Investigation into Kappa Sigma fraternity chapter ongoing

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

The Theta-Theta chapter of the Kappa Sigma fraternity is still suspended pending an ongoing investigation.

The suspension came on Nov. 2 from Kappa Sigma in- ternational headquarters in Charlottesville, Virginia. Chasidy Pride, the director of student activities and organi- zations, said a representative from the organization interviewed several members, but this information has yet to be shared with the university.

Pride said the university has not yet taken any action against the chapter. He said he has spoken to chapter leaders to ask them about the investigation and what they know, but they said they did not know much of anything at that point. He has not dis- cussed the suspension with them since the interviews were conducted.

“Right now there’s nothing new to report,” Pride said.

Colin Porschbacher, Kappa Sigma public relations chair- man, declined to comment and said he could not discuss the suspension further.

“At this time we have no comments on the suspension, and all I can tell you and your staff is to contact our inter- national headquarters at this time,” Porschbacher said.

Leo Brown, the director of chapter services at Kappa Sigma fraternity, said he could not comment on where the in- vestigation currently is. Brown elaborated on Pride’s claim regarding who is interviewing members of the chapter, say- ing “We’re conducting investigations. Although Brown declined to reveal who the district presi- dent was, he said this person had been appointed to inves- tigate the situation.

The Herald will have more information on this story as it develops.

Uproar from ‘Dub the Pub’ competition continues

BY MARCEL MAYO
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

The Student Government Associa- tion’s “Dub the Pub” competition of- ficially ended Tuesday.

SGA President Jared Todd Richey said “Topper Tavern and GEAT” will be the of- ficial name of the pub. President Gary Sansiax added “and Grill” to the origi- nal name “Topper Tavem.”

“We will be looking to make sure that it is not one in your face alcohol related,” Richey said.

“Topper Tavern” received 480 votes out of 1,761 submitted.

Amid controversy, the submitted names will not be eliminated from the competition. The name was admitted multiple times during the competition, Richey said. It was first admitted by Richey as a test run for the survey, but he did so anon- ymously.

SCA Chief Justice Kelcey Lottred ad- mitted the name second.

If “Spirit Maroon” had not been eliminated as a choice and had won the competition, Lottred would have received credit for it. However, Lottred said the decision wasn’t hers originally.

SEE DUB THE PUB PAGE A2

Art Guild hosts silent art auction

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

Jam the Cube, a silent art auction event, is featuring student and faculty art- work this week to raise money for the Art Guild in the Fine Arts Center.

Amy Wetsch, Art Guild president and Bardstown senior, said there are 303 pieces of artwork on sale for Jam the Cube. Wetsch said these submissions come from the students in the art de- partment, Art Guild members and art- department faculty.

Wetsch said Jam the Cube allows stu- dent artists to show their work, make some extra money and prepare for the process of submitting work in exhibitions.

“It is just exciting for artists to be able to show their work and … get it out there and have people appreciate it,” Wetsch said.

Bruce Ogihara, the head of the art de- partment of art, said this is the second year the Art Guild has hosted Jam the Cube.

SEE JAM THE CUBE PAGE A2

Domino's $5.99 MIX-N-MATCH

CHOOSE ANY 2 OR MORE ITEMS FOR ONLY $5.99 EACH.

NEW!!! 2 TOPPING PIZZA • ANY PASTA BAKED SANDWICH • ANY 8-PIECE WINGS OR BONELESS CHICKEN • SUPREME CRUST • NEW 9-PACK BAKED GARLIC CRUST
Stop by one of our information tables for Spring 2016. Stop by one of our information tables to learn about WKU On Demand classes for Spring 2016.

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French film festival to enrich students culturally

By THE HERALD STAFF
HELLENA GLOYAL

Gender representation and cultural diversity are the focus of WKU's Tournées Film Festival this semester.

The free event will be held in WKU's Dreamplex. The French film festival, hosted by WKU, strives to bring contemporary French cinema to WKU students.

The event has several components that are split between the Film Studies department, the Franco-American Cultural Fund, the Florence Gould Foundation, the Department of Modern Languages and the WKU Film Department. This film festival has been an annual event since 2004 and has grown in the scope of film offerings.

The French culture is highly inter-disciplinary in scope, Dowell said in an email. “This topic seems like something I wouldn’t contaminate in the speaker who’s talking about it.”

The screening of modern films will be offered to show students other cultures.

Tournées Film Festival’s program is created in collaboration with the French Cultural Services and Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée, and the American Cultural Fund.

The South African palate is very different from that of the United States, so the cooks had to make substitutions. For example, they replaced pumpkins with squash. The West African culture is highly inter-disciplinary in scope, Dowell said in an email. “This topic seems like something I wouldn’t contaminate in the speaker who’s talking about it.”

For example, the cultural impact on every student will help to show students other cultures.

Students host South African luncheon

By TOMMY SULLIVAN

LEANDRA KENNA moulded his career from his time at WKU.

Students host South African luncheon

The Far Away Places series has been at WKU since 2000 and consists of six to eight events each school year. “Far Away Places handles a wide range of topics and brings in some very notable speakers,” Dowell said in an email.

Tonight’s talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble located on Campus Bell Lane. Tonight’s talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble located on Campus Bell Lane.

Kentucky’s future

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For example, the cultural impact on every student will help to show students other cultures.
Tell me more about how you’re exactly like every other student on campus.

Power down your body to power up your brain

As college students, sleep is extremely important to us. We work seven to nine hours of sleep each night, but unfortunately, that amount of rest is not always possible. Priorities like work, classes and studying sometimes place sleep on the back burner. The National Sleep Foundation says we cannot make up the sleep we miss. This is why it is more beneficial to retrieve the next day. For us to function at full capacity, we need to be aware of how much sleep we are getting per night.

According to the Center for Disease Control, consistency is key for improving sleep habits. The center recommends people go to bed at the same time every night and wake up at the same time every morning. A regular sleeping schedule makes sleep patterns more predictable.

Students tend to underestimate the importance of consistent and scheduled sleep. Instead, they prioritize school because they think it will be more beneficial to them in the long run. Unfortunately, this misguided decision has negative consequences on students’ health and impacts how they function in daily life.

Checkers

CARTOON

Oh, you’re stressed about the end of the semester?

Have an opinion? Tweet us @WKU Herald or find us on Facebook at WKUHerald сраз! Let us know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

LISTEN TO THIS
Great albums released by Kentuckians

BY ANDREW CRITCHELOW
HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

With the Dec. 18 release of Cage the Elephant’s new album “Tell Me I’m Pretty,” right around the corner, lots of local music will have another reason to be proud of the state’s musical community. However, 2015 has already given Kentucky music enthusiasts plenty to be happy about.


The opening track “Tunnel (Nobody Knows)” evokes a sense of discovery and curiosity with swirling synthesizers and bombastic guitars while James repeatedly encourages the listener simply to believe.

“Over and Even” by Joan Shelley: Singer-songwriter Joan Shelley’s music has a quality to it that feels like taking a break of fresh air right outside of a tobacco barn. Shelley’s songs have a way of calming the mind and cloud-lifting the mind while still evoking old, dusty images. These images are very much prevalent on Shelly’s new record “Over and Even.”

The title track opens and closes with the sounds of videogame themes. Clocks and mechanical beating give a pulse to the track, making listeners feel like they are on a rocking chair on a warm summer night with a gentle breeze in the air.

“In Infinite Indigo” by Phourist and the Photons: The title track opens with a doxying ring that sounds like the advance of computer code in a science fiction movie. The track “Vulcan’s hair,” frantic piano chords wash over the tribal beating of drums, pushing us into a chorus that would not sound out of place at a stadium.

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For us to function at full capacity, we need to be aware of how much sleep impacts our daily life. A sluggish feeling and excessive yawning can indicate that you are not getting enough sleep at night.

According to the Center for Disease Control, consistency is key for improving sleep habits. The center recommends people go to bed at the same time every night and wake up at the same time every morning. A regular sleeping schedule makes sleep patterns more predictable.

Students tend to underestimate the importance of consistent and scheduled sleep. Instead, they prioritize school because they think it will be more beneficial to them in the long run. Unfortunately, this misguided decision has negative consequences on students’ health and impacts how they function in daily life.

Contact us

Ad Manager

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are some guidelines:

Letters should be 250 words or less. Opinions should be no longer than 500 words.

Letters should include a name and address for verification and may be edited for length and clarity.

Letters may not be published due to space constraints.

Letters should not contain libelous submissions.

Letters will be printed at the discretion of the editor.

Letters submitted for publication may be edited for length and clarity.

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Across
1 Ray in the water
6 Lasting consideration
15 Times in ads
16 Calculated
17 On one’s toes
18 Periodic synchronizations
19 Key ingredient in a Bloody Caesar
21 High-fashion shoemaker Jimmy
22 Royal Botanic Gardens locale
23 Chef’s introduction?
25 Do a farm vet’s job
27 Frank’s cousin
29 Cried from a shelter
31 1989 James Cameron film, with “The”
33 Discontinues
38 House adjustment
40 Initiates detailed plans
41 1932 Lake Placid gold medalist
42 Least exciting
44 Rapper __ Moe Dee
45 Malting material
49 Itinerary elements: Abbr.
51 Sometime substitute for 45-Across
52 Spread on the table
53 Native whose land has an Atlantic and Caribbean coastline
55 Nebraska tribe
59 Nebraska tribe
60 Don’t disturb
61 Sign, as for an agreement
62 Challenge for a future doctor
63 Hit from behind
64 Items in a slush pile: Abbr.
66 Bite sites
67 First recurring “SNL” character
68 Eroded
69 Insurance policy datum
70 Spanish pronoun
71 Edward Jones Dome athlete
72 Masonry tool
73 Seventh of 24
74 Once around
75 1986 Jeff Goldblum film, with “The”
76 It’s hard to get rid of one
77 Wyoming neighbor
78 Hubbub
79 Big name in printers
80 Gold trim, as on a car
81 Cold, as a day
82 Heating unit
83 Sudden rush
84 Items in a slush pile: Abbr.
85 Jazz singer Anita
86 Word with caddy or ball
87 Hardly an extrovert
88 Storage areas
89 Prefix with hertz
90 Storage place
91 Word between two ages
92 One-time Bell Atlantic rival
93 Jazz singer Anita
94 Word with caddy or ball
95 Hardly an extrovert
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97 Prefix with hertz
98 Poetic preposition
99 One-time Bell Atlantic rival

Down
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21 Hardly an extrovert
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25 One-time Bell Atlantic rival

SUDOKU

PREVIOUS CROSSWORD SOLUTION
Owning a business and being a full-time caretaker can be hard, but Cathy Morgan shows that she would not have it any other way.

Morgan, 64, from Bowling Green, owns her own cleaning business and is the primary caretaker for her son Junior Morgan who was diagnosed with Down syndrome at 2 months old. Junior is now 33.

“I leave every morning around 7 or 8 a.m. Once I get off work, I take him to CrossFit, dance practice or bible study, and now he is about to start cheerleading. I have to make time to get him from point A to point B every day,” said Morgan.

“I will always believe in Junior anytime he wants to try something new like swimming or ice skating. I always let him try anything he wants.”

BY ASHLEY COOPER

TOP: After a long day, Junior and Cathy Morgan stop at Baskin-Robbins to enjoy ice cream. Morgan is Junior’s primary caretaker and his mother. “When I first had Junior, I thought, ‘What did I do to deserve this?’ but years later I wonder, ‘What did I do so good to deserve him?’ because he has been such a blessing,” she said.

TOP LEFT: Cathy Morgan sweeps one of the houses she cleans. Morgan waited tables for 26 years until one of her customers asked her to clean a house. Afterwards, she had 35 houses to clean and started her own business. Morgan starts off her day early in the morning around 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. After work at 4 p.m., she takes Junior to CrossFit or the Buddy House. “The reason I enjoy cleaning houses is because it’s the only time I’m really by myself,” Morgan said.

TOP RIGHT: Junior Morgan relaxes after trying to hold himself up for a 30-second plank while at CrossFit Old School. “I always think they overwork him at CrossFit, but Junior has never complained. He is very dedicated,” Cathy Morgan said.

BOTTOM LEFT: Cathy Morgan watches Junior as he finishes his workout at CrossFit Old School. Morgan takes her son to several extracurricular activities each week and stays the entire time until he is finished. “When he was 10, I could have used a break, but now if he goes with my daughter, I want him to come back home, because it’s like my arm is missing.”

The Major in Diversity & Community Studies requires a minor — such as African American Studies, Citizenship & Social Justice, or Gender & Women’s Studies, but any minor (or second major) will work!

For more information, please email DCStudies@wku.edu or call 270.745.6477.
**Cancer free: WKU student has fought, won the battle**

**BY BRITTINY MOORE**  
HERALDFEATURES@WKU.EDU

For the first two years of college, Morgan McWhorter worried about how to balance a hectic lifestyle, but after receiving unsettling news this past summer, she had other worries on her mind.

In July of 2015, McWhorter, a junior from Bowling Green, was diagnosed with cancer. She noticed red tendencies occurring with her right arm for more than a year before she was diagnosed.

"I started out as random pains," McWhorter said. "I remember vaguely standing in my home office and the room would all go white to all my way to the floor and I would drop stuff.

McWhorter was a dancer for a long time, so she was accustomed to everyday pains and aches, but eventually the pain reached a point where it was no longer tolerable.

"After a while, it got to the point where anytime you would touch my arm, it felt like knives stabbing into my arm," McWhorter said. "It was just inside the bones or the bone itself was affected and when you would try to move it, it would just go all over the place." McWhorter was first diagnosed with cancer.

"The diagnosis was first made when she was sent to have an ultrasound, and then an MRI, which showed a lesion wrapped around her nerves. "At first I was just in shock. It was like, there's no way that's happening," McWhorter said. "It just turned 21, and this is supposed to be the prime time in my life, and they tell me it's going to be dangerous."

"I was upset and angry," McWhorter said. Her family was devastated, and McWhorter's boyfriend and their doctors at Kentucky Wesleyan University's Medical Center confirmed the diagnosis as cancer.

"It was a lot more than just sitting around and being upset all the time," McWhorter said. "The hardest part of the experience, McWhorter said, was watching everyone else go through the process with her. Seeing her family and friends upset hurt her heart.

"I tried not to be upset for her," her mother June McWhorter said. "It made it a lot more difficult for me to be upset hurt her heart.

"I just turned 21, and this is my first time experiencing something like this. I was probably in shock."

"I tried not to be upset for her," McWhorter said. "I made it a lot more than just sitting around and being upset all the time."

"I just wanted to make a difference and do what I could to help people." McWhorter's boyfriend Trevor Cropper, a sophomore from Bowling Green, has worked with his fraternity Kappa Alpha Order to set up a fund for McWhorter to raise money for surgeries and doctor's visits. The fundraiser also included a dinner and silent auction that took place Nov. 10. "I wanted a fundraiser for her to give her some peace of mind financially," Hawkins said. "Her parents have been great to me for the year and a half we've been together, and I wanted to give back." Hawkins also mentioned that his efforts have raised over $20,000 for McWhorter.

McWhorter also had received great support from WKU and Bowling Green. Because she had to take a semester off school, McWhorter has been taken off the track to graduate early. However, by working with her advisor, she is set to graduate within four years from WKU's paralegal program.

After graduation, McWhorter hopes to attend law school at Belmont University in Nashville.

"We've become so much more than just friends. In everything I have," Hawkins said. "I try to make the best of every day." Hawkins also said that she thought having cancer would make her stronger. Hawkins also said that she thought having cancer would make her stronger.
**SPORTS**

**Volleyball**

**HOME STRETCH**

**Lady Tops look to win this weekend**

**BY MATTHEW STEWART**

The Lady Toppers are heading into the home stretch of the season with their last two regular season matches, a contest today at 6 p.m. against Marshall followed by a clash with the University of Texas, El Paso on Saturday at noon.

"To be able to finish up in Diddle Arena is something our group is excited about," said Head Coach Travis Hudson. WKU (26-3) is snapping up its sixth straight season with more than 25 wins and is in position to claim the Conference USA regular season championship if it can win out this weekend.

"I feel like we have had the target on our back since we won it last year," Hudson said. "Back in October, we beat UTSA and took sole possession of first place in the league. I feel that we have certainly gotten everybody's best, and it's been something our kids have had to stand up to.

"The Lady Toppers will have a day of rest before they hit the court again to battle the Miners of UTEP (9-20) has struggled for much of the season and was swept by the Lady Tops in El Paso on Nov. 1. Hudson believes his team is hitting its stride at the right point of the season with the C-USA and NCAA tournament races looming, teams are attempting to get their best volleyball in the

**SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE A7**

**Men's Basketball**

**Backcourt looks to be strength of Hilltopper unit**

**BY MATTHEW STEWART**

Freshman middle hitter Rachel Anderson (4) spikes the ball during the Missouri State match in Diddle Arena Sept. 11.

**Nick Wagner/WKU Herald**

Rolling into Bowling Green to take on the Hilltoppers and the Lady Toppers tonight is Marshall (15-12). The Thundering Herd lost to WKU earlier in the season and was swept by the Lady Toppers in El Paso on Nov. 1.

"I think that makes them dangerous," Hudson added. "I think they are a team that we can't look past."

The Herd are also coming off a loss in their final home match of the season to Rice, who dished WKU its only loss since Sept. 11.

"I think we have had the target on our back since we won it last year," Hudson said. "I think that makes them dangerous."

**SEE COLUMN PAGE A7**

**Beyond the Arc**

**Similar tests ahead for men’s, women’s squads**

**BY JONAH PHILLIPS**

While some of you may be experiencing the "bye-week blues" in the wake of WKU's impending bye week, the Lady Toppers—that was if more of an exciting time to see how the Hilltopper and Lady Topper basketball teams will look this season.

Both the men's and women's teams are shaping up to have interesting seasons.

Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard and the women's basketball program return just five players from the 2014-2015 season and welcome eight new faces to face up to their Conference USA regular season title and tournament championship-winning season.

That's not to say the Hilltoppers have no personnel quality on their roster. They return Rosemary Brown, Defensive Player of the Year in the Horizon last season.

Without question, the largest test for the Lady Toppers this season will be replacing the social and statistical outputs of Alexis Govan and Charity Gooch. The two players graduated last year after maintaining two of the most illustrious careers ever seen on the Hill.

When Govan and Gooch departed, Clark-Heard lost not only the third of offensive point production from last seasons. However, Nick Jones, senior forward Jaleyn McCrain and returning sophomores Taylor Brown and Ivy Brown look poised to maintain in their roles. This season, the Lady Toppers will expect the newcomers to contribute in a bigger way than what they might have expected last season.

On the mens side, Head Coach Ray Harper is facing a challenge similar to Clark-Heard's: the graduation of key components from last year's won season. The departure of T.J. Price, George Fant and Marlon Hunter will vocally anchor the team, sophomore point guard Kendall Noble.

"The Lady Toppers have no proven quality on their roster which will need to integrate new and old athletes quickly to sustain success," Harper said. "With the loss of T.J. Price and Tender Johnson to graduation, the Hilltoppers will look to newcomers this season to help fill that void."

Despite graduations and a slew of transfers, Head Coach Ray Harper appears to have accomplished that goal with recruiting in the offseason. Harper and company have added a few already-tested pieces to help Chris Harrison-Docks and the rest of the unit move the ball effectively.

Veteran athletes include Illinois graduate transfer Aaron Cosby, WKU All-American Frederick Edmond and two freshmen who were both finalists for Tennessee Mr. Basketball: Chris McNeal and Marlon Hunter.

Harrison-Docks said the entire backcourt group was very talented.

"They give us a lot of options with what we can do instinctively," he said.

"The Lady Toppers have no proven quality on their roster which will need to integrate new and old athletes quickly to sustain success."
Ray Harper is entering his fourth full season as the men’s head basketball coach. Coming off three consecutive 20-win seasons, Harper is looking to improve on that trend.

Saturday night in Diddle Arena, the Hilltoppers will play the first game of the regular season against Campbellsville University.

The new-look Hilltoppers are ready to get things underway but have heeded the warning of their head coach, who has preached patience while molding a team full of so many new faces.

“This is a team with a lot of new guys. It’s a work in progress,” Harper said. “But you are going to get better if you got guys like we have that are willing to be coached and continue to work.”

WKU leads the series 4-0 against the Tigers. The two teams last met in 2008, when the Tops walked away with a 62-48 victory.

Harper and the squad also bring an unblemished preseason record as they won both of their preseason exhibition matches with wins over Lindsey Wilson and Kentucky Wesleyan.

The Tigers are the No. 18 team in NAIA basketball. With an already solid 4-0 record, including wins against the NAIA preseason No.1 team and No.6 team, Campbellsville will test the Hilltoppers.

With a new addition at the forward spot, the Tigers are ready for a shot at a Division I team and a chance to play well on a national stage.

Their senior forward, 6-foot-5 Roderick Lawrence, is a transfer from the SEC’s Ole Miss.

Senior guard Sekou Harris, averaging 20.8 points per game, has had a strong start to the 2015-2016 season. Campbellsville is a guard-heavy team similar to WKU.

“I still think Ben [Lawson] can be more of a force at the rim-blocking shots,” Harper said. “He turns his body sideways instead of getting numbers in front, making the guy score over him.”

Harper is hoping Lawson’s progression as both an athlete and a leader, paired with his style of play on defense, will allow Laweson to hold a particular role in the squad this season.

“You have to have a rim protector at this level,” Harper said. “And that’s who he’s got to be.”

Harper is 1-2 in his career on the Hill in season openers but is 3-0 in openers at home.

Catch the Hilltoppers in action this weekend in Diddle Arena on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. in their season opener.

Hilltoppers start with Campbellsville this Saturday
**Crucial nonconference contests facing the Hilltoppers**

As the WKU basketball team starts a new season, players are still meshing together and figuring out their roles in the squad. Through transfer junior guard Fredrick Edmond seems to have done all he can up to this point to establish himself on the Hill.

Edmond’s contributions proved to be immense through Hilltopper Hysteria day and the press conference.

At Hysteria, he led both teams scoring in 14 points and won the slam dunk competition. Though, transfer junior guard Fredrick Edmond (25) lays up the ball past Kentucky Wesleyan’s Marcus Fuggins (25) during Friday’s game at Diddle Arena. The Hilltoppers won 75-68.

While fans would be disappointed with a loss, WKU needs to prove they are on the same level now.

While a later game at Xavier provides crucial experience for the Hilltoppers, this matchup looking for a victory; Belmont returns four of its starters from last year. They include leading scorer Craig Bradshaw, who averaged 18.3 points a game.

To make matters even tougher for the Hilltoppers, this season could be a bigger challenge for the Cardinals on the road, this season.

While the Hilltoppers face Belmont after losing in the OVC Championship to EKU, they will need to leave a good impression on their fans.

**Belmont**

While there might be some early growing pains for the WKU basketball team, faithful Hilltoppers will certainly see results from the 6-foot-4, 205-pound guard.

**Eastern Kentucky**

Another member of the Ohio Valley Conference will provide WKU all it can handle at Diddle Arena on Dec. 1.

While a later game at Xavier could be a bigger challenge for the Hilltoppers, this matchup looking for a victory, they might just earn one.

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If the Hilltoppers, still meshing together who depend heavily on this season and only missed a NCAA Tournament berth by one point after they lost in the OVC, they can prove they belong in Division I competition.

**Northern Kentucky**

While fans would be disappointed with a loss, WKU needs to prove right away that they have a lot of big men and good guards. This is one of the better teams I have seen.

Though, transfer junior guard Fredrick Edmond (25) lays up the ball past Kentucky Wesleyan’s Marcus Fuggins (25) during Friday’s game at Diddle Arena. The Hilltoppers won 75-68.

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If the Hilltoppers, still meshing together who depend heavily on this season and only missed a NCAA Tournament berth by one point after they lost in the OVC, they can prove they belong in Division I competition.
Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard’s Lady Topper basketball team opens its season a week from today against Ball State.

To date, WKU has had one exhibition game—a 108-43 rout of Ouachita Baptist University in Diddle Arena.

There are many unknowns as the team begins the season with numerous new faces entering the program and little in-game action to reference.

But Clark-Heard said this team can be successful even if it might take some time.

“I was really proud of our effort,” said Clark-Heard after the win over OBU.

A big contributor to the overall team effort against OBU last week was sophomore guard Kayla Smith.

The Lady Toppers will look to her to help fill the gap left by recent graduate Chasity Gooch.

“Kayla has had a lot of confidence every time she got the ball,” freshman guard Kendall Noble said after the win. “Every time she got it, she made you feel like she was going to make it, and that’s what she did.”

Although he exhibition game demonstrated many positives, the Lady “she has the opportunity to do a lot of different things.

Having Brown serve as a focal point of the offense will make the Lady Toppers a difficult matchup, but the team will also rely on her to space the floor so they can go at their own team even more of a threat to opponents this season.

The team captains—sophomore guard Kendall Noble, senior guard Miriah Jones and junior forward Jadyn McClain—provide veteran leadership for a team largely comprised of underclassmen.

Noble and Jones form a solid backcourt for Clark-Heard and return with starting experience.

Sophomore dual-threat guard and forward Tashia Brown proved last season that she can orchestrate the offense when Noble or Jones can’t get a shot off.

Tashia Brown has the potential for a breakout season and provides depth in the backcourt many teams in Conference USA do not have.

While returning players will be important to the Lady Toppers, the coaching staff and veteran players also expect an improve from the program’s seven new arrivals.

“I didn’t see jitters as much as I thought I would,” Ivy Brown said. “Three of them had double digits, so that’s a pretty good feeling. I think they came out using especially on the defensive end.”

Kayla Smith will be a rotation player this season and is very important in transition offense. She had 17 points against OBU, 10 of which came off fast break layups.

“I enjoyed it a lot. Playing for the WKU Lady Topper’s first time was a great experience,” Smith said. “It’s just all about getting better and working as a team.”

The other two new additions who had double digits were junior transfer guard Ima Akpan and freshman forward Soyfern Brown.

Akpan has shown hustle in her play so far. She ended her first game as a Lady Topper with 13 points and 9 rebounds.

Tashia Brown is similar to Akpan in the way she hustles and holds her own in the paint.

“(Taylor Brown) works hard in the post,” Ivy Brown said. “She’s an offensive rebounding machine. She goes hard, and she can jump out of the gym. It’s crazy.”

The Lady Topper’s regular season kicks off next Thursday in Muncie, Ind., at 6:00 p.m.
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