a rebound. The best thing about this team is their desire. We believe, ‘And they hung tough with that they don’t break.’"

The Rams play an aggressive style of basketball, and at times, the Rams have got the best of them. Coach said that post-season teams on the run and two games was the most worrisome statistic. She said there are multiple factors that play into that stat – including team selection and being prepared to shoot the ball. It allows little things like that are killing the team on the frontcourt.

"We’re just going back to grind," she said of the days following the losses. "We know we are the best of what we are a team. We have 10-12 players that can get in on their upsets."

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Bishop McKamara grad sinks game-winning shot

Freshman guard Marcus Pilgrim, of Mitchellville, hit a jumper with nine seconds remaining to lift Shepherd University to a 66-66 win over Ferrum College in WVAC 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 Motchka 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 scored 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 Kenner scored a game-high 29 points to lead University of Charleston to a win over Shepherd University in West Virginia Conference 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