

Tornados bring home 15 podiums and 2nd overall at the Mountain Bike National Championship in Colorado

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

This past week, the BC Cycling Team raced to 15 podium results and second place in the team omnium at the Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championship in Grand Junction, Colorado, from Oct. 8 to 12.

"I am extremely proud of the team's effort this year at Mountain Bike Nationals," says Cycling Head Coach Bradford Perley. "One thing that stands out in my mind is the team's ability to cope with changing schedules and race dynamics, and most importantly, they were always there to lift teammates when needed."

The event took place at an elevation over 8000 ft. on the trails of Powderhorn Mountain Resort, and solidified Brevard College as the highest-placing program in the Eastern United States.

The week was riddled with challenges; a storm created the need for multiple schedule changes, as Grand Junction received the most rainfall it had in 50 years on Friday, Oct. 9.

Most notably, the short track, cross country, and relay events were moved to take place on Thursday, Oct. 8. The downhill track was also changed

to a different trail and day, with that race being moved to Friday, Oct. 9. There was no racing on Saturday, and then the event wrapped up with dual slalom on Sunday, Oct. 12.

The Tornados raced with determination and prowess despite the schedule changes and the altitude, taking home medals in almost every event category of the weekend.

Starting strong in the endurance events

In the short track, senior Nicole Bradbury raced to second place, with freshman Lily-Rose Marois not far behind in fourth, and senior Kiara Lylyk rounding out the top five. Sophomore Ayana Gagne also raced to sixth place. On the men's side, senior Owen Clark raced to a strong fourth place.

In the cross-country race, which took place only about four hours later, Bradbury finished fourth, followed by Lylyk in seventh, Marois in eighth, and Gagne in ninth. Second place went to Clark on the men's side, after he dug deep to make up multiple spots on the final lap.

"After the XCC in the morning, I quickly realized that at 2500m altitude I was not going to be able to race the same way I normally do," said Clark. "I had to be careful and pace myself, which meant riding my own race."

The team relay consisted of Bradbury, Lylyk, Clark, and senior Matthew Leliveld. They placed second between the two Colorado powerhouses, with Colorado Mesa University taking the win and Fort Lewis College nabbing third.

The downhill got messy

During the historic rainfall on Friday, the team kitted up in their rain gear and attempted to practice the track. Due to the composition of the dirt, most racers were covered head-to-toe in mud after just a couple of minutes on course.

Despite these conditions, senior Mya Dixon snagged third, while sophomore Lenci Bogdan finished ninth and junior Madeleine Pollock took 10th. Leliveld led the men to second, with junior Matt Mitchko taking 10th.

"Fighting the mud was a battle, and staying on the bike without crashing was incredibly challenging, especially due to the fact that I couldn't see because of all the mud in my eyes," said Leliveld. "With such a hectic and unpredictable race, I'm really proud to have brought home second place."

The team enjoyed a well-deserved rest day on Saturday, Oct. 11, and spent the day exploring downtown Grand Junction.



Mountain Bike National Championship in Colorado

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An exciting final day of racing

The final day of racing on Oct. 12 saw some more schedule changes as the track was too wet to ride when teams initially arrived onsite at 8 a.m. Practice time was shortened to an hour and a half, and it was decided that only the round of 16 brackets would be raced, when there is normally a round of 32 first.

Marois finished third, while senior Kelly Lawson took fourth, and Bradbury took her third podium of the weekend, finishing fifth. Leliveld took eighth on the men's side.

"It's a pretty bittersweet feeling," said Lawson, following her podium result. "I'm sad that my racing with our team is coming to an end, but I am so proud of everything we've accomplished during my time here!"

Bradbury ended up winning the women's varsity omnium, which is awarded to the strongest rider across a minimum of three disciplines. Marois took second and Pollock took seventh.

"The cherry on top was definitely taking home the women's varsity omnium title after a wild weekend," said Bradbury. "Collegiate racing is something special, and it can't be replaced, so I tried to enjoy this last weekend as much as possible and end on a high note."

After a long weekend of racing, the team took second in the Team Omnium—or combined points across all categories—losing to Colorado Mesa University on their home track by 41 points. The team will be back in Grand Junction next year, as the national championships are generally



Senior Mya Dixon racing to third place despite muddy conditions.

held at the same location for two years in a row.

Looking ahead

"As always, there's a lot to be learned from this national championship event," Coach Perley said. "We have already begun to reflect and look ahead, but returning to a known location to compete always brings a bit of extra knowledge."

The cycling team will now be transitioning to the second half of their season, with cyclocross on the horizon. "We will race regionally, then head to Fayetteville, Arkansas, for the National Championships in early December. We have a very strong team for this, and I am quite excited," Coach Perley said.

THE CLARION

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Nicole Bradbury on the top step after winning women's varsity omnium, joined by teammate Lily-Rose Marois.



Matthew Leliveld, Owen Clark, Kiara Lylyk, and Nicole Bradbury raced to second in the team relay.

Homecoming: 21 Brevard College alumni employed at Transylvania County Sheriff's Office

A total of 21 Brevard College alumni are presently employed at the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office, a testament to the career development that takes place within the College's criminal justice program.

Thirteen of the 21 Brevard College alumni gathered together for a brief reunion during this past weekend's Homecoming festivities on the BC campus. The group of alumni ranges in graduation year from 2001 to 2025 and includes two father-son duos (James and Luke Dodson; David and Nathan Mahoney).

"We are proud of the partnership between Brevard College's criminal justice program and TCSO," said Dr. Stacy B. Workman, Brevard College Assistant Professor and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator. "It's built on trust, mentorship, and a shared dedication to public service that extends beyond the classroom. Watching our graduates step into roles with the department turns learning into service and shows the real difference we can make together."

For several years, the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office has provided Brevard students with the opportunity to learn experientially and gain

valuable insight from law enforcement professionals.

"It is a wonderful experience working with Brevard College and their criminal justice program," said Transylvania County Sheriff Chuck Owenby. "It is an opportunity for students and staff to establish a great working relationship with my office, and a great opportunity for me, as the Sheriff of Transylvania, to have knowledgeable and well-trained employees."

Upon graduation, Brevard College criminal justice students enter the workforce, with many choosing to remain in Transylvania County at the TCSO.

"I have 21 graduates from Brevard College who have been in the criminal justice program and are employees here at the office," added Owenby. "With this being said, I look forward to the continued partnership with the students and staff at Brevard College, and I am extremely thankful for the dedicated commitment that they have for the Transylvania County community and for my office."

Brevard College Alumni Employed at TCSO:

Micah Bagwell '16
Jordan Beal '22
Justin Bell '21
David Buono '18
James Dodson '25
Luke Dodson '24
Bryce Foster '20
Hunter Galloway '16
Rhyanna Hadden '20
Becky Harris '20
Hope Hollingsworth '01
Wyatt Lankford '24
David Mahoney '17
Nathan Mahoney '24
Callum McEwen '17
Kohl Padgett '22
Naomi Plumley '25
Tim Reinhart '12
Hannah Weatherall '21
Nathan Whitmire '10
Anthony Worley '13



Callum McEwen '17, Nathan Whitmire '10, Anthony Worley '13, David Mahoney '17, David Buono '18, Bryce Foster '20, Justin Bell '21, BC Criminal Justice Professors Stacey Workman and Michael Moreschi, Kohl Padgett '22, Luke Dodson '24, Wyatt Lankford '24, Nathan Mahoney '24, James Dodson '25 and Hunter Galloway '16 at Ives-Lemel Family Field during Homecoming 2025 on the campus of Brevard College.

'Consistently growing field': Brevard College builds a communication major for the modern job market

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

You might not know it, but Brevard's Communication Department is fairly new; it first started as a "bare bones" major in spring 2022 with nobody overseeing it. In 2023, Dr. Charles Ecenbarger was hired to update the curriculum for the major.

Fall 2023 marked the official launch of the Communication Department, and on the second day of the fall semester, two students, Addie McAllister and Cat Keenan, declared it as their major. After two years, the department has 65 students majoring in the field, and 15 are minoring in one of the three concentrations: communication, creative media, or social media.

"It is a consistently growing field," Ecenbarger said. "Media is larger than it's ever been. There are more jobs in it than in almost any other industry." Because of this growth, both at the college level and in the workforce, the curriculum and skills being taught had to reflect what skills are needed."

"If you look at any job application or description, they are looking for the top three verbal communication skills (oral, written, and technical) and the ability to use digital media tools, and we do all three of these things," Ecenbarger said. "The vast majority of our students double major because it pairs so well with other industries, like criminal justice, business, and the sciences. Last year, it was the fourth largest field of desired degree, in terms of colleges. Here, I think we kind of just reflect that."

Before entering academia, Ecenbarger worked in the communications industry for eleven years: four in public-facing positions, and seven in advertising and promotions as a creative director for various organizations in media, sports, and the military.

When building the curriculum for the major alongside the Chair of Humanities Division, Dr. Jordan Kuck, Ecenbarger wanted to bring in the aspects of communications that he was looking for when in college, as well as what he experienced when working in the industry, not just teaching the theoretical and academic side. "I think students here, particularly, with our lean towards experiential education, appreciate that," Ecenbarger said. "I think it reflects how fast we've grown here."

Out of the 26 majors offered at Brevard College, communication is the fourth most popular, behind Business Administration and Management, Criminal Justice, and Health Services.

This academic year, Ecenbarger and Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Samuel Taylor reworked the requirements for the communication major. There is a core curriculum for fundamental courses, like persuasion and small group communication, and then they round out the other 36 credits to match students' interests. "Classes haven't necessarily changed, but the way in which students are set up to take those classes has," Ecenbarger said. "It was a one-man department, me, for the first three years, and now that we have a second

full-time professor, we can do more. We can offer more classes, and offer them in a way that is better for students."

When the department first started up, they were provided with all the materials and equipment they needed to be successful. The hard part was, as Ecenbarger said, managing and advising 60-plus students as the sole advisor. Nobody was expecting the major to grow as fast as it did.

At the college level, the hiring process is not simple. It requires approval and budgeting, as everything is planned out a year in advance. Despite this, the college responded quickly to Ecenbarger's need for help. "They were expecting within the first five years [to hire another professor], and we hired Sam at the end of the second," he said. "We're in our third year as a major, and he started this fall."

"The four adjunct [professors] have been doing a lot of the heavy lifting," Ecenbarger continued. "Obviously, our 100 and 200 level classes needed filling, and they fill general requirements as well as COM major requirements, and they mostly taught classes there when we needed them the most."

Now, most of the part-time professors, Matt Cooke, Lauren Wolf, Phil de Montmollin, and Chad Holt, teach at least two classes in their own wheelhouse. "Lauren Wolf is doing a class about fact-checking and documentary work, and Phil has developed an internship for us," Ecenbarger said. "They're considered adjuncts on paper, but I include them in all of our departmental meetings: they have a say in how the program works, and they're just as important as a full-time faculty member. The only difference is that they are still working in the industry."

The curriculum for the Communication Department is definitely not set

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Dr. Ecenbarger with the first Communications graduates: Cat Keenan, George Rennie, and Lex MacLauchlin. Photo by Alecia Janeiro.

COM 390's web series 'loop.exe' finally begins filming

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

COM 390-03, Crafted Reality: Producing Serialized Internet Content, is creating a four-part web series entitled "loop.exe", and on Tuesday morning, filming began.

The star of the series is Blake Walker, and his costars are Karis King and Jadon Carnes. Lili White is the showrunner of "loop.exe", and Dr. Charles Ecenbarger is teaching the class and guiding them through the production process.

The semester began smoothly for the web series, but there were some unexpected issues that arose a couple of months in: when casting calls were sent out, there were no interested actors. Many students who wanted to participate couldn't because of conflicting schedules.

The class's top priority became to find talent for the production. Eventually, through word of mouth and working around schedules, they found their Jacob, Eric, and Melanie.

After jumping the casting hurdle, the show's production could continue: it's finally grind time for COM 390. Now that preproduction has been completed, the filming and creation of the series have begun.

The students spent the majority of Tuesday's class filming scenes from the first episode. Many of the other crew members acted as extras for the scenes and will continue to do so throughout the filming process. The creation of "loop.exe" has been a challenge for the class, and help from every student was essential for filming to be able to begin.



COM 390 filming in MS for "loop.exe." Photo by Zoe Hughes.

Building a communications major for the modern job market

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in stone; however, some definite skills are being taught, imparting them to each communication graduate. "Basic communication skills. When I say basic, I'm talking about the fundamental human use of them: written, oral, and technological or media skills," Ecenbarger said. "If you understand the process of communication, ideally, you become a better communicator, understand the people around you, and respond to context."

Even though the field is growing, especially at Brevard, there are still issues being faced. "There's always the concern with quality," Ecenbarger said. "Making sure that every student's needs are met, especially at a small college like this, you try and give every student that kind of attention that they want or are willing to have or want to have based on their comfort zone, and it's a resource issue. It's hard to do that with two people managing 60-something people.

"There's always a desire to be better, and I never want to let anybody down," he continued. "I don't think anybody, especially as a professor, wants to, but it's a constant anxiety, I suppose. I don't know how you fix it; I think we just do the best that we can."

Ecenbarger had taught at five different universities before coming to teach at Brevard. "The students here are different," he said. "I have folks who are not COM majors and just want to take these classes and want to learn these things, the curiosity is... invigorating, I suppose. It's not every day I can come into a class and be like, 'you guys tell me what you want to talk about, and then we'll figure it out from there.' It's just a level of engagement that is nice to see after being at a bunch of institutions where that was not the thing. Brevard is cool if you take advantage of what's actually given to you."

The Brevard Caf and campus security: why is a college's 'crucial hub' its biggest failure?

Inside view: student accounts of failing health, food, and safety

Danniel Huestis
Staff Writer

Colleges and universities have a responsibility to each of their attending students: these range from the safety and well-being of each person to the cultivation and growth of their minds and aspirations. When a college meets these responsibilities, it is said to be a great one. Brevard College is considered to be a great college, but it seems as if that greatness casts a shadow of problems that covers the campus.

Over the course of my active attendance at Brevard College, I have heard of numerous health and safety risks from students living on campus, and have experienced some of them myself. These risks range from living with mold, Caf conditions, poorly cooked/uncooked food, the general safety of each student on campus, and more.

What is even more concerning to me is the seeming lack of attention to these issues from the college. These issues are happening when, at the same time, the college is getting funding for a new Student Center — the donations towards it are already over \$10 million. It's baffling to see effort and money going into a new building we don't necessarily need, when that money and attention can go towards actually helping the students' livelihood.

One of the crucial hubs of a college is its cafeteria. Whether a student goes there for every meal or just a few, the Caf is an important part of a student's routine. Providing them with the needed nourishment for a healthy life and success. Why is this essential part of a student's life one of the most complained about?

"I eat at the Caf every day, multiple times a day, and am almost always disappointed with dinner," one student said. "Breakfast and lunch are usually better, and I enjoy them a lot; however, dinner is just bad."

Some stations are not stocked or are simply broken. Pizza is advertised as being served for dinner, then it is not there. The food, in appearance, does not look appealing in texture or taste, and is often lacking in quality.

Some of the food is undercooked or raw, causing food poisoning in some students. On top of the lack of care for the quality, the Caf has a very limited range of food options for students with dietary limitations. "The vegan options are usually inadequate, as they don't accommodate additional dietary restrictions, such as being gluten-free," another student said. "Also, with some options not clearly labeled, students are left to guess if what they are eating truly meets their needs or standards."

There should be stricter regulations for the quality of the food, and random quality checks, or having students fill out quality surveys; these things will help the overall grade of the Caf. Staff should also work with the school to know how diverse its food options should be. This could be achieved through sending out a simple questionnaire. It is also important that Caf staff are present throughout the duration of meals to receive feedback and complaints.

Another crucial part of a student's life is where they live; I know people who are living with mold in their dorm buildings, like Green Residence Hall, with some individuals even getting sick and not being able to attend class. "It's hard to get out of bed, and even when I'm in class, I keep feeling really exhausted and feverish," one student said. Some other problems I hear from students are things like flooding in various residential buildings, unkept, and poor quality of common areas, such as laundry rooms.

The dorms/buildings could potentially be harder to fix while school is in session, but it is not impossible. During the summer, it would be advantageous for the school to have teams go through the buildings to clean thoroughly, make necessary repairs, and remove anything that would harm an individual's health.

But it is the general safety/security on campus that concerns me the most. From simply taking thirty-plus minutes to help unlock dorms or do other things for students, to seemingly brushing incidents under the rug, like the "potential threat on campus" email sent out on Sept. 11, which was lackluster in information, to students claiming that "women are being followed on campus or being cat-called from dorm windows."

All the while, the only thing I consistently receive by email from the security team is parking info. "I think campus security could be taken more seriously," one student said. "Security is spending too much of their time and resources on petty stuff like parking tickets."

As a former US Marine who served as the main security force for the US Embassy in Niamey, Africa, and the Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador, security is something that I am confident and thoroughly trained in. Security teams, security measures, and protocols need to be revamped and better.

A tighter and better security team is needed. More people other than students should be hired, and there should be teams of four with a single team leader. Each student who works in security should be properly trained, and there should also be more cameras on campus, preferably PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) cameras.

These suggestions come from a place of care and concern, not malice. The improvements I am suggesting are based on my personal professional experience, and I hope for the betterment of the students who attend this college, and for the college itself, that these changes or others are made to fix these issues.

With all of this said, I want to be clear that I believe Brevard College to be great academically: it grants students great opportunities to be very successful in life, and is very supportive of students in certain aspects, such as financial matters.

I am simply a concerned student who sees issues in a lot of aspects of campus life. With Brevard College being considered a great school, I would like to see the things that are not so great change and be challenged. It is the responsibility of this college to protect, help, and cultivate each of its students.

BIG win for Homecoming 2025

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

Brevard College's 2025 Homecoming Week was a celebration of school pride, student unity, and community tradition. It all came to a roaring conclusion with the Tornado's dramatic 35-32 victory over Southern Virginia University on Saturday, Oct. 11, at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

From fun-filled campus events to fierce competition on the field, the week served as a great reminder of what makes the Brevard College experience so special.

Homecoming Week, organized by the Brevard College Student Government Association (SGA), kicked off on Monday Oct. 6 with a Movie Night, which was planned to be outside of Green Residence Hall but made a slight change and moved to MG, where students gathered to watch "Scary Movie 2" and enjoy a relaxing, spooky start to the week.

Tuesday brought out the competitive side of the community with a sand volleyball match that put students against faculty; the friendly rivalry filled the courts with energy, laughter, and school spirit.

On Wednesday, things took a fun turn with the popular Bubble Soccer tournament, as students got into inflatable suits and bounced and rolled their way across the field in a fun contest that drew a crowd and plenty of cheers and laughs.

Jordan Frenette, a sophomore and speaker of the club for SGA, discussed how it brought students together. "There was never a dull moment, but there were also a lot of options for events and activities that would interest everybody. My favorite part about homecoming week is the themes for each day, as I thought it was really fun to dress up and get involved on



Photo by Abigail Callahan.

my campus. It added some whimsy to everyday life."

Thursday evening featured the highly anticipated PowderPuff football game, giving the softball team and track team the chance to take the field under the coaching guidance of Brevard football. "It was new for me to play flag football in the Powder Puff game since I didn't know how football worked," Frenette said. The event showed teamwork, pride, and a good time, while setting the tone for the weekend ahead.

The excitement continued to build at Friday's Homecoming Pep Rally, where students, faculty, and staff packed the gym to celebrate together. Students competed in tug-of-war and other games, with the winners

receiving t-shirts as the mascot danced and worked up the crowd. At the end of the pep rally, the Homecoming court was announced, with seniors Seth Robinson and Ivelysse Leighton announced as King and Queen. Freshman court was Gianna Borchich and Brandon King, sophomore was Kendall Hubbard and Jacob Wilde, junior was Summer Crist and Alex Bolton, senior was Lili White and Robert Dorsey, and jester was our very own Managing Editor, Zoe Hughes.

The Tornos defeated the previously unbeaten Southern Virginia Knights 35-32 in an exciting game on Saturday. Quarterback Ethan Beamish threw for 274 yards and three touchdowns, connecting especially well with Adam Douglas and Reggie Taylor II. Zion Fauntleroy-McDaniel led the rushing attack with 125 yards and a touchdown.

Despite a late comeback attempt by Southern Virginia, Brevard responded with a key touchdown and sealed the win when Taylor recovered an onside kick. The defense, led by Baylee Ramey and Brandon Broughton, played a strong role in holding off the Knights. The thrilling victory capped off a spirited and memorable Homecoming Week for the Tornos.

Brevard Football will be on the road this week as the Tornos play LaGrange College on Saturday, October 18, at 1 p.m.



Photo by Abigail Callahan.

BC basketball gears up for 2025–26 season

Stephon Miller
Staff Writer

Brevard College's men's and women's basketball programs are entering the 2025–26 season with strong momentum and high expectations.

Men's team prepares for the tough road ahead

The Brevard men's basketball team recently unveiled its 2025–26 schedule. The slate includes 14 USA South Conference games: 12 home contests in Boshamer Gymnasium and two exhibitions against Division I opponents.

The season will unofficially kick off with "Tornado Tipoff," a midnight madness-style event at The Bosh on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 9 p.m. Their first real action comes Oct. 29, when the Tornados travel to Western Carolina University for an exhibition.

Their regular season opens at home Nov. 8 vs. Oglethorpe University, followed by a matchup vs. LaGrange College on Nov. 12. Early road games include trips to Warren Wilson College (Nov. 14) and Bob Jones University (Nov. 18).

Coach Lee Burgess expressed optimism about the year ahead, saying the

non-conference slate should help prepare the squad for what he expects to be a "very competitive USA South Conference season."

Women's team riding high after a breakout year

The women's basketball team is also entering with confidence after a historic 2024–25 season. Their 2025–26 schedule includes 18 USA South matchups: 13 home games and two exhibitions against Division I opponents.

The Tornados begin the season with three road games: Nov. 11 at Bob Jones University, Nov. 14 at Warren Wilson College, and Nov. 17 at Guilford College. Their first home contest is Nov. 21 vs. Johnson & Wales University-NC.

Last season, Brevard reached the USA South Championship game for the first time and achieved 20 wins in a season for the first time since joining the NCAA. Head Coach Donald Hudson also crossed the 100-win milestone in his career.

Hudson noted, "Our excitement and energy levels are through the roof to get the year started. We understand every season comes with highs and lows, and we embrace and welcome all of the hurdles that will present themselves."

Upcoming athletics

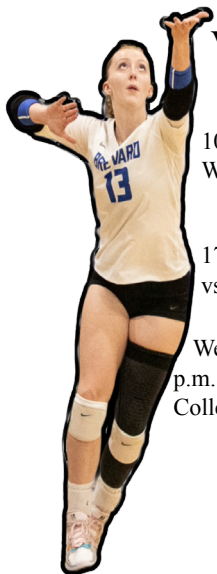


Photo by Alecia Janeiro

Volleyball

Fri. Oct. 17
10:00 a.m. vs NC
Wesleyan

Fri. Oct.
17 2:00 p.m.
vs Southern

Wed. Oct. 22 6:00
p.m. at Greensboro
College

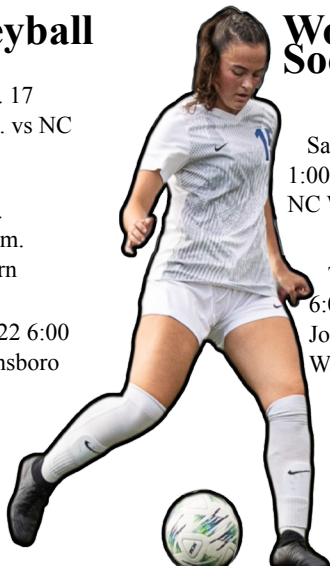


Photo by Alecia Janeiro

Women's Soccer

Sat. Oct. 18
1:00 p.m. vs
NC Wesleyan

Tue. Oct. 21
6:00 p.m. vs
Johnson and
Wales-NC



Photo by Isabella Zambuto

Men's Soccer

Sat. Oct. 18
2:00 p.m. at
NC Wesleyan

Wed. Oct. 22
7:00 p.m. vs
Warren Wilson



Photo by Tony Belcher

Football

Sat. Oct. 18
1:00 p.m. at
LaGrange