



B-1 Down and dirty:
From horse stalls to hallways

C-1 Men's Basketball:
Drops two in a row on the road

The Rocket

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Getting that summer feeling



SRU student Michelle Ortasic joins others in the University Union lobby to participate in Summer in December. The event was sponsored by the University Program Board and had activities such as old-time picture taking and decorative rice painting. Costumes for the pictures were donated by Endeavor Entertainment.

MITCHELL VALVANO/THE ROCKET

Sliding out of town

Minor-league baseball team will play all road games in '08

By Caleb Pardick
Rocket Staff

So long, Slippery Rock Sliders. The minor-league baseball franchise that played 29 home games at SRU's Jack Critchfield Park during the 2007 season will become a travel-only team for at least 2008.

The Frontier League, which currently owns the team, announced on Nov. 29 that the club will now be known as the Midwest Sliders and will play all 96 of its 2008 regular-season games on the road against the league's 11 other teams, as a part of the East Division.

Steve Tahsler, who served as the Sliders' general manager in 2007, said the league is still looking for a permanent home and owner for the club.

Tahsler also said the league's board of directors decided to make the Sliders a travel-only team for 2008 because it didn't feel that selling the club less than seven months before opening day would be in the league's or the club's best interests.

Two prospective ownership groups are still interested in purchasing the team, Tahsler said. One of the groups is from outside the Slippery Rock area, while the other is headed by local businessman

Michael Bencic, who would bring the team back to Slippery Rock, Tahsler said. Tahsler would not reveal details about the out-of-town investment group.

"The league just felt that there wasn't enough time to prepare for next season," Bencic said. "Spring training starts in

April, and they hadn't sold it yet, so they decided not to sell it to anybody. We put some time into the deal, and we thought it would be a positive thing for the community to have."



SRU Athletic Director Paul Lueken said the university's net revenue from concessions and a per-game fee the league paid SRU for the right to use the stadium totaled \$18,130. He also said he thinks the team could have really taken off had it been given another year or two.

"I don't think they gave attendance a fair shot," Lueken said. "They didn't get after that the way they should have, but the corporate opportunities in this area are limited, and that was as big as attendance."

The Sliders, whose existence was announced on Nov. 20, 2006, finished the 2007 season with a 29-66 record, worst in the league. The franchise debuted on May 23 and played its first home game May 29.

It looked in October as if the Sliders would remain in Slippery Rock through at least 2008, but a deal to sell the franchise for \$825,000 to a Holland, Michigan-based ownership group fell through, putting the league back at square one, Tahsler said.

The Holland investors planned to lease the team to Bencic's group and keep

SEE FRANCHISE, PAGE A-2

Students held at gunpoint during robbery

By Amy Kelly
Rocket News Editor

Six SRU students were robbed at gunpoint Tuesday at the Ivy Apartment complex on Kiester Road.

Five SRU students were arrested and charged after the incident.

Blane Jefferson, 18, of North Braddock; Daresse Henderson, 18, of New Castle; Harold Tardy, 18, of Pittsburgh and Jacquay Hosey, 21, also of Pittsburgh, were charged with robbery, theft, false imprisonment, receiving stolen property and conspiracy. A previously published news report also said that Joshua Burnette, 24, of Harrisburg, was also arrested.

According to the Pennsylvania State Police, the items stolen were DVDs, an X-Box 360, wireless controllers, \$15 in coins and an undetermined amount of marijuana.

Tardy, a wide receiver for the SRU football team, was also charged with possession of a stolen firearm and marijuana.

Jefferson, Henderson, Tardy and Hosey were arraigned before District Judge Clifford Woessner and were then taken to the Butler County Prison and held on a \$50,000 bond. Burnette was arraigned separately and is also being held on a \$50,000 bond, according to the previously published news report.

SEE VICTIMS, PAGE A-3

New graduate program helps further education

By Alan Jaquith
Rocket Contributor

A proposed graduate program between Slippery Rock University and Youngstown State University of Ohio could create more options for Slippery Rock students who are majoring in education and would like to earn a doctorate degree.

"We could provide a great service to Slippery Rock students that we cannot provide on our own," said SRU President Robert Smith. "Being able to collaborate with a university that is so close to us is wonderful."

The degree, which will be earned through a combination of online courses and courses taught at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry, will give students who have already completed K-12 principal certification a chance to earn a doctorate from Youngstown State in educational leadership.

Jay Hertzog, dean of the College of Education at SRU, said educational leadership focuses on enhancing competencies in scholarship, instruction, and personal development.

Some education majors at SRU are also pleased with the proposed program, not only because of the additional option for education majors, but for the prestige it may bring as well.

"I think it's a great opportunity for Slippery Rock students to further their education. Even though Slippery Rock is pretty well known for its education program, it will make it that much better," said Ali Wyrostek, a 21-year-old secondary education-history major.

Though the program is still in its formative stage, Hertzog said they have not really hit any snags in the program's development.

Originally hoping to start the program during the 2008 fall semester, Hertzog said there is a possibility that classes may start as soon as this summer.

The RLA, which includes among its partners Slippery Rock, Strayer, Penn State, DeVry, and Robert Morris universities along with nine other institutions, is the largest cooperative learning and conference center in the nation.

Correction

Due to a reporter's misunderstanding, in the Nov. 30 article, "Title IX issues brought back to table," we incorrectly reported that a Title IX lawsuit involving the university has been reopened. A request from plaintiffs has been made to reopen the case, but as of this date no decision has been rendered on whether to reopen the suit. The initial reporting error also led to our repeating the same error in our staff editorial, which unfairly criticized the university.

We apologize for the errors.

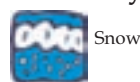
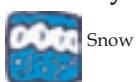
WEATHER

Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



High: 38; Low: 26

High: 39; Low: 28

High: 49; Low: 33

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