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Pro-Am set to celebrate 20th year

Furman University

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Play ball — at Pepsi Stadium

The Furman softball team is enjoying its first season at 350-seat Pepsi Stadium, built on the old athletic and intramural field located between the Duncan Chapel Road entrance to the campus and the Intercollegiate Athletics Building (old gym). Opening day was February 13 against Georgia Tech. The team's seniors (from left), Chrissy Hacker, Kay Brittain, Kelly Jack, Kelly Van Houten and Amanda Lewis, were able to enjoy the amenities of the new field before they graduated. Pepsi made a generous gift to fund the project.

Pettus appointed director of Paladin Club

When the new year dawned, Furman welcomed Ken Pettus back to campus as director of the Paladin Club, Furman's fund-raising arm for athletic scholarships.

Pettus comes to Furman from Appalachian State University, where for the last three years he was director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences. But he is no stranger to the Furman faithful, having served on the Paladin football staff for several years in the 1970s and 1980s. He also coached and taught at Dunwoody High School in Atlanta, Ga., from 1980 to 1984 and was a member of the football staff at North Carolina State University from 1986 to 1997.

He replaces Gary Clark '74, who became director of athletics at Furman in September. Of Pettus' appointment, Clark says, "Ken is an outstanding fit for us given his athletic background and his fund-raising experience. We're excited about his return and the energy and enthusiasm he brings to our athletic fund-raising mission."

Pettus is a Greenville native and 1973 graduate of Newberry College, where he majored in history and was a football All-American. He holds a master's degree in education from Furman.

He says, "To me, Furman represents all that is good in college athletics. The university has caring, dedicated coaches who truly understand the term student-athlete, and athletes who understand that sports are simply a tool that enables them to achieve academic success. Our alumni also understand the importance of athletics on a college campus but appreciate that our administration, coaches and athletes have their academic priorities in the proper order.

"When I coached, I felt the most enjoyable aspect of the job was to be able to offer a deserving young man a scholarship," he adds. "I now anticipate having the same satisfaction by helping to supply the necessary scholarships to all our athletes. What a wonderful investment we make as a society when we give a young person the opportunity to get an education."



Ken Pettus

Pro-Am set to celebrate 20th year

Through the years, the Furman Pro-Am has brought many members of the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour to campus while raising more than \$1.4 million for the men's and women's golf programs.

This year, on May 14, the Pro-Am will celebrate a milestone: its 20th anniversary. Founded in 1982 by LPGA Hall of Famers Betsy King '77 and Beth Daniel '78, the Pro-Am annually attracts accomplished veterans and rising stars from the ranks of women's golf. This year 14 Furman alumnae, many of whom received scholarships funded by the Pro-Am, are expected to return. A total of 136 amateurs and 34 LPGA players will be on hand for the Pro-Am, which will also include a free clinic for children and the annual pre-tournament party.

In addition, the 2001 event will feature the unveiling of a permanent Champions Cup, to be named in honor of William R. Timmons and his late wife, Connie. The Timmons family has helped shape the Pro-Am in profound ways, and the 20th anniversary is the perfect time to honor their dedication.

The Pro-Am is being held a bit later in the spring than usual, due to changes in the LPGA tour schedule. Players will compete in a tournament in Nashville, Tenn., before coming to Furman.

For information, call Marshall Bettendorf, director of athletic events and Pro-Am chair, at (864) 294-3435.