

Home doubleheader ends in defeat for both men and women basketball teams



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

From left to right: Forward/Center Melodie Kapinga, Guard Izzy Higginbottom during the game against Ragin' Cajuns.

COLUMN BY WILL LIVINGSTON

STAFF WRITER

Cold finishes matched the cold weather on Saturday in a basketball doubleheader against the Ragin' Cajuns of Louisiana. The women's game ended with a 64-63 loss and the men lost 84-77.

The women's team played well for most of the game against Louisiana, leading 35-26 at halftime and holding larger leads earlier in the game. The Cajuns came back during the second half.

With 16 seconds left, a foul was charged to center Cheyenne Forney, and Louisiana forward Tamera Johnson made both free throws to give the Cajuns a one-point lead, which they held onto for the win.

Guards Anna Griffin and Lauryn Pendleton led the team in points, each scoring 15. Griffin also led the team in blocks with one. Forney scored 12 points, with six rebounds and a steal.

Point guard Izzy Higginbottom, ranked in the top 10 nationally for points per game, was held to eight points. Higginbottom led the women's

team in assists with eight. Guard Wynter Rogers led the team in six defensive rebounds and two offensive.

The Red Wolves men's team did well to keep up with Louisiana in the first half. In the second half, the defending Sun Belt-champion Ragin' Cajuns pulled away quickly on the back of a double-double from Cajun forward Hosana Kitenge, with 25 points and 13 rebounds.

Guard Caleb Fields once again led the Red Wolves in points with 19 and got 12 rebounds. Forward Izaiyah Nelson scored 17 points, and

led the team in rebounds and blocks, with 13 and four, respectively. Both players achieved a double-double.

A big weakness for the Red Wolves was a lack of success shooting from the three, with a three-point percentage of just 18.2% (4-22). The Red Wolves shot 89% from the free-throw line, however.

The men's team's next game is on Wednesday, where they will take on Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The women's team also plays on Wednesday, against South Alabama in Mobile.

Red Wolves conclude Commodore Challenge

PRESS RELEASE

ARKANSAS STATE

A trio of Arkansas State track and field athletes recorded career-best marks on Saturday to conclude the Commodore Challenge.

Bella Coscetti cleared an indoor-best 3.82m (12-6.25) to place sixth in the women's pole vault, while Avery Shell and Kaci Andrus both vaulted 3.42m (11-2.5).

Olivia Walter ran a career-best 9:57.73 to place fifth in the women's 3000 meters, ahead of Abbey Coberly (13th - 10:40.95) and Maggie Hunter (15th - 10:56.91). The men's race also saw a personal best set, as Noah McMurtrey finished 10th with a personal-best time of 8:38.55. He finished ahead of Coleman Wilson (15th - 8:47.07) and Andrew Mason (22nd - 9:18.60).

In the men's shot put, Alden Wetzels and Colby



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Bella Coscetti, a sophomore pole vaulter, attempting to clear a pole at a competition.

Eddowes placed 16th and 17th, respectively, with marks of 11.98m (39-3.75) and 11.88m (38-11.75). Izzy Daines registered a throw of 9.33m (30-7.5) to place 17th in the unseeded section of the women's shot put.

Wetzels later turned in a time of 8.61 in the men's 60-meter hurdles first round,

finishing eighth, while Daines clocked a time of 9.36 in the women's opening round of the event. Eddowes placed 12th in 60-meter qualifying, finishing in 7.01.

Anna Hunter paced three Red Wolves in the women's mile, finishing in 5:09.73 to place 11th. Rookies Madison

Haldiman (5:21.55) and Lizzee Winkler (5:24.42) placed 24th and 26th. Jimmy Mann finished 24th in the men's mile with a time of 4:23.42, with Benny Brenneman following him in 32nd with a mark of 4:26.77.

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 19

- Track and Field vs. Vanderbilt Invitational at Nashville
- Women's Bowling vs. Northeast Classic at Deptford, N.J.
- Women's Tennis vs. Tennessee State at the Trim Gym at Jonesboro

Jan. 20

- Track and Field vs. Vanderbilt Invitational at Nashville
- Women's Bowling vs. Northeast Classic at Deptford, N.J.
- Women's Tennis vs. Stephen F. Austin at the Trim Gym at Jonesboro
- Basketball doubleheader vs. Texas State at San Marcos

Jan. 21

- Women's Bowling vs. Northeast Classic at Deptford, N.J.

Jan. 25

- Men's Basketball vs. Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns at Lafayette, La.
- Women's Basketball vs. University of Louisiana at Monroe

Jan. 26

- Women's Bowling vs. Prairie View Invitational at Arlington, Texas.
- Track and Field vs. Lenny Lyles Invitational at Louisville, Ky.
- Women's Tennis vs. Missouri State at Springfield, Mo.

Jan. 27

- Women's Bowling vs. Prairie View Invitational at Arlington, Texas.
- Track and Field vs. Lenny Lyles Invitational at Louisville, Ky.
- Women's Tennis vs. Missouri State at Springfield, Mo.
- Women's Basketball vs. Troy at Troy, Ala.

- Men's Basketball vs. University of Louisiana at Monroe

Jan. 28

- Women's Bowling vs. Prairie View Invitational at Arlington, Texas.

Jan. 31

- Women's Basketball vs. South Alabama at Jonesboro
- Men's Basketball vs. Southern Mississippi at Jonesboro

Feb. 2

- Track and Field vs. New Mexico Collegiate Classic at Albuquerque
- Women's Tennis vs. Lindenwood at Jonesboro

Feb. 3

- Track and Field vs. New Mexico Collegiate Classic at Albuquerque
- Women's Basketball vs. Old Dominion at Jonesboro
- Men's Basketball vs. University of Louisiana at Jonesboro

Feb. 4

- Track and Field vs. South Alabama Invitational at Birmingham, Ala.
- Women's Tennis vs. Butler at Jonesboro