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TUESDAY

Nov. 17, 1998

the

Herd Hoops

Special edition of The Parthenon

INSIDE
Herd Hoops

ARENA OPENING/6



Page edited by Rebecca Cantley



illustration by Randall Lilly

Volume 100 Number 41

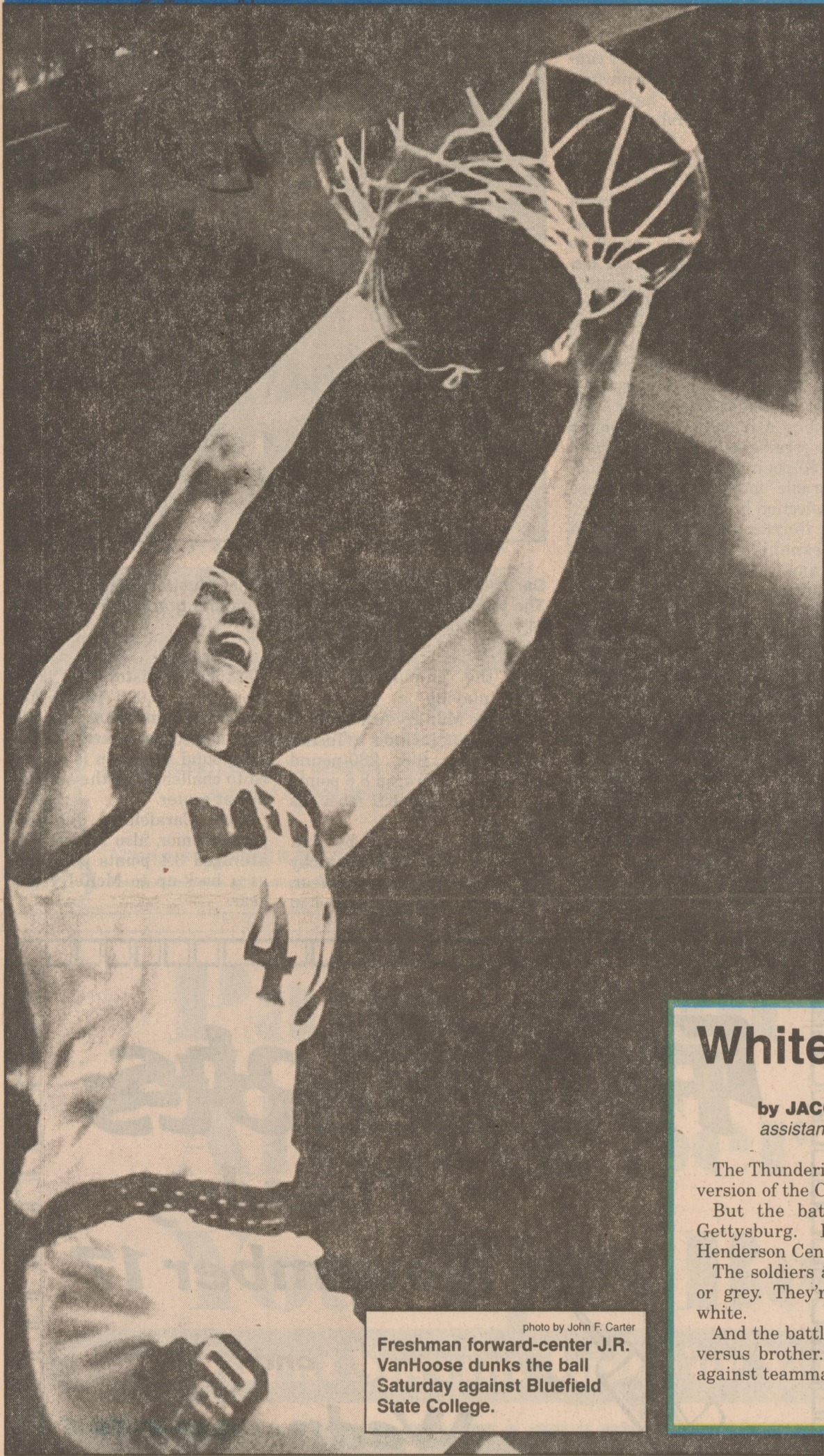


photo by John F. Carter
Freshman forward-center J.R. VanHoose dunks the ball Saturday against Bluefield State College.

Big Blues can't keep Herd down

by DAN NEWMAN
reporter

After defeating Bluefield State College 118-60 last year, could the Thundering Herd men's basketball team repeat the stellar performance this past Saturday?

At one point, Marshall was actually down 14-6 before waking up and cruising to a 105-64 victory over the Big Blues, paced by VonDale Morton's 21 points and 10 rebounds off the bench, both career highs.

"Our starting five came out and they weren't ready to go," MU coach Greg White said. "We didn't shoot the ball well in the early going."

Down by eight with just five minutes gone by, sophomore guard Joda Burgess entered the game and promptly hit a three-pointer to stop an 8-0 run by Bluefield and keep the close at 14-9.

After this spurt, the Herd put together a spurt of their own, scoring 13 of the next 15 points, six of which came from highly-touted freshman J.R. VanHoose making the count 22-16 in favor of Marshall, gaining a lead that they would-

n't relinquish.

"For 12 minutes, it was a lot of fun," Bluefield assistant coach Mike Snively said. "We had the adrenaline going and we shot the three and stepped it up."

It may have been fun for 12 minutes, but the final eight minutes of the first half must have been painful for the Big Blues as they were outscored 19-4 in this span, bringing the halftime score to 43-25, Marshall. Morton and VanHoose had seven points apiece while Bluefield's Leanthony Jones led all scorers with nine.

The second half started out much like the first half ended with Marshall doing as they pleased. Burgess drilled the second of his two shots from beyond the arc on the evening to make it a 30 point lead at 67-37 with 11:56 remaining in the game.

"At the half, I told the guys to have more enthusiasm and respect your opponent," said White.

"They stepped up the defense and hit a couple of threes and

Please see **BLUES, P2**

White hopes practice battles yield wins

by JACOB MESSER
assistant sports editor

The Thundering Herd is having its version of the Civil War

But the battle field is not in Gettysburg. It's in the Cam Henderson Center.

The soldiers are not wearing blue or grey. They're wearing green or white.

And the battles do not pit brother versus brother. They pit teammate against teammate.

The members of the Marshall men's basketball team are fighting for a starting job and playing time.

"Our practices have very competitive," White said. "That's exactly what you want if you're me. The players know we have to improve. They know the key to improving is having better competition. They know having better competition means having better players. There is a great battle at every position."

MORE INSIDE
men's features
p3, p4

"But it doesn't matter who starts," he continued, "because there are eight or nine guys on this team who could start. It matters who's on the floor in the final minutes of the game with the score tied 75-75."

The competition among teammates, White notes, will be paramount when they join forces to fight for a common goal during the season.

"Our goal is to win the Mid-

Please See **BATTLES, P2**

Cook, Behnfeldt complete Herd puzzle, Simpson says

by JACOB MESSER
assistant sports editor

A solid floor general and tough post player, Marshall Coach Juliene Simpson says, are the keys to a successful basketball team.

Simpson has both this season in Kristina Behnfeldt, a 6-foot senior forward, and Karrie Cook, a 5-5 freshman guard.

"I think you need a point guard who is a leader on the floor and a forward who is a force on the court," Simpson said. "We have those this year."

A native of Defiance, Ohio, Behnfeldt is an all-conference selection in athletics and academics. She ranks second in points (1,496) and rebounds (830) in school history. The top spot in both categories belongs to Karen Pelphrey, a former All-American who scored 2,746 points and grabbed 891 rebounds from 1982 through 1986.

Simpson considers Behnfeldt

one of the top players in the conference — and the nation.

"We are promoting her because she is a legitimate contender for Player of the Year in the Mid-American Conference and Player of the Year in the nation," Simpson said of Behnfeldt, who earned her senior season after averaging a team-high 20.8 points and 11.2 rebounds per game as a junior. "Not only is she a superb athlete, she is a 4.0 student. Her final two choices for college were Marshall and Cornell."

"Kristina is a complete package, both on and off the court," Simpson says of the senior forward in the 1998-99 Marshall women's basketball media guide. "She is the epitome of what a student-athlete should be. She is a coach's dream."

Cook has earned the starting nod at point guard in her first season. Simpson has much confidence in and high expectations for Cook, who led Downingtown High School to



photo by John F. Carter

Freshman Karrie Cook has earned a starting position as point guard in her first season.

back-to-back state championships in 1997 and 1998.

"Karrie's ability to run a ball club will make an immediate

See **PIECES, P2**



photo by John F. Carter

The women's basketball team huddles during practice Friday before facing Old Dominion in Norfolk, Va., Sunday afternoon. The Herd lost the contest 68-34.

Women fall to Dominion tradition

by JOE DALTON
reporter

The Marshall women's basketball team opened the 1998-1999 season slowly Sunday afternoon, losing 68-34 to Old Dominion in Norfolk, Va.

The Herd only trailed 17-11 with four minutes to play before halftime, until Old Dominion scored 17 points in the remainder of the half.

Leading the way for

Marshall was senior co-captain Kristina Behnfeldt and her 20 points. Behnfeldt went seven-of-eight from the free-throw line, and pulled down eight rebounds in the losing effort. No other member of the team reached double figures in scoring.

It is early in the season, but Behnfeldt seems to have picked up where she left off last year when she led the team in scoring and rebound-

ing with 20.8 points per game and 11.2 rebounds per game. Along with her role as a team leader, Behnfeldt figures to be the center piece of the team.

Marshall coach Juliene Simpson said that every game the team goal is to win, and this contest was no different. "We had good spurts of play, but overall, we were up and down," Simpson said.

Please See **OLD, P2**

Pieces fall into place

■ From page 1

impact on our program," Simpson said of Cook, who earned four letters at her high school in Downingtown, Pa. "She has great composure and sees the floor extremely well. She will be a player-coach on the floor."

More important than the contributions made by Behnfeldt and Cook, though, is the contributions made by their teammates.

Simpson, whose team struggled through a 8-21 campaign and a 3-15 conference mark in its first season in the Mid-American Conference, thinks they are capable.

"We have kids who are young and competitive," Simpson told local media at the annual Marshall basketball media day recently.

"They all say if they are not starting they are going to make it hard on the starters by competing with them. When they do get into a game it will be easy for them."

Eight players are lost from last season. Center Aisha Byrd, forward Keri Simmons and guards Cindy McCauley and Natal Rosko completed their eligibility.

Four others — Michelle Lenhart, Jenny Lincoln, Lisa Mason and Laura Rollyson — left for other reasons. Seven newcomers have filled their spots on the roster.

Brandy Robertson, a 5-5 junior from Hawesville, Ky., joins Cook in the backcourt. Robertson, who joins Behnfeldt as the only remaining members of Marshall's 1997 NCAA Tournament team, ranked second on the team in assists with 56 last season. She averaged 3.3 points as a sophomore.

"She's going to be a young lady who will step up for us," Simpson said, referring to Robertson. "We anticipate her starting at the two guard. She is one of our most proficient shooters and one of our quickest players."

"Brandy has exceptional speed that will compliment our fast paced style of play. She has really emerged as a leader on this team and she will make immediate contributions to our program."

"Brandy and Karrie form what may be the quickest backcourt in the Mid-American Conference."

Sophomore Toni Patillo and junior college transfer Georgina German also will contribute in the backcourt.

Patillo averaged 4.4 points and 3.5 rebounds per game in 29 games last season. She was second on the team in steals with 32 and third on the team in assists with 49. The 5-7 sophomore earned praise from Simpson for her hustle on the basketball court.

"As many of you [members of the media] may remember she is the one with the kneepads," Simpson said of Patillo, a three-year letterwinner at Kempville High School in Virginia Beach, Va., before coming to Marshall.

"She is all over the floor when she plays. She is a great player."

German transferred to Marshall from Central Arizona College, the 1997-98 junior college national champions. Simpson praised the 5-8 junior for her athleticism.

"You cannot close your eyes because if you pass her up on

"They all say if they are not starting they are going to make it hard on the starters by competing with them."

Juliene Simpson,
women's Herd coach

offense she will come from behind and make a steal or create something," Simpson said of German, a native of Tuscon, Ariz.

Joining Behnfeldt in the frontcourt are two returners, sophomores Stephanie Rein-brecht and Karen Lenhart.

Reinbrecht averaged 4.4 points and 3.6 rebounds per game in 1997, while Lenhart 1.7 points and 1.7 rebounds per game. Both Reinbrecht and Lenhart are 6-1 centers.

Freshmen Elizabeth Tokodi, AuYana Ferguson and Shawna Streeter provide help and add depth under the boards. The freshman trio has impressed Simpson, the second-year coach of the Thundering Herd.

"She is one of our best jump shooters," Simpson said of Tokodi, a 5-10 forward who was named the 1998 USA Today West Virginia Player of the Year in her senior season at Parkersburg Catholic High School. "She can stop on a dime and put it up."

"She is a very athletic player who can play inside or outside," Simpson said of Ferguson, a 5-10 forward who recorded more than 1,000 points and rebounds in her career at Louisville Central High School in Louisville, Ky.

"She can run with the guards," Simpson said of Streeter, a 6-3 center who gives the Thundering Herd an imposing presence in the paint. "She can press. And Kristina hasn't put up so many shots that have been blocked in practice."

Kendra Liddle and Charity Morrison are the remaining members of the team. A 5-6 junior guard, Liddle transferred to Marshall from West Virginia Tech, where she played basketball and softball. Morrison, a 5-5 freshman, was a four-year all-stater at Vinson High School.

Battles keep team strong

■ From page 1

American Conference Championship," White said matter-of-factly.

The Thundering Herd posted a 11-16 record and 7-12 conference mark in its first season in the Mid-American Conference. Four players are gone from that squad. Back-up point guard Chris Gray completed his eligibility. Reserves Jesse Jett, Derrick Knox and Josh Pray left the team and transferred to different schools.

But all five starters from the 1997-98 Thundering Herd are among the nine returners for Marshall this season.

"We can improve a lot of we cannot improve at all," said White, who said he plans to use a fastbreak offense and pressure defense as much as possible this season. "How good are we? I don't know. We'll just have to wait and see. I tell my kids if they are better, they will have to go out there and prove it."

Six newcomers — three of which are former recipients of the Player of the Year award in their respective states join the returners.

"We're certainly bigger, stronger and faster than we were last year," White said. "We're pleased with the recruiting class. We knew they were good coming in and we think they are as good as advertised."

The most talent-laden area of the team may be the backcourt, where seven players are vying for playing time.

Travis Young, the 1997-98 Mid-American Conference Freshman of the Year, returns for his sophomore season. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound point guard averaged 11.3 points per game and dished out a team-high 117 assists. He will also play shooting guard at times.

Joda Burgess ranked third on the team with 10.3 points per game. The 6-6, 190-pound sophomore connected on 41.2 percent of his three-point attempts.

Cornelius Jackson, an athletic 6-4, 190-pound junior who

can play point guard, shooting guard or small forward for the Thundering Herd, is eligible to play this season after setting out last season because he transferred to Marshall from Tennessee. As a Volunteer, Jackson started 21 games and averaged four points per game in his freshman year.

A 6-5, 205-pound junior, Deon Dobbs was sidelined for nearly month due to an injury last season but managed to average 9.1 points per game.

Freshman Tamar Slay, the 1998 West Virginia High School Player of the Year, averaged 21 points and 4.3 steals for Beckley's Woodrow Wilson High School, the 1998 Class AAA state champions.

Walk-ons Marcus Berry and Brian Faulkner are also guards for Marshall. Berry cannot compete this semester, however, because he transferred to Marshall from Glenville State.

White has eight players — five forwards and three centers — battling for a starting job in the frontcourt. Many of those players are versatile enough to play small forward, power forward or center. Plus, guards like Dobbs, Slay and Jackson have the ability to play on the wing or underneath.

Among the group of forwards is Carlton King, who returns for his senior season after averaging a team-high 13.7 points per game as a junior. The 6-5, 190-pound forward was an honorable mention all-conference selection last season.

Derrick Wright grabbed a team-high 6.9 rebounds per game. The 6-6, 220-pound junior also scored 8.2 points per game as a sophomore. VonDale Morton, a 6-6, 210-pound senior, averaged 5.2 points and 3.2 rebounds per game last season.

Josh Perkey was forced to sit out last season after he transferred to Marshall from the University of Charleston. The 6-7, 210-pound junior averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game for the Golden Eagles.

Edwin Johnson is a 6-8, 210-pound freshman who signed

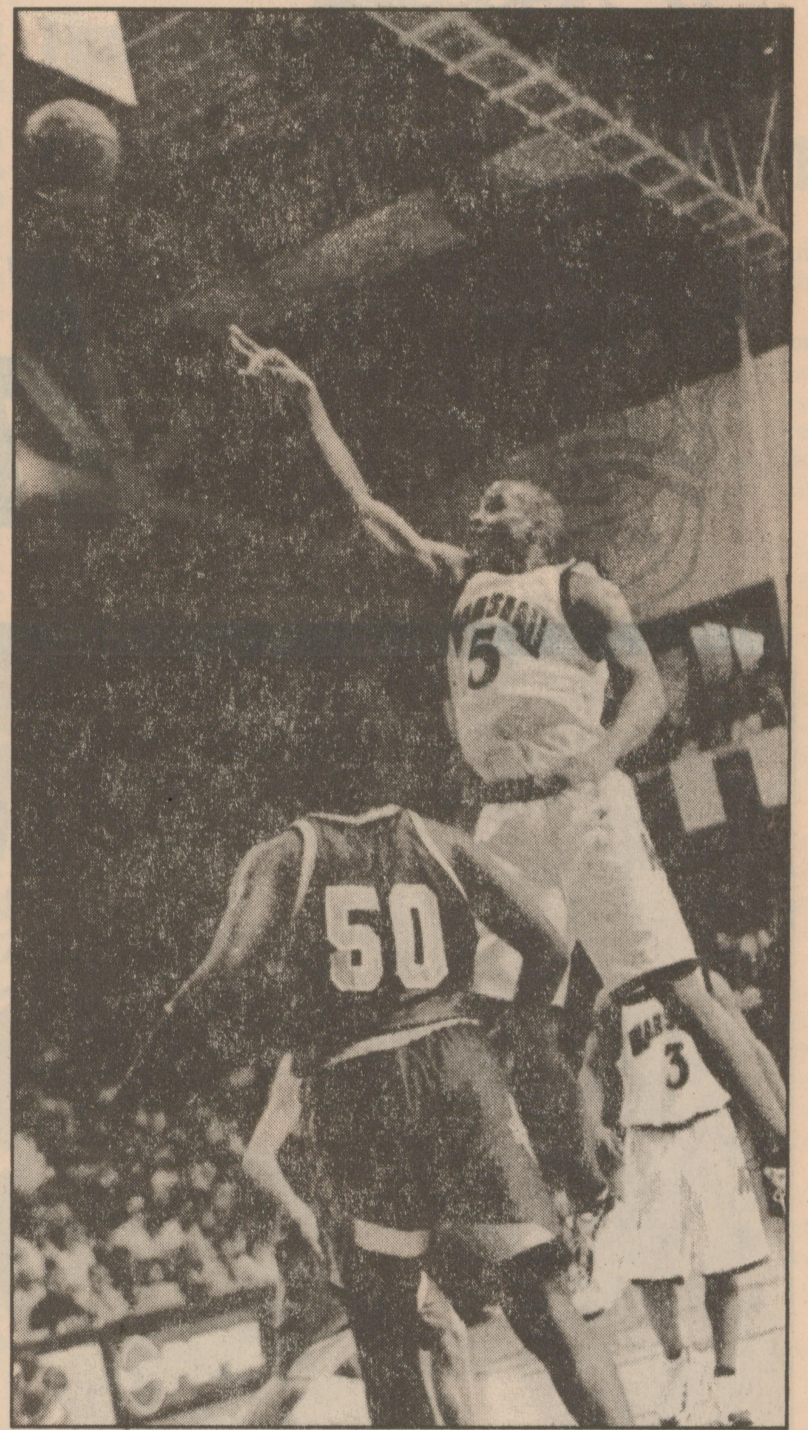


photo by Alex Wilson

Derrick Wright releases a shot against Bluefield State Saturday. The junior forward scored six points and grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds against the Big Blues.

with the Thundering Herd after playing a season at Hargrave Military Academy.

Centers include Terrell McKelvy, a 6-8, 230-pound senior, who averaged 8.6 points and a team-high 6.9 rebounds per game.

McKelvy is joined by J.R. VanHoose, the 1998 Kentucky High School Player of the Year. VanHoose is the only player in

Kentucky's history to score more than 3,000 points and grab more than 2,000 rebounds in a high school career. The 6-9, 220-pound freshman is expected to challenge for the starting nod at center.

Vince Carafelli, a 6-9, 245-pound senior, also returns. He averaged 3.4 points per game as a back-up to McKelvy last year.



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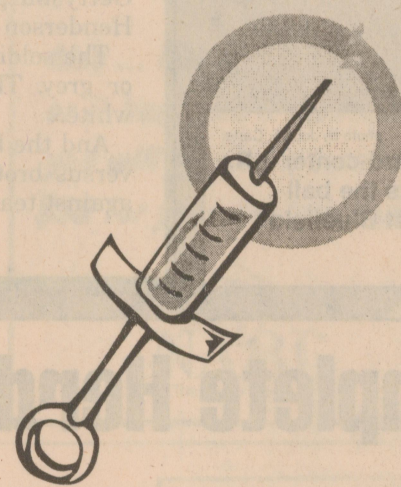
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Behnfeldt optimistic about upcoming season

by SCOTT PARSONS
sports editor

Kristina Behnfeldt wants to improve. Not herself, but the team.

Behnfeldt, 6 foot senior from Defiance, Ohio is the leader of a young Thundering Herd squad that only managed eight wins last season. She wants to turn that around. So does that add any pressure?

"We want to improve a lot on last year," Behnfeldt said. "Knowing it's my last season I want to go out and do as well as I can, but I think I have done that my whole career."

"I always want to go out every game and every practice and play as hard as I can and do what I can do. So I don't think there is any extra pressure on me."

"I think there may be less pressure this year just because

of the people we have coming in and the more experience we have. I think we have more people to depend on."

Maybe the lack of pressure can be attributed to the lack of wins last year. The only place the Herd can go, is up.

"I think that might be a little bit," Behnfeldt said. "We got picked to finish 5th in our division because of the bunch of new people we have."

Behnfeldt has taken more of a leadership role this season.

"I talked to coach about it, and on my own, I know we have a lot of underclassmen, they don't really know what to expect and [I] need to give them their confidence and let them know what they need to do because we're going to need everyone on the team to do well this year," Behnfeldt said.

Behnfeldt begins the season as a pre-season All-MAC team member.

"It gives me a lot of confidence knowing that other people around know that I can play well," Behnfeldt said. "I think it also gives the rest of the team confidence. People are going to be looking at us knowing we have the people to do well in the MAC."

Last season, Behnfeldt maintained a .528 field goal percentage while averaging 20.8 point per game, good enough for 22 in the nation and three in the MAC. She is second all time at Marshall in both rebounding (830) and points (1496).

Behnfeldt hopes her playing career doesn't stop once the final buzzer sounds at the last game of the season. She has higher aspirations.

"I'd like to try out for the WNBA, we'll see what happens," Behnfeldt said with a laugh. The team doesn't matter to Behnfeldt. "I'd play for

any team that would have me. It never hurts to try."

Head Coach Juliene Simpson knows what Behnfeldt means to the team.

"Kristina is a person who is a real believer that it's we not me," Simpson said. "I think because of that she is so successful."

"The players look to her for leadership. She knows what needs to be done on and off the court."

Simpson hopes, with the addition of other talent to the line-up, Behnfeldt can move around the court more, instead of staying inside at center for the game.

"I think on the court with our offense this year, because we have some other big gals and different combinations we have an offense that pulls her out a little bit so she's not inside getting banged around a lot."

Blues enjoy initial lead

■ From page 1

that hurt us," Snively said.

The dynamic duo of the senior, Morton, and Mr. Basketball from Kentucky, VanHoose, did their fair share of work in the second half. One sequence had Morton getting two on a dunk and following a Marshall steal, VanHoose threw one down to make it 81-40 with 8:40 left, sending the 6,596 fans who came to see the opening of the newly renovated Cam Henderson Center home happy.

"I came out with a lot of energy and I was focused more than ever," said Morton.

VanHoose finished with 17 points and eight rebounds in just 19 minutes of play. Tamar Slay, the 1998 Player of the Year in West Virginia, finished

"Our starting five came out and they weren't ready to go. We didn't shoot the ball well in the early going... At the half, I told the guys to have more enthusiasm ..."

Greg White,
men's head coach

with 12 points and seven rebounds in his debut.

For the game, Marshall shot 53 percent from the floor, while Bluefield shot a miserable 28 percent (21-74). Marshall also recorded 12 blocked shots which tied a school record.

The Herd start its Mid-American Conference slate tonight at the Henderson Center against Northern Illinois. Game time is 7 p.m.

Old Dominion takes Herd

■ From page 1

the big difference as we ended up playing their game instead of ours. We need to get others to step up and shoot on this team."

Sunday's contest marked only the second time that Marshall and Old Dominion had squared off on the basketball court.

Earlier in the week, Behnfeldt commented that facing them would be a tough contest, and would serve as a measuring stick for the team.

Her prediction was accurate, concerning the toughness of the game.

As a team, the Herd shot .217 from the field with a dismal 2-13 from behind the arc.

The performance from the free-throw line was a little better, as Marshall connected on over half of their attempts, going 14-26.

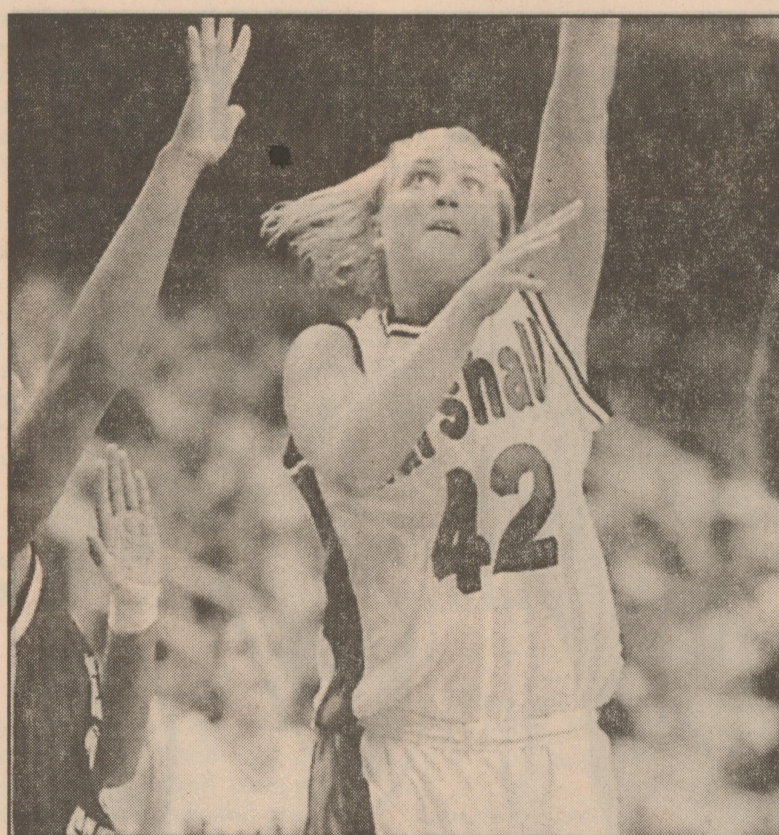
"Their size and speed was the big difference as we ended up playing their game instead of ours. We need to get others to step up and shoot on this team. ..."

Juliene Simpson,
women's head coach

Old Dominion has an impressive women's basketball tradition, appearing in 15 NCAA Tournaments since 1974, and winning the 1985 National Championship 70-65 over Georgia.

The Lady Monarchs were led by 5-10 forward Mery Andrade's 14 points and three blocks.

Right behind her was teammate Tiffany Thompson, who came off the bench to score 12 points and notch three blocks of her own.



Senior Kristina Behnfeldt brings her 830 career rebounds and 1496 career points to the floor for her last year at Marshall.

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King: High energy player

by JACOB MESSER
assistant sports editor

Whether it's in a pick-up game in Gullickson Hall or a Mid-American Conference battle in the Cam Henderson Center, Marshall junior point guard Cornelius Jackson wants Carlton King wearing the same jersey he is.

"If I'm picking up a team, no matter what, Carlton is a player I always make sure to pick up," Jackson said of King, a 6-foot-5, 190-pound senior forward. "He plays hard."

"He's always competing. He plays with high energy and is always giving his all. It doesn't matter if he isn't shooting well because he does so many other things that makes him great and helps his team win."

King, who averaged a team-high 13.7 points per game and was named an honorable mention all-conference selection as a junior, has been helping

Marshall win for four years.

The only fourth-year player on the roster, King has played in 83 games. Only two of his teammates, VonDale Morton and Derrick Wright, have played in more than 30 games.

That's why men's coach Greg White wants King to lead his team on and off the court.

"Leadership," White stressed, "that's what I expect from Carlton. He's a great emotional leader."

"There are only a few guys on this team who are verbal leaders and Carlton is one of them."

His teammates also expect the senior forward to guide them in the season, which they hope ends with a MAC title and NCAA tournament berth.

"We expect a lot from him," Jackson said, "because he keeps the team together and gets the team going."

Sophomore guard Joda Burgess agreed.

"He's been there before," he

"Leadership. That's what I expect from Carlton. He's a great emotional leader. There are only a few guys in this team who are verbal leaders and Carlton is one of them."

Greg White,
men's head coach

said, "so he is definitely going to have to be a leader for us."

No problem, King said.

"I always go out there, play hard and try to get my teammates involved," the senior forward said. "I try to get them to play up to my level of intensity. I think it's contagious. I just try to get everybody going and we take it from there."

"I believe if I speak aloud and we communicate it helps us on the court. If I'm doing that, then that's going to make us play better and that's going to help the team."

White thinks King is up to the challenge issued by his coaches and teammates.

"He's a guy who will play hard every day no matter what," the second-year coach said.

"He does all the intangibles. He's always hustling. He's a great defender. He's a great open-court guy on fast breaks."

Wright concurred. "He helps our team a lot," said Wright, a junior forward. "Carlton is very important to the team. Players can learn from him."

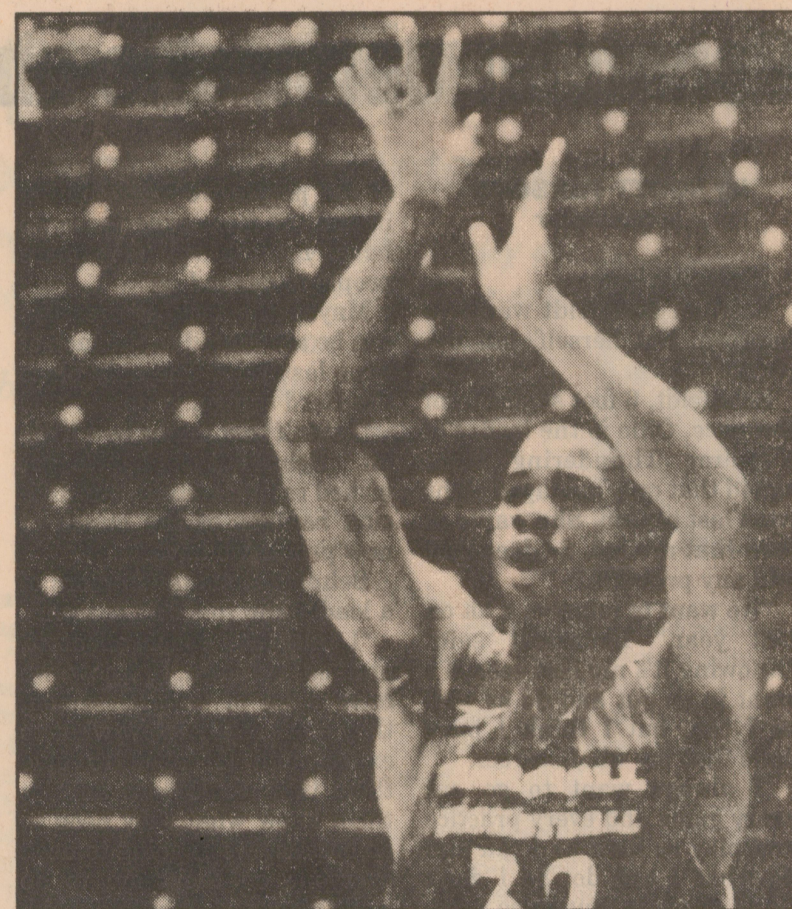


photo by John F. Carter

Carlton King, a 6-foot-5 senior forward from Fairmont, will contribute largely as a leader this season, the Thundering Herd basketball team's second in the Mid-American Conference.

Robertson's expectations are high

by REBECCA CANTLEY
news editor

Losing 21 games in the past women's basketball season may not have been in vain for team co-captain Brandy Robertson.

In fact, Robertson says last season's frustrations are inspiration for successes this season.

The 5-5 junior guard wants nothing less than the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championship title.

"Our goal is to win the MAC," she said.

"There's no doubt about it. We made a list of goals, and that was right on top. We want to get 20 wins under our belts, win the MAC and then get an NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] bid."

Although that goal may have been out of reach for the past team, Robertson says this year's team is capable of more.

"When you come off an 8-21 season no one expects you to win the MAC, but we're a totally different team," she said.

"This year's team works together a lot better. I think that goal [winning the MAC] is more attainable this year."

Robertson says others may not expect as many wins as she and her teammates are planning.

"Our expectations are high," she said.

"I think everyone else says, 'Yeah, they'll win more games,' but we're going to win 20 and make it to the MAC. We're taking it to a higher level."

As a sophomore Robertson started in 14 games.

She was second on the team in assists with 56 and averaged 3.3 points per game.

As one of two upper class-

"I thought, 'Wow, five people have just graduated ... I'm really going to have to turn it

on. I'm running out of time. I've got two more years to win the MAC, and I'd like to have that.'"



Brandy Robertson,
team co-captain

men, along with senior co-captain Kristina Behnfeldt, Robertson says she recognizes her role as a team leader.

"I thought, 'Wow, five people have just graduated ... I'm really going to have to turn it on. I'm running out of time.'"

"I've got two more years to win the MAC, and I'd like to have that," she said.

"I want to help everybody out as much as I can, because we need everyone."

Robertson and Behnfeldt not only share positions as team captains, but they also share an apartment.

Robertson said their home is a favorite team hangout.

"We're always calling the rest of the team to come over to watch movies or order pizza," Robertson said.

"It gives everybody a place to come. It's great that we were chosen as co-captains."

Robertson said remembering close losses drove her to improve in the off-season.

She says her strongest



photo provided by Marshall Sports Information

Brandy Robertson, a 5'5" junior from Hawesville, Ky., contributes as a guard on the Herd women's basketball team.

gain is having more confidence, a quality she says comes with being a leader.

"Mentally, I've got so much more confidence," she said.

"I didn't play much as a freshman, so as a sophomore I was a little timid at first. I gained so much more confidence over the summer and I think one of the reasons is that I realized I'd have to

step up as a leader."

Robertson scored her career-high in January against Bowling Green with 14 points and had another high with four rebounds.

The adult fitness major from Hawesville, Ky., says she needs to be a team leader in scoring this season.

See ROBERTSON'S, P6

'Helicopter athlete' brings excitement to basketball team

by BROOKE PERRY
reporter

For his ability to leave the ground and provide a powerful aerial assault, Marshall guard/forward, Deon Dobbs is often referred to as a 'helicopter athlete.'

"I just think that's a word used to describe someone who can play above the rim, and jump and get off the floor,"

Dobbs said, "I think that's a compliment when people think you can get off the floor and make things exciting."

Dobbs hopes to add a little excitement for the Thundering Herd men's basketball team, as it heads into its second Mid-American Conference season.

Dobbs said he's looking forward to using his leadership position to help Marshall win the MAC championship this season.

"We have the talent level to win the MAC championship," he said.

"With the veteran team we have now, and all of the talented newcomers we've got, we can put ourselves in the position to be playing for the MAC championship."

Dobbs started out his collegiate career at West Virginia University, but left the school to join the Herd.

"I was just at a point where I felt I had to move on to a place where I thought I could get a scholarship, and Marshall gave me that opportunity," he said.

Herd fans can thank senior Carlton King, a longtime friend and high school teammate of Dobbs, for his decision to transfer to Marshall.

"Carlton was definitely an influence in my decision to come here," Dobbs said.

"He was someone I grew up with, and he came down here with me in the summer during



photo by John F. Carter

Termed a 'helicopter athlete,' guard/forward Deon Dobbs, a junior from Fairmont, is known for getting off the floor to make things happen on-the-court.

my unofficial visit.

"Carlton showed me a lot, and told me what to expect. When I got here, I liked the school itself, but he was an influence in my decision."

Dobbs said he expects this season to be a very exciting season for both the team and the fans.

"We're very excited about playing UMass again. Last year, we gave them a good fight. I think that with the new arena being packed, we'll have a good homecourt advantage. I think we can win it this year."

"Right now, I think we're a team that's very deep. We've got guys who can come in and play when they're needed. That's something we lacked last year. We didn't have enough depth on the bench," Dobbs said.



photo by John F. Carter

A sophomore from Virginia Beach, Va., Toni Patillo feels at home at Marshall. She plays guard for the Herd women's basketball team this season.

Toni Patillo is where she wants to be

by CHRISTINA REDEKOPP
managing editor

From the very first day Toni Patillo came to Marshall University, even before she registered, she knew this was where she wanted to be.

The Virginia Beach, Va. sophomore said when she came to check out the university, "the team made me feel comfortable."

Even though I wasn't here they made me feel part of the team.

"It was more or less 'yeah, this is where I feel comfortable.'"

And Patillo still enjoys being at Marshall. In an interview last week, when asked what



PATILLO

the highlight of last season was she said, "Being here is one highlight for me."

"We're stepping out on the right foot this year. I couldn't see myself anywhere else. I'm thankful I'm on this team," she said. This year's team is different than last year's, according to Patillo.

"We're more determined. We came together and we thought there's no way we can do what we did last year. We're going to change that," she said.

Patillo began playing basketball when she was 12-years-old. She felt that if she kept working at basketball, she could really do something with it. A fashion merchandising major, Patillo said she is not quite sure yet what she wants to do with her major but right now she's treating playing basketball as a job.

"[Practicing] is hard but it's a

job. I look at it as: this is work. If I don't show up I don't get played. When you get playing time that's your reward for going to practice every day. If everybody gives 100 percent they're going to reap the award."

Patillo plays off guard. She plays small forward and shooting guard. She said after the exhibition game two weeks ago against Sports Reach, "It showed us what we needed to work on."

She said some things she needs to work on include moving her feet on defense and "the seven foul-outs stand out in my mind."

"I want to be there for my team and step up when I need to step up and do what coach asks me to do," she said.

Patillo speaks highly of Coach Julienne Simpson. "I think she's the best coach I've

had. She gets the best out of you. She wants you to work hard and give 100 percent."

"I can go and talk to her. The coach's door is always open to us," Patillo said she also likes the facilities at Marshall.

What she enjoys most about playing basketball is winning, Patillo said.

Patillo said about her opponents, "In the MAC everyone's good and they'll give you a run for your money."

"I'm ready to play all of them," she said.

When asked whether she was nervous playing any particular team, Patillo said she overlooks that feeling.

"Nervous ... that scares me. We're all prepared to play and whatever happens happens."

Patillo said, "This is a different team. The past is the past and we're looking toward the future."

Women's basketball team is without fear

by **ROBERT McCUNE**
editor

Coach Juliene Simpson's young basketball squad has a saying. Two simple, one-syllable words, phrased in the form of a question are commonly heard in the women's locker room as the team prepares to start its second season in the Mid-American Conference: "Why not?"

"I like it because the kids talk about believing in themselves and believing in each other," Simpson said. "There is no fear. Unfortunately in the past, I did hear, 'Oh my gosh, we have to play so and so.' And sometimes when you have young people, it's like 'Hey, why not?' And that's two of the words they keep using, 'Why not?' Why not us win it?"

"I think the team has this chemistry that they have no fear, and when we get out on the court, it's we, not me. And they give each other so much confidence that they are able to do things sometimes that you don't imagine they can do, nor can they."

With five freshmen on-board this season, Simpson said she is excited to see some new talent and a renewed intensity in her team.

"Our newcomers have been terrific. I think that we needed to add intensity, and we needed to add, obviously, more athleticism, which we did by all of our newcomers," Simpson said.

"Karrie Cook is a freshman

who will be our starting point guard this year. She is a key element to the intensity level. Her leadership is beyond her years. Also, Au'Yana Ferguson came in and stepped it up and took over a starting spot. As you saw in the paper the other day, she hit a double-double at half-time, which is tremendous.

"Also, Elizabeth Tokodi, right now she is coming off the bench. She's from Parkersburg Catholic in West Virginia. She will be a dynamite type of player once she gets in the system."

The Herd women also added to its roster Charity Morrison, a local walk-on from Vinson, and Shawna Streeter, a 6-3 freshman and the tallest on the team.

"Charity Morrison just sprained her ankle a couple of days ago. She really is a fighter. Players look at her, and I know our staff does, as a no-nonsense, you-tell-me-what-to-do, I-want-to-do-it kid. She does and excellent job," Simpson said.

"She's a tremendous three-point shooter, but she hasn't developed the other skills that go with Division I-A, and she's doing that right now. [She is] someone that just out-right picks things up and the next time, she knows how to do it. And at this late stage of the game its tough to get kids to do that, but she really disciplines herself. So, we're excited for her to come back. She adds a lot in practice."

"There is no fear. Unfortunately in the past, I did hear, 'Oh my gosh, we have to play so and so.' And sometimes when you have young people, it's like 'Hey, why not?' And that's two of the words they keep using, 'Why not?' Why not us win it?"

Juliene Simpson,
women's basketball coach

though she isn't expected to add a lot on the court this season, will probably in a couple of years be a contender for All-MAC honors. "I think [Shawna] is like a sleeper . . . [She is] 6 foot 3, needs to develop, but gives us that size we didn't have."

Each of the incoming freshmen, Simpson said, brings with them a reputation for success, a winning legacy and the mentality it takes to create a winning season.

"Karrie Cook comes from winning 55 games straight, back-to-back quad-A championships. Elizabeth comes off of winning the West Virginia I-A title and she was player-of-the-year in West Virginia," Simpson said.

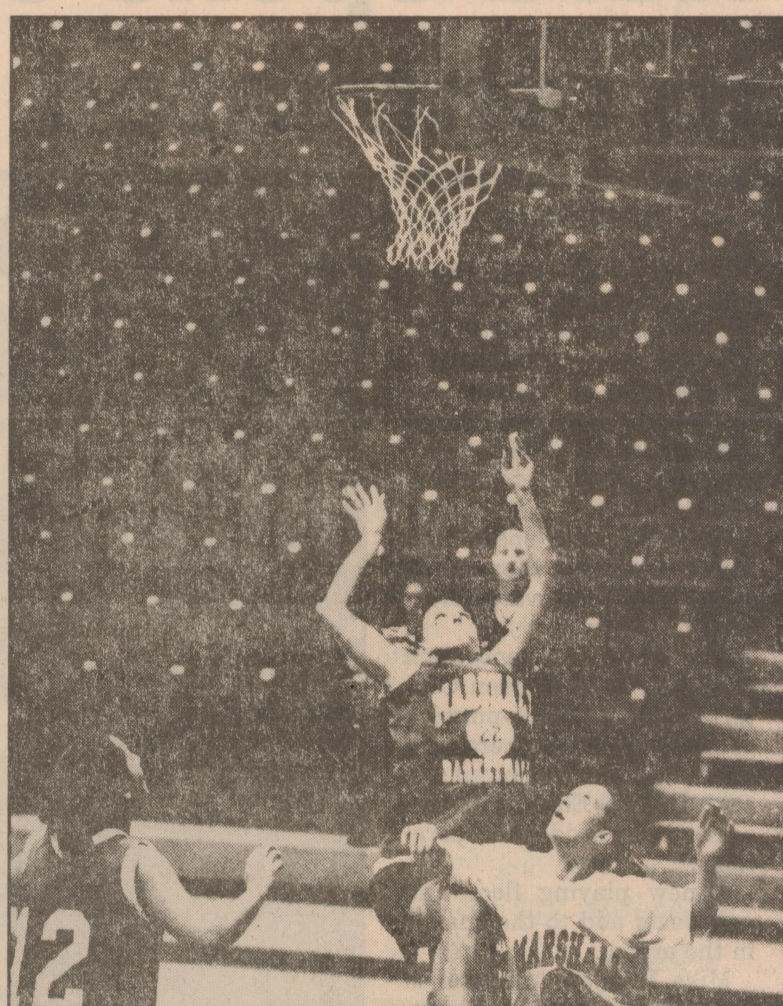
"Georgina German just came from a junior college that won a national championship. Au'Yana Ferguson, all five of her starting line-up last year, they came in as freshman . . . and her team won a title throughout her four years. So I think you bring in those kind of quality people in, they know

nothing else but to win and they'll find a way to win."

With a young squad may also come some very young mistakes, Simpson said.

"It is exciting for me because we have years left. However, I may be saying how exciting it is now and about a month from now be pulling my out my hair because we're making some very young mistakes. But, as I said, I really think this is a unique group and they're beyond their years. There is no fear going into the [season]," she said.

"I would rather have an exciting young group that are willing to take chances. I'm a high-risk person so I like people that are high-risk. They go after steals. I'm not a conservative person, and so when you have people like that is exciting. I would rather have people making mistakes by working hard than being nonchalant or low-key and still making mistakes. Because, most of the time if you're enthusiastic and you have that adrenaline going, you'll come back and make up



Georgina German goes up for a shot in practice.

photo by John F. Carter

for it."

Au'Yana Ferguson graduated from Louisville Central High School, where she played basketball for four years as a post player. "I came in as a freshman and actually started, so this college experience actually reminds me of high school," Ferguson said.

"Starting off as a freshman, people had high expectations of me. As a freshman, I had to step it up every year and become a leader, so there was no time for me to slack. Even through an injury I tried to come back."

Please see **NEW, P8**

Cook has ability to run the ball and the team

by **JACOB MESSER**
assistant sports editor

Karrie Cook may want to consider participating in track if she is not successful on the basketball court.

Because the freshman point guard excels at running.

"I want to run it," Cook said matter-of-factly. "I don't want to slow it down. It's more exciting that way. I love to fast-break. I love to get the ball up the floor fast, penetrate inside and dish it off to my teammates."

"I guess we'll have to slow it down every once in a while, but I would rather not."

Cook has good reason for not wanting to slow down.

Her speed helped Downingtown High School win back-to-back Class 4-A state championships in 1997 and 1998. USA Today ranked Downingtown No. 4 nationally during her senior season, when the 5-foot-5 point guard averaged 10 points and eight assists per game to earn all-state honors.

Marshall Coach Juliene Simpson says Cook need not worry. The Thundering Herd women's basketball team plans to employ a run-and-gun offense and full-court pressure defense as much as possible this season.

"Karrie's ability to run a ball club will make an immediate impact on our program," Simpson said of Cook, who earned four letters at her high school in Downingtown, Pa. "She has great composure and sees the floor extremely well. She will be a player-coach on the floor."

"It's exciting because she knows how to run the ball up and down the floor," the second-year coach continued. "She adds the leadership that we need. That is important to a ball club. I'm happy she's on our squad."

So are senior forward Kristina Behnfeldt and junior guard Brandy Robertson, a pair of Thundering Herd veterans.

"She brings us a lot of quickness," Behnfeldt said. "She gets us moving. She's a good leader.

She helps people know where they're going. She knows how to win. That helped her coming in."

Robertson agreed.

"She comes in with experience running the point guard," Robertson said. "The style she played in high school is like the style we play here. She is good at pushing the ball up the floor. That's what we like to do."

Both Behnfeldt and Robertson are confident in Cook's ability.

"I think she's more than capable of running this team," Behnfeldt said.

Robertson added, "We feel comfortable with her running the point."

Cook is comfortable doing it. "You can't get too nervous," Cook said with a smile. "You have to come in and play hard for 40 minutes. I have to keep the team as a team. You have to know what's going on and help the team execute. Basically, I have to run the team. That's what a point guard has to do. I think I'll do okay."



Karrie Cook hopes her speed can help Marshall win this season.

photo by John F. Carter



Sophomore tries to live up to title

by **BROOKE PERRY**
reporter

Guard Travis Young, said he's trying to live up to the Mid-American Conference Freshman of the Year title awarded to him last year.

"Everybody is out to get me, because I'm the Freshman of the Year. There's definitely some pressure there. You get it from the fans, teammates, and even the coaches. There's not much room for making mistakes after you win an honor like that," Young said.

Young says his experience living in Greece this summer helped his game. "This experience was a benefit to my game. A lot of players get paid over there, so they're pretty good. If I don't make it to the NBA, and go overseas, I'll know what to expect. It's hard to communicate, and the food was very different," Young said.

Young said he passed over schools from his home state to come to Marshall. "I was getting recruited by Bowling Green, Miami, and Youngstown State. Mostly MAC schools. I chose Marshall because they had a better offer. Plus, I liked the coaching staff and I felt at home," Young said.

This year, Young will be switching from point guard to stepping in as the shooting guard sometimes. "It's different. I'll have to adjust to it. This year, my first goal is to score. Last year, my main goal was to pass then create. Now, it's create, then pass."

Please see **BURGESS, P8**

Burgess living a dream come true

by **SCOTT PARSONS**
sports editor

Joda Burgess could be living a dream. He is playing college basketball for a team he has rooted for since he was a child.

Burgess, a 6-6 sophomore from Kenova, grew up only a few short miles from Marshall's campus. So what's it like playing for a team you have rooted for all your life?

"It's unreal. I used to come here when I was a kid and watch Coach Huckabee in his days, back in the '80s," Burgess said. "I used to always dream about coming here and playing. It's just a dream come true."

"Being able to start last year and getting a lot of playing time and when they announce my name as part of the Thundering Herd, it's just unreal. A dream come true."

Burgess has been a force for the Herd since his arrival on campus last season and this year should be no different, but Burgess is well aware of his role on the team.

"On this team I'm more or less a shooting guard," Burgess said. "Coach wants me to step up and play defense a lot better this year."

"Since grade school I have been a shooting guard so I have



Joda Burgess scored eight points in 12 minutes of action this past weekend. Burgess grew up only a few miles from campus and plays for the team he used to root for as a child.

photo by John F. Carter

been taught since I was little to shoot the ball and I think that's my role on this team."

Most shooting guards are expected to shoot from long range and drain the three point shots. Burgess is expected to

take any open shot.

"Wherever I get an open jump shot [I'll take it], I like to shoot out there, but if it's inside the three point line I'll take one there too," Burgess said.

Burgess has the range and

accuracy to take both types of shots. Last year he was 97-225 (.431) in shots and 63-153 (.412) from three-point land with an average of 10.3 point per game.

This past weekend, Burgess

scored eight points in 12 minutes of action.

Burgess started as a freshman in Marshall's first year in the Mid-American Conference and thinks he'll be better prepared for the competition with a season under his belt.

"I feel like I have gotten stronger this year so I will improve from last year," Burgess said. "I think team wise we have better players on the team this year and a lot of guys who can distribute the ball and that's going to make us better."

When Burgess came to Marshall, the thoughts of starting as a freshman never crossed his mind.

"I figured I'd play some, but unfortunately, Deon [Dobbs] got hurt and that forced me into a starting position and I felt like I did what had to be done last year," Burgess said. "I got the two guard position and [Coach White] just wanted me to play there and I did what he asked me to do."

When talking to Burgess, one can't deny that he admires Head Coach Greg White.

"He's really intense," Burgess said. "He's a real good PR person. He knows what he's talking about, every time you listen

Please see **DREAM, P8**

Herd opens season in renovated arena

by CHARLES SHUMAKER
reporter

A new season opens in a new home for the Herd.

The football team got new turf and they stomped the competition at home. The basketball teams have a new arena to try and keep with what the football team has started.

When the Herd opened the season Saturday, they did so in the newly renovated Henderson Center.

The \$5 million renovation changed the Henderson Center from a multi-purpose gymnasium atmosphere to a basketball arena atmosphere, said Dr. K. Edward Grose, senior vice president of operations.

A new playing floor and new seats add to the change in the arena.

Mike Meadows, director of facilities planning and management, said it will now have more of an arena feel and look to it. "The facility looks beautiful," he said.

Bryan Poore, assistant basketball coach, said the facility is now more accommodating to fans as well as players.

"The facility is a real fan friendly atmosphere now. The arena shape brings the fans closer to the game," Poore said.

Poore said the facility is more comfortable now and that it will be a big help in recruiting.

"This will help recruiting a lot," he said. When a player makes a visit, they look at the facility they will play in and it sometimes can make their decision easier. It is a real tool in recruiting," Poore said.

Juliene Simpson, women's head coach said the facility



photo by John F. Carter
President J. Wade Gilley and Coach Greg White open the renovated Henderson Center during a ceremony before the season's opening game.

will also help recruiting by selling the program at Marshall to athletes that come and visit the campus.

Simpson said, "This is like getting a new suit or a dress, it makes you feel like a million bucks."

This facility is just as nice as others when comparing the Henderson Center to other MAC schools, Poore said.

"The players really like it, it is really sharp," Poore said.

Simpson said, "the elevation of intensity during our first practice in the arena was really high. When you're a student athlete, stepping on

the old floor you had a lot of pride in the history but with this new floor you can walk onto the floor and feel you're the best because you're in the best."

Poore said the renovation to arena is nicer. Although some seats were lost more fans should still be drawn to home games this year.

Simpson said fans will be attracted to the facility because it not only has quality seats, but also a quality view.

"I think we will sell more season tickets when people get in the facility and see how nice it is," Simpson said.

Women hope to utilize speed

Team may suffer size disadvantage in MAC

by JOE DALTON
reporter

The women's basketball team is hoping to use speed to make up for size disadvantages that will occur this season in front-court matchups.

The Mid-American Conference is notorious for physical play and head coach Juliene Simpson knows her forwards and centers must use quickness and speed to compete with the larger-sized conference opponents.

"We are a quick team," Simpson said. "Hopefully we can get it done on the offensive end, and hurry back on defense before our opponents can establish position in the post."

MAC player of the year candidate, Kristina Behnfeldt is a 6-0 senior utility player who will start at center for the Herd. The Defiance, Ohio native is the team's returning leading scorer, with a 20.8 ppg average and also is the leading rebound returnee with 11.2 a game.

Behnfeldt is playing the number five spot because of the stress fracture injury to regular starter Stephanie Reinbrecht's foot. Simpson said the 6-1 sophomore is expected to be out until December, and maybe longer, depending on her progress.

Switching positions on the court is something Behnfeldt

"We are a quick team. Hopefully we can get it done on the offensive end, and hurry back on the defense before our opponents can establish position in the post."

Juliene Simpson,
women's head coach.



has become used to since arriving in Huntington.

"Playing the five spot isn't much of an adjustment because I'm used to being moved around," Behnfeldt said. "I prefer playing the four, but it doesn't matter because I can step outside from any position on the court in this offense."

The power forward position will be occupied by 5-10 freshman AuYana Ferguson.

Ferguson comes to Marshall from Louisville Central High School where she was named Kentucky All-State honorable mention as a junior and senior.

Ferguson is excited about getting to play early but realizes she has a lot of work to do.

"Coming in and starting as a freshman is very motivational," Ferguson said. "It tells me that I have worked hard and earned the respect of my coaches. Since the amount of playing time is not written in stone, you must always maintain a high level of intensity."

When it is time to substitute up front, Simpson says to look for 6-1 sophomore Karen Lenhart to step in at forward. Freshman, Shawna Streeter will occupy the middle when Behnfeldt needs a rest. Streeter is a 6-3 center from Bellevue,

Ohio.

The physical MAC will pose a challenge for the women playing the front court, but Ferguson does not seem to be phased by the size disadvantages.

"Due to the aggressiveness of my teammates during practice, I am confident that I will be able to handle the physical play in the conference," Ferguson said. "I anticipate being a force on the inside, even though I am small compared to most post players. My quickness will be the advantage."

For Behnfeldt, there is enough to concentrate on this year, without having to worry about size mismatches.

"I want to be the conference player of the year," Behnfeldt said. "I especially want the team to do well first. If that happens, everything else will fall into place."

Simpson seems to think things are already starting to fall into place.

"I am real excited about this season," Simpson said. "We are a quick team that presses a lot. We have great team unity, and have taken the next step to compete and do well in the conference."

Robertson's frustrations are inspiration for success

■ From page 4

"I think I've improved a lot in ball handling and passing," she said.

"Now I'm working on my shot. I'm going to have to contribute more points this year as a shooter."

Women's head coach Juliene Simpson is expecting Robertson to do just that.

"She is our best perimeter player we have as far as shooting goes," Simpson said.

Simpson said speed is also one of Robertson's strong points.

"She's exciting to watch ... She's extremely quick," she said.

"When you put she and

"Last season definitely drives me. I thought about it from the last game on, and I'm still thinking about it. I guess that also made me want to stand up and be a leader and say, 'Come on. We gotta do this.'"

Brandy Robertson,
junior guard

Karrie [Cook] together I'm not sure there's two quicker guards in the conference."

Perhaps that speed is proof of Robertson's drive to win the MAC title.

"Last season definitely drives me," she said.

"I thought about it from the last game on, and I'm still thinking about it. I guess that also made me want to stand up and be a leader and say, 'Come on. We gotta do this.'"



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HUNTINGTON JUNIOR COLLEGE

1998-99 Mens basketball roster

| NO. | NAME | POS. | HGT | HOMETOWN |
|-----|-------------------|------|-----|----------------------|
| 3 | Travis Young | G | 6-1 | Zanesville, Ohio |
| 4 | Joda Burgess | G | 6-6 | Kenova, W.Va. |
| 5 | Derrick Wright | F | 6-6 | Norcross, Ga. |
| 12 | Cornelius Jackson | G | 6-4 | Oak Hill, W.Va. |
| 13 | Tamar Slay | G | 6-7 | Beckley, W.Va. |
| 21 | Vince Carafelli | C | 6-9 | Brownstown, Md. |
| 23 | VonDale Morton | F | 6-6 | Lexington, Ky. |
| 24 | Brian Faulkner | G | 6-3 | Belle, W.Va. |
| 32 | Carlton King | F | 6-5 | Fairmont, W.Va. |
| 33 | Terrell McKelvy | C | 6-8 | Marion, S.C. |
| 34 | Deon Dobbs | G-F | 6-5 | Fairmont, W.Va. |
| 40 | J.R. VanHoose | F-C | 6-9 | Paintsville, Ky. |
| 41 | Josh Perkey | F | 6-7 | Huntington, W.Va. |
| 42 | Edwin Johnson | F | 6-9 | St. Petersburg, Fla. |

1998-99 Mens basketball schedule

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Nov. 14 | BLUEFIELD STATE | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 17 | NORTHERN ILLINOIS | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 23 | Georgia | Athens, Ga. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 28 | MOREHEAD STATE | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 2 | Radford | Radford, Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 5 | MASSACHUSETTS | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 8 | Miami | Oxford, Ohio | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 17 | RIO GRANDE | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 19 | Western Michigan | Kalamazoo, Mich. | 2 p.m. |
| Dec. 21 | UNC-Asheville | Asheville, N.C. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 30 | CENTRAL MICHIGAN | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 2 | EASTERN MICHIGAN | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 6 | Toledo | Toledo, Ohio | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 9 | Akron | Akron, Ohio | 3 p.m. |
| Jan. 14 | BUFFALO | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 16 | KENT | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 19 | Bowling Green | Bowling Green, Ohio | 8 p.m. |
| Jan. 23 | MIAMI | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 27 | West Virginia | Charleston, W.Va. | 8 p.m. |
| Jan. 30 | Ohio | Athens, Ohio | 3 p.m. |
| Feb. 3 | BALL STATE | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 6 | Eastern Michigan | Ypsilanti, Mich. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 10 | Northern Illinois | DeKalb, Ill. | 8 p.m. |
| Feb. 13 | TOLEDO | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 17 | Buffalo | Buffalo, N.Y. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 24 | BOWLING GREEN | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 27 | MAC Tournament | TBA | TBA |
| Mar. 2-3 | MAC Tournament | Toledo, Ohio | TBA |

Home games in all caps

1998-99 Womens basketball roster

| Num. | Name | Pos. | Ht. | Hometown |
|------|----------------------|------|------|-----------------|
| 4 | Brandy Robertson | G | 5-5 | Hawesville, Ky. |
| 10 | Karen Lenhart | C | 6-1 | Altoona, Pa. |
| 12 | Elizabeth Tokodi | F | 5-10 | Marietta, Ohio |
| 15 | Kendra Liddle | G | 5-6 | Parkersburg |
| 22 | Karrie Cook | G | 5-6 | Downington, Pa. |
| 23 | Toni Patillo | G | 5-7 | Virginia Beach |
| 24 | Au'Yana Ferguson | F | 5-10 | Louisville, Ky. |
| 32 | Georgina German | G | 5-8 | Tucson, Az. |
| 33 | Charity Morrison | G | 5-5 | Huntington |
| 42 | Kristina Behnfeldt | F | 6-0 | Defiance, Ohio |
| 50 | Shawna Streeter | C | 6-3 | Bellevue, Ohio |
| 52 | Stephanie Reinbrecht | C | 6-1 | Chandler, In. |

1998-99 Schedule

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Nov. 15 | Old Dominion | Norfolk, Va. | 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 20 | YOUNGSTOWN STATE | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 24 | Central Michigan | Mt. Pleasant, Mich. | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | Duquesne | Pittsburgh, Pa. | 2 p.m. |
| Dec. 1 | MOREHEAD STATE | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | North Carolina | Chapel Hill, N.C. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 8 | UNC Greensboro | Greensboro, N.C. | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 18 | Elon | Cincinnati, Ohio | 6 p.m. |
| Dec. 19 | Cincinnati | Cincinnati, Ohio | TBA |
| Dec. 30 | RIDER | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 2 | BALL STATE | Huntington, W.Va. | 5 p.m. |
| Jan. 6 | Ohio | Athens, Ohio | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 9 | Western Michigan | Kalamazoo, Mich. | 4 p.m. |
| Jan. 13 | EASTERN MICHIGAN | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 16 | Toledo | Toledo, Ohio | 2 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | MIAMI | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 25 | BUFFALO | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 27 | West Virginia | Charleston, W.Va. | 5 p.m. |
| Jan. 30 | Bowling Green | Bowling green, Ohio | 2 p.m. |
| Feb. 3 | Akron | Akron, Ohio | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 6 | KENT | Huntington, W.Va. | 2 p.m. |
| Feb. 10 | OHIO | Huntington, W.Va. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 13 | CENTRAL MICHIGAN | Huntington, W.Va. | 5 p.m. |
| Feb. 17 | Northern Illinois | DeKalb, Ill | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 20 | WESTERN MICHIGAN | Huntington, W.Va. | 2 p.m. |
| Feb. 23 | Ball State | Muncie, Ind. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 26-28 | MAC Tournament | TBA | TBA |
| Mar. 1 | at MAC Tournament | Toledo, Ohio | TBA |

Home games in all caps

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New players asset to team

■ From page 5

Ferguson said she feels there is so much she needs to prove, being a freshman. "As freshman, you just have so much to prove. You want them [team mates, opponents] to think that you're on their level. You don't want them to think you're going to back down because you're a freshman," she said.

Simpson agrees that Ferguson isn't the type of player to back down in light of tough competition. "After the first game, Au'Yana Ferguson, a freshman, was asked by the newspaper about starting as a freshman, was she nervous," Simpson said.

"I thought she had a great comment, and I don't tell the players what to say. She had said that she wasn't nervous which surprised her but she said then again that it didn't surprise her because she had

"This team has a very unique chemistry. They're very positive. It could be the worst of worst situations and they are the first ones to pick up their teammates. It is a very positive situation. It can only result in something positive."

Julienne Simpson,
women's basketball coach

the support of the whole entire team. Even though she is a freshman, she had gotten the nod to go and start.

"In women's basketball and in women's sports alone, that is the key, to get into a group, not to be jealous or envious or whatever — that pecking order, I'm a senior, I'm a sophomore, I'm a junior, and I should be starting before someone else."

Ferguson looks forward to her four seasons at Marshall, and is excited to see the team grow together.

"I'm very excited because there is no way we can go but

up. It is a young squad, so just think of us in four years. By next year, we all should know where and how each other plays. We'll be a family."

Tokodi said she is excited for this season to be starting, and that she thinks the team is coming together quite well.

"It's hard adjusting. It's like a whole new kind of game. But the captains and everyone on the team are rallying everyone out and being really patient with us. We're coming along I think," she said. "Some of us are adjusting faster than others. Karrie [Cook] has been really

quick to adjust, and Au'Yana [Ferguson] has too. The rest of us are coming along. Shawna's improving a lot."

From Parkersburg, Tokodi said proximity to home was a big factor in her decision to come to Marshall. "It's about a two-hour drive for me, so everybody [family and friends] should be able to come to the games. I'm excited that everybody back home wants to come and see me play," she said.

Simpson looks forward to what she anticipates to be a very positive year. "This team has a very unique chemistry. They're very positive. It could be the worst of worst situations and they are the first ones to pick up their teammates. It is a very positive situation. It can only result in something positive," she said. "You get a unique group in and they're going to do a lot of things that no one expects them to do. And within a couple of years, I think that we'll be able to not only win each game, but to be expected to win each game and also to win a conference."

University of Kentucky players, coaches mourn

By **TIM WHITMIRE**
AP Sports Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The excitement of a game Saturday against No. 1 Tennessee and a pending bowl invitation faded to gray Monday at Kentucky as the team mourned a truck crash that killed one player and injured another.

Also killed was the best friend of Kentucky quarterback Tim Couch, who opted not to join the others on an ill-fated hunting trip Sunday.

"Being a football player, you think you've been through a lot of tough things, losing games in the last seconds, taking big hits," said Couch, who cried as he talked about the death of lifelong friend Scott Brock. "You think you're a tough person until you have to deal with going in and seeing your best friend's parents after he's just passed away."

Brock, a student at Eastern Kentucky University, and Kentucky defensive lineman Arthur "Artie" Steinmetz were killed when starting center Jason Watts' pickup truck went out of control and flipped over on U.S. 27 near Somerset.

Driver Watts was thrown from the vehicle with the other two. He severely cut his right arm. They were headed to a farm near Somerset to go deer hunting when the accident happened about 7 a.m. Sunday.

Nane was wearing a seatbelt. The cause of the crash is being investigated, but Pulaski County Sheriff Sam Catron has said speed might have been a factor. Routine blood samples

taken from Watts at the hospital are being tested for alcohol by the state police.

Watts was in fair condition Monday at Lexington's University of Kentucky Medical Center, where he underwent a preliminary operation to clean the woundstretching from his elbow to his wrist.

Dr. James Lovett, a plastic surgeon, removed glass, rocks, dirt and dead tissue from the laceration, repaired some tendons and closed the wound.

The crash occurred hours after Kentucky (7-3) celebrated Senior Day at Commonwealth Stadium with a 55-17 win over Vanderbilt.

Couch said he visited Watts, who was among those honored in a pregame ceremony. "I just told him I'm not blaming him. I think he listened to me."

Coach Hal Mumme canceled practice Monday. He and Mike Breaux, a minister at Southland Christian Church, one of Lexington's largest congregations, met with players in an "emotional" meeting.

"It was a precious time for the team," said punter Jimmy Carter. "Some of the guys were crying. We all got down as a team and prayed."

Mumme said he planned to tell the players "that God has a plan for everybody's life, and some plans are shorter than others."

"I think it only serves to point out for all of us that we're only one brief heartbeat away from eternity ourselves, and nobody really can say when that time is," Mumme said.

Young lives up to title

■ From page 5

Young said he expects the team's experience to come out

on the court. "We have three freshmen this year, and I don't think any of them are starting. The whole starting five has experience."

"On an away game, we know what to expect out of the other team. Last year, Joda Burgess

and I didn't know what to expect, but now, we've seen the other schools and know what to expect."

Young, while being a good basketball player, is also a big family man. His mother moved from their home in Zanesville, Ohio, to Huntington this year so she could attend more of the games. "I like it that she moved down here. It's different now that she can come to every home game to watch."

"If I have a bad game, she'll give out some criticism, but then come back on a positive note to support me if I'm feeling down. She'll either say good job or don't worry about, you'll get them next time."

A dream come true

■ From page 5

to Coach White you're going to learn something.

"He gets us fired up before the games. If we do something wrong, he's going to let you know about it. That's what I like about Coach White."

Burgess comes into this season 35 pounds heavier than he was last year.

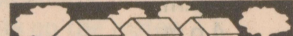
"I was in the weight room all the time this summer," Burgess said. "I give a lot of credit to the strength coach [Paul Helsel] because he made us go in the weight room and he didn't cut us any slack."

Burgess should be an integral part of the Herd at both sides of the floor.

The Thundering Herd volleyball team plays its final home match of the season tonight when Morehead State visits Gullickson Hall at 5 p.m.

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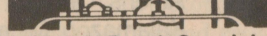
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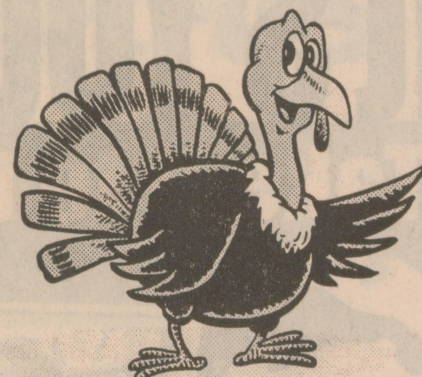
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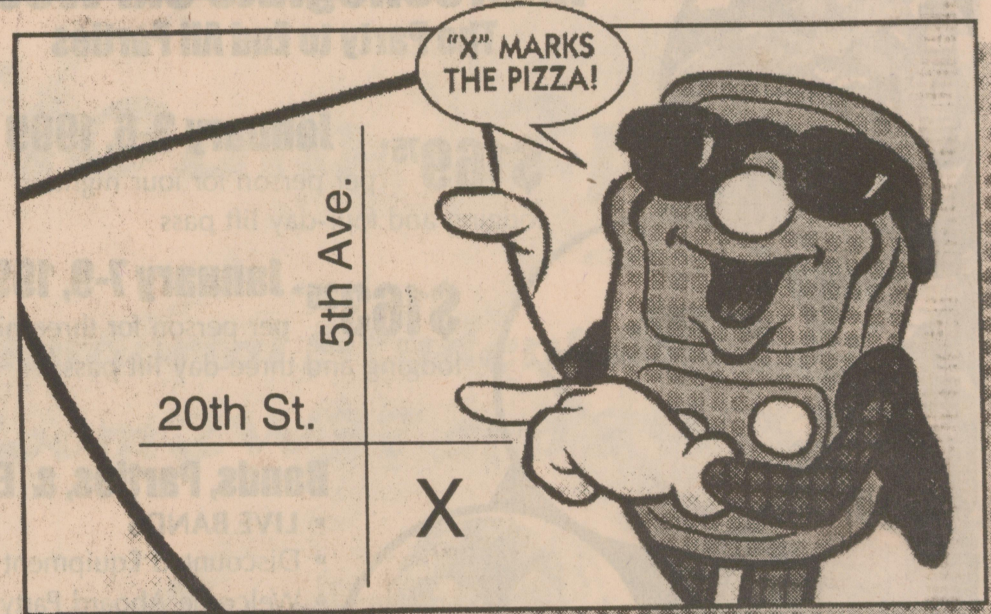
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