

★ S P O R T S ★

Lady Wildcats: 2005 MACJC State Soccer Champs



Pearl River Community College's Lady Wildcats pose with the MACJC championship plaque following their 2-1 victory over Mississippi Gulf Coast recently on the Hinds CC campus in Raymond. The state title marks the first-ever for the PRCC women, who have won six MACJC South Division championships since the women's and men's soccer program started at the college in 1999.

Pictured are from left: First row seated - Jennifer Vital of Carriere and Aaron Holder of Oak Grove. Kneeling - Nikki Shows of Hattiesburg, Holland McCandless of Waveland, Becky Horton of Slidell, La., Jaclyn Allen of Oak Grove, Kasey Hendry of Oak Grove, Jessica Boehmer of Oak Grove, and student trainer Chris Darden of Poplarville. Third row - Mandy Walker of Florence, Laken Stamps of

Oak Grove, Haadi Likely of Gautier, Emily Vanlandingham of North Pike, Amanda Melville of Gulfport, Samanta Gracia of Oak Grove, Kristy McCain of Vicksburg, Brittney Parks of Carriere, assistant coach Chad Hampton and manager Ashley Scott of Raleigh. Back row - manager Chase Coon of North Pike, Brandi Re of Oak Grove, Carol Ann Thigpen of Carriere and head coach Patrick Hayes.

Wildcats make playoffs, shoot for 3rd straight state title

Defending NJCAA and MACJC champion Pearl River Community College is not the South Division champion, but the Wildcats are in the state playoffs for the fourth straight year.

"We would've loved to win a third straight (division title), but we're in (the playoffs) and that's what counts," said fourth-year PRCC head coach Tim Hatten, who has guided the Wildcats to back-to-back state titles and an NJCAA championship last year. "You've got to get into the tournament to even have a chance to win it. We're looking forward to it. It's going to be fun."

The Wildcats close out regular season play Thursday (Nov. 3) night at home against Co-Lin. Last week, the Wildcats pounded non-division rival Mississippi Delta 51-14 in Dobie Holden Stadium.

Two weeks ago, PRCC saw its record 23-game winning streak snap with a hard-fought, high-scoring 55-47 road loss to arch-rival Mississippi Gulf Coast, which clinched its first South Division championship.

Gulf Coast will now host to North No. 2 seed Itawamba in Perkinston in first-round action Saturday, Nov. 12, while South No. 2 Pearl River will travel to North No. 1 Northeast Mississippi in Booneville. The winners

of those two bouts will face off for the MACJC championship Saturday, Nov. 12.

Pearl River, which fell from second to 10th in the NJCAA poll following its loss to Gulf Coast, improved to 5-1 overall, while sporting a 5-1 division mark. Delta fell to 2-4 overall and is 2-3 in North play.

All-American quarterback Jimmy Oliver, who passed for a record 623 yards and six touchdowns in the Gulf Coast loss to earn NJCAA and Region 23 "Offensive Player of the Week" honors, played only three quarters against the Trojans but still passed for 263 yards and five TDs.

"It was a typical game for Jimmy," Hatten continued. "His numbers would've been bigger if we had thrown the ball in the second half more before we took him out."

His first scoring toss came on the first series of the game when he zipped a 26-yarder to Demetrius Byrd in the first to cap a six-play, 66-yard drive; then he kept for a four-yard score two series later after Wildcat linebacker George Leverette intercepted a pass and returned it inside the five.

Scott Hillery booted both extra points to put the Wildcats up 14-0.

Late in the first, PRCC defensive end Ben McGilton snatched his first collegiate interception at the Trojan 24 and it took the Wildcats only four plays to pad their lead when Oliver hit Chris Wright with a 35-yard TD pass.

Steven Kulikowski's ensuing kickoff bounced out of bounds, but a 15-yard Delta got things started at the 20 and it took only one snap for the Trojans to cash in when running back Kendall Evans sped around right end for the 80-yard distance to the end zone.

Oliver answered with a 65-yard scoring drive, hitting Byrd for 10 yards to the Trojan 35 as the first quarter ended, then connected with Ole Miss transfer Larry Freeman for a TD catch and run on the first play of the second. Oliver's two-point conversion pass was incomplete, but things were 26-7 with 14:48 left in the half.

Lightning struck again for the Trojans just over a minute later when Cobbs hit wide receiver Ryan Mason with a 90-yard touchdown pass. Reed's PAT made it 26-14 at the 13:32 mark of the second.

PRCC drove to the MDCC three midway in the quarter before Hillery missed on a 20-yard field goal attempt.



Standout performer

Sophomore quarterback Jimmy Oliver (6) plays his final home game for the Wildcats Thursday, Nov. 3, against Co-Lin. Oliver, who prepped at East Marion, has had a stellar career as a Wildcat. In 18 games, he has completed 335 of 621 passes for 5,460 yards and 61 touchdowns. He has thrown a touchdown pass for every 5.4 completions. His average gain per pass completion has been 16.2 yards. He has been intercepted only 22 times.

Photos by Mitch Deaver



Defensive lineman Ben McGilton (98) has been a steady performer for the Wildcats all season.

Wildcat basketball teams face new season without a home court

POPLARVILLE - Pearl River Community College's men's and women's basketball teams will be homeless this season, thanks to Hurricane Katrina.

M.R. White Coliseum, home of the Wildcats, suffered extensive damage from the Aug. 29 storm. According to Athletic Director and head men's basketball coach Richard Mathis, the Wildcats will play all of their home games except one at Poplarville High School.

PRCC students will be admitted with their ID cards.

"We hope the students will make the trip across town to support us," said Mathis. "The gym over there is relatively close quarters which should make for a good atmosphere for basketball. Plus, we intend to play a more exciting, up tempo game this year. That should be exciting to everyone. We have held a couple of scrimmages and I think we should be okay. But we need the student support to make it a fun

environment to play in."

The starting lineup for the Wildcats this season will include:

- Alton Robinson, 6-6 sophomore from Hattiesburg
- Jamar Flowers, 6-6 freshman from White Castle, La.

- Wesley Jones, 6-7 freshman from Beatrice, Ala.
- Jeremy Holder, 6-5 sophomore from Lumberton
- Adrian Harris, 5-9 sophomore from Wiggins

Other members of the team include: 6-1 sophomore Marquez Singleton of Bay St. Louis; 5-9 freshman Patton Stanley of Waynesboro; 5-10 sophomore Darius Acker of Pearlinton; 6-1 Chasen Uptain of Poplarville; 5-9 freshman Tyshawn Brown of Gulfport; 6-7 freshman James Williams of Hattiesburg; 6-4 freshman Braxton Rockwell of Pearlinton; and 6-6 freshman Tim Sterling of New Orleans.

Mathis is beginning his 15th season at PRCC. Last year's team finished 13-14 following back-to-back

state championships. Assisting Mathis is Kyle Roane. Graduate assistant is Jason Francis.

Coach Ed Walley begins his sixth season at PRCC. The Lady Wildcats were 13-12 last season. Assisting Walley is Brady Walley.

"We will have a better ball club than what we have had the last couple of years," said Walley.

"It will be tough playing every home game off campus. We won't have the home-floor advantage, but we do have some freshmen and look forward to seeing what they can do."

The starting lineup for the Lady Wildcats this season will include:

- Angela Miller, 5-7 freshman from Penbrooke, Ga.
- Tina Lewis, 5-11 sophomore from Mableton, Ga.
- LaTerrica Booth, 5-7 freshman from Bassfield
- Calia Daggons, 6-0 freshman from Meraux, La.
- Brittany Blackston, 5-6 sophomore from Hattiesburg

■ Ashley Jones, 6-0 sophomore from Florence. Walley said Doggans, Blackston and Jones are competing for inside starting positions.

Other members of the Lady Wildcat team include: 5-5 freshman Ziena Husband of Petal; 5-6 freshman Tanesha Stokes of East Marion; 5-9 freshman Kaci Williams of Moss Point; 5-9 sophomore Shannon Primos of Forrest County AHS; 5-10 freshman Shyeda Wynne of Lumberton; 5-7 freshman Slyanna Houston of Brandon; 5-7 freshman Cashara Outlaw of Brandon; and 5-8 freshman Dee Robertson of North Forrest.

The Wildcats open the 2005-06 season on Thursday, Nov. 3, at Mississippi Delta.

The home opener is Monday, Nov. 7 against East Mississippi. Other home games before the Christmas Holidays include Monday, Nov. 14, against Northeast CC, Monday, Nov. 28, against Holmes and Monday, Dec. 5, against Itawamba CC.