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It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that I extend my warmest greetings to you for the 2023-2024 athletic season. As President of Calhoun Community College, I stand in awe of the dedication and perseverance each one of you has exhibited in your relentless pursuit of excellence both in the classroom and as you participate in your perspective sport.

Over the past year, our college has witnessed remarkable growth, adding new sports programs that have enriched the fabric of our athletics division. The dedication and hard work put forth by our student athletes and coaches, embodies the essence of commitment by investing extensive hours in practice and in competition. These commitments have played an integral role in elevating our athletic programs to new heights.

We continue to uphold our commitment to the highest standards of sportsmanship, academics, and citizenship. As we showcase our talents and competitive spirit, we do so with a sense of unity, pride, and respect for our institution and community.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, businesses, industries, churches, and various organizations whose generous support and contributions have made this Athletics Media Guide possible. Your unwavering belief in Calhoun Community College is a testament to the power of collaboration and shared dedication to fostering a promising future for our student-athletes.

With genuine appreciation, I send my warmest regards and best wishes to our devoted athletes, esteemed coaches, and the entire sports community.

The journey of our athletic program at Calhoun Community College is one of perpetual growth and achievement. This year promises new and exhilarating opportunities for our athletes and sports enthusiasts. Our dedicated coaches and support staff invest tireless efforts in nurturing our student athletes, fostering a culture of excellence both during preparation and during contests.

The Calhoun Community College athletic program plays a pivotal role in uniting our college with the broader community, forging strong bonds of support and engagement. Your unwavering support, whether from individuals, businesses, churches, industries, or organizations, forms the bedrock of our success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your invaluable contributions, both past and future.

In the spirit of fair play and respect, I encourage all Calhoun student athletes and supporters to exemplify outstanding sportsmanship at every turn. Regardless of the outcome, let us uphold the principles of integrity and unity, extending our gratitude to the visiting teams, fans, and the dedicated officials who enrich our contests.

Thank you for being an essential part of our athletic journey. Together, we make Warhawk Nation a beacon of excellence.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I extend a warm welcome to you all for the 2023-2024 edition of our Athletics Media Guide. As the Athletics Director at Calhoun Community College, my journey through the realm of Calhoun Athletics has been nothing short of extraordinary.

From the vantage point of a devoted Warhawk fan, cheering for my brother on the baseball field, to stepping onto the court many years ago as a student-athlete in the inaugural women’s scholarship basketball team—these experiences have shaped my deep-rooted love for this program. The realization of a lifelong dream ensued when I accepted on the role of instructor and coach. Over the years, coaching various sports, I’ve been blessed to be surrounded by exceptional athletes and remarkable individuals who showcased exceptional talent, secured championships, and upheld values of excellence.

The privilege of serving as Athletic Director has allowed me to witness the resurgence of our sports programs, rekindling the rich athletic heritage of Calhoun Community College. To our beloved student-athletes, I extend my heartfelt encouragement.
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CASEY KNIGHTEN
MEDIA GUIDE PHOTOGRAPHER
BASEBALL
Coach Gaskill is beginning his sixth year at the helm of Calhoun Baseball. He joined the staff in January 2019. Prior to accepting the position at Calhoun, he spent 6 seasons as an assistant baseball coach at Volunteer State (Gallatin, TN) and Motlow State (Tullahoma, TN). Coach Gaskill also serves as a Freshman Seminar Instructor at Calhoun.

Cody attended Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, Tennessee. He played baseball at Calhoun Community College for his freshman season before transferring to Volunteer State. He completed his collegiate baseball career at Tennessee Wesleyan. Cody earned First-team All-American status and selected as Conference Player of the year during his junior campaign. He hit .397 with 23 Homeruns and 108 RBI's and was named Golf Glove honors at 2nd base. Coach Gaskill hit 64 Home Runs during his college career.

During his tenure in the college ranks, Coach Gaskill’s collegiate coaching career has included being a part of 11 draft picks, sent numerous players to 4-year colleges at all levels – Division I (45), Division II (22), NAIA (28) and Division III (1). Cody has a passion for recruiting and is confident recruiting will build a foundation for Calhoun Baseball to become a powerhouse in the ACCC.

Cody is married to Taylor Gaskill from Lincoln County, TN. They have two daughters, Camden and Clara, and son, Cade.
Beginning her second year as the head coach of the Calhoun Community College Lady Warhawks, Candace Byrd-Vinson is excited about this upcoming season. Last season, the team's overall record 17-12 (.586) and conference (Pct.) 13-6 (.684), qualified for the Alabama Community College Conference Tournament as the third seed under the first-year head coach. The team beat Bishop State Community College in the quarter-finals, but lost against Shelton State Community College in the semi-finals. During the tournament, she was named Coach of the Year for the North Division.

A native of Tanner, AL, Candace was a part of history as a member of the first women's basketball team at Birmingham Southern College, where she played and graduated (2000-2005). After her career at Birmingham-Southern, Candace began coaching. In 2017, as the head coach at R.A. Hubbard High School, she successfully led the team to a Class 1A State Championship and was named AHSAA 1A Coach of the Year by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. That same year, she was voted Decatur Daily Class 1A-3A Small School Coach of the Year and named the Assistant Coach for the North Team in AHSAA North/South All-Star Team. In 2018, she was inducted into the Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame. She has been selected twice as a Mover & Shaker by the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce. She is a devoted member of her church, Grace Missionary Baptist Church, and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Currently, she attends Grand Canyon University, where she is achieving her Masters in Educational Leadership. She and her husband Nick have two beautiful children, Kylah and Nicholas Jr.
Named the 4th basketball head coach at Calhoun Community College, Derrick Powell, Jr. enters his second season at the helm of the Warhawks program. Previously he was an assistant coach at Tuskegee University and head coach at the Montgomery Knights MLB in 2020, Wetumpka High School Class 6A 2017-2019 and Calhoun School Class 2A 2016-2017. Powell was awarded The Excellence in Teaching Award in January 2022 and the Fall Initiative Beautification Service Project Honor in 2021. He was granted the Central Alabama Basketball Official Association Coaching Sportsmanship Award in both 2016 and 2018 for his sideline professionalism. Powell has over 17 years of experience and has been fortunate to coach many successful players, such as Cortney Forston, Dionte Ferguson, Clifford Thomas, Gregg Boyd, and NBA star Jaderious “JD” Davison.

The Lowndes County, AL native is a United States Navy veteran. While serving our country, he played his final days of organized basketball as a sailor before honorably completing his military service. Committed to fulfilling his duty to improve his country, Powell created the Coach P’s iCAMP where “little i’s make big impacts” and the BIG (Boys Into Gentlemen) Mentoring Program. Both programs have successfully impacted the lives of hundreds of young men since 2014.

Powell graduated from Jefferson Davis High School where he was a rebounding machine. During his senior year, he had a career-high game of 21 rebounds. As a freshman in college at Marion Military Institute, he averaged 11.8 rebounds per game and 14.4 points per game. That year, he was awarded as Best Cadet-Athlete and Most Valuable Player, as well as achieving Alabama Community College Conference North All-Conference Team. He ended the season ranked #2 in rebounding and #11 in scoring in the Alabama Community College Conference North Division. By dominating the boards, he set a school record in rebounding with 331 boards. After MMI, he joined Faulkner University men's basketball team under Coach Jim Sanders.

He has a B.S. in Physical Education from Faulkner, and a masters in Teaching with an emphasis in leadership from Grand Canyon University. Powell is married to Shante. The dynamic duo share one daughter, Kinsley, and a son, Derrick ‘Kash’ Powell III.
DOUG EZZELL

- Calhoun CC Bass Team Coach, 01/22 to present
- Athens HS Bass Team Coach, 09/14 through 09/20
- Retired in October of 2021 from the Alabama Forestry Commission (32yrs)
- Wife - Emily (married for 30yrs), Daughter - Lauren (24), Son - Connor (21)
- Lauren is pursuing her PhD at St. Jude; Connor is a Jr. at Auburn University
- Coached youth sports – Soccer, baseball, basketball, softball
- Graduated from Mississippi State University, BS in Forestry
- Led music for student ministry at First Baptist Church Athens for 20+ years
- Currently plays guitar/sings during “contemporary” service at FBC Athens
CROSS
COUNTRY
Coach Tiffany Bain joined Calhoun Community College family in 2011 as the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program’s Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education and was promoted to the Allied Health Department Chairperson in 2018. She was named head coach for the inaugural Cross-Country program in April 2021. Coach Bain has many years of coaching and marathon experience, utilizing multiple training methods to help herself and others improve. She has completed two marathons, several half-marathons, and numerous 10K and 5K races. Coach Bain and her PTA students host an annual 5K race on the Decatur campus in late summer. Coach Bain’s background in physical therapy, her running experience and knowledge, are an asset to the Men and Women’s Cross-Country program and Calhoun Athletics.

Coach Bain is married to Ryan, they have 3 children: Kaylee, Sawyer, and Darci. She graduated from Wallace State Community College (Hanceville) in 2006 with an AAS in Physical Therapist Assistant. She earned her B.S. degree in Health and Wellness Management at Athens State University in 2016 and a Master's degree in Health Promotion from the University of Alabama in 2018. Coach Bain anticipates completing her Doctoral degree at Liberty University in the next year.
Dalton Counter is a passionate and dedicated Esports coach, currently leading the way for aspiring gamers at Calhoun Community College. With a deep-rooted love for competitive gaming and a commitment to nurturing the talents of young players, Dalton has become a prominent figure in the collegiate Esports scene.

A native of Huntsville, Alabama, and an alumnus of Auburn University, where he graduated in 2023 with a bachelor’s degree in business management, Dalton Counter pursued his love for gaming from a young age, eventually turning his passion into a profession. With a keen eye for strategy and an unmatched enthusiasm for Esports, he quickly rose through the ranks, earning respect from both students and peers alike.

In his role as the Esports coach at Calhoun Community College, Dalton is a driving force behind the development of the college’s competitive gaming program. Under his guidance, the program has grown quickly, attracting top-tier talent and achieving positive results in various Esports titles.

Dalton’s coaching philosophy is built on a foundation of teamwork, discipline, and a commitment to constant improvement. He empowers his players not only to excel in their chosen games but also to thrive academically, emphasizing the importance of balance in life.
The Men’s Golf Program was reinstated in 2016 after 30 years of non-existence. The college added the women’s golf program simultaneously. Richard Morgan joined the Calhoun Community College Athletic Staff in a part-time role as assistant golf coach for both the men and women’s teams in late 2016. He was promoted to the Head Golf Coach for both teams in January 2017. In the fall of 2018, the college created two separate head coach positions. Coach Morgan remained with the Men's Team. In August 2023, Coach Morgan became a full-time employee at Calhoun as head coach for both the Men and Women's teams, and other duties in the Athletic Department and Student Service Division.

Coach Morgan completed his B.S. degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama.

Coach Morgan has been a PGA Golf Professional since 1995. He has served as Head Golf Professional at Shalimar Pointe Country Club and Kelly Plantation in Florida and as Director of Golf at Cypress Lakes in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Richard was recognized as the 2002 Golf Professional of the Year by the Meadowbrook Golf Corporation. Coach Morgan has served as a consultant to the Arrowhead Junior Golf Tour and led the U.S. Junior International Cup Team as Head Coach in 2003. Coach Morgan has been active in Golf Instruction for 28 years. In recent years, he has become a Certified Club fitter/Technician and employed by Dick's Sporting Goods.

Fourteen players from Calhoun’s Golf program have moved on to Division I programs under Coach Morgan’s leadership. Five players have been selected to Ping All Americans and six players have earned NJCAA Academic All-American status. Currently, four former players are playing on Pro Tours including Decatur resident, Sam Murphy who qualified for his first PGA Tour event in the fall of 2022.

Richard currently resides in Huntsville with his 23 year old son, Jackson.
WOMEN’S ROSTER

BAYLEIGH ROBBINS
SOPHOMORE
HARTSELLE, AL

GRACEE PRINCE
FRESHMAN
MADISON, AL

HARPER QUICK
FRESHMAN
HAZEL GREEN, AL

MORGAN BERRY
SOPHOMORE
POWELL, TN

RAINA CHOI
SOPHOMORE
HUNTSVILLE, AL

MEN’S ROSTER

CAMDEN SHIELDS
SOPHOMORE
ATHENS, AL

CARTER PETTEY
SOPHOMORE
ATHENS, AL

CASE HAGOOD
FRESHMAN
ATHENS, AL

CHANDLER VOSS
SOPHOMORE
HARTSELLE, AL

ISAAC KIM
SOPHOMORE
HUNTSVILLE, AL

JACE CALVERT
SOPHOMORE
MUSCLE SHOALS, AL

LUKE MATTOX
FRESHMAN
LAWRENCEBURG, TN

MITCHELL LEHMAN
FRESHMAN
HUNTSVILLE, AL
Coach Bart Stephenson is entering his 5th season leading the Calhoun Softball Program. During his tenure at Calhoun, the Lady Warhawks have excelled in academics with high GPA’s, graduation rates and numerous players qualifying for the ACCC/NJCAA Academic Teams.

Following the struggles of Covid, the 2021 team finished third in the Alabama Community College Conference tournament with a 27-24 season record. The 2022 team finished fourth in the ACCC tournament with three players moving on to the next level to compete. Each season, Coach Stephenson places players on the All Conference and All Region teams in the ACCC. Infielder Abigail Garrison received the 2023 Calhoun Athlete of the Year Award.

Coach Stephenson is from Mt. Hope, Alabama and is a member of the Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame along with his father, Elwyn and brother Stan Stephenson. He graduated from the University of West Alabama in 1991 following a collegiate baseball career that began at Northwest Community College in Phil Campbell, Alabama. After graduation, Coach Stephenson began his coaching career as an assistant to all sports at his alma mater, Mount Hope High School. In 2007, Coach Stephenson served as the baseball coach at Speake High School prior to school consolidation in Lawrence County. Coach Stephenson relocated to Decatur High School and serving in various capacities to include assistant Football Coach, Baseball Coach and Head Softball Coach. After 17 years of success at the high school level, Coach Stephenson was honored to join the Athletic staff at Calhoun. His high expectations in academics and athletics set the benchmark for his softball players.

Bart is married to Karen Stephenson. They are blessed with five children and ten grandchildren.
Coach Freeman played at Georgia State University as an outside hitter. She was a starter all four years, played in 115 matches, and still holds school records. Freeman ended her career with 1,372 digs, 803 kills, 139 blocks, and 124 service aces. Freeman was CAA player of the week and was a part of the all-rookie team (2009). Freeman led the team in aces and ranked 7th in school history in digs and 10th for attack attempts.

Freeman started her coaching career while in college for Tsunami Volleyball Club in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduation Freeman coached under Head Coach Randy Daniel at Wallace State for two years. While at Wallace State, I helped lead two teams to conference championships winning in 2014 and 2015. In 2014 we finished with a 35-10 record going undefeated in the conference. Freeman was also the JV coach for James Clemens High School (2015-2018) having an overall record of 40-10. Freeman landed her first head coaching job at Arab High School in 2019. During her first year at Arab she led the varsity team to a 31-15 record placing first in the Good Hope Tournament and were Runners up in the County Tournament. During her second year, she led the varsity team to a 19-10 season record and 3-0 in area play to host the Area tournament.

Coach Freeman is the mother of two wonderful little boys, Braden and Dallas Moran, and is the daughter of James and Marlo Freeman. Freeman has a brother, Design Freeman, and a sister, Jaylyn Freeman. “I am ecstatic to be able to start the volleyball program at Calhoun and be able to be a positive influence on these young women, just as the way my coaches did for me. The values of a program I would like to build are hard work, servant leadership qualities, as well as high character individuals. The overall culture of my program will promote a positive team environment that celebrates diversity. My goal is to help each athlete reach their full academic and athletic ability in a safe environment, while building relationships and making a lasting impact on the athletes, school, and community. I hope to instill in each of my players to have a sense of pride that comes along with being part of the Calhoun volleyball program.”
RAEGAN JAMES  
OH - FRESHMAN  
HOOVER, AL

ABIGAIL CANGELOSI  
S-L - SOPHOMORE  
TONEY, AL

JACIE BELL  
DS/L - SOPHOMORE  
RAINSVILLE, AL

EMMA HOPKINS  
OH-DS - SOPHOMORE  
MADISON, AL

OLIVIA COUNTS  
DS - FRESHMAN  
DECATUR, AL

JAKAYA SMITH  
OH/RS - FRESHMAN  
DECATUR, AL

ALLYSE RUDOLPH  
RS/OH - FRESHMAN  
MONTGOMERY, AL

ARIEL FUQUA  
S - FRESHMAN  
MADISON, AL

ERIKA WHISANTE  
S - SOPHOMORE  
HUNTSVILLE, AL

TRINITY THOMPSON  
OH - SOPHOMORE  
HUNTSVILLE, AL

JESSICA CORNELIUS  
DS - SOPHOMORE  
HUNTSVILLE, AL

SKYE LETSON  
MH/RS - FRESHMAN  
MOULTON, AL

MAYSAA BENVENUTI  
DS/L - FRESHMAN  
MADISON, AL

REESE HAWKS  
MH/RS - FRESHMAN  
HOAKES BLUFF, AL

MELEAH ROBINSON  
RS - FRESHMAN  
MADISON, AL

MIKAYLA KOINS  
MH - SOPHOMORE  
DANVILLE, AL
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