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## The Parthenon, February 14, 2014

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"I did what any guy does to find a band and searched through Craigslist."

# THE PARTHENON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 | VOL. 117 NO. 80 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

## WEEKEND EDITION



- > Herd **baseball** opens against Georgetown University Saturday.
- > **Seniors** Josh King and Ryan Hopkins hit the road for a final season with the Herd.

MORE BASEBALL >>> PAGE 2



- > After bringing home the 2013 C-USA Championship, Herd softball welcomes **local players** for the 2014 season.

MORE SOFTBALL >>> PAGE 4



Need a pick me up this Valentine's Day? You're in luck!  
Members of Marshall University's staff will be giving free hugs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Friday at the Memorial Student Center Plaza.

Friday  
HIGH 40° LOW 19°

Saturday  
HIGH 33° LOW 23°

Sunday  
HIGH 39° LOW 30°

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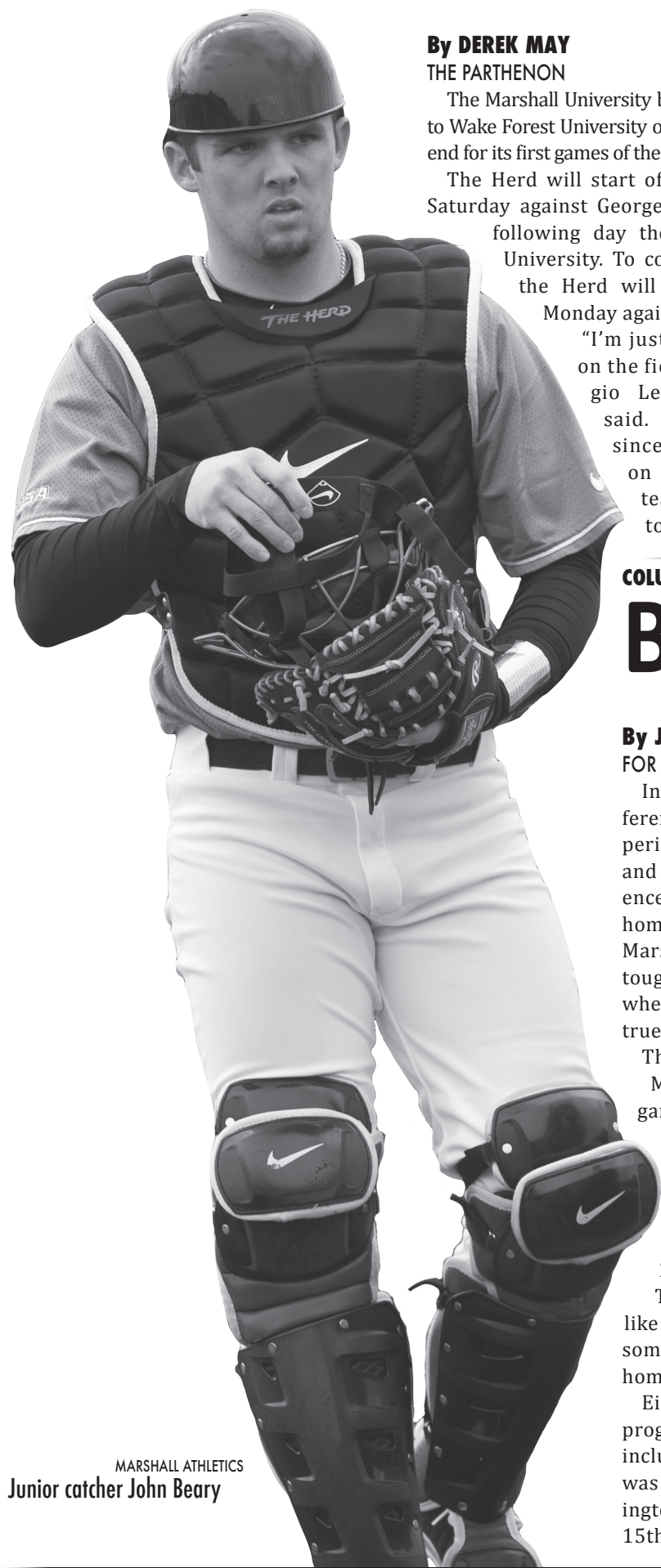
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# WEEKEND EDITION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## Herd baseball to open season at Wake Forest



MARSHALL ATHLETICS  
Junior catcher John Beary

By **DEREK MAY**  
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team will travel to Wake Forest University on Valentine's Day weekend for its first games of the 2014 season.

The Herd will start off the season at noon Saturday against Georgetown University. The following day they will play Towson University. To conclude the weekend, the Herd will play two games on Monday against host Wake Forest. "I'm just anxious to get back on the field and playing," Sergio Leon junior infielder said. "It's been awhile since we have all been on a baseball field as a team, so I'm just ready to play."

Due to all the bad weather, it has been tough for the baseball team to have outside practices on a consistent basis. Dating back to the fall workout and practice period, the baseball team has only been able to practice outside a handful of times.

"Practices will sometimes have to be split up because of how cold it is outside," Ryan Hopkins senior pitcher said. "The pitchers will go throw in Gullickson gym, while the position players will go out on the football field to take ground balls and fly balls."

Even with the difficulties of practices, Leon and Hopkins said this year's team could be very special.

"When we practice, everyone is there for one purpose, and that's to play baseball," Leon said. "The team this year practices more as a complete unit and everyone is focused."

Hopkins said he sees a lot of growth in the pitching staff as well.

"With the pitching staff and rotation this year, we have a lot of guys who are able to come in and be productive," Hopkins said. "It seemed like over the last year or two we only had three or four main guys, but this year with our rotation and relievers, we are solid from top to bottom."

The following weekend, the Herd will travel to North Carolina A&T for a three game series.

This season's home games will be split between the YMCA Kennedy Center on Route 2 and Appalachian Power Park in Charleston.

Marshall's first home game is March 11 against Morehead State University in Huntington.

Derek May can be contacted at [may125@marshall.edu](mailto:may125@marshall.edu).

COLUMN

## Baseball makes most of home

By **JAMES COLLIER**  
FOR THE PARTHENON

In one of the toughest conferences in NCAA baseball, perennial powerhouses Rice and newly incumbent conference member FAU call C-USA home. That is also where Marshall calls home, but it's tough to call anyplace home when one does not have a true home of its own.

This is Marshall baseball. Marshall played home games in four different stadiums last season, practiced inside Joan C. Edwards Stadium or inside a gymnasium and spent much of its 2013 season on the road. There is truly no place like home. That is if one has some place of its own to call home.

Eight seniors left the program after last season including Isaac Ballou who was selected by the Washington Nationals in the 15th round of the draft.

Most notably, junior pitcher Aaron Blair opted out after being selected as the 36th overall pick by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Imagine the potential of the team if it had some place to call home.

Let's not forget Marshall's series win over No. 19 Houston at Appalachian Power Park in Charleston where the Herd bounced back from a nine run deficit to take game one 19-13 over the Cougars.

Not too shabby for a team that lives out of a hotel for home games.

As the 2014 season moves ever so close, Marshall takes to the road for the first month of the season. However, the Herd has something new this season that is has not had in many years, a home field—sort of.

Marshall will utilize the field at the Kennedy Center for non-conference games as well as practices while

conference series will still reside in Charleston. While it may not completely be a home field, it is a start. Marshall will play eight games at that Kennedy Center this season—eight games the team can truly call home games.

After being selected to finish at the bottom of the 13 team conference this season and no one named to the All-Conference preseason team, one may think that the 2014 Herd may play this season with a chip on its shoulder. But the Herd is used to not

being respected by its peers. It's not something that bothers the players or coaches. They just go out and play ball.

Marshall returns nine upperclassmen for this season and for the first time in their careers they have something that every other team in the conference already has, a home field.

How sweet it will be to finally be able to say, there is no place like home, kind of.

James Collier can be contacted at [collier41@marshall.edu](mailto:collier41@marshall.edu).

## Pitching up a senior season

By **SARAH CONNERS**  
THE PARTHENON

Two Marshall University baseball seniors hit the road for their last season opener as a part of the Thundering Herd baseball team.

Josh King and Ryan Hopkins, two pitchers for the Herd, will travel to Winston-Salem, N.C to challenge Georgetown Saturday and are scheduled to play Towson on Sunday and a double header against Wake Forrest on Monday for the beginning of their senior season.

King will be the starting pitcher Saturday. King is a right-handed pitcher from Troup, Ga. King made 22 appearances and six saves during his junior season in 2013. King said his list of goals for his senior season would start this weekend.

"The first goal is just winning games," King said. "Especially this first weekend that's the first goal."

King has high hopes for his plans after his last season here but remains focused on finishing strong before leaving Marshall.

"I definitely would love to get drafted," King said, "but right now its just focusing on everything else happening here."

While King hopes to get drafted, he is also sad to be leaving Marshall.

"I'm going to miss everything," King said. "Everyone involved in the team the coaches and the trainers, just everybody."

Ryan Hopkins, from Sardinia Ohio, led the team in in relief staff wins in 2013

and tied King in 22 appearances in the 2013 season. Hopkins transferred to Marshall from Tennessee Tech where he played for one year and was a member of the Ohio Valley Conference championship team. Hopkins made his baseball debut with the Herd in 2012.

Hopkins is excited about the moral of the team for this season.

"We've had some problems with that in the past," Hopkins said. "But this is the best group attitude wise that's been here."

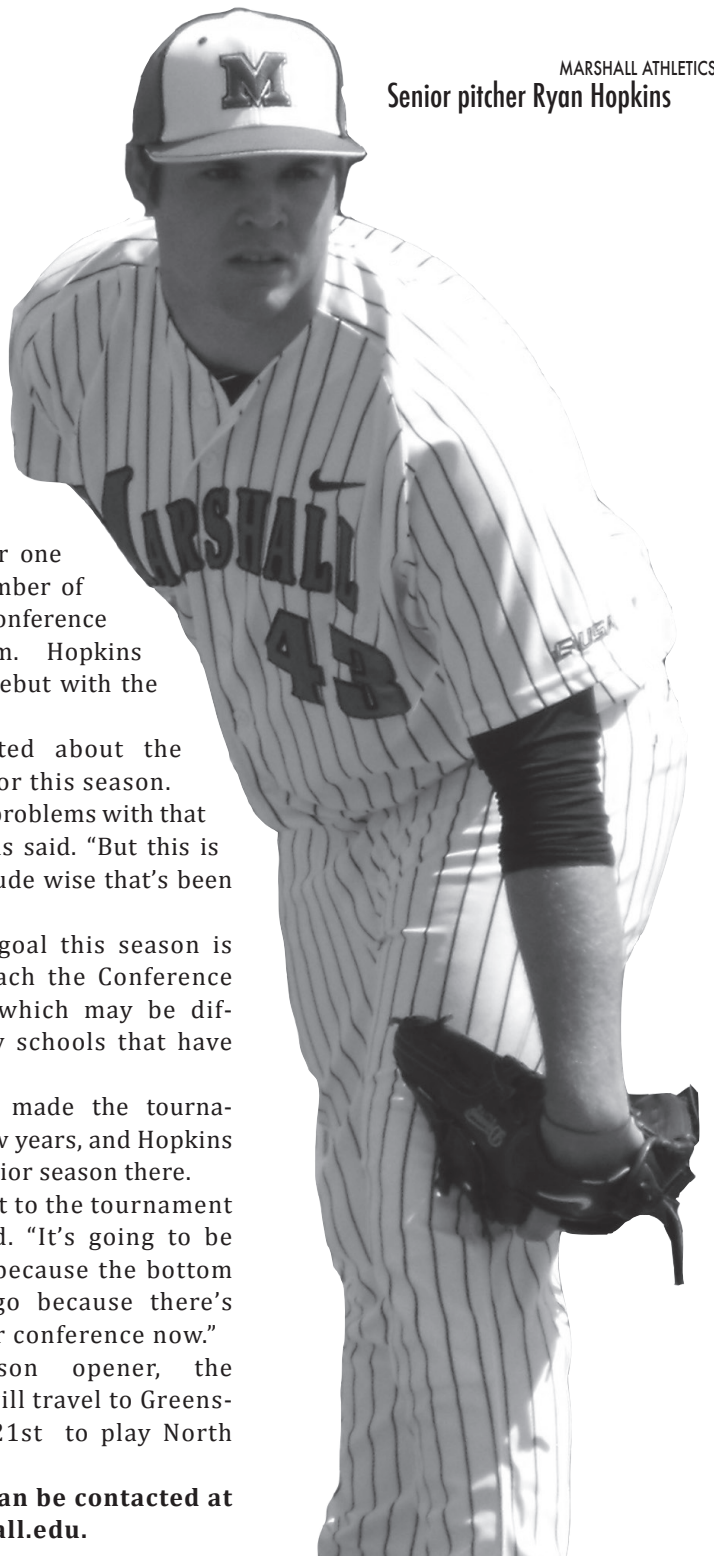
Hopkins largest goal this season is for the team to reach the Conference USA Tournament, which may be difficult with the new schools that have joined C-USA

The Herd hasn't made the tournament for the past few years, and Hopkins hopes to end his senior season there.

"We got to make it to the tournament first," Hopkins said. "It's going to be harder cause now because the bottom five teams don't go because there's more schools in our conference now."

After the season opener, the Thundering Herd will travel to Greensborough N.C Feb. 21st to play North Carolina A&T.

Sarah Connors can be contacted at [conners3@marshall.edu](mailto:conners3@marshall.edu).



MARSHALL ATHLETICS  
Senior pitcher Ryan Hopkins



MARSHALL ATHLETICS  
Junior outfielder Eric Escobedo

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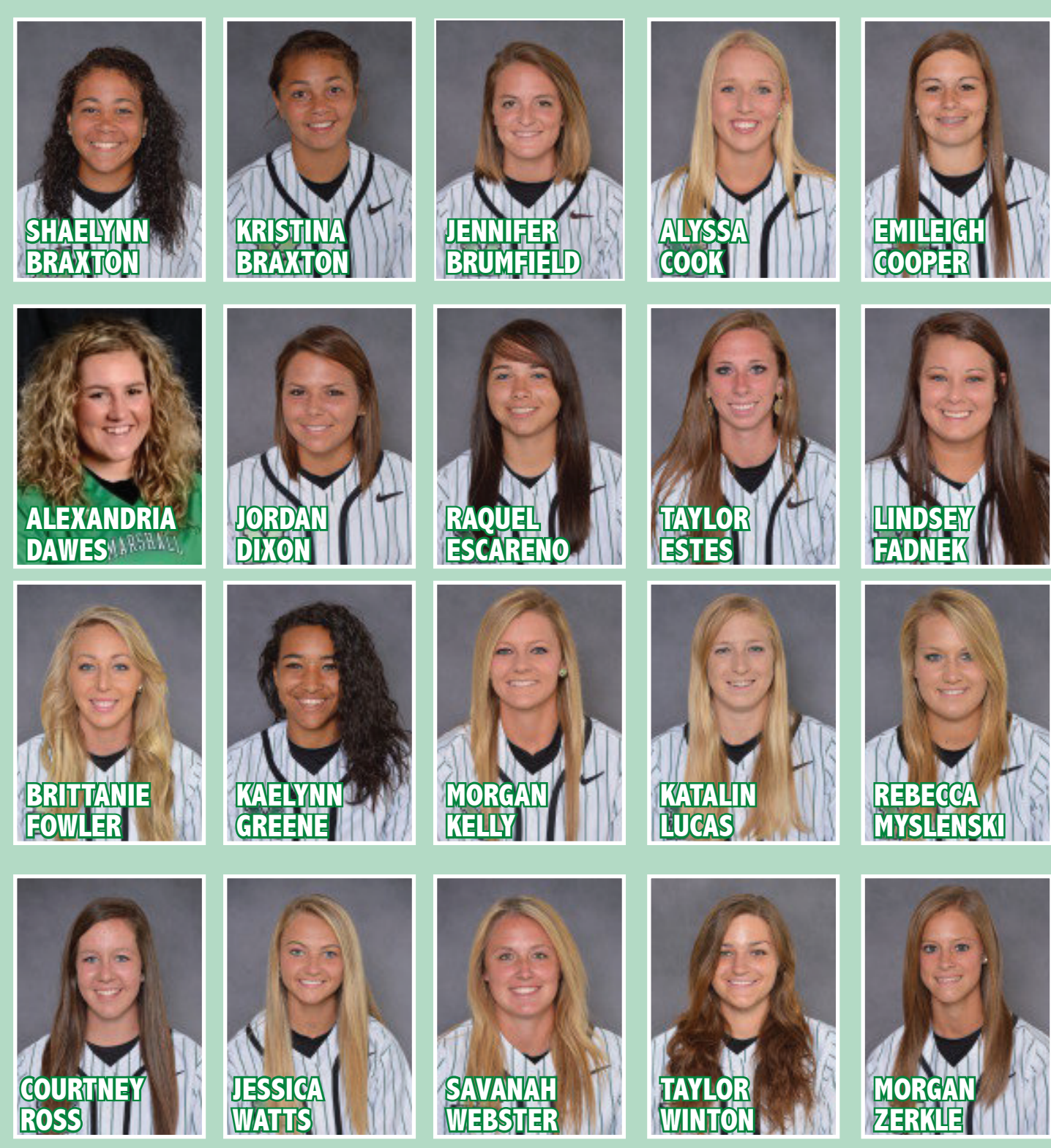


# WEEKEND SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## 2014 TEAM SCHEDULES AND ROSTERS

2.15 vs. Georgetown	3.08 @ East Carolina	3.25 @ Ohio State	4.11 @ UTSA	4.29 Eastern Kentucky
2.16 vs. Towson	3.09 @ East Carolina	3.28 Tulane	4.12 @ UTSA	5.02 Louisiana Tech
2.17 @ Wake Forest (DH)	3.11 Morehead State	3.29 Tulane	4.13 @ UTSA	5.03 Louisiana Tech
2.21 @ North Carolina A&T	3.12 @ Ohio	3.30 Tulane	4.15 @ Akron	5.04 Louisiana Tech
2.22 @ North Carolina A&T	3.14 Southern Miss	4.01 Akron	4.17 West Va Tech	5.09 Old Dominion
2.23 @ North Carolina A&T	3.15 Southern Miss	4.02 @ Eastern Kentucky	4.18 West Va Tech	5.10 Old Dominion
2.28 vs. James Madison	3.16 Southern Miss	4.04 Florida Atlantic	4.19 West Va Tech	5.11 Old Dominion
3.01 vs. Duke	3.18 West Virginia	4.05 Florida Atlantic	4.23 @ West Virginia	5.15 @ MTSU
@ Coastal Carolina	3.21 @ FIU	4.06 Florida Atlantic	4.25 @ UAB	5.16 @ MTSU
vs. Rhode Island	3.22 @ FIU	4.08 Eastern Kentucky	4.26 @ UAB	5.17 @ MTSU
3.07 @ East Carolina	3.23 @ FIU	4.09 Ohio	4.27 @ UAB	5.21 C-USA Tournament



2.14 vs. Western Illinois	3.19 @ UNC-Wilmington
2.15 Auburn	@ UNC-Wilmington
2.16 vs. Winthrop	@ East Carolina (DH)
vs. Nebraska-Omaha	@ East Carolina
2.21 Loyola Chicago	Miami (Ohio)
2.22 Georgia	@ Mississippi State (DH)
2.23 Albany	@ Mississippi State
vs. Delaware	Radford (DH)
2.28 Fairfield	@ MTSU (DH)
Mercer	@ MTSU
vs. Maryland	@ No. Kentucky (DH)
Eastern Shore	North Texas (DH)
Costal Carolina	North Texas
3.01 vs. Samford	@ Wright State (DH)
Costal Carolina	FIU (DH)
Saint Peter's	FIU
3.05 @ Florida Atlantic (DH)	Ohio (DH)
3.06 @ Florida Atlantic	@ Charlotte (DH)
3.07 vs. South Alabama	@ Charlottee
3.11 Kentucky	La. Tech (DH)
3.15 Tulsa (DH)	L. Tech
3.16 Tulsa	5.08 C-USA Tournament

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## WEEKEND EDITION

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## US Army bringing mobile STEM Center to campus

By VINCENT ESPINOZA  
THE PARTHENON

The US Army will sponsor an event Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Student Center with STEM Center vehicle.

The event was arranged by the Marshall University ROTC and is free to the public.

The STEM Center vehicle, which stands for science, technology, engineering and math is a large RV type vehicle and will be broken into three separate rooms. Each room will be the next step in the simulation.

The first room is the briefing area where participants will be informed of the fictional situation.

In the second room, the participant will be joined by a team of soldiers and scientists that are there to analyze the situation. The students will use their skills in science, technology, math and engineering to develop a solution.

The third room will have an interactive screen which participants will use to build a solution of their own.

The disaster scenario will have a humanitarian focus and will deal with a situation in which thousands of lives are at stake. The user will have to incorporate Army technology and teamwork to succeed in the simulation.

The STEM Center vehicle is just one way the U.S. Army attracts its next generation of scientists and engineers.

Vincent Espinoza can be contacted at [espinoza3@marshall.edu](mailto:espinoza3@marshall.edu).

## Column

## Young team has softball playing waiting game

By JAMES COLLIER  
FOR THE PARTHENON

Patience is a virtue some may say. How true that is for the six seniors that vacate a 2013 team that took the C-USA championship with a 3-1 over Houston and sent the team straight to the NCAA Regional Tournament in Lexington, KY.

Marshall finished 36-22 overall last season after its historic season ended in a 13-inning loss to Virginia Tech. But let's not forget the 2011 season where the team finished 19-33-1 with its season ended with a 10-0 loss to Tulsa in the conference tournament.

Patience is a virtue.

See TEAM | Page 5

## BOMBARDIER BRINGS MARSHALL GRADUATE BACK TO HUNTINGTON

By MARK WILLIAMS  
THE PARTHENON

Josh Iddings, a 2007 Marshall graduate and assistant professor of English at Virginia Military Institute, returns to Huntington as a member of the Lexington, Va., post-rock band Bombardier for a show 10 p.m. Friday at the V Club.

Though not even a year old, the band already boasts of their strong five song extended play and is playing out-of-town shows on a regular basis.

The quartet, consisting of Andrew Schools, David Beale, Kenny Vaughn and Iddings, garners comparisons to genre heavyweights Mogwai and Tortoise, building intense

instrumental compositions both intricate and inviting. Iddings credits the band's relaxed approach as the main reason for its early success.

"Music is something we all do for fun, we all have day jobs," Iddings said. "When you're in your 20s and you think you're going to be a rock star, you put unnecessary pressure on yourself to be something bigger than you are. You can easily forget the part about making good music and letting things happen."

After almost eight years of musical inactivity while working on his Ph.D. at Purdue University, Iddings was determined to find a creative outlet

upon his move to Virginia. However, finding like-minded musicians in a small Appalachian town proved easier said than done.

"Lexington is a very small town," he said. "There wasn't a music scene in the typical sense of the word, so I did what any guy does to find a band and searched through Craigslist."

In a rare Craigslist success story, Iddings happened upon a few Bombardier videos.

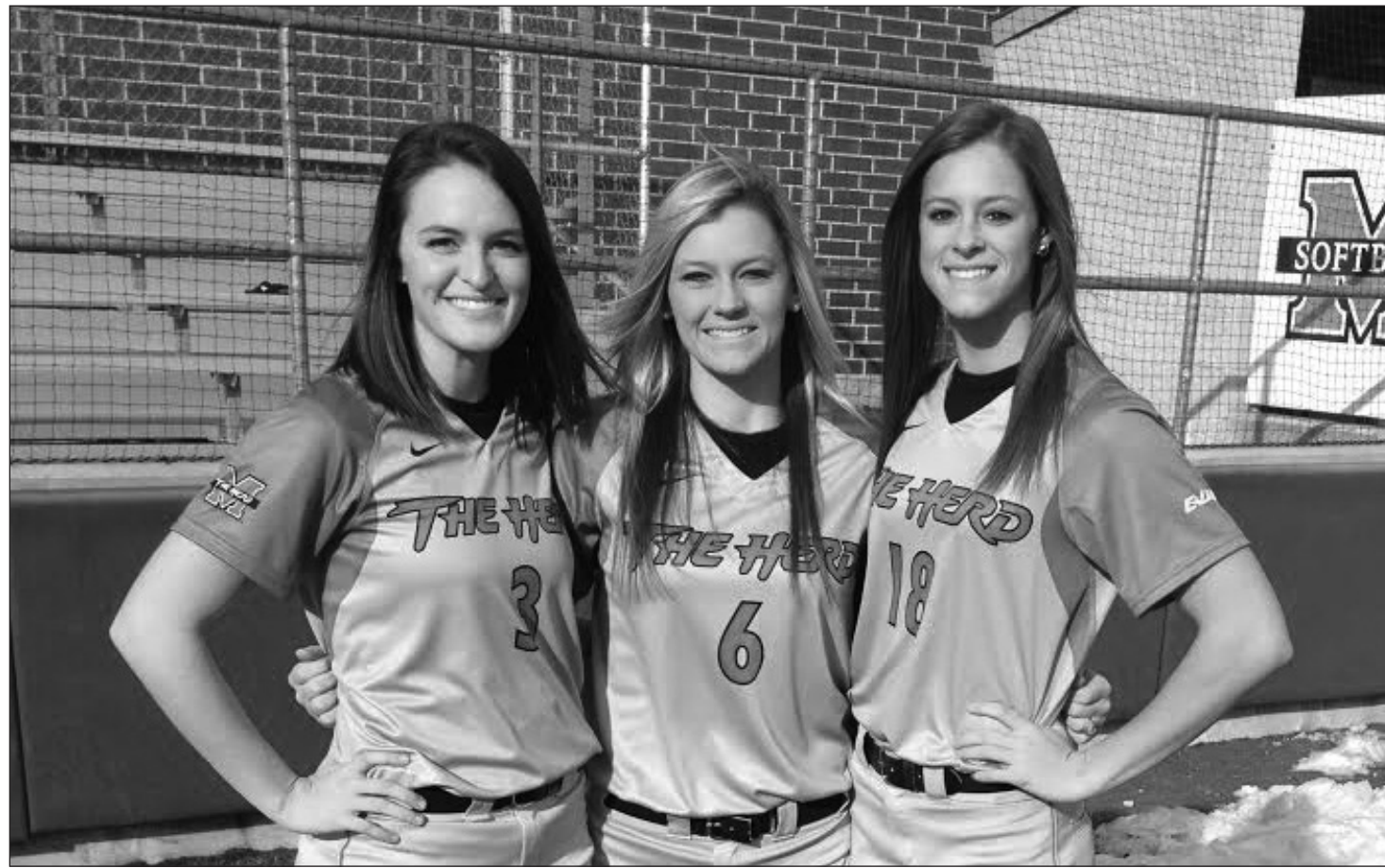
"At the time Bombardier was just Andy and David," Iddings said. "But I really dug their sound. I wasn't sure if they'd want to play music with an old dude, but I found out they were older as well."

After a few weeks of practice and a few initial shows, Bombardier began to gel into a cohesive unit.

"I was excited about the professional attitude and song writing we had," Iddings said. "Strangely enough, we all come from very similar musical backgrounds. Honestly, we're all just a bunch of pop-punk, hardcore, and emo kids, which is strange because we aren't playing those styles at all."

Iddings said he is "stoked" to play in Huntington again where he made some of his fondest memories.

Mark Williams can be contacted at [williams788@marshall.edu](mailto:williams788@marshall.edu).



Marshall freshmen Jenny Brumfield, left, Morgan Kelley, and Morgan Zerkle group up for a photo at Dot Hicks Field in Huntington.

## Herd softball freshmen anything but strangers

By BRAXTON CRISP  
THE PARTHENON

In high school sports, players commonly know each other prior to becoming teammates. That occasionally happens in college, usually in situations where two athletes went to the same high school or happen to be from the same town.

Marshall Thundering Herd Softball players Jessica Watts, Morgan Kelley, Morgan Zirkle and Jenny Brumfield have broken that trend. Kelley, Zirkle and Brumfield are all graduates of Cabell Midland High School in Ona, W.Va., while Watts won two state championships while at Wayne High School, just south of Huntington.

What makes these four freshmen unique is that they all played travel softball together throughout their high school years for the Mountain Thunder, which is comprised of players from across the region.

Marshall head coach Shonda Stanton said the four players

being comfortable with each other has helped in the acclimation process of starting college.

"It always helps to have familiarity," Stanton said. "You're a little more comfortable and confident in your new environment because obviously everybody excels at the high school level then you come to the next level and it's all new and different so I think it's nice to be comfortable with each other and have that closeness so you can count on other people and rely on them."

Zirkle said the group always wished they could go to college together, but never thought it would actually happen.

On the field at Cabell Midland, Zirkle and Kelley were both 2013 Class AAA First Team All-State selections, while Brumfield was a Second Team All-State award winner in the outfield. Watts made the Class AA First Team All-State list as an infielder in her final season with Wayne.

Kelley said that knowing three of her future teammates helped the process of joining a new team and meeting other players.

"It's already a great experience by itself in meeting all the new girls but it's so cool that we get to experience it together as best friends," Kelley said.

Zerkle, Kelley and Watts all signed National Letters of Intent to play at Marshall, but Brumfield waited until the middle of the summer in 2013 to decide to walk-on with her three other Mountain Thunder teammates. Brumfield said having the other three already committed to Marshall made going to college much easier.

"It's really cool because it helped me a lot when we first started because we all had someone that we knew and just had a friendship and a bond with them," Brumfield said.

Brumfield, Kelley, Zerkle and Watts are not the only local players to play for the Herd in

recent years. Ashley Gue, Andi Williamson and Alyssia Hively were seniors on last season's Conference USA championship team, and were all from West Virginia. Besides the four incoming freshman from the Huntington-metro area, sophomore Alyssa Cook is from West Hamlin, W.Va. Stanton said having so many players to recruit in the local area is a blessing.

"We want to recruit kids that are going to help us in our program regardless of where they're from," Stanton said. "If they're from our backyard then that helps because it brings fan support. But we have a variety of kids from all over the country."

The Herd begins its season Friday at Auburn, Ala. with a doubleheader against Western Illinois and host team Auburn.

Braxton Crisp can be contacted at [crisp23@marshall.edu](mailto:crisp23@marshall.edu).

## TRiO Day to aid students from low-income families

By JESSICA ROSS  
THE PARTHENON

TRiO will sponsor TRiO Day at 1:30 p.m. Monday, at the Campus Christian Center to raise awareness on programs they offer.

The event is open to all faculty and students at Marshall University as well as high school students grades 9-12 and their families. The programs offer students from low-income families the opportunity to be the first in their family to attend and graduate college.

The keynote speaker at the event will be President Stephen J. Kopp.

Dustin Stover, a Marshall alumnus, will also be speaking. He works as an assistant equipment manager for the Philadelphia Eagles and was in two of the TRiO programs at Marshall.

Attending high school students will take part in a tour of the Marshall campus. The STEM Center vehicle will also have hands-on activities at the student center for everyone to enjoy.

Scott Robertson, counselor of the Heart of Appalachia Talent Search program at Marshall, organized TRiO Day and was in two of the TRiO programs when he attended school.

"It is awesome to be a counselor of the program and to be able to give back to the program," Robertson said.

Some of the services TRiO offers include tutoring, personal and financial counseling, assistance in applying for financial aid, career counseling, assistance in choosing a college and special instruction in reading, writing, study skills and mathematics.

Maureen Hoyler, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education, is part of the education association that represents TRiO students, college graduates and professionals nationwide.

"These programs work because they are student-centered, performance-based and non-bureaucratic," Hoyler said in a press release.

TRiO provides valuable supportive services to help students successfully enter and graduate college. It assist approximately 850,000 students nationwide.

Seven federally funded programs makeup TRiO, including Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math and Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

Jessica Ross can be contacted at [jessica.ross@marshall.edu](mailto:jessica.ross@marshall.edu)



# WEEKEND EDITION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## Herd baseball and softball alumni make Marshall proud by going pro



Former Herd pitcher Andi Williamson pitches for the Herd last season.

FILE PHOTO

By **GABI WARWICK**  
THE PARTHENON

College sports teams are proud when they have players that have played professionally. Marshall University's baseball and softball teams are no different.

The softball team had six players that have gone on to play professional, including Missy Frost, Noelle Adams, Jessica Williams, Rachel Folden, Amanda Williams and Andi Williamson. They have all played for the National Pro Fastpitch after playing for Marshall.

Softball head coach, Shonda Stanton, said that having players that have gone professional from Marshall makes an impact on the team.

"It gives the girls the opportunity to know that if they perform well at this level they will be recognized," Stanton said. "If they have those aspirations to play at the next level we'll be able to get them there."

Three of the more prolific players from Marshall are Folden, Williams and Williamson.

Folden played for Marshall from 2005-2007 and then for NPF from 2008-2011 as a pitched a designated hitter.

Williams played for the NPF for four years in the outfield, before returning to Marshall as an assistant coach for the team.

Williamson went professional just months after leading the Herd to its C-USA victory. She was also named to the All-NPF team as Rookie of the Year.

Baseball also has had players go professional, with a total of 54 players moving on to play for at least one minor league team, while 13 have gone on to play for the major leagues. These numbers include players that have been at Marshall beginning in 1904.

Assistant coach and head recruiting coordinator Tim Donnelly said that having players in the professional leagues makes the team proud.

"It's a great feeling that we want for every kid we recruit," Donnelly said. "We want to develop guys and give them a chance in pro ball."

One of the most recognizable names from baseball is Richard A. Reed, who played for Marshall in 1985.

After playing for 10 minor league teams, he played for six different major league teams. He spent a total of 15 years in the major leagues and played 273 games.

In the past five years, 12 players have advanced from Marshall.

One of these players is Daniel Straily. After playing in 2008 and 2009 for the Herd, he played for five minor league teams before being signed by the Oakland A's.

Aaron Blair is the most recent player to be taken to the professional leagues. He was picked 36th overall, the highest pick ever to come from the Herd, after his junior season by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Herd has been successful so far with its players moving on to professional leagues, and hopes this success will transfer into future years.

**Gabi Warwick can be contacted at warwick@marshall.edu.**



Josh King pitches for the Herd last season.

FILE PHOTO

### TEAM Continued from Page 4

How fitting to look back at the 2011 season that players who were on the team that year said was one of the worst years they had. Those same players also credit lessons learned during that season to the success they had as they closed out their careers at Marshall as champions.

With 16 of the 20 players on this season's team underclassmen, the learning curve could prove to be difficult to overcome. But there is always a chance that the team picks up right where it left off last season, especially since several members of the softball class were major contributors to last season's championship run.

With only two seniors Taylor Winton and Savannah Webster and two juniors Kristina Braxton and Emileigh Cooper to lead the team this season, the sophomore class must step up and display the leadership values they learned from last season.

Two of those sophomores this team will look to for a lift will be Kaelynn Greene and Shaelynn Braxton who were named to the 2014 C-USA All-Conference preseason team.

While this is certainly a new look team from last year, they earned one thing from the coaches of the conference, respect.

Marshall was selected as preseason No. 3 in C-USA behind Tulsa and UAB, a feat that seems rather amazing with all the losses to the team. At the same time, with every ending comes a new beginning and that beginning starts this weekend with five games at the Auburn tournament.

Marshall head coach Shonda Stanton said the lineup this season could be hitting by committee and the team could use three or more pitchers in one game. What a difference a year can make where everyone involved knew it would be Williamson in the circle for the Herd no matter how many innings it would take for a win.

Marshall has 20 games scheduled this season before its first home which will test the physical and mental state off the youthful players that fill this season's roster. Much like anything one does in life, one must learn to crawl before it can walk and this can prove to be a challenge for some to accept.

My prediction for this season, a new beginning awaits for a program on the rise. However, like everything in this world that one wants but must wait for, the must stay patient. This team will soon stand up and walk on its own.

**James Collier can be contacted at collier41@marshall.edu.**

## THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

### THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling letters

that are posted on The Parthenon website, [www.marshallparthenon.com](http://www.marshallparthenon.com), can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

**The opinions expressed in the columns and letters do not necessarily represent the views of The Parthenon staff.**

Please send news releases to the editors at [parthenon@marshall.edu](mailto:parthenon@marshall.edu). Please keep in mind, letters are printed based on timeliness, newsworthiness and space.

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