

Pioneers capture split with All Stars

By **ROB SPIRES**
Staff Writer

Both men's and women's basketball teams opened their 2006-07 seasons on Oct. 24 with scrimmage games against the Nashville All Stars.

The men's team was victorious, while the women's team suffered a loss.

The Nashville All Stars is a team made up of former collegiate players that travels around the area playing scrimmages against community colleges and junior colleges.

Though the final score in the men's contest, which was 106-96, may not reflect it, there were only brief moments in which it looked like the All Stars may have had an actual chance.

"We controlled the tempo," stated men's head coach Rusty Melvin.

Melvin also commented on his

coaching style, one which he feels is different from many of his opposing coaches.

"There are no big stars, only solid players. We rely on all 15 (players) to help get the job done," Melvin claimed.

Melvin did say that he thought his team committed too many fouls and he feels that this is an area where they will have to improve heading into the regular season.

He also wished the All Stars team was rougher in their play.

"It would have helped more if they were bigger. We needed to play a (physically) stronger team," he stated.

While the opponent wasn't ideal, Melvin said he was pleased with the overall performance.

"It was a good tune up," he stated. "It let us evaluate the program."

The leading scorers for the Pioneers

were Julius Virgo with 16 points and Brandon Hopson with 10.

Unfortunately for the Vol State faithful, the women's game had a different outcome.

The Lady Pioneers never lead in the game, and eventually fell 111-56.

"This was a tough one to open with," said women's head coach Johnny Lynn. "We won't play anybody any tougher all year."

"They got us frustrated," Lynn said.

"They're 26 or 27 year old women playing against our 18 and 19 year old girls. We have to get mentally tougher, but that's why we play the scrimmages," said Lynn.

Despite the loss, Lynn was upbeat after the game.

He focused on the good points and praised his players, claiming that he was pleased with most aspects of the

game.

"Kaya Allen did a good job. They were tough for a post to guard," Lynn stated.

The leading scorers for the Lady Pioneers were Kaya Allen with 11 points, while Jessie Willoughby and Alison Harmon scored 7 each.

Though he said the loss was a tough way to start the season, Lynn remained optimistic about his team finding success over the course of the season.

"We've really got a good team," he said. "They're willing to learn, and they're going to keep learning."

The first home game for the men will be Nov. 7 against Simmons College, while the women's home opener will be played against the Lindsey Wilson College Junior Varsity squad on Nov. 16 at 6 P.M.

The men will also play that evening.

2005-2006 Men's TJCAA Standings

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Southwest	17	5	.773	20	6	.769
Saint Catharine	17	5	.773	24	5	.828
Jackson State	16	6	.727	23	7	.767
Walters State	16	6	.727	22	6	.786
Volunteer State	16	6	.727	19	7	.731
Chattanooga State	15	7	.682	18	11	.621
Columbia State	9	13	.409	15	13	.536
Hiwassee	8	14	.364	11	16	.407
Roane State	8	14	.364	12	18	.400
Motlow State	6	16	.273	9	17	.346
Cleveland State	3	19	.136	4	26	.133
Dyersburg State	1	21	.045	3	21	.125

2005-2006 Women's TJCAA Standings

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Chattanooga State	20	2	.909	23	2	.920
Motlow State	19	3	.864	23	3	.885
Southwest	15	7	.682	18	8	.692
Walters State	14	8	.636	20	9	.690
Columbia State	13	9	.591	15	11	.577
Saint Catharine	13	9	.591	19	11	.633
Cleveland State	9	13	.409	16	14	.533
Hiwassee	8	14	.364	11	19	.367
Volunteer State	8	14	.364	13	14	.481
Jackson State	8	14	.364	12	14	.462
Roane State	5	17	.227	11	19	.367
Dyersburg State	0	22	.000	2	24	.077

Upcoming Pioneer Home Games

Lindsey Wilson JV Nov. 13
6 p.m.

Cleveland State Nov. 17
6 p.m.

Hiwassee College Nov. 18
2 p.m.

Univ. of the Cumberland JV
Nov. 30

7 p.m.

Wabash Valley Dec. 6
5:30 p.m.

Roane State Dec. 9
2 p.m.

Motlow State Jan. 20
6 p.m.

Columbia State Jan. 24
6 p.m.

SW Tennessee Jan. 27
2 p.m.