

Inexperience tough hurdle for Lady Tigers

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This season was a growing and learning experience for Smith-Cotton girls tennis. The team had only two players with varsity experience.

“Our team overall didn’t have much of a winning season, but individually I felt like I grew a lot over the course of the season and am working hard to be better next season,” said sophomore Caroline Matz. Coach Christine Nierman said that although it was a difficult season, she is thankful that the players stepped up to varsity and competed at that level. She said the team was very supportive toward each other. “My teammates were very good at encouraging each other,” Matz said. “We were also lucky to have a good coach that supported us, and helped us constantly all season long.”

Nierman said there were a lot of new faces to the team. Veterans had to step up and show them the way and Nierman said they did just that. She added that the team’s main weakness by far was the lack of experience. “We had some really competitive girls that were eager to learn and get better,” Nierman said. “We are fairly young, so that looks promising for the future.” Nierman feels that everyone grew through the season. Matz said she is ready to put in the work during the off season to continue to grow as a player and be better for next year.



Matz



S-C junior running back Cameron Finley (28) looks for some space to accelerate in the first quarter of the Tigers Homecoming matchup against Rock Bridge on Oct. 5 at Tiger Stadium. The Bruins won, 49-0.

Tigers focus on improving, building more consistency

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton football has had its share of ups and downs, but Head Coach Charlie McFail thinks it has been a successful season so far.

The Tigers’ record is currently 2-5. Although McFail believes the season has gone pretty well, he thinks the players are not yet consistent in their play. In order to improve, he said, the team needs to have a consistent, high level of effort throughout all four quarters.

The beginning of the season started out well for the Tigers, but some of their competition has gotten harder through the middle of the season. They will finish out the year facing Clinton and Center, so McFail believes the season has been pretty evenly spread out.

Going forward, McFail plans to work on

improving the team’s technique on blocking and tackling, as well as on their timing and schemes.

Senior Colton Zerilli wants to work hard on being a team player, and continue to encourage his teammates even when they’re down.

“(I want to) make sure they know that even when they fail they can always keep going,” said Zerilli.

Senior Justin Osburn also wants to work on encouraging the Tigers to play as a team, and he personally wants to work on his leadership skills.

McFail and his team are looking to finish off their season successfully, and even get a few district wins.



Zerilli

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Goal of SOS program: Support students

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This year, Smith-Cotton High School has again done SOS training with its students.

Principal Wade Norton started the Signs of Suicide Prevention Program because of its popularity in large high schools throughout Missouri. The state mandated that every school have some sort of suicide pre-

vention program, and the Sedalia 200 district had been looking for one for a while. On Jan. 1, 2016, S-C lost one of its students to suicide.

“We knew at this point we wanted to explore a program for students,” said Norton. At that point, the district started searching for programs to help students with mental health concerns.

SOS training makes students

and staff members aware of the signs of suicide and mental illness.

School counselors Ashley Burris and Katie Ellis conduct the training. They show a video and offer a survey to freshman for their training and offer just the survey to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The video includes scenarios that show students the right and wrong things to do in those situations.

It also tells real-life stories of those who have attempted suicide and the family and friends of those who have been lost to suicide. The survey includes some generalized questions such as “Are you more tired than usual?” as well as questions asking if students have ever hurt themselves or have thought about it.

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Homecoming royalty

Senior Elizabeth Lozada was crowned Homecoming queen and senior Alex Beard was named Homecoming king at halftime of the Smith-Cotton Homecoming football game on Friday, Oct. 5. Princess, not shown, was McKenna Perusich.

Show choirs undergo significant changes

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This year the Smith-Cotton show choir system has undergone some changes. Some are minor while others are more major.

Senior Addy Hazel has been in show choir for all four years of her high school career and has had the opportunity to see the show choir department change in many ways.

“Throughout the past four years in show choir, this has been a place where I’ve really grown in my leadership skills,” said Hazel. She started in Broadway Velocity her freshman year and continued working up from there, joining Cabaret her sophomore year. Last year Hazel was in both Cabaret and New Score, but this year is only in New

Score because Cabaret is no longer available at Smith-Cotton.

Vocal music teacher Anna Wooderson took a long time to think about removing Cabaret from the show choir lineup, but ultimately decided it would be best to remove it. Cabaret was an all-girls show choir, but the overall interest in the choir has gone down since previous years. The lack of girls wanting to join the choir was a key factor of removing Cabaret.

Besides dropping Cabaret, the name and structure of Broadway Velocity was changed. Now known as Vocal Velocity, the choir, previously just for freshmen, now is a mixed prep show choir open to students in grades 9 through 12. This year, junior Marshall Noble is helping

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SOS

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Burris said it is important that students learn the ACT model: Acknowledge, care, and tell. Since the beginning of SOS training last year, the counselors have noticed that more students have been reporting that friends and peers have been having thoughts about hurting themselves, and that students are more willing to talk with them and work things out.

“If you are struggling, there are trusted adults around you that can help you,” said Norton.

School psychologist Chris Johnston helps organize SOS and gives support for the counselors carrying it out. After the surveys are completed, counselors and Johnston start meeting with students who may need help.

The counselors separate the students into two groups: a red group and a green group. The red group has students whose survey answers indicate that they are thinking

about suicide or have had past suicide attempts. The green group has students who scored high on answering yes to questions, but are not at the risk level of the red group.

Johnston believes students’ well being is at least as important as academics.

“If you work to achieve your purpose and goals in life, I count that as a win,” he said.

Johnston is willing to help students with all sorts of issues achieve their goals.

“People are not just out of a cookie-cutter mold,” said Johnston said, who noted that different issues affect different types of students.

SOS training is especially important to students because of the stress of society.

“The stresses that we face as a society are greater than they’ve ever been,” said Johnston. This is why students need to be able to trust someone in order to talk to them.

Norton, Johnston, and the rest of the S-C staff are available to help students with whatever they are struggling with. The SOS prevention program is a way to help students open up to those in authority and get some help.



Senior spirit
Nate McFail wins a dance-off to help the senior class win the spirit trophy at the Homecoming pep assembly.

SHOW CHOIRS

From Page 1

Wooderson with Vocal Velocity as her teacher aide.

“This gives me input on being a director on my own and I really enjoy working with all of the kids working in Vocal Velocity,” Noble said.

New Score, the mixed varsity show choir for sophomores, juniors and seniors, was moved to first hour instead of being the last hour of the day. A few students were nervous when they were told the class would be so early.

“Four choreography dates and a month and a half of school later, and it’s safe to say that the energy this group has given is beyond anything that I’ve ever seen,” Hazel said.

This year the group is focused on being more of a family instead of just people with similar interests. At times they get frustrated with each other, but when this starts happening the group takes a step back and tries again.

Both Noble and Hazel like the new system.

“We’re not just doing this simply for the love of performing, but more so for the reason that we can be whoever we want to be. I really like this year’s show choir system. I personally think that this will make both groups more focused and equally powerful,” Hazel said.

ALL-DISTRICT CHOIR SELECTIONS

The following 23 Smith-Cotton Vocal Music students were picked to perform in the West Central All-District Honor Choir event on Saturday, Oct 13, at Oak Grove High School. The 11/12th grade members will audition for All-State Choir on that day, as well.

11/12th Grade All-District Choir

Cora Sadler, Soprano; Breana Hoover, Soprano; Macy Broyles, Soprano; Alyssa Lowe, Alto; Olivia Dailey, Alto; Ashley Webb, Alto; Ethan Beard, Tenor; Marshall Noble, Tenor; Alex Beard, Bass

Women's Honor Choir

McKenna Perusich, Alto

9/10th Grade District Honor Choir

Elizabeth Beard, Soprano; Meredith Tester, Soprano; Chloe Fiet, Alto; Kayla Holloman, Alto; McCade Curry, Tenor; Gareth Herrington, Tenor; Bryson McNeeley, Tenor; Colton Mostinger, Tenor; Aaron Bilbruck. Bass; Josh Johnson. Bass; Chase McMullin. Bass; Orion Sanchez, Bass; Karson Weymuth, Bass

Theatre students to stage kids show

‘Elephant & Piggie’ will be performed Oct. 23 and Oct. 25

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton High School’s Theatre Department will be putting on the musical “Elephant & Piggie: We Are In a Play!” Based on children’s books, the show is directed towards young children and at the heart of it is the idea that if you have a friend then you have everything you need.

Director Teri Turner hopes that people have fun with it and that it will bring families together.

With a cast of just seven students, Turner would describe her cast as small but mighty.

“We have had some growing pains with it being our first time putting on two musicals at one time, but we are having lots of successes which is driving our excitement and enthusiasm for performing a show based on our favorite piggie and elephant,” Turner said. She also is in rehearsals for “The Sound of Music.”

Turner said the biggest strength of her

cast is that they are very determined. During class, the cast not only works on memorizing lines and character development but also on other aspects of the show such as marketing, publicity, and costumes.

Chloe Fiet playing Piggie; she said, “We have good chemistry and positive energy.” Fiet also said that the cast is very uplifting towards each other. She is thankful for this opportunity and views this as great experience.

Something new that is being introduced into S-C theatre this year is that the Theatre 3 and Theatre 4 classes are putting on a show each quarter. Turner believes that everyone has a home in the theatre whether it be on stage or behind the scenes. Having rehearsals during the school days presents an opportunity for everyone to take part.

“Theatre is for everyone,” Turner said. “Anyone can do theatre, whether it be on stage, back stage, building, painting, etc. Everyone has a home in the theatre. We came up with the idea to allow more students to participate in theatre.”

People who are involved in other things



Chloe Fiet, shown during the 2018 Spring play, will portray Piggie in “Elephant & Piggie: We Are in a Play!”

now have a chance to be involved with theatre, Turner added.

The show will be performed on Oct. 23 and Oct. 25 as a school matinee.

POLL QUESTION

Who is the funniest person at Smith-Cotton? What makes them so funny?



“Tony Corona, because he's really goofy and can come up with anything on the spot.”
— Erika Tackett, senior



“Michael Cho, because he makes jokes about himself.”
— Gavin Walkington, sophomore



“Mr. Baruxen, when you're talking to him it's like talking with a stand-up comedian.”
— Tessa Childers, teacher



“Ms. Nicholas, she's real with the students.”
— Megan Lamb, senior