Spartans slip up

Idaho senior running back Kamaile Bailey runs around the end during Idaho’s 32-29 upset of SJSU Idaho’s first conference victory of the season.

Photo by Vernon McIntyre / Spartan Daily

FOOTBALL

Idaho (2-7, 1-4 WAC) snapped a six-game losing streak by outgaining SJSU (3-6, 2-3 WAC) 219 to 89 and scoring 22 points in the fourth quarter alone, completely erasing the 20-point lead the Spartans held.

According to SJSU special teams coach Mike MacIntyre said following the Spartans’ 32-29 loss to Idaho on Saturday at Spartan Stadium.

“Idaho controlled 95 percent of the game and let it slip away,” head coach Mike MacIntyre said. “You have to regroup, and it’s something we need to work on.”

Idaho’s second turnover came on the ensuing kickoff—a fuumble by Vandalie junior kick retuner Matthew Harvey, forced by Spartan senior safety Alex Google.

MacIntyre recognized how good the end of turnover was, as SJSU had committed just 11 turnovers in its last two games.

“It helped us get off to a good start,” he said. “We worked on that and it gave us a chance. We thought that if we won the turnover battle we would win the game.”

Following the turnover, SJSU took over on the Idaho 24-yard line.

Faulkner connected with senior running back Brandon Butler for a 21-yard catch and Bailey finished off the drive on the very next play, finding the end zone with a 3-yard touchdown run.

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 2

Campus fraternities and sororities raise money for charities

For Blake Balajadia, assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Life for Student Involvement, the notion of campus community and philanthropy is something that has recently lost a loved one to cancer.

“I don’t know how to fix that, but we can contribute some money to people who do know how,” Balajadia said.

As part of a mission to build character and enhance the college experience, SJSU Greek chapter members take part in community service to directly help others and plan philanthropy events to raise money for charitable organizations.

“We value the service is something that is a founding part of any fraternal order that we have on this campus,” Balajadia said.

According to SJSU Fraternity and Sorority Life, Greek fraternity and sorority chapters together raised $104,267 for charities or philanthropies and recorded 23,315 hours of community service in 2010.

“We are very privileged with what we have here, even though it may not be a lot for some of us,” Balajadia said. “It’s our duty to give back to folks who may be aren’t as fortunate.”

Kappa Delta Sorority held their philanthropy event, Cure-a-thon for Care, on Thursday.

“This year, we’re actually going to have people from Camp Taylor come in and speak to the audience,” Race said.

He said other activities the fraternity and sorority chapters is involved with include breast cancer walks and adopting a park.

Idaho Alph Kappa Phe- nix, a national organization, began giving on the 20th of the month for eight years with the proceeds going to Charitable Organizations.

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Spartan Daily

Monday, November 7, 2011

SJU men's hoops tips off season strong in exhibition

By Scott Sebastian

The Spartans basketball defeated the Argonauts of Notre Dame de Namur in the Spartans' first exhibition game of the 2011-12 season on Thursday night at the Event Center.

Head coach George Nessman stressed that the team did start the first game under the lights. "It was the first game at-atmosphere night for us," Nessman said. "We have things we need to develop and work on, but that's what we should have in November." The team's slow start in the first half was the result of simply missing open shots, as the ball shot just 30 percent from the field early. "I think we just need to work a little harder on our shooting," Nessman said.

The team quickly changed its game plan, finding Carter in the post in the first half and driving through the first half, and the Spartans led 13-8. Junior guard James Kinney was the biggest scorer of the first half, going 5-9 from the field with three-pointers. Kinney hit two three-pointers early in the game and would tally ten points in the first half. "James (Kinney) is the guy that people talk about because they know he is this good," Nessman said. "He's our best player and he is going to have a big impact on our season." After leading by as much as 16 points toward the end of the first half, the Turks found a way to cut the lead by just 28-29 at halftime.

SJU shot well with seven three-pointers. Kinney ended with four points in the second half, and quickly pushed the lead up to 19 points within the first four minutes of play. The run was fueled by Shanburger and senior guard Calvin Baxman, both stepping in with three-pointers.

The Spartans lead fell back to 12 points halfway through the second half, but Shanburger's 12-second-half points would put the Argonauts away for good. "We just didn't play well enough in the first half to give Idaho any chance at all," Nessman said. "We need to get back on our defense and start guarding a lot better than we did in the first half." Kinney would lead the team in points with 16, and Carter finished with a double-double, 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Kinney acknowledged that the victory was a good time for the team, but there is still need for improvement. "We had some struggles, and that falls on me" to some extent, he said. "I feel that balanced scoring may be the best solution."

Kinney acknowledged that the victory was a good time for the team, but there is still need for improvement. "The biggest problem we had was on defense, and knowing how to move the ball," he said.

The biggest problem we had was on defense, and knowing how to move the ball," he said. "It's obviously disappointing because you have to give them credit."

Nessman said when he looked up at the scoreboard early in the second quarter he was not happy. "We should have won," he said. "We need to get over this one because it hurt — we all felt it." The Spartans offense was somewhat quiet throughout the entire duration of the game, running many short passes and screen plays, and did not air out a pass until freshman Kinney connected with Otten for the fourth quarter score.

For the second game in a row, the Spartans running game was also lethargic, recording 68 yards compared to Idaho's 189.

When asked what the problems were with the running game, Nessman answered, "I don't know."

"We thought we had some things worked out, but we definitely did not run it well and that's a big problem for us," he said. "If we were able to run the clock and running had more balance."

Spartan running back Matt Faulkner finished with 285 yards on 29 for 42 passing, said the Spartans' season is far from over, still needing three wins for bowl eligibility with three games left on the schedule. "It can be a way to win this game in a row — we still have a chance to go to a bowl game," he said. "It can still be a very good season and we are definitely capable of doing it. We just have to pull together as a team and make it happen."

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Individual Statistics

James Kinney, G: 16 pts., 5 assists, 3 steals
James Keimann, G: 12 pts., 4 assists, 1 steal
Will Carter, F: 11 pts., 12 rebounds, 1 block

SJSU men's hoops tips off season strong in exhibition

Noume De Namur: no problem for SJU despite sluggish start

Nessman acknowledged that this team could be better than last year's team and acknowledged that this team could be better than last year's team and could be much more than last year's group.
A national campaign to introduce opera to new audiences brought Opera San Jose to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library to deliver two free performances last week.

The week of outreach, from Oct. 28 through Nov. 6 this year, was coordinated by OPERA America, a New York-based service organization for opera with an international membership including about 100 professional opera companies.

“Some people who have never been to an opera house may be intimidated,” said Patricia Johnson, a representative of OPERA America. “If we can take opera out of that environment and into, for example, a library or park, it can be accessible and fun for anyone.”

This year’s National Opera Week marks the third year OPERA America has coordinated the program, Johnson said.

According to her, about 186 organizations in 31 states, including professional opera companies and schools, participated in the weeklong festivities and public programs.

Opera San Jose participated with a performance of selected duets and solos from an upcoming double-bill main stage production of “Porgy and Bess” and “La Bohème,” on Tuesday, Nov. 1, and a performance of “Hansel and Gretel,” on Friday.

An important goal of Opera San Jose’s mission is to create interest in opera among the school-aged children, Johnson said.

“The opera company also held full dress rehearsals and student matinees in-house, in Califor- nia Theatre at 355 South First St., which fourth to 12th-grade students attend.

“The most important to us that we develop future audiences and we need to reach out to kids at this age,” Smith said. “The arts are important to a child’s education.”

From what it is not National Opera Week, Opera San Jose has a number of programs intended to attract kids of all ages about opera, according to Smith.

While the recent “Hansel and Gretel” performance in the King Library was free and open to the public, schools can book a one-act version of the Engelbert Humperdinck classic for a fee.

Other in-school presentations Opera San Jose provides include a Vocal or Drama Masterclass, in which a company member visits a middle or high school classroom or group and teaches various aspects of performance such as vocal technique or character development.

The opera company also helps provide dress rehearsals and student matinees in-house, in California Theatre at 355 South First St., fourth to 12th-grade students attend.

“This program helps us to develop future audiences and we need to reach out to kids at this age,” Smith said. “The arts are important to a child’s education.”

Smith said this type of educational outreach is made possible by supporting organizations, such as a recent $25,000 grant Opera San Jose received from the National Endowment for the Arts, an organization which also provides support for OPERA America’s National Opera Week.

With the grant supporting Opera San Jose’s National Opera Week activities, Smith said she hoped the free performance would spark the interest of people from all backgrounds in the company’s 2011-12 season beginning next week.

“National Opera Week comes just before Opera San Jose’s main stage production opening,” Smith said. “This program helps to ignite the notion that opens in only for the blue-hared crowed.”

New Ben Stiller film blends together genres and charm

“Tower Heist” is a movie that makes itself vulnerable to a lot of preconceived notions — most of which are true, but not exactly in the manner you might expect.

The title implies that it’s a heist movie, and it is — all the requisites ingredients are there.

The presence of Ben Stiller in the lead only implies that the movie is a comedy, and it is in deed fairly funny, though not as much as you might expect.

If pressed, I’d have to de- scribe “Tower Heist” as a sort of hybrid between a lightweight heist flick like “The Italian Job,” a comedic parody like “Dodgeball,” a music- drama like “The Dead Poets Society,” a spy film, a dash of popcorn movie.

The movie revolves around a misfit gang of would-be thieves, all current or former employees of a luxury residential apart- ment tower owned, and lived in, by a man called Arthur Shaw.

Shaw is an analogue of Ber- nie Madoff and his kind who, finally come to drag him away, his former employees are left with the realization that their former boss had drained all of their savings.

It’s a timely and evocative be- guilement for a sea of disenraged employees, like so many of us today, demanding justice, in this case through rob- bery.

I won’t bother detailing the cast of the plot, because I don’t have to. In a heist movie, you can probably guess how it’ll play out.

Ben Stiller stars as Josh Ko- vacs, former building manager at the titular tower and em- blem of the merry band of misfits.

Stiller might be best known for his over-the-top comic performances in films such as “Top Gun,” “Dodgeball,” and “Zoolander,” but not to name a few, but his per- formance in “Tower Heist” is a lot more serious and methodical than what I was expecting from a movie that’s been tagged as a “Ben Stiller comedy.”

It’s hard to say if this is a bad thing.

Stiller deftly transitions, minute-by-minute, between the largest seriousness of a clas- sic leading man and the comi- cus nerve of his more typical roles.

I think it’s a testament to the actor’s acting ability, or at least his experience that he can pull off playing both funny and serious in the same movie and make it look graceful.

Edie Murphy stars as “Shirl,” a petty that Kovacs builds out of his need to help — hilariously — tutor his white-collar co-worker in the art of larceny.

I’ve seen some complaints about Shirley being a racial stéréo- type — well of course be is, that’s the joke, and Murphy plays it gloriously.

Tea Leoni stars as FBI agent Claire Denham, who finds her- self both a player and a bystander in the feud between Kovacs and Shaw.

Leoni mostly gets sidelined once the heist gets rolling, but she steals every scene she gets.

One of my favorite scenes is early in the movie, when Kovacs and Denham go drink at a local bar.

The two actors, especially Leoni, make the scene both hilarious and real — Leoni manages to make her drunken start simultaneously disgusting and charming.

By far the most memorable performance comes from Alan Alda, who imbues his charac- ter, Arthur Shaw, with a kind of petty, pedantic affect that makes him a uniquely loathsome pres- ident.

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I wanted more of the funny bits, and while the heist action was pleasing in itself, I would have gladly seen some of it sac- rificed to give us brilliant comic actor more room to play.

That said, for all its recon- structiveness, “Tower Heist” did have one very important consistency — I was thoroughly entertained.
Out-of-this-world event lands at SJSU

The SJU school of library and information science sponsored the Library 2011 Worldwide Virtual Conference held last Wednesday and Thursday. During the two-day conference, more than 6,000 participants from 153 countries, spanning 16 time zones, gathered online to promote libraries and librarianship.

“As we shift to the Internet, education is more about learning how to learn instead of rote learning,” said a co-chair of the virtual event. “There’s incredible potential for this kind of learning around the world.”

He said another purpose of the event was to encourage the use of online conferencing and social networking for education.

“(Virtual conferencing) expands the group of people that can get together,” said Hirsh.

He said attempting a physical gathering of the same magnitude would be impossible as it would cost more than $30 million, and coordinating an event with many participants is impossible because that many people is impossible because there just isn’t enough room for everyone everywhere.

“A lot of companies that we want to connect for free are not always aligning their major conventions with major libraries,” he said.

He added that conference was to help the young kids get interested in science and technology.

The SJU conference was for them to be free and as inclusive as possible, fully online and a new approach to conferencing,” Hirsh said in an email response. “Given that (Hargadon’s) background is more in education, he was the one in charge of involving a partner from the library and information science fields. I feel really real nice vision.”

He said the SJU conference would be similar to the virtual Global Education Conference held in November 2010.

“The vision for both of these conferences was for them to be free and as inclusive as possible, fully online and a new approach to conferencing,” Hirsh said in an email response. “Given that (Hargadon’s) background is more in education, he was the one in charge of involving a partner from the library and information science fields. I feel really real nice vision.”

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Gabrielle Giffords: A lesson in strength

In life, people go through all sorts of stress and drama that can bring them down. With the home stretch approaching for the semester and term papers due, many students can seem stressed these days. It’s at times like these that one can get intimidated around this time and relationships can get strained. For some, the stresses of life can become too much and it may even seem like there is no escape from their problems. Others fight that upset and try putting their energy on what they want in life. But in times like these you have to dig deep and find that little something to get you over the hump.

It can be seeing a good score on your test, finally getting that grade or boy you want to be with or just finding something to believe in. For me, I have found inspiration in recovering U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords.

For those who may have forgotten, Giffords, an Arizona congresswoman is the politician who was shot in the head in a horrific incident that took place in Tucson, Ariz., on Jan. 8, 2011, that claimed the lives of six people. After some news outlets pronounced her dead at the scene it was discovered that she was only in serious condition, and 10 months later, after returning to do almost everything, from speaking to walking, it seems Giffords may actually make a full recovery and even return to Congress.

In an article I read by the Associated Press on Yahoo, writer Amanda Lee Myers and Michelle Price detailed this emotional story of perseverance by Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly, a U.S. astronaut. In a new category called “A Tale of Courage and Hope,” Giffords’ book has detailed her story of recovery and every time Giffords ventured back to the organization, it pales in comparison to one of the students simply coming to school, attend their classes and leave.

With the homework we have, shifts we have to work, and other things going on in our lives, a large number of us do fall into the category of “commuter students.” But at the same time, student groups such as A.S. strongly encourage the student body to take part in extracurricular activities. Even the university has tried to intervene in the everyday lives of people by forcing students who don’t live within a close enough range to campus to dorms – even if there isn’t any room for them. There just isn’t enough time in the day to be involved.

For me, however – a person who thrives on being busy – I still enjoy extra work. When drama, school or just plain life gets you down you should never be an excuse to give up working extra hours.

In the end, your time is better spent trying to right your wrongs than letting them defeat you. What Giffords has done to overcome what has been so frightening is truly amazing, and it shows to everyone that no matter what the struggle, you can always find the strength and perseverance to overcome it. So I say bravo Ms. Giffords, for showing us all the meaning of courage.

SJUS is known by many to be a commuter campus, meaning that the students simply come to school, attend their classes and leave. As a former president and member of Akbayan, the Filipino-American community organization, I have part in and helped lead more than 50 events last year. As a result, Student Involvement presented the organization with the “Organизации of the Year” plaque.

As great an achievement as that was for me and the other leaders of the organization, it pales in comparison to the benefits that similar organizations on other campuses get.

Akbayan is partnered with the Pilipino-American Collegiate Endorsement of San Francisco State University and the Pilipino American Student Association of Cal State East Bay. Together, they’re called the Tolero, and a lot of the events and programs the organizations hold are very similar to one another.

For example, the biggest event all these organizations hold on their own is Pilipino Cultural Night, a theatrical event about Philippine culture that encompasses a theatrical play, authentic Philippine dances and music and hop- e.

The end result is a big performance that leaves its performers in awe of how much they learned through months of practice.

Cal State East Bay’s organization awards three units to all their Pilipino club.

Here on campus, I do all the same things, except football – let’s face it, the odds of a 5-foot-9-inch person playing football in high school is slim to none.

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She showed images of stern-faced men with pistols and sunglasses whom she identified as ultra-right-wing nationalists, often occupying the same houses because the Palestinians were forced to vacate hours earlier.

"This is illegal, and it's unjust," Wilkof said, citing international condemnation of the Israeli government's settler programs.

Even the United States, Israel's closest ally, refused to recognize their legality, she said.

Wilkof showed pictures and videos of the evictions and their aftermath to a small audience in the King Library last week.

There were some images of small houses, brightly painted with Israeli flags, with the front yard still littered with possession tags of the former occupants, now living in the street or in tents.

Wilkof also showed images and video of the new occupants themselves, who she described as ultra-right-wing nationalists, often with connections to the police and military.

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