Shepherd University senior kicker Eric Dobratz (Potomac) was named to the Daktronics, Inc. All-Super Region 1 team as selected by the region's sports information directors.

Dobratz led the Rams in scoring with 99 points this season to set a new Shepherd season mark for kick scoring. His 14 field goals on the year also established a new Shepherd season record. He holds the WVIAC career mark for kick scoring points with 280.
Two Rams selected for bowl game

December 2, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

ALLENTOWN, Pa. - Senior running back Tommy Addison (Germantown, Md./Quince Orchard) and senior wide receiver Nikkolai Norrell (Richmond, Va./Hermitage) of the Shepherd University football team will play for the Red National team in the National Bowl on Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. at J. Birney Crum Stadium Stadium in Allentown, Pa.

The 2nd Annual National Bowl Game is a National All-Star Game created by East Preps in order to feature players from all divisions (mostly small schools). "Actual" on-the-field talent that cannot be measured at a combine or grasped by competing against average players from other small colleges.

The National Bowl follows East Preps’ commitment to present an elite high end game, with quality All-American and All-Conference Players. The Game is scouted by professional teams, NFL, CFL and Arena teams and is also coached by AFL and Indoor coaches looking to sign players themselves.
Area Roundup: Three area teams in preseason poll

December 6, 2011
journal-news.net

CHARLESTON - Three area teams found spots in the West Virginia high school boys basketball preseason poll, which was released Monday.

Hedgesville, which advanced to the state semifinal a season ago, was the highest-ranked team at third, right behind No. 1 Wheeling Park and No. 2 George Washington.

Martinsburg was ranked No. 8, and Jefferson sits at No. 9.

H.S. GIRLS

BASKETBALL

Hedgesville 61,
Mountain Ridge 54

FROSTBURG - Carly Elliott scored a game-high 20 points to lead Hedgesville past Mountain Ridge, Md., on Monday.

The Eagles trailed by three at halftime before outsourcing the Miners 31-21 in the second half.

Kristen Nunn scored 16 points, while Alexis Taylor had nine points and Kelsey Shaw six points for Hedgesville(1-1).

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

St. Joe’s 33,

Mountain View 16

MARTINSBURG - Conner Lippert scored a game-high 14 points as St. Joe’s defeated Mountain View, Va., on Monday.

Colin Frankenberry added 10 points for St. Joe’s, while Nick Austin had eight points for Mountain View.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Biggs honored by WVC

PRINCETON - Senior guard Katie Biggs of the Shepherd University women’s basketball team has been named West Virginia Conference Player of the Week, as announced by the league office.

Biggs guided the Rams to a 2-0 week by averaging 24 points and six rebounds a game. She netted a career-high 28 points to help Shepherd overcome a 21-point second half deficit in a 76-72 double overtime win over league-leading Davis & Elkins.

Biggs hit for 20 points in a 74-68 win over Bluefield State.

Also this week, she recorded three assists, two blocks and a pair of steals for the Rams.
Turner slowed, Shepherd women win in two overtimes

December 7, 2011 0 Comments

BOB MADISON Spirit Staff

When it finally slowed the dominating performance shown by point guard Page Turner, Shepherd was able to turn a 19-point halftime deficit into a 76-72 double-overtime win over a completely revamped Davis & Elkins women’s basketball team on Tuesday of last week.

Turner had 16 first-half points, making all four of her three-point attempts, as the refurbished Senators moved crisply to a 44-25 lead by halftime.

No longer a team with players from nearby Pickens, Harman, and Tygarts Valley, the Senators had four starters from Virginia and one from Maryland. Of the 11 players Davis & Elkins used, 10 were from out of state and as far away as Texas and Kansas.

The Senator starters had the energy to clear paths through the Shepherd first-half defense. Turner was surgically precise in the way she filleted the Shepherd defense. With her leadership, the other Davis & Elkins players simply fell in behind her and kept extending the Senator advantage to double figures and then to 19 points by halftime.

But the six Davis & Elkins reserves played only a combined 21 minutes. And none of them scored. If Page Turner had a mere mortal second half, the Senators might be troubled should Shepherd live from its pasty first half.

Turner missed all nine of her second-half shots. There was nobody else to keep the Senators afloat.

And here came Shepherd. At first, on little cat’s feet. And then like the deafening sound of a stampeded herd of buffalo.

With Hannah Safren playing her first minutes of the night, the Lady Rams also had Emily Daniel, Shelby Fayak, Jenn Prine, and Katie Biggs as a five-player unit that began scoring enough from the perimeter and foul line to knock chunks off the Senator lead. Other than that five-player group, only center Morgan Johnson had a hand in the scramble from way, way back.

Shepherd’s soon-to-be resurgence was not at all evident in the first 3:15 of the second half. Shepherd was scoreless. But the Senators had scored only two more points.

Soon enough, Safren made a long jumper. And then came the white-hot scoring of Biggs, who would continue tormenting the Senators through all of the second half and both overtimes . . . to the tune of a 23-point last 30 minutes . . . and a career high 28 points in all.

Fayak would secure nine of her 12 rebounds and 10 of her 18 points after the Lady Ram-needed intermission. Daniel counted eight of her 12 points in the late uprising.

Davis & Elkins looked at the scoreboard. What it saw was a shrinking lead. It was 48-33 with 14:06 to play.

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Davis & Elkins looked at the scoreboard. What it saw was a shrinking lead. It was 48-33 with 14:06 to play.

In quick order, the leads had been diminished to 52-38 and then 52-42.

Biggs was true on another three-pointer. And Page Turner had stopped shooting. No other Senator had the ball enough to do much.

Even when it misfired, the Lady Rams began rebounding their misses. The once-quiet crowd began helping with a chorus of voices that greeted the gradual comeback.

Shepherd was fouled often enough to reach the one-and-one bonus situation with 7:35 remaining. When Daniel made two free throws, it was only a 54-51 Senator lead.

Davis & Elkins would score only 10 points in the first 14 minutes of the second half.

Finally, with just 1:11 showing on the clock, Biggs’ three-pointer drew the Lady Rams even at 61-61.

Johnson’s 10-footer brought Shepherd a two-point lead, but after a timeout, the Senators went inside to Jordan Lykes, who calmly made a layup against Johnson.

Fayak’s contested four-footer failed at the second-half horn. An overtime was necessary after Shepherd had outpointed the visitors, 38-19, in the last half.

Only a combined six points were scored in the first five-minute overtime. Fayak tried to force up a layup as time expired but was foiled again.

Safren’s successful free throws began the second overtime. Fayak’s two free throws and her long two-pointer brought Shepherd a 75-72 lead.

With about 18 seconds left, the Senators missed on a three-point attempt after a timeout. Biggs made one of two free throws to finalize the margin.

Page Turner had only three points in the last 30 minutes. There was no other contributor to hold the Senators
together.
The Senators were 3-1 in league games and could have been away to their quickest WVIAC start in 40 years. . . . but Shepherd found a second-half combination of useful players (even though Prine was 0-for-12 from the floor) to wipe away its first-half shortcomings and stave off a homecourt loss.
Flinchum’s best, last seven minutes boost Shepherd vs. Bluefield

December 7, 2011 0 Comments

BOB MADISON Spirit Staff

Casey Flinchum made her rangy 6-foot-3 presence felt on both ends of the Butcher Center court on Saturday afternoon when she posted season-highs with 16 points and six blocked shots while securing eight rebounds as her Shepherd Lady Rams eventually got through Bluefield’s stick-to-it mindset to trim the Big Blues, 74-58.

Flinchum, a freshman, played 32 minutes in her longest on-court stint of the seven-game season. Bluefield was still a viable and present threat into the last seven minutes. But then the Rams were able to outscore the visitors, 24-10, in the final stages to steadily increase a two-point lead to a much more comfortable 16-point conference win.

The aggressive Big Blues even opened in a full court press after made free throws or field goal attempts. With a roster loaded with out-of-state players, Bluefield had its most capable team in a long number of years. Even though it wasn’t an artful or effective statistical beginning for the Lady Rams, there were no Bluefield offensive rebounds . . . and the game remained close until Flinchum had a steal and then a blocked shot to help Shepherd to a 21-15 lead with 8:32 left in the opening half.

When Katie Biggs connected on a pair of long three-pointers, Shepherd was ahead 26-17. Late in the half, Shepherd employed a 1-2-2 or 3-2 full court zone press. When Flinchum was tagged with her second personal foul, Jimyse Brown was on-court for the last 3:47 of the half and was instrumental in Shepherd’s taking a meaningful 34-21 lead by halftime.

Additional Bluefield pressure greeted Shepherd to open the second half. But the Lady Rams were not deterred by what they saw and scored the half’s first six points to move in front at 40-21. Flinchum blocked two more shots in the first six minutes . . . but Bluefield was resourceful and energetic against anything Shepherd showed it.

Shepherd reserve guard Alex Tamaz helped out with five of her nine points, but quickly had two turnovers and Bluefield remained testy and only seven points behind the shrinking Shepherd lead.

With 8:15 showing on the second-half clock, Bluefield moved to within 50-48 on Crystal McLaughlin’s pair of three-pointers.

Shepherd halted any further Bluefield movement.

The Lady Rams scored 11 of the next 13 points to distance themselves at 61-50.

Nothing more came from the Bluefield vat of Big Blue energy.

With its 74-58 win, the Lady Rams moved to 4-3 overall and 2-1 in the conference. Bluefield went to 1-5 overall and 1-2 in the league.

Flinchum had given Shepherd more than a tall inside presence. She had contributed mightily to the team’s latest victory.
Moore’s second half leads Shepherd win

December 7, 2011  0 Comments

BOB MADISON Spirit Staff

After a frustrating first half in which nearly all his close-in shots wouldn’t fall, Shepherd forward Chad Moore was able to reverse course and score 19 second-half points (converting 9-of-11 free throws) as the Rams turned away conference opponent Davis & Elkins, 83-73, on November 29 at the Butcher Center.

Moore had a 29-point evening, making 5-of-6 late-game field goal tries in addition to his improved last-half free throw shooting.

In their previous games, the Rams had lost only once and that a three-point decision to eighth-ranked Bowie State. A keen interest in defense had secured wins over Virginia State, West Virginia State, and Shippensburg.

But against Davis & Elkins, the Rams were shooting poorly from all angles and all distances . . . and they were being outrebounded. Through decades of collegiate games, a team not shooting well or scoring well tends to lose its zest for defense. That trend continued on as Shepherd did not portray itself as a team that could “defend” itself to victory.

The Senators were guided in all ways by point guard PJ Turner. Turner rarely was without the ball. And he nearly always found a high-percentage shot or helped a less talented teammate find one.

With the Rams going 12-for-35 (34 percent) from the floor, 4-of-13 (31 percent) from long range and 6-for-11 (55 percent) on foul shots, Davis & Elkins kept pace in the first half.

Shepherd mistakes were not coming from over exertion.

Good fortune had not completely turned its back on the Rams for despite their shortcomings a 34-31 halftime lead was their’s.

It had taken scoring seven of the half’s final 11 points just to get off to the dressing room with that scant advantage.

Moore’s later-seen, lively contenance was not around while Shepherd lost its lead to a 44-41 deficit in the opening minutes of the second half.

Davis & Elkins was still in front at 49-48 with 12 minutes remaining.

But Moore came forth from the other strugglers. His two free throws and two layups brought a five-point lead. Shepherd would never trail again.

Sidney McCray blended his perimeter scoring with Moore’s inside antics . . . and the hard-pressed Rams moved out ahead by eight points. McCray would continue his consistent outside shooting, finishing the win with a 5-for-8 showing from the floor and 4-for-6 log from three-point distance for 16 points.

Moore and McCray did practically all of Shepherd’s scoring in the final four minutes. The efforts of Turner and new-found running mate, Ian Pinckney, had the Senators within range should some turn of events bring the Rams back toward them.

But Shepherd did not falter, instead riding away to the conference win on Moore’s second-half shoulders and the consistent scoring of McCray and point guard Aeron Spencer (12 points).

Shooting woes had dulled the Rams in the first half. Moore, and to a lesser extent McCray, had rescued the Rams from the 14-for-35 showing from the field of all the others who played.

Shepherd’s team defense had been more resistible than before. And its first-half shooting problems couldn’t fully rescue the night.

But much-improved second half accuracy from Moore finally brought home a win. And the Rams were 4-1 overall with a 2-0 conference record to boot.
Moore, McCray lead Rams by Blues

December 7, 2011  0 Comments

BOB MADISON Spirit Staff

Led by point-a-minute Sidney McCray and sprightly Chad Moore, Shepherd scored on eight straight late-game possessions to ease away from the seven-player contingent brought by Bluefield to the Butcher Center on Saturday . . . winning the conference game, 89-73.

McCray played 25 minutes and scored 26 points, while Moore scored 28 points and claimed a team-high 12 rebounds as Shepherd overcame a five-point halftime deficit as well as a polished 30-point scoring effort from the Big Blues’ Chase Morgan.

Morgan had scored the final six points of the opening half and Bluefield’s thin legion managed to lead, 39-34. In the second half, Morgan kept the Big Blues alive with his stellar offensive play, but his fatigued mates were wilting to an extent . . . and when the perimeter-strafing McCray continued his shooting excellence and was continually joined by Moore and then Marcus Pilgrim and Brantley Osborne, Shepherd overpowered the Big Blues with points in the last seven minutes.

McCray finished his exceptional bounce-off-the-bench shooting night with a 9-for-12 showing that included 3-for-5 from long distance and five of six free throws. Moore was 12-for-19 from the floor and converted four of his five free throws.

Add in Pilgrim’s eight points at the tailend and Brantley’s 14 points and five assists and the two-man gang of Morgan and Alex Webb (20 points) were not enough fingers in the dike to stave off Shepherd’s flood of late-game points.

The Rams improved their record to 5-1 in all games and 3-0 in the WVIAC. Bluefield thinner-than-thin corps of seven players went to 1-5 overall and 0-3 in the league.

There had been an important section of minutes just into the second half when the Rams outpointed the Big Blues, 10-4, in just the first 1:48 of play to make their deficit disappear . . .

and take their first lead at 44-43.

At the 14:10 mark, Shepherd had pushed out to a 56-45 lead on an Osborne three-pointer. It was just over five minutes into the half and the Rams had already added 22 points to their halftime total.

In an effort to control the guiding offensive influence of Morgan, the Rams went to a 1-3-1 halfcourt zone, but even that didn’t slow the 5-foot-11 freshman guard’s penetration and scoring from both the field and free throw line.

Eventually, Shepherd simply took control with its four-headed group of offensive contributors — Moore, McCray, Osborne, and Pilgrim. That group combined to go 30-for-51 from the field and 10-for-13 from the foul line.

Morgan’s 30 points came mostly in the first 33 minutes for in the closing minutes his turnovers were much more noticeable and he had 10 of them in all.

McCray was even Shepherd’s second-leading rebounder behind Moore. His contributions mimicked what he had shown in several of Shepherd’s earlier games where he popped off the bench to score at nearly the same point-a-minute rate. And Moore raised his scoring average to 20 points a game, abetted by his 19-point first half (about 56 percent of Shepherd’s points).
Maggie Gola, a senior at Greater Nanticoke Area, signed a national letter of intent to play softball at Shepherd University in West Virginia next fall. She plans to major in biology. Gola is a three-year letterman for the Nanticoke softball team. Pictured, first row: Miranda Gola, Stephen Gola, Maggie Gola, Tammy Gola, Bill Hischak, guidance counselor. Second row: Coach Gary Williams, John Gorham, assistant principal.
Men's team tops Bluefield, 89-73

December 8, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Junior forward Chad Moore (Winchester, Va./John Handley) scored 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and junior forward Sid McCray (Milton, Fla./St. Pauls (MD) School) tossed in 26 points to lead Shepherd University to an 89-73 win over Bluefield State in WVIAC men's basketball action at the Butcher Center on Saturday.

Moore was 12-of-19 from the floor with a 4-of-5 performance from the line. McCray drained 9-of-12 shots from the floor with a 3-of-5 effort from three-point range. He was 5-of-6 from the charity stripe.

The Rams also got 14 points and game highs of five assists and three steals from sophomore guard Brantley Osborne (Sunbury, Pa./Shikellamy).

Junior guard Aaron Spencer (Fredericksburg, Va./Stafford) had nine points, while sophomore guard Marcus Pilgrim (Mitchellville, Md./Bishop McNamara) contributed eight.

Chase Morgan fired in a game-high 30 points to lead the Big Blues. Alex Web had 20 points, while Vincent Rogers added 17 points and nine rebounds.

Shepherd improves to 5-1, 3-0 in WVIAC play, while Bluefield State falls to 1-5, 0-3. The Rams are idle until Dec. 15 when they travel to Seton Hill.

for a 7:30 p.m. matchup.
Lady Rams defeat Bluefield

December 9, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Senior guard Katie Biggs (Sykesville, Md./Glenelg) scored a game-high 20 points and freshman center Gabby Flinchum (North Potomac, Md./Wootton) added 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead Shepherd University to a 74-58 win over Bluefield State in WVIAC women's basketball action at the Butcher Center on Saturday.

Biggs, coming off a career-high 28 point effort against Davis & Elkins last Tuesday, hit on 8-of-13 shots from the floor with a 2-of-6 performance from behind the arc. She was 2-of-5 from the foul line.

Flinchum set new career-highs with the 16-point effort and six blocked shots.

Junior guard Emily Daniel (Beaver, W.Va./Shady Spring) added 10 points, six rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Senior guard Jenn Prine (Fairless Hills, Pa./Pennsbury) had 10 points and dished out a game-high five assists. She had five boards and four steals.

Dragana Tomic had 16 points and Charlene Digs added 12 to lead Bluefield State.

The Rams went on a 13-2 run midway through the first half en route to taking a 34-21 lead into the break.

Shepherd shot an impressive 52.6 percent (30-57) from the floor for the game while limiting Bluefield State to a 30.9 percent (17-55) effort.

Shepherd had a 40-34 edge in rebounding.

Shepherd improves to 4-3, 2-1 in WVIAC play, while Bluefield State falls to 1-5, 1-2. The Rams return to action Saturday when they host Bowie State at 2 p.m.
Four Rams receive honors

December 9, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

WEST CHESTER, Pa. - Four members of the Shepherd University football team were named to the 2011 Daktronics, Inc. All-Super Region 1 team as selected by the region's sports information directors.

Senior cornerback Elijah Davis (Silver Spring, Md./Wheaton) was a first team selection while senior kicker Eric Dobratz (Woodbridge, Va./Potomac), senior offensive lineman Steve Jackson (Madison Heights, Va./Amherst County) and sophomore defensive lineman Howard Jones (Woodbridge, Va./Freedom) were second team selections.

Davis, a two-time WVIAC Player of the Week selection this season, led the Rams with six interceptions and tied an NCAA II record with four touchdowns on interception returns. His 283 interception return yards also set a new Shepherd single-season record. Davis also had 35 tackles (26 solo), a team-high eight pass breakups and a fumble recovery.

Dobratz led the Rams in scoring with 99 points this season to set a new Shepherd season mark for kick scoring. His 14 field goals on the year also established a new Shepherd season record. He holds the WVIAC career mark for kick scoring points with 280.

Jackson keyed an offensive line that helped Shepherd rank third nationally in scoring offense.

Jones recorded 31 tackles with 28 solo stops. He led the Rams with 23.5 tackles-for-loss and 12 sacks. His 23.5 tackles-for-loss for minus 128 yards established a new Shepherd single season records. He also added three forced fumbles and two blocked kicks.
Biggs named Player of Week

December 9, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

PRINCETON Senior guard Katie Biggs (Sykesville, Md./Glenelg) of the Shepherd University women’s basketball team has been named WVIAC Player of the Week, as announced by the league office.

Biggs guided the Rams to a 2-0 week by averaging 24 points and six rebounds. She netted a career-high 28 points to help SU overcome a 21-point second half deficit in a 76-72 double overtime win over league-leading Davis & Elkins. Biggs hit for 20 points in a 74-68 win over Bluefield State.

For the week, she added three assists, two blocks and a pair of steals.