

Oglethorpe University

Stormy Petrels



MENS BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

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Issue 2

A Message from Coach Ponder

The season is finally here! The guys have been working hard, and we had a good pre-season with an extremely close game against Div. I Georgia State and all of their SEC/ACC transfers. We are looking forward to our first real game against Emory on Monday, Nov. 17. They beat us pretty handily both games last year, so we are looking for a little bit of payback this year. The pre-season poll came out for the SCAC and we have been picked fifth after finishing 3rd last year. DePauw and Centre, who were picked #1 and #2 in the poll, are our first two conference games this year, so we'll be starting vs. the best and could use all the support we can get on those dates (Dec. 5 and 7). Our entire schedule is enclosed, so please come out as often as you can. One note: the conference has flip-flopped the start of all conference men's and women's games, so we'll be playing at 6pm on Fridays and 1pm on most Sundays (although some games will start at noon, including Dec. 7 vs. Centre). This move was opposed by the men's coaches as well as by over 80 percent of the women's coaches, but the change was made anyhow. Finally, if you are unable to attend a game, you can listen live via the internet by going to http://www.oglethorpe.edu/athletics/listen_live.asp and this year, we are happy to announce that you can also follow along with live stats by going to http://www.oglethorpe.edu/athletics/live_stats/basketball/mens_xlive.htm. You can get live stats and listen to the broadcast at the same time. The weekly coach's show will also resume soon. With no seniors and just two juniors, we'll be young, but I think we have a chance to have a very exciting season. I hope to see you all at many games this year!



Petrels Open Season Nov. 17

After four weeks of pre-season practice, including one exhibition game and one scrimmage, the Oglethorpe University men's basketball team will have their season and home opener against cross-town rival Emory University on Monday night, Nov. 17. Later in the week, the Petrels will fly to Philadelphia, PA to play two games vs. Haverford and Swarthmore. The following week, the Petrels will travel across town to play Emory again before hosting the annual Oglethorpe/Emory/Maryville/LaGrange Classic. It will be a busy and tough two weeks leading up to the conference openers against DePauw and Centre. Head Coach Philip Ponder had this to say about the early portion of the schedule, "Emory is going to be a tough match-up for us, and Maryville is always one of the top teams in the South Region and the country. LaGrange will be much improved over last year, and we open up conference play with two of the perennial powers in the SCAC, so we'll learn a good bit about ourselves very quickly."

Petrels Just Miss Upset of Div. I Ga. State

Facing a line-up that stood 6'10, 6'8, 6'7, 6'5, and 6'1 and included two transfers from Ole Miss, one from Mississippi State, and one from Wake Forest, the Stormy Petrels were considered heavy underdogs by most. From the opening tip, however, the Petrels showed no fear and led almost the entire game. They led by as many as six in the first half and took a 37-35 lead into the half. They were able to increase to lead to as much as seven, when the score was 57-50 with twelve minutes to play. Ga. State began to claw back, however, and took the lead briefly before the Petrels were able to regain the lead at 72-70 with just under five minutes to play. State pulled ahead with three minutes to play and the teams traded baskets the rest of the way. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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With 20 seconds remaining, the Petrels trailed 82-80 but were forced to foul and State made some clutch free throws down the stretch in securing the 85-80 victory. Sophomore Alex Richey had a huge night, sinking 8 three's in route to 32 points. Junior point guard scored 15 points and dished out 5 assists before going down with an injury late in the game. Sophomore Todd Ward finished with 12 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3 steals before fouling out, and sophomore Joe Kennedy pitched in with 10 points. "I think this game showed that we can play with anyone," head coach Philip Ponder commented. "They will certainly be the most talented team we face all year, so I hope the guys gained some confidence from this. I think tonight showed how much potential this team has."

Petrels Picked 5th in SCAC

The Oglethorpe men's basketball team has been picked 5th in the annual pre-season poll voted on by the coaches. The top three spots were extremely close, with just two points separating #1 DePauw, #2 Centre, and #3 Trinity. Hendrix finished three points ahead of the Petrels to land in the #4 slot. Millsaps, which finished last season ranked #6 in the nation, was four points behind the Petrels in the #6 slot.

Last year, the Petrels were picked 7th in the pre-season poll, only to surprise everyone and finish 3rd. In all five seasons of head coach Philip Ponder's tenure, the Petrels have finished higher than they were picked in the pre-season poll.



Petrels 2008-2009 Season Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	Location
Oct. 30	Ga. State (exhibition)	7:30pm	Atlanta, GA
Nov. 17	Emory	7pm	HOME
Nov. 21	Haverford	8pm	Philadelphia, PA
Nov. 22	Swarthmore	3pm	Philadelphia, PA
Nov. 25	Emory	7pm	Decatur, GA
Nov. 29	Maryville	6pm	HOME
Nov. 30	LaGrange	4pm	HOME
Dec. 5	DePauw	6pm	HOME
Dec. 7	Centre	Noon	HOME
Dec. 19	Buffalo St.	6pm	HOME
Dec. 20	Pitt-Greensburg	8pm	HOME
Jan. 2	Rhodes	6pm	Memphis, TN
Jan. 4	B'ham Southern	1pm	Birmingham
Jan. 10	Sewanee	6pm	HOME
Jan. 16	Hendrix	6pm	HOME
Jan. 18	Millsaps	1pm	HOME
Jan. 23	Southwestern	6pm	Georgetown, TX
Jan. 25	Trinity	1pm	San Antonio
Jan. 30	Colorado	6pm	HOME
Feb. 1	Austin	1pm	HOME
Feb. 4	Piedmont	7pm	Demorest, GA
Feb. 7	Sewanee	6pm	Sewanee, TN
Feb. 13	Rhodes	6pm	HOME
Feb. 15	B'ham Southern	1pm	HOME
Feb. 20	Depauw	6pm	Greencastle, IN
Feb. 22	Centre	1pm	Danville, KY
Fri.-Sun. 2/27-3/1	SCAC Tourney	TBA	Conway, AR

Games in bold indicate conference games

