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Sports briefs

Furman University

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Dixon named women's basketball coach

Sam Dixon, who spent the last three years as associate head coach of the women's basketball team at Clemson University, was named head women's coach at Furman April 16.

He succeeds Sherry Carter, who resigned following 20 years at the helm of the Lady Paladin program.

Dixon, who earned his undergraduate degree and played basketball at the College of Wooster, holds a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a doctorate in physical education from the University of New Mexico. He has been an assistant men's basketball coach at three Division I institutions and from 1987-91 was head men's coach at Denison University.

Before going to Clemson in 1999, he

was an assistant coach for a year at the University of Arizona, which finished 18-12 and played in the NCAA Tournament. During Dixon's term as Jim Davis' top aide at Clemson, the Lady Tigers compiled a record of 57-34 (28-20 in the Atlantic Coast Conference) and earned three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

"Coaching for me is a passion," Dixon says, "and if I could describe the ideal place for Sam Dixon, it would be Furman University, with its emphasis on the liberal arts, beautiful campus and outstanding athletic department that is committed to success in every sport.

"I am really excited about the opportunity to develop a program that Furman can be proud of, the Greenville community can



Dixon is Furman's eighth women's basketball coach.

be proud of, and the players will be proud to be a part of."

Furman finished 2001-2002 with a 17-12 record and was third in the Southern Conference with an 11-7 mark.

Sports briefs

Brownlee, Dunigan reach milestones; Gordon, Ivory numbers retired

Kaye Brownlee '02 has become the first woman athlete from Furman to receive an NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

A health and exercise science major from Kennesaw, Ga., and a four-year soccer standout, Brownlee is the 10th Furman athlete — and first non-football player — to win the award.

NCAA scholarships, worth \$5,000, are awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are in their final year of intercollegiate competition. Nominees have a minimum grade-point average of 3.2 (based on a 4.0 scale) and intend to continue their academic work as a part-time or full-time graduate student.

Brownlee has the distinction of being named a first-team All-American (by the National Soccer Coaches Athletic Association in 1999) and a first-team Academic All-American. A four-time all-Southern Conference selection, she was named the Furman and conference Female Athlete of the Year for 1999-2000.

■ Elsewhere on the soccer front, the Furman men's team spent its spring break in England at the invitation of the International Academy. In doing so, the Paladins matched the women's team, which last August spent 11 days in Belgium, England and the Netherlands.

NCAA rules allow teams to take an international trip once every four years.

The men won their only match, 6-1 over Salford University of Manchester. While enjoying the sights and sounds of the United Kingdom, the team had the chance to train with the coaching staff of Manchester United, the most famous club in world soccer; met

such international superstars as Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Holland) and Gianfranco Zola (Italy); toured stadiums in Manchester and Chelsea; and watched two Premier League matches with 67,000 other rabid soccer fans.

For more on the trip, plus a firsthand account from players Scott Hoch and Shaun Stone, go to the men's soccer site at furmanpaladins.com and click on the "Press Releases" link. To read about the women's trip, visit the women's soccer site at furmanpaladins.com, click on "Previous Seasons," then click "2001 Season" and follow the "Press Releases" link.

■ **Megan Dunigan '02** became the all-time winningest singles player in Furman women's tennis history March 22 when she defeated Wofford's Wendy Rohr for her 70th career victory. With the win, Dunigan passed Janey Strause McKenna '87 and Karen Kelly '89, who had been tied at 69.

A mathematics/computer science major from Oak Ridge, Tenn., Dunigan was named Southern Conference player of the year for an unprecedented fourth straight year in leading the Lady Paladins to their fifth consecutive league title and a berth in the NCAA tournament. She finished the conference tournament with a 24-0 record for the season.

■ Two Furman athletes' jerseys were retired this winter.

Nield Gordon '53, a star basketball player in the early 1950s, had his No. 27 retired prior to the Paladins' game against Wofford February 16, and the football program has retired the No. 34 of standout tailback **Louis Ivory '02**.



Brownlee



Dunigan

Gordon, who averaged 22.6 points per game during his Furman career after transferring from Wingate Junior College, helped lead the team to records of 18-6 and 21-6 in 1951-52 and 1952-53, respectively. After serving for a time as an assistant coach at Furman, he enjoyed successful terms first as basketball coach at Newberry College, then as head coach and athletic director at Winthrop.

He is a charter member of Furman's Athletic Hall of Fame as well as the South Carolina, Wingate and NAIA Halls of Fame. His is the fifth basketball jersey to be retired at Furman, along with those of Frank Selvy '54, Darrell Floyd '56, Clyde Mayes '75 and Jonathan Moore '80.

Ivory, two-time conference offensive player of the year and 2000 winner of the Walter Payton Award as the top offensive player in NCAA I-AA football, is the third player in Furman's 96-year football history to have his jersey retired, joining Stanford Jennings '84 (No. 27) and Jeff Blankenship '89 (No. 50). Ivory led the league with 1,492 yards and 19 touchdowns in 2001 after running for a conference record 2,079 yards and 16 scores in 2000. He finished his career as Furman's all-time leading rusher (5,871 yards) and scorer (330 points).