

Athletics

Broadcast agreement makes ESPN Radio 'Voice of the Majors'

At the start of the 2006–07 football season, ESPN Radio 1240 AM announced that an agreement had been signed between

Millsaps College and ESPN Radio to make ESPN the "Voice of the Majors." The contract would extend from the beginning of the College's football season through the men's and women's basketball season and into the baseball season.

"We're very excited about this agreement," said Derrel Palmer, ESPN's director of radio operations. "This gives us a local college voice in the market and gives Millsaps College the

publicity that any athletic program desires."

Tim Wise, athletics director, and Jim Page, M-Club director and head baseball coach, are credited with assembling the deal, which includes broadcasting over the Internet at www.espnradio1240.com on a weekly basis.

The package also includes an 8 to 9 p.m. show with the Majors' head coach, Mike DuBose, on Thursday evenings, a basketball coaches' show with Wise on Wednesday evenings, and a baseball show with Page on Monday nights.

Midway through the basketball season, ESPN Radio announced that an agreement had been signed with George Street Grocery, making the restaurant the gathering point for the basketball and baseball coaches' show for the 2007 campaign.

Students, alumni, and fans are encouraged to visit the restaurant to ask

questions in person. Questions can also be sent via email to millsaps@espnradio1240.com. "I believe the staff at George Street will be a great host to ESPN Radio 1240 and to our guests each week," Palmer said.

—Kevin Maloney

Warren trots globe in search of victory against fabled team



Every good hero needs a suitable foil. Batman needed the Joker. What would the Road Runner have been without that darn coyote?

And who would watch those high-

flying, crowd-pleasing ambassadors of good will, the Harlem Globetrotters, if they didn't have a team to play against?

That's where the New York Nationals—and Tyler Warren—come in. Warren, B.A. 2006, a three-year starter for the Millsaps men's basketball team, returned from his first professional basketball tour with the Nationals in December. The Nationals are the team that the Harlem Globetrotters always "play" and "defeat," with an array of dazzling basketball stunts performed along the way.

Warren, a native of San Antonio, Texas, ranks near the top in Millsaps men's sports history, ranking second all-time in 3-pointers made (140) and attempted (383) and fourth all-time in field goals attempted (1,087), free throws made (311), and assists (256). He also stands in fifth place all-time in free throws attempted (385).

After graduating from Millsaps with a degree in business administration, Warren knew he wanted to continue playing



Derrel Palmer, an ESPN Radio director, said the voice.

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basketball at another level.

"I got a couple of offers from some teams in Europe, but you have to be careful going out there," Warren said. "Teams may fold, and you may not get paid. I was fortunate to get in touch with some guys from the Nationals while I was in Florida, and they offered me a contract."

The New York Nationals (formerly known as the Washington Generals) actually comprise two teams, typically consisting of eight players on a roster from the Division II and Division III levels, including one player-coach. They travel across the United States and abroad (mostly by bus) and play nearly every day, sometimes even playing a doubleheader.

From November 24 until December 15, Warren and six other Nationals players spent time playing the Globetrotters in Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, and Djibouti. The games primarily took place on military bases, but a few were played on an aircraft carrier in the Gulf.

"It was real cool," Warren said. "There were about 5,500 people on the carrier, and about 2,500 of them weren't working and came out to watch the game."

Being so far from home makes it difficult to talk with friends and relatives, but Warren communicated with family via Internet cafés and was allowed 15 minutes a day to talk on the phone.

Highly recruited as a wide receiver out of high school by a handful of Texas colleges like Texas Tech, Baylor, and Rice, Warren decided he wanted to experience a location outside of San Antonio. "People still ask my parents to this day where I ended up playing football," Warren said. "After graduation, I really just wanted to play basketball."

While on the road, Warren plans to study for a commercial real estate license while continuing his dream of playing professional basketball. "I interned at a commercial real estate group before my senior year, and it's definitely something that interests me."

—K. M. and Scott Albert Johnson

Centre College blocks Majors' shot at NCAA basketball tournament

The Majors' hopes of reaching the NCAA Tournament were officially dashed in February in the semifinal round of the SCAC Tournament, as the team fell to the Centre College Colonels by a score of 75-59.

Millsaps, which had posted a 15-3 record since the Christmas break, knocked off Hendrix College 77-64 in the opening round to reach the semifinals for the first time under Tim Wise, fourth-year head coach.

The 16-point loss against Centre was the third worst of the season for the Majors, and it snapped a five-game winning streak, as they fell to 0-3 in games when scoring 60 points or less.

Edrick Montgomery, who finished the season with the league's second most double-doubles (10), had nine rebounds to go along with his 14 points. It marked the eighth time of the season the junior fell a rebound shy of posting a double-double.

The Millsaps season came to a close

with the Centre loss, a day after the College reached an 18-win plateau for only the seventh time in school history and the first since the 2001-02 season.

The Majors also reached a milestone on the road in conference play this season, ending their campaign with a 6-1 record, only the fourth time since Millsaps joined the SCAC in 1991 that they have finished with a winning road record.

With a team full of underclassmen and five juniors in the starting lineup,

the Majors should be in great shape next season to make a run at the NCAA Tournament.

The distribution of the basketball and the balanced scoring was obvious this season, as four of the five starters averaged double figures.

The Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference announced its 2006-07 All-Conference Team at the conclusion

of the conference tournament, with Montgomery earning All-SCAC First Team honors, sophomore Rodney Rogan earning Second Team honors, and sophomore Lorenzo Bailey and senior Allen Odum receiving Honorable Mention.

—K. M.



15 from Millsaps included on SCAC All-Conference Team

In November, after the Majors' magical run to the Division III Football Playoffs came to an end in Pittsburgh, the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference announced

unrewarded as, in exclusive voting by the head coaches of the SCAC, sophomore Juan Joseph was selected the league's Offensive Player of the Year, his teammate Chris Jackson was named the Special Teams Player of the Year, and Mike DuBose, first-year head coach, was voted the league's Coach of the Year.

Joseph, a 6-foot-2, 178-pound quarterback from Edgard, Louisiana, set single-season school records for passing

Jackson had two first-half punt returns for touchdowns (67 and 51 yards) in the win—becoming the second player in league history to take two punts to the end zone in a single game. But besides leading the league in kick returns (22.7 yards per return), Jackson also led all SCAC receivers with 59 receptions for 661 yards and nine TDs. He also led the league with 156.4 all-purpose yards per game (22nd in the nation).

In his first season as the head coach at Millsaps, DuBose guided the Majors to a 7-4 overall mark, a perfect 6-0 league mark, and the 2006 SCAC football title. Since joining the league in 1989, Millsaps had never run the table unscathed in conference play and had won seven or more games just twice.

After the Majors lost their first three games of the season, a conference championship seemed to be nothing but a pipe dream. But Millsaps rebounded behind a defense that, after allowing 42.7 points in the first three games, stiffened to allow just 10.8 points per game while surrendering no more than 18 points in any game over the course of the season-ending 7-0 run.

—K. M.



that 14 Millsaps student-athletes had been named to the All-Conference First and Second teams, including two Player of the Year selections and Coach of the Year.

The 15 selections (14 players) are the most Millsaps has recorded on an All-Conference team, including the 1996 season (13 selections) and before that, the 1992 season (11 selections).

The 2006 SCAC football season will be remembered as the year that Millsaps College ended one of the more remarkable streaks in all of Division III.

In a battle of undefeated conference teams, Millsaps defeated No. 14 Trinity University, 34-12, in the regular season finale for both teams to claim its first outright league title since 1991 and snap the Tigers' 13-year string of SCAC football championships.

That achievement did not go

yards (2,495), completions (224), attempts (374), and touchdown passes (21) in his first year as a starter. He led the SCAC in both passing yards (251.7 per game) and total offense (256.1 yards per game) and was third in the league in pass-efficiency rating (129.84).

A three-time SCAC Offensive Player of the Week selection during the season, Joseph is the first Millsaps player to win the league's Offensive Player of the Year award since Brad Madden was so honored in 1996.

In his only year in a Millsaps uniform, Jackson, a 6-foot-2, 205-pound senior wide receiver and return specialist from Phenix City, Alabama, probably locked up the league's Special Teams Player of the Year award for his performance in the SCAC-clinching victory over No. 14 Trinity in the season finale.

Scholar-athletes go from grounders to graduate schools



Nick Crawford, John Pacillo, Coach Page, Luke Morrow, and Jason Hadley

For four senior Millsaps baseball players, walking across the stage at graduation

this year is just the start of the next inning, not the end of the game. In fact, as early as last November, when they participated in a College photo shoot, John Pacillo, Luke Morrow, Jason Hadley, and Nick Crawford

had a game plan for their futures.

Hadley and Crawford are making preparations to attend the Mississippi College School of Law in the fall. Pacillo and Morrow plan to pursue their M.B.A. degrees at the Millsaps College Else School of Management.

Their alma mater will remain an important influence on these plans. "The professors and class interaction at Millsaps have prepared me to tackle the next step in my educational career," said Hadley. "Baseball has taught me how to be disciplined and manage my time wisely. It has also taught me how to work and interact with others in order to achieve a common goal—winning. With this discipline and confidence, I know that no matter how tough the next step may be, I will be successful."

The confidence enhanced by their Millsaps experience leads many students to move ahead with little trepidation. "Millsaps has prepared me for this next step by enhancing my writing and communication skills," said Pacillo. "Millsaps has also helped by teaching me to gather information I need and to make informed decisions on my own."

Head Coach Jim Page claims that postgraduation plans like those of these senior players are typical for many student-athletes at Millsaps. While maintaining a formidable presence on the field, they earn impressive grade point averages, along with the skills and knowledge that lead naturally into successful futures.

Page holds academic and athletic development in equal esteem, explains Crawford: "He takes our success in the classroom just as seriously as he does our success on the field."

—Patti Wade

The 113th Annual Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in the Millsaps Bowl. The Reverend Ross Olivier will deliver the Commencement address this year.

Carr named president of intercollegiate athletics association



Last fall, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Council of Presidents named Jim Carr, B.B.A. 1988, the president and chief executive officer of the

association. Carr became the seventh executive officer for the organization, which dates back to 1937, and served as interim president and CEO during an eight-month search by the Council of Presidents under the direction of the chair, Dr. Loren Gresham.

"His unanimous selection by the Council of Presidents is an indication of their confidence in his ability to lead the organization in the years immediately ahead," Gresham said. "His ability to connect with college presidents, athletic administrators, and student-athletes makes him the ideal person to fill this key leadership role."

Carr will oversee all business operations of the association of colleges and universities across the United States and parts of Canada. Over the past several months, the association, under Carr's direction, has taken an inside look at the state of the group and areas pertaining to the business model that will have a vast impact on its image, perception, and position regarding service to members and student-athletes.

Carr said his time at Millsaps College helped build in him confidence and strength. "My experience at Millsaps was a terrific mix of academic rigor, caring professors, intercollegiate athletics, and terrific friendships," he said. "In the end,



Area youth have a ball watching college sports

Zahneria Austin, a local second-grader, was among area young people invited by the Millsaps College athletics department to come out and watch the Majors take on the Centre College Colonels in January. The event was part of the national Take a Kid to the Game initiative, created to encourage alumni and fans to take their kids to stadiums and courts across the country to let them experience intercollegiate athletics. The women's basketball team fell to Centre in the last few seconds of their game, which ended 61-59, but the men's team beat the Colonels 79-67. Austin and the other visiting youth got to chow down on popcorn and cotton candy, try their hand at shooting some hoops, and take home Millsaps T-shirts and goodie bags.

—Margaret Cahoon

I was a much stronger person who was confident that he could tackle whatever challenges were ahead.”

Carr, who was a starter for the Millsaps Majors men’s basketball team for three years and holds the men’s single-season highs for 3-point field goals made, 3-point field goal percentage, and 3-pointers attempted, went on to obtain an M.S. in sports management from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1990 and a juris doctorate from Duke University in 1994.

Carr also attributes his work ethic and loyalty to what he experienced in his years at Millsaps. His advice to current students “is to take advantage of everything Millsaps has to offer. Get involved in areas of the College that excite you and participate with passion. Work as hard as you can personally, but, more importantly, put the group/activity ahead of your personal gain. We all become better people when we have passion and we commit to something bigger than ourselves.”

—Becca Day

Dinner for champions raises \$100,000-plus for Millsaps athletics

An idea conceived a year ago by Ron Journey, the former Millsaps athletics director, has developed into an annual fund-raiser to help support College athletics. The first Dinner for Champions brought together Millsaps supporters in an event led by the chairman of the M-Club Council, Steve Hendrix, and Jim Page, the M-Club director and head baseball coach. The featured speaker, Pat Dye, a former Auburn University head football coach and Hall of Famer, discussed the importance of blending athletics and academics.

Held in February at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum, the fund-raiser brought in more than 170 alumni and guests, with about 75 student-athletes and more than a dozen athletic staff members filling in as



waiters, hosts, and parking attendants.

And while athletics have always been a valuable part of the Millsaps experience, a surge in support for the program was demonstrated by the money raised—just over \$100,000—and the turnout that night. “I was overwhelmed by the amount of support from the M-Club Council, coaches, student-athletes, and all of those who attended the dinner,” Page said. “It was an amazing evening, highlighted by a wonderful speaker, Pat Dye, who delivered such a great message about how athletics and academics can intertwine, a message directed not only to people who attended the dinner but to all of our student-athletes.”

With the student-athletes’ heartfelt, autobiographical descriptions of their experiences, the atmosphere was one of the love of athletics and a sense of dedication. Guests, who enjoyed a dinner prepared by Jay Schimmel and his staff from Schimmel’s Restaurant, were out in full force focusing on one common goal—a way to give financial support to all 14 intercollegiate sports offered at Millsaps—in one fund-raiser.

“The amount of money raised will go a long way in promoting and reflecting

our athletes’ life experiences at Millsaps College,” Page said. “I can’t begin to thank all of our donors, alumni, friends, family, and staff members who went the extra mile to make this thing happen. I have always been proud to be a Major, but that one night was extra special. With the continued support of Millsaps athletics, the student-athletes of today and tomorrow will reap the benefits of this annual event.”

All proceeds from the Dinner for Champions banquet go directly to Millsaps athletic programs to help ensure that athletics facilities and programs parallel the academic excellence that is a tradition at the College. For more information, or to give to the athletics program at Millsaps, please contact Page at 601-974-1196.

—B. D. and K. M.