Globetrotters bringing tour to Shepherdstown

As far as this year show, Versher believes it’s one of the best they’ve done. “The tour’s been great. We’ve been filling arenas,” Versher said. “The guys we have coming out this year, it’s a great show. It’s one of the best shows we’ve had. There’s a lot of great things we’ve added, and if you turn your head, you might miss something.”

Local fans of the Globetrotters will have a rare opportunity to see the team perform this close to home, something that hasn’t happened very often.

Tickets are still available and cost $25. They can be purchased at the Butcher Athletic Center box office, www.harlemglobe-trotters.com or www.ticketweb.com.

See GLOBETROTTERS D3

— Eric Jones can be reached at 304-263-3381, ext. 234, or ejones@journal-news.net
Shepherd lacrosse earns second win

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams remained undefeated as the women of the lacrosse team routed the Ferrum Panthers 18-7.

Shepherd has already matched its win total from last season as the second-year program has shown what a difference a year can make.

"It feels good coming out this year. We've come out as a team and pulled off two wins so far," Nicole Ruane said.

Shepherd started off the game down a goal after Ferrum's Brooke Hewartson made her way through the Shepherd defense for the opening goal.

Shepherd University attacker Krista Tippett, right, spins past Ferrum defender Cara Jacobs during the first half of their match on Friday.

See SHEPHERD D4

Shepherd bounced back and scored four goals of their own, as Ruane, Shannon Carra, Krista Tippett and Jenny Cervi took advantage of the early scoring opportunities for the Rams, giving them a 4-1 lead.

"Our defense is working a lot better this year," Ruane said. "We're not giving up as many points as we did last year."

A turnover by Vinsetta Sceweit-McDaniel led to Tippett feeding the ball inside to Ruane for the first of two straight goals to give Shepherd a 6-2 lead.

Hamm scored from 30 feet out for Ferrum to cut the lead to three, but the rest of the first half was all Rams as Ruane scored two more times.

The Rams also got goals Tippett, Carter, and Kelsey Eagan. Shepherd led 11-5 at the half with a semblance of offensive attack, but the work of goalkeeper Emily Melanson and the rest of the Rams' defense kept the Panthers from closing the gap.

"I'm giving a lot of credit to the defense. There has been a lot of improvement, and we've been more settled and improved a lot of things," Melanson said.

The Rams started off the second half with the same intensity they showed in the first, as Carra and Kelliyn Drake scored a pair of goals in the first three minutes.

Shepherd went on to score the next five goals in the second half, with Jenna Berke and Middle Sullivan adding goals, along with Ruane, Carter, and Tippett, stretching the lead to 18-2. Ferrum was able to get the game's last four goals as Hewartson added a pair then Cara Jacobs and Monica Samayoa scored. That would be far from enough as the Rams outscored the Rams in the second half.

"We had a good day, but there are still a few things we can work on that will help us throughout the season," Ruane said.

Ruane shared the lead in goals with Carra with five each, and Carra also led with three assists. Melanson racked up three saves in the goal for the Rams.
WARREN COUNTY fullback Damien Caison has been mentioned in connection with Virginia and Virginia Tech as a walk-on candidate, so I was surprised that I hadn’t heard anything about him.

That’s because Caison, the No. 61-rated player in the state, signed with Division II Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, W.Va., which is located 40 miles from Front Royal, according to a mileage calculator available on the Internet.

I can’t say I’ve made that drive, but it couldn’t possibly be a straight shot.
Coach's corner: Football has become religion, so this solution involves tithing
Originally published March 06, 2011

By Hal Grau

So, as of Friday afternoon, when I chucked out this week's "Coach's Corner," the really big, breaking news is that the National Football League owners and players have extended their deadline for sports Armageddon for one week. I don't know whether to drop to my knees for thanksgiving prayers or kick the dog. Who, besides corporate lawyers, can figure out all the complexities of labor negotiations between the greedy owners and the greedy players?

But, Coach, aren't you riveted to your TV, anxiously awaiting whether there will be pro football played next fall?

Actually, I could give a fat rat's É

Whoa, Coach! There might be children reading.

The only thing that is apparent to me in this natural turf war, is that both sides have thought carefully about their negotiating strategies and the NFL owners decided to move ahead with the ultimate bargaining weapon of choice, what President Dubya would have called the "newclub option." Lockout.

In my lifetime, there have been several lockouts employed by the franchise owners of various major sports, including Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League, and the NFL. The end results have been beneficial to players and owners alike. Sports franchises have increased in value at a phenomenal rate, as have player salaries. The only victim in this battle of titans has been the sports fan, who has had to pay for the exorbitant player contracts and the funding of billion dollar monumental stadiums with sky-rocketing ticket prices and $10 hot dogs.

You've heard me comment before on this subject, so it will come as no surprise when I predict that the greed of owners and players will one day kill the goose that laid the golden egg. At some point fans will just say "enough, I can spend my hard-earned money some other way." My suggestions: take in a good high school game for five bucks, or go to a Shepherd University football game for $12. And unlike the Redskins, you'll see a well-played game. Go see Towson University play. After all, the Tigers are coached by one of Frederick County's own, Rob Ambrose.

As a matter of fact, I've got an even better idea. Since the NFL owners and players are quibbling over how to divide $9 billion, how about if they got all patriotic and gave the $1 billion that they are disputing over to the federal government to help pay down our deficit? Set an example for all those folks out there who are just looking for a way to get our country out of its financial mess. If NFL players were to give up one year's salary to Uncle Sam, they could put a $3.6 billion dent in the amount we owe to China.

While we're at it, if the other pro athletes followed suit this year, there would be another $2.5 billion from MLB players, $2.3 billion from the NBA, and $1.5 billion from the NHL. I should think that most professional athletes make enough money that they could weather the storm for one year. The owners could chip in with matching funds and we'd be well on our way to solvency.

Wait a minute, Coach. That doesn't seem very fair. You're asking pro sports to make sacrifices you, yourself, are unwilling to make.

Not so. I'd be willing to live by what I call the "10 Percent Solution," whereby I'd give up that percentage of my income for one year if every U.S. citizen did the same and if it resulted in getting our country out of debt. Equal sacrifices. Seems like a team kind of thing to me.

Looks like you drifted over the line into politics, Coach. Can you stick with sports, please?

Right. Let me comment on the guts of Brigham Young University's men's basketball in suspending sophomore forward Brandon Davies from its squad for the remainder of the season for his violation of the BYU Honor Code. BYU was ranked No. 3 in the country at the time and was likely to receive a top seed in the NCAA tournament. That did not deter BYU from enforcing the rules of its honor code, which, quite honestly, is pretty unusual nowadays. Evidently, the university believes in an honor code and feels it should be, well, honored.

Kudos to the courageous Cougars for putting principle before cash.

I wonder if the NFL owners and players could learn a lesson from BYU?
SHEPHERD 22, WILMINGTON 17: Freshman attack/midfielder Shannon Carta (South River) scored seven goals and sophomore attack Nicole Ruane added six to lift Shepherd University to a win over Wilmington University.
Shepherd's Nicole Ruane attacks the Ferrum crease as teammate Shannon Carta looks for a rebound near the goal during first-half lacrosse action Friday afternoon in Shepherdstown. For more photos, visit csjournals.net.

Shepherd attacker Krista Tippett spins near the crease, shooting past Ferrum goalkeeper Cara Jacobs.
Shepherd lacrosse tops Wesleyan

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Nicole Ruane scored seven goals and Krista Tippett added six to lift Shepherd University to a 26-5 win over West Virginia Wesleyan in women’s lacrosse action on Monday afternoon.

Christina Ferrara tallied four goals and had a pair of assists, while Shannon Carta added two goals and a pair of assists.

Carly Jones scored a game-high six assists for the Rams.

The Bobcats opened the scoring on an unassisted tally by Kelly Steen at the 28:38 mark, but Shepherd scored seven unanswered goals to take a 7-1 lead with three coming from Ruane.

The Rams had a 16-4 advantage at the break.

The Rams outscored the Bobcats, 10-1, in the second half with Ruane and Tippett each scoring a pair of goals.

Erin Gethall led West Virginia Wesleyan with a pair of goals.

Shepherd outshot Wesleyan 37-20 and had a 31-24 edge in ground balls. Shepherd had a 19-12 advantage in draw controls.

Netminder Emily Melanson had four saves and Katherine Lambert added a save for the Rams. Jessica Lehman had six saves for the Bobcats.

Shepherd improved to 4-0, while West Virginia Wesleyan fell to 0-1. The Rams return to action on Friday when they travel to Millersville for a 4 p.m. contest.

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Minnich named POW
PRINCETON — First baseman/designated hitter Nathan Minnich of the Shepherd University baseball team has been named West Virginia Conference Player of the Week for his outstanding play for the Rams last week.

Minnich belted out a .467 average for the week, tallying seven hits in 15 tries. He laced three home runs on the week, two of which were grand slams. Minnich knocked in 11 runs and scored seven runs. Four of his seven hits went for extra bases.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Rams’ Dudek honored by WVC
PRINCETON — Outfielder Amber Dudek of the Shepherd University softball team has been named West Virginia Conference Player of the Week for her stellar play for the Rams last week.

Dudek helped lead the Rams to a 3-1 week, including a 2-0 mark in conference play. She batted .538 by going 7 of 12.

Dudek tallied four RBI and plated three runs. Her two-run homer in the nightcap against Concord helped lift Shepherd to a 4-3 win to secure the sweep.

— Staff reports
SHEPHERD WOMEN'S LACROSSE: Sophomore attack Nicole Ruane scored seven goals and sophomore attack/midfielder Krista Tippett added six to lift Shepherd University to an 26-5 win. Shannon Carta (South River) added two goals and a pair of assists and Emily Melanson (South River) had four saves.
Dudek, Durham homer in SU softball sweep

With Brooke Stambaugh and Nichole Pitcock both pitching complete games, Shepherd successfully opened its WVIAC softball schedule with a doubleheader sweep of Concord.

The Lady Rams won the opener, 5-1, behind the five-hit pitching of Stambaugh who fanned five and walked only one. Shepherd completed its sweep with a 4-3 win in the second game as Pitcock improved her record to 4-1 with a four-hitter that featured a reliable defense that committed only one error behind her one-strikeout pitching.

Shepherd was 6-4 overall in sweeping its first doubleheader of the season. The Lady Rams were 2-0 in the WVIAC. Concord was 4-6 overall and 0-2 in the WVIAC.

In the opener, all of Shepherd’s runs came in a five-run fifth inning where the Lady Rams had six hits that included Tiffany Farmer’s triple, Cammie Orlando’s single, Chelsie Oals’ single, Amber Dudek’s single, Kris Durham’s three-run homer, and Pitcock’s infield single.

Stambaugh yielded a first-inning run and nothing more as she improved her record to 2-3.

Dudek went 3-for-3 with a double and RBI. Oals had two hits and scored a run. Farmer had two of Shepherd’s 10 hits. One of Farmer’s hits was a triple.

In the second game, Shepherd fell behind by 1-0 and 3-2 before rallying for two runs in the sixth.

In the Shepherd sixth, Pitcock led off with a single. Sam McQuade followed with a single. Casie Mand was safe on an error to load the bases.

The first run of the inning scored on a passed ball. Delaney Bell’s infield groundout plated the inning’s second run.

Pitcock retired the Mountain Lions in order in the seventh to give the Lady Rams the sweep.

McQuade and Dudek both contributed two hits. Dudek had a two-run homer to account for Shepherd’s first two runs.

Shepherd had split its four doubleheaders before sweeping the Mountain Lions.

Shepherd splits fourth straight twinbill

After losing the opening game of a doubleheader, 11-0, to Indiana of Pennsylvania, the Shepherd women’s softball team gained a split by salvaging the nightcap, 9-2, behind the pitching of Nichole Pitcock and a 12-hit attack.

The doubleheader split was Shepherd’s fourth straight twinbill where the games were divided and left the Lady Rams with a 4-4 overall record. Indiana was 2-2 overall.

Indiana held only a 3-0 lead in the opener before it erupted for eight additional runs in the fifth inning. When Shepherd couldn’t score in its half of the fifth the game ended on the eight-run mercy rule.

Erin Holloway authored the Indiana shutout with her one-hit pitching. She fanned nine and only walked one.

Brooke Stambaugh saw her record dip to 1-3 when she allowed eight hits and three walks. Four Shepherd errors led to nine unearned runs. Megan McCormick drove in four runs and Jen Beaver had three RBIs.

In the nightcap, Shepherd had a four-run fourth inning and a five-run sixth inning to achieve its split of the two games.

Pitcock went the seven-inning distance, allowing six hits and two walks while fanning seven and scattering six hits. Her record improved to 3-1.

Amber Dudek, Kris Durham, Casie Mand, and Pitcock all had two hits for the Lady Rams. Durham drove in two runs.

Dudek and Pitcock both had doubles.

In its four-run inning, Shepherd had hits from Pitcock, Stephanie Hadlow, Mand, and Courtni Williams.

In its five-run inning, Shepherd had hits from Cammi Orlando, Chelsie Oals, Dudek, Durham, and Pitcock.

Shepherd’s eight games have all been against non-conference opponents.
Globetrotters entertain Butler Center crowd

By ERIC JONES
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The players have changed over time, and the venues change on a day-to-day basis.

Through the years, though, one thing hasn’t changed, and that’s the popularity of the Harlem Globetrotters.

For 85 years, the Globetrotters have been entertaining crowds across the country and around the world, and on Tuesday, they brought their “4 Times the Fun” tour to Shepherd University’s Baurle Athletic Center.

The packed crowd saw the Globetrotters defeat the Washington Generals 117-113, a team they haven’t lost to since 1971, and watched the trickery that has made them one of the most popular basketball teams in the world.

For Mike Roebuck, the show was just as entertaining now as it was when he first saw it as a kid.

“I thought it was very entertaining,” Roebuck said. “It hasn’t changed very much since I was a kid. They do a lot of the same stuff. We’ve been here before, and I went as a kid.”

Roebuck was there with his kids — 15-year-old Fisher and 10-year-old Tanner, who enjoyed the show.

“Coming here was a blast,” Fisher Roebuck said. “The things they do are amazing.”

There were a number of shots, dunks, etc., that wowed the crowd, but one of the newest tricks was the 4-point shot. It has been the highlight of the Globetrotters’ current tour, which began in December and will run into April.

The 35-shot comes into play during the final three minutes of a quarter, with special music and its backboards signifying that the 4-point shot is in play. There are designated areas on each end of the court.

Like previous innovations, such as the alley-oop and the behind-the-back pass, the Globetrotters are hoping to introduce the 4-point shot into basketball.

“From the alley-oop to the slam dunk to the behind-the-back pass, the Globetrotters have brought innovations to basketball that are now staples of the game, and we’re confident the 4-point shot will change the game of basketball going forward,” said Globetrotters CEO Kurt Schneider in a press release.

It took a while for either side to make a 4-point shot until the Globetrotters’ “Firefly” Fisher knocked one down late in the second quarter, starting a string of four consecutive 4-pointers from each team.

Among the other exciting plays was a number of incredible dunks from “Hammer” Harrison, who brought the crowd to its feet on several occasions.

“I think the show was great,” Tanner Roebuck said. “The best player was Hammer.”

The Globetrotters brought the hammer down on the Generals, but more importantly, brought another entertaining show to another sold-out crowd.

Some things never change.
Shepherd football player donates hair to Locks of Love

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Neal Hardie, senior wide receiver for the Shepherd University football team, could be identified on the sidelines in the fall by his long red mane of hair seen from underneath his helmet. Recently, Hardie had 10 inches of his hair cut off and donated to Locks of Love, an organization that makes hairpieces for children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Neal, of Alexandria, Va., is a sports and event management major with a concentration in fitness and exercise sciences. He will graduate in December 2011. He said he chose Shepherd because of its small size and closeness to home.

Hardie said it was his family friend and neighbor. Donna Powell, who had breast cancer, who inspired him to grow his hair and donate to Locks of Love.

“The team already participates in Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October by wearing pink,” he said.

Hardie said that Locks of Love was a good cause to support. “I thought it was a good thing to do,” he said. “It let me support cancer patients.”

After letting his hair grow for almost two years, Hardie had his hair cut over winter break while he was home for the holidays. A total of 10 inches was cut from his hair, which was straightened before it was cut.

“I didn’t even know it was curly,” Hardie said. “This was the longest it’s ever been. It was fun to let it hang out of my helmet during the season, and I do miss it to an extent.”

Once it got to about 6 or 7 inches and got curly, Hardie said his sister was jealous.

Hardie, who is involved with helping new recruits to the football team by participating in tours and demonstrations, also works at the Wellness Center in the weight and fitness area. He is looking to intern with the Arizona Cardinals or Stephenson College in Baltimore.

“I’ve had a great experience at Shepherd,” Hardie said. “I love it here.”
Rams sign another group of football players

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University head football coach Monte Cather announced Wednesday that 12 more student-athletes have signed letters-of-intent to play football for the Rams in 2011.

Among the group are seven from Maryland, three from Virginia and two from West Virginia.

James Boone, a quarterback, lettered in football and lacrosse at Oakton, Va. Boone gained honorable mention All-Met and first-team all-district honors as a senior.

Chris Brooks, a linebacker/running back, lettered in football, wrestling and track at Riverbend, Va. A member of the 2009 district championship football squad, Brooks has earned six MIP honors in both football and wrestling.

Cory Broughton, a kicker/punter, lettered for four years in football at Elkton. He earned first-team NCAC and special honorable mention All-state honors. He was ranked No. 1 by ProsKnight.com in kicker/punter specialty.

Ryan Earle, a kicker/punter, lettered in football, soccer and baseball at Kent Island, Md. Earle was named to the 2010 AP Maryland Consensus All-State team and the Maryland Small School All-State team. He connected on 10 of 10 field goals and 43 of 47 extra points in 2010. He tied a state single-game record with a 4-for-4 effort in field goals.

David Gladbourn, a running back/defensive back/returner, lettered in football and track at Martinsburg. Gladbourn earned first-team All-State honors as he helped lead Martinsburg to the state football title in 2010.

Carson Irwin, a linebacker/defensive end, lettered in football and lacrosse at Good Counsel. Irwin was named the most valuable defensive player and gained a pair of second-team All-State honors.

Jaggle recorded team bests of 41.3 tackles (55 solo), 14.5 tackles-for-loss and six sacks in 2010. He gained honorable-mention Washington Post All-Met honors as a defensive lineman.

Jarred Lamb, an offensive lineman, was a three-year letterwinner in football at South River, Md. Lamb was selected to participate in the Baltimore Touchdown Club Senior All-Star Football Classic.

Jawan Poole, an outside linebacker/quarterback/running back/wide receiver, gained honorable mention Washington Post All-Met honors. He also gained All-SMAC and All-county accolades for North Point, Md. Poole garnered the offensive receiver and coaches awards.

Christopher Pirrone, a wide receiver/defensive back, lettered in football and basketball at Middle- town, Md. An honorable-mention all-state selection, Pirrone also gained first-team defensive honors from the Blue Ridge Conference.

He had 57 tackles (43 solo) with five pass breakups, a forced fumble and an interception in 2010. Pirrone added 33 receptions for 532 yards and five touchdowns on offense.

D.J. Scott, a cornerback/wide receiver, lettered in football, basketball and track at Thomas Johnson, Md. Scott was all-state, all-county and all-county selection for Thomas Johnson. He is a transfer from Central Michigan University, where he lettered as a freshman.

Dezmente Scott, a wide receiver/defensive back/return specialist, was a four-year letterwinner in football for Thomas Johnson. Scott gained first-team all-state honors and went to play in the Maryland Crab Bowl and the Baltimore Touchdown Club Senior All-Star Football Classic.

Eric Street a defensive end at Lake Braddock, Va., was a member of the district and region champion team. Street earned all-district and the coaches’ award honors during his senior year.

— Staff report
Rams’ Minnich muscles up on competition

BY ERIC JONES

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Nathan Minnich is an imposing figure when he steps to the plate.

As one of Shepherd’s best and most powerful hitters, he’s always a big hit threat, a guy who can change the course of a game with one big swing.

There were plenty of big swings and even bigger hits to go around for the Rams’ junior first baseman as he put together a monster week.

He proved his hitting prowess by putting up huge numbers in five games for Shepherd, a stretch in which the Rams finished 3-2.

Minnich’s performance earned him the West Virginia Conference Player of the Week, and now he’s been named The Journal/Gold’s Gym Athlete of the Week (Feb. 27-March 5).

Minnich’s week started out modestly with a 1-for-4 effort in a 15-3 win over Pitt-Johnstown and an 0-for-3 mark in a 16-7 loss to Washington Adventist. It also ended with an 0-for-4 performance in Game 2 of a doubleheader against Bloomsburg.

While those games don’t stand out, the other two games sandwiched in between made up for it.

It started with a ridiculous outing against Elizabethtown State, in which Minnich finished 4 for 4 with six RBI and three runs scored.

Against the Vikings, an 18-6 blowout by Shepherd, Minnich signaled his power with two home runs in the win.

The first was a solo blast in the first inning, part of back-to-back launches from him and teammate Brian Collins as the Rams jumped out in an early lead.

Minnich wasn’t done as he delivered one final blow in the Rams’ eight-run third inning. With the bases full, he hit a monstrous grand slam over the center-field scoreboard to put Shepherd up 12-1 at the time.

He also added an RBI single in the fourth as the Rams continued to pound the baseball.

Minnich completed his offensive firepower in Game 1 of Shepherd’s doubleheader against Bloomsburg, a 12-6 win by the Rams.

He picked up four of his five RBI with one swing as he belted his second grand slam of the week to left field in the Rams’ seven-run fifth inning. It provided the difference in the game.

He finished the game 3 for 4 with five RBI.

For the week, he was 8 for 19 with 12 RBI and had a .421 batting average. He raised his season average to .440.

Other accomplishments: Collins was 3 for 4 with a grand slam in Shepherd’s 15-3 baseball win over Pitt-Johnstown.

Shepherd’s Jennie Hewett had a game-high 19 points in the Rams’ 69-50 women’s basketball win over Robert C. Byrd in the Class AAA, Region II, Section 1 tournament.

Martinsburg’s Jamie Holshy scored a game-high 15 points in the Bulldogs’ 53-43 girls basketball win over Robert C. Byrd in the Class AAA, Region II, championship game.

Hedgewick’s G.J. Pearson scored a game-high 27 points in the Eagles’ 77-56 boys basketball win over Jefferson in the Class AAA, Region II, Section 2 tournament.

Class AAA, Region II, Section 1 semifinals. Shepherd’s Nicole Buena and Shannon Carbo scored five points apiece in the Rams’ 67-52 win over Frennm. Shepherd’s Amber Budes went 1 for 6, including a two-run homer, in the Rams’ doubleheader sweep of Concord.
Shepherd athlete donates to Locks of Love

Neal Hardie, senior wide receiver for the Shepherd University football team, recently had 10 inches of his hair cut off and donated to Locks of Love, an organization that makes hairpieces for children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Hardie, a sports and event management major from Alexandria, Va., said it was his family friend and neighbor, Donna Powell, who had breast cancer, that inspired him to grow his hair and donate to Locks of Love.

"The team already participates in Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October by wearing pink," he said in a press release. "Hardie said that Locks of Love was a good cause to support. After letting his hair grow for almost two years, Hardie had his hair cut over winter break while he was home for the holidays. A total of 10 inches was cut from his hair, which was straightened before it was cut.

"I didn't even know it was curly," Hardie said. "This was the longest it's ever been. It was fun to let it hang out of my helmet during the season, and I do miss it to an extent."

— From staff reports

Submitted photos

Neal Hardie, senior wide receiver for the Shepherd University football team donated 10 inches of his curly red hair. Locks of Love helps children suffering from long-term medical hair loss by providing them with wigs.