Shepherd football lands on football magazine poll

POSTED: June 13, 2011

Shepherd University has been picked fourth in the 2011 Lindy's Football magazine Division II Preseason poll. Lindy's also named senior running back Tommy Addison (Germantown, Md./Quince Orchard) and junior defensive back Keon Robinson (Fairfax Station, Va./Lake Braddock) First Team Preseason Division II All-Americans.

Addison led the Shepherd ground attack last season as he rushed 239 times for 1,670 yards and 19 touchdowns. He added seven receptions for 60 yards. Addison rushed for 100 yards or more in nine games.

Robinson recorded 10 interceptions last year, including two that were returned for touchdowns. His 10 interceptions are the most in NCAA II in 2010, while his .71 average ranked him fourth nationally. He also had 16 kickoff returns for a 21.0 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.

Lindy's Division II Preseason Top 25:

1. Minnesota-Duluth
2. Delta State
3. Abilene Christian
4. Shepherd
5. Northwest Missouri
6. Augustana
7. Texas A&M-Kingsville
8. Grand Valley State
9. Bloomsburg
10. Kutztown
11. Mercyhurst
12. St. Cloud State
13. North Alabama
SU to host 'Coaches Caravan'

POSTED: June 13, 2011

Shepherd University will host a Coaches Caravan event on Saturday, June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Fairfax Sportsplex in Springfield, Va.

Director of athletics B.J. Pumroy, head football coach Monte Cater, head baseball coach Wayne Riser, head men's basketball coach Justin Namolik, and head women's lacrosse coach Tammy Butler are among the Shepherd coaches and administrators who will be in attendance.

There is no admission charge and hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.

Please contact Aaron Ryan at aryan@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5527 by June 17 if you are interested in attending.
Pitcock honored again

Shepherd University senior Nichole Pitcock was recently selected to the Daktronics All-America softball team as an honorable mention selection. The former Park View Patriot, Pitcock was selected as a utility player for the second straight season.

As a pitcher, Pitcock posted a 23-6 record, and a miniscule 1.61 earned-run average. Pitcock finished with 187 strikeouts in 179 innings. When she wasn’t mowing down the competition, she did plenty of damage in the batter’s box. She drove in a team-best 35 runs, while batting .314.

Pitcock now holds career Shepherd records in strikeouts, wins, complete games, appearances, and innings pitched.
SOCCER
SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Shepherd University director of athletics B.J. Pumroy announced Wednesday that Jonathan Thayil has been named head coach of the Shepherd women’s soccer program. Thayil, who has been head coach of the Shepherd men’s soccer program since 2007, replaces Jim Sweeney, who resigned.

Thayil, who will also continue to coach the Shepherd men’s team, led the Rams to a 12-6-0 overall mark with a 7-2-0 WVIAC record in 2010. The seven conference wins set a program record.
Miller picks Rams over West Virginia Wesleyan

June 17, 2011
Ben Guell - For The Journal, journal-news.net

SHENANDOAH JUNCTION - Rivalries are formed in any sport.

It is an inevitable concept in the sporting world, and often times people find themselves stuck in the middle of one of those very rivalries.

But lately, Jefferson softball player Desire Miller has found herself on the good side of a West Virginia Conference rivalry.

After much deliberation and thought, Miller finally decided to join the Shepherd University Rams next season on the softball diamond, while tossing away their West Virginia Conference foe, West Virginia Wesleyan, to the curb.

As she signed her national letter of intent, Miller found no reservation in her decision, and she knew that the Rams were the right pick for her future.

"Shepherd is close to home, and it offered me everything I wanted in a school," Miller stated, "I was recruited by a few other schools, but Shepherd's softball, honors and education programs were what I was looking for."

The softball program has been one of the best in the WVC over the past several years, posting back-to-back 30-win seasons.

Two seasons ago, the Rams advanced to the NCAA Regional Tournament for the second time in school history.

Miller will be studying mathematics and plans on going into the field of education or engineering upon graduating.

Over the course of four years, Miller has played multiple positions for the Cougars and various travel softball teams, but she spent most of her time at second base for Jefferson.

Miller racked up some impressive stats this season and was one of the toughest defensive players in the area.

She posted a batting average of .439, with two home runs, nine doubles, and nine singles. Miller also recorded 12 RBI and scored 21 runs.

"Desire is a very hard worker, and she is extremely dedicated to softball," Jefferson coach Mary Beth Vickers said, "I know that she will succeed in anything, and she will be greatly missed next year."

Even with the impressive high school resume, Miller is not sure what position she will be playing next year for the Rams, but she is ready for any challenges.

"I want to do well in softball next year, and hopefully, I can become a four- or three-year starter for Shepherd," she said.

At this point in her softball career, the Jefferson graduate is sure of her abilities as a player, and she is secure about all of the knowledge that the Jefferson coaching staff has instilled in her along the way.

"Coach Vickers has helped me with any problems that I have had while at Jefferson. (The softball program) is always very competitive and challenging in practices. I know that I have to work harder and go for it all in order to succeed."

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County parks holding event

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission "Slam’n Jam’n Basketball Camp" with the Shepherd Rams will be held June 13 to the 16 from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play like a Shepherd Ram? This could be your opportunity.

If you are between the ages of 6 and 17, you can sign up for one of the "Slam’n Jam’n" camps this summer that will be instructed by Shepherd University Head Coach Justin Namolick and his staff and players.

This camp for boys and girls is designed for beginner to advanced basketball players. Participants will enjoy a memorable week learning new skills and tactics while refining their passing, dribbling and shooting skills as well as providing individual fundamental instruction that is applied to the team concept. Each camper will receive a camp t-shirt. Each camper must wear comfortable clothes, sneakers and bring a snack and water bottle to camp daily.

For more information, call the JCPRC office at 304-728-3207. The cost is $80.