

YOU WERE SEEN . . . HOMECOMING NIGHT



PHOTOS BY SARAH KINGSBURY

College students, faculty, staff, and community visitors all turned out for Homecoming Night last Friday. Vol State President Dr. Warren Nichols was spotted entering the gym during the women's game accompanied by his wife, Chris (left). During halftime of the women's game Nurse Betty Brown (bottom right) and Mitchell Cothran (bottom left) were invited onto the court to compete against each other in a free-throw contest. Brown lost to the 8-year old Cothran, who received a T-Shirt for his victory.



SPORTS EDITORIAL

SIDERS SAYS: " Sing a song for the unsung heroes "

By NEIL SIDERS
Sports Editor

Olympic athletes have taken on a roll of temporary fame and reward in America.

The Olympics represent the truly great elements of athletics, ranging from the fact that participants are not mainstream athletes but ones who compete only in the quest for greatness, to their being subjected to the best drug testing system of any sporting event.

A high level of integrity helps to make the Olympics one of the noblest exhibitions of the competitive spirit, but America's lack of long term memory and a "what have you done

recently" mentality limits the amount of spotlight any Olympic event can receive.

The four year scheduling pushes the national heroes, who devote countless hours to perfection, out of sight and, like most things, once they are out of sight they are out of mind.

With professional sports' long drawn out season which results in playoffs along with their annual scheduling, the league manages to stay in the public's mind. This allows the fans of each respective sport to follow their teams and favorite athletes on a yearly basis.

Along with America's short memory span, the international origins of the events included in both the summer and

winter Olympics make for a strange combination of mainstream sports and obscure sports in one event.

Many of the American athletes that fans cheer for in the Olympics compete in events that are not well known in America. The more well known events, like skiing, are international, and competitions are hard to follow.

Compound these issues with the fact that, because of the seasonal nature of the Olympic Games, not all of the sports can be universally identified with by people of all longitude, and one will find that Olympic fame is short lived.

In addition to being underappreciated, the Olympic athletes are, in

most cases, barely paid by professional sports' standards.

In some nations, the quest for gold supersedes all other athletic events, making their Olympic heroes national icons.

The U.S. treats the Olympics like a hobby that the viewing public and some athletes will get to if they have time, and the amount of rewards that are given are limited.

Even with all the reason not to remember, it is time to pay more attention to our forgotten heroes who spend four years of extensive training to allow the fans to hear the Star Spangled Banner as they stand on a podium basking in their fifteen minutes of fame.