

# Expelled student suspect in Florida murder

by Tamara Harrison  
Campus Editor

A former USI student and suspect in the strangulation death of a Florida college student turned himself in Friday to Spencer County officials.

Eric Scott Branch, 21, entered USI in the fall of 1991. In October of 1991 Branch was

accused of raping a 14-year-old female in a campus housing unit, he later pleaded to a reduced charge of sexual battery.

"Mr. Branch was expelled from the university in the fall of 1992 as a result of his violation of the university Code of Conduct," said Barry Schonberger, USI's dean of student life.

Under the USI Code of Conduct, expulsion constitutes permanent termination of student status. Schonberger said once a student is terminated he or she may never return to the university. Barry Hart, director of safety and security, said he attended the student hearing which led to Branch's expulsion but refused to comment.

Dennis Norred, special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, said Branch is considered the prime suspect in the murder of the University of West Florida student. According to Norred, the parents of Susan Leigh Morris, 21, contacted the police after she did not return home from classes on Jan. 11. Witnesses last saw Morris walking to her

car after a night class. A two-day search ended when a K-9 unit found Morris' body buried in a shallow grave in a wooded area on the campus, only 40 yards from where her car had been previously parked.

Norred said the cause of death was strangulation. The see **MURDER**, page 3

# Speaker to discuss pre-civil rights era

by Jeff Anderson  
Staff Writer

For a young black girl, growing up during the Civil Rights Movement would not have been the most glorious of childhoods, but growing up before that period was even worse.

On Friday, Dr. Betty Hart, assistant professor of English, will give a lecture at noon in Forum I about growing up as a young black American during that era.

"When people speak of Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X, they tend to think forward from that time," Hart said.

"They don't talk about what led up to that time. I want to give insight to the context life held before, during and since the Civil Rights Movement."

Hart said many of the students she talks to don't know what it really means to be discriminated against.

"People who talk about Malcolm X and the movement may not really know what it meant to the people who were there," Hart said. "It wasn't just Civil Rights Movements. A lot of things like Vietnam and women's rights were also going on."

She said when she was in high school, she went on a school trip to Natural Bridge, Va., and the students were supposed to eat lunch in a cafeteria. She said the whites were allowed in, but the blacks were handed cold food and told to go to the back door.

"When you're young," Hart said, "You can't understand things like that. We couldn't

go swimming in public pools, and we couldn't go to the movies.

"Kids today don't know what that's like, but those are the types of things that led up to the civil rights movement."

She said when she went to Howard University in 1968, Washington had already burned, Angela Davis was wanted and King was dead.

Hart said Washington was still smoldering from the fires and Abernathy had come down to set up tent towns.

"People who lived through that have a story to tell," Hart said. "Everything was an adventure at that time. It was exciting because you knew things couldn't stay the way they were; whatever form things were going to take, you would be a part of it."

"People who were shaping policy and history for a world, (such as) Kennedy, King and Malcolm X, were being killed one right after another and people started getting numb.

"People today who go around wearing the black hats with the 'X' on them and saying that Malcolm X was only for blacks haven't studied their books very well," Hart said. "They don't know much about Malcolm X or the problems of that era."

"One of the most helpful methods of getting people to understand things is to have people talk in a non-hostile environment in a non-threatening way," Hart said.

Those who wish to learn more about civil rights issues and the paths by which progress have been made can sit in on the lecture Friday and be enlightened by someone whose been there.

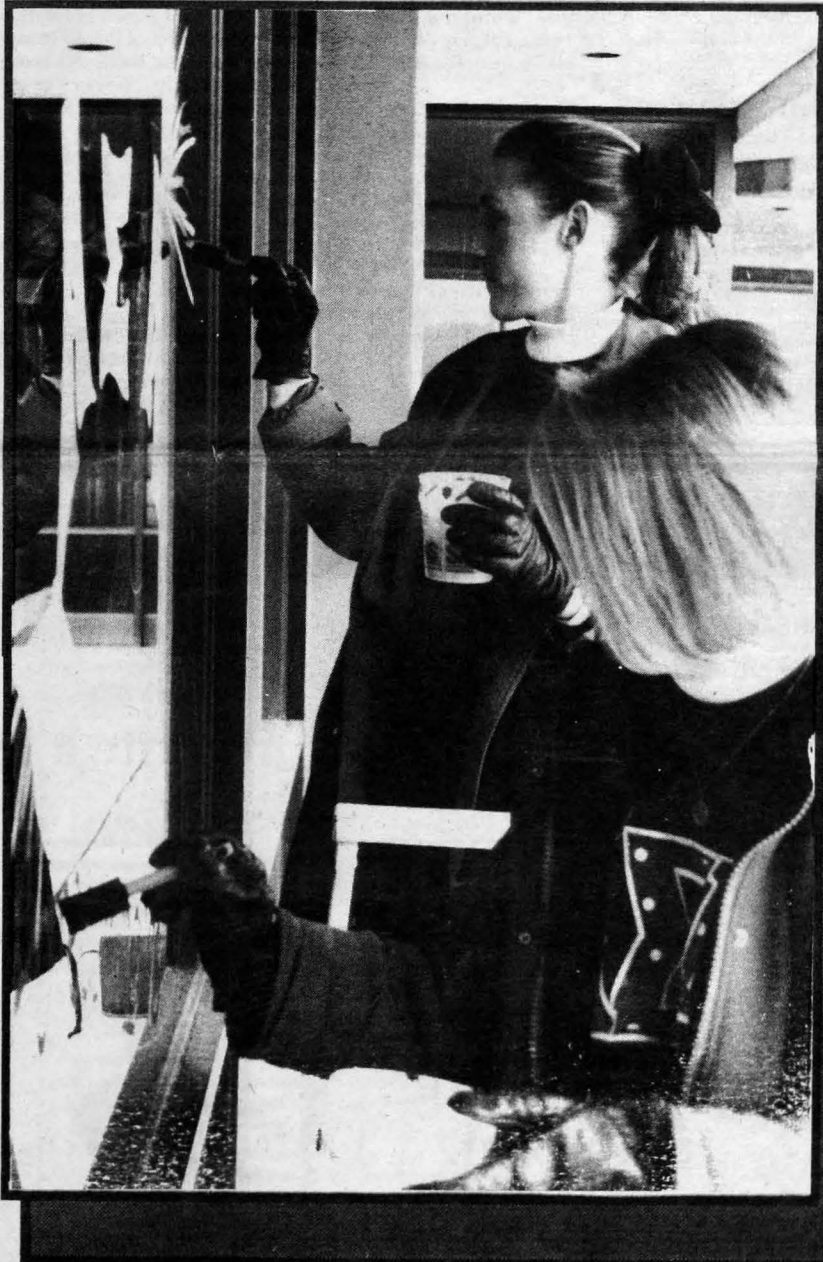


Photo by Jason Clark

Members of USI's Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority, Susan McGregor (foreground) and Natalie Shrode, exercise their creativity Monday during "Paint the Eagle's Nest." The event, sponsored by the Activities Programming Board, is just one of the activities planned to support this week's homecoming.

see **HOME COMING** story page 6

*Campus & Community*

# Bulletin Board

To have your campus or community event published by *The Shield*, send a description of the event including the date, time, place and contact person to the Bulletin Board, C/O *The Shield*, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, Ind. 47712 or drop it off at *The Shield* office located in UC 115 by the Thursday before publication.

### Today

**The College Democrats** will meet from noon to 1 p.m. in OC 2005.

**The Activities Programming Board** will present comedian Don Reese at 9 p.m. in the Eagle's Nest.

### Thursday

**The Student Christian Fellowship** will meet from noon to 1 p.m. in OC 2003.

**A Career Service Mangement meeting** for student teachers will be held in SC 294 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

**The Student Alumni Association** will meet from

4:30 to 6 p.m. in FA 55.

**The Student Government Association** will meet in UC 118 from 5 to 6 p.m.

**The Women's Basketball Team** will play St. Joseph's at 5:15 p.m. in the PAC Building.

**The Men's Basketball Team** will play St. Joseph's in the PAC building at 7:30 p.m.

**The Medieval Society** will meet from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in UC 118.

**The Activities Programming Board** will present "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at 9 p.m. in Forum I.

### Friday

**End of 80 percent refund.**

**The Black Student Union** will sponsor a program at noon in Forum I by Dr. Betty Hart, associate professor of English in observance of Black History Month. Dr. Hart will reminisce on what it was like attending school in the 1960s.

**The American Chemical Society** will meet from 2 to 5 p.m. in SC 296.

**A DPMA Pizza Party** will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Kipplee's Stadium Inn.

**An Activities Programming Board pep rally** will be held at 7 p.m. in the Eicher Barn.

### Saturday

**A Homecoming Parade** will be held at 1 p.m. on the University Boulevard.

**A Tailgate Party** will begin in the PAC parking lot at 4 p.m.

**The Women's Basketball Team** will play Lewis at 5:15 p.m. in the PAC Building.

**The Men's Basketball Team** will play Lewis at 7:30 in the PAC Building.

**A Homecoming Dance** will be held in the UC Bridge immediately following the men's game.

**The USI Alumni Association** will host a post-game reception and dance following the

men's game in PAC 200.

### Sunday

**Mass** will be held at noon in the MASH Rec Room.

### Monday

**Student Orientation** will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the PAC.

### Tuesday

**Alcoholics Anonymous** will hold a closed meeting at 4 p.m. in UC 113F.

**The Fall Film Series** will feature "Blonde Venus" at 1:30 and 6 p.m. in Forum I.

## Accuracy Desk

If readers spot an error in a news article, they can contact *The Shield's* Accuracy Desk at 465-1632 or extension 1645. We are dedicated to quality, error-free reporting.

## Mad about something?

### Let people know.

## Write a letter to the editor today!

## Homecoming

### USI vs. Lewis

5:15 p.m.  
Women's Game

7:30 p.m.  
Men's Game



photo by Angela Durbin  
USI News and Information Services

USI students display their award certificates received from the DeJong's Credit Card Design Contest. Chad Williams received first place, Janice Kidder placed second, and Dana Heuring received third place.

## MURDER from page 1

Florida Department of Law Enforcement cannot confirm if sexual assault took place prior to the death because crime lab results are not yet complete. However, Special Agent Bruce Fehrborn said it is suspected because "the young lady was found nude".

The department is working on forensic evidence that would place Branch in the area at the time of the murder. Search teams were sent out Tuesday morning to comb the wooded area where the body was found for additional articles of clothing. One team later reported finding the missing clothing investigators had been searching for.

Norred said the information he received indicates that Branch and Morris were complete strangers. No charges have not been filed in the homicide case.

Norred said this crime could have happened on any campus, including the University of Southern Indiana. Enrollment at the University of West Florida in Pensacola is approximately 8,000 students. The enrollment at USI for the fall semester was 7,430 students. Both uni-

versities are located on woody campuses.

In addition to being a suspect for the Florida murder, Branch has been charged with sexual battery in Panama, Fla. According to Steve Harbuck, criminal investigator for the Bay County Sheriff's Department, Branch has been charged with the sexual battery of a 28-year-old woman in the early hours of New Year's Day in Bay County, Florida. Harbuck said the department is completing the paperwork to extradite Branch to Florida.

Branch turned himself in on Friday to a Spencer County sheriff.

"I'm sure he knew he was the subject of a pretty big manhunt," Fehrborn said.

University officials took precautionary measures on campus before Branch turned himself in. Greg Myers, director of student housing, gave resident assistants a newspaper article on the Branch investigation which contained his picture. Barry Hart, director of safety and security, said the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Police increased their patrol of the USI campus during the period.

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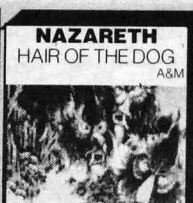
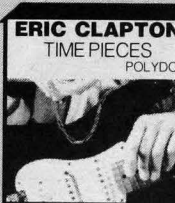
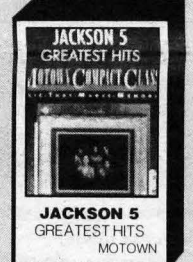
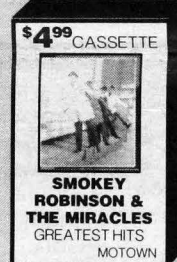
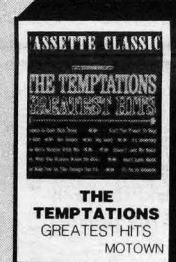
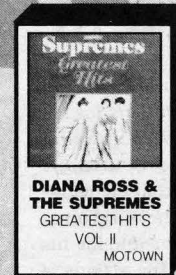
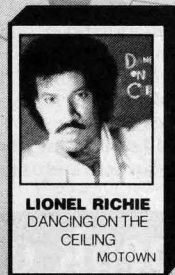
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# Opinion

Editorials represent the opinion of the newspaper. Columns are the opinion of the writer. Letters to the editor represent opinions of readers and not necessarily of *The Shield* staff. Letters may be edited for length or for libel.

Wednesday, January 20, 1993

page 4

# Viewpoint

## Absolute resolution needed for Hussein

by Jude Wolf  
Opinion Editor

Saddam Hussein must be stopped.

The United Nations made the mistake in Operation Desert Storm of not taking care of Hussein. They treated the symptoms of the problem instead of the source.

As Bill Clinton comes closer to his inauguration, Hussein becomes bolder. Hussein will test Clinton as soon as he enters office. Hussein will only worsen as the exchange of power is made.

Clinton and the United Nations are now faced with a choice. The United Nations can continue in petty exchanges with Iraq, or act with confidence and end the dispute now.

Hussein must be charged by the United Nations for his crimes against the Kurds and Kuwait. He must be arrested and extracted from the country. Nations of the world must hold him responsible for his actions and for the actions of Iraq.

Conviction is the solution. Without U.N. conviction the situation will not change. In Desert Storm, U.N. forces were within easy striking distance of Baghdad. They passed the opportunity to end the problem then. Now the problem persists.

When the opportunity to stop Hussein for good arises again, the only hope is that the United Nations takes it. Too many lives will be lost if the situation is dragged out any longer.

## King Jr. holiday; affirmative action, not black segregation.

by Ken McWilliams  
Staff Writer

Though we don't get the day off for Presidents Day on Feb 15, it is the day we recognize two of the United States greatest Presidents—George Washington and Abe Lincoln.

It is in this spirit that we recognize and remember the accomplishments of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was a great American patriot who preached love and peace in the face of hatred and violence. His strength of character and limitless faith served the United States well in the difficult decade of the sixties.

Because he answered the call to service and gave his life in an effort to make this country better, I believe a day to honor him is in the best interests of all Americans—white or black.

Martin Luther King Jr. is an American hero and a great role

model for us to follow in good times as well as bad times.

Last week Ali Malaekah's article suggested that Martin Luther King Day and certain all-black institutions such as colleges or beauty pageants present cases of "reverse discrimination." What may be a surprise to those who have read my column in the past—I have an alternative point of view.

In an ideal world, the need for such all-black institutions wouldn't exist and would be segregationist and wrong. But, this is not an ideal world and there is a need for their existence. It would be a different story had the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and other such acts had changed peoples minds as well as the law, but it didn't.

Discrimination still exists today and acts of racism still make it difficult, or even impossible for many non-whites

from reaching goals that many of us take for granted. Some may feel that we have over-compensated for past wrongs, but I'd venture to say that the people who feel this way are not members of a minority group.

Because discrimination still exist in the United States in 1993, there is still a need for institutions that assist African-Americans in learning more about their culture and instilling in them the pride that is necessary for individuals to succeed. What could be wrong with that?

Martin Luther King Jr. did have a dream, but that dream has not been fully realized. Until that dream is realized African-Americans should continue to work to improve their own lives while remembering that Dr. King preached love of one another—regardless of the color of one's skin.

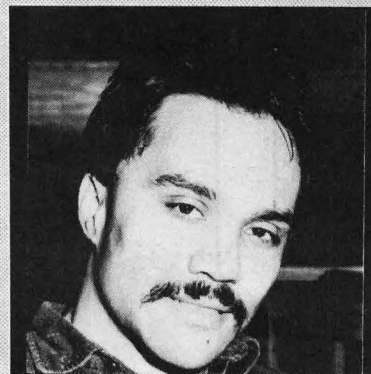
## Speak out What should be the U.N. role in the Iraq-Kuwait issue?

Survey and photos by Jude Wolf



Tricia Jones, Jr.  
Public Relations, Psychology

"I don't think the U.S. should be putting so many men over there. The U.N. should carry more of the load."



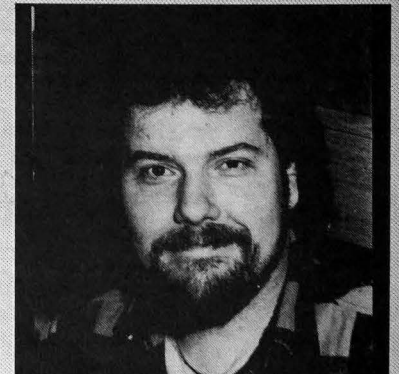
Ben Rosales, Sr.  
Electrical Engineering

"I think they should act on their previous decisions. More action should be taken."



Marie Maxwell, Sr.  
Nursing

"We should finish what we started; put an end to the persecution of the Iraqis by their sadistic leader."



Charles Kasten, Jr.  
Mech. Engineering

"I agree with U.N. whole-heartedly. We need them acting as a buffer for nations like Iraq."

# THE SHIELD

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MATT'S  
WORLD

25 million dollars for Clintons  
Inauguration and we weren't  
invited.

I didn't have  
any thing to wear  
anyway.



# Matt's World

by C. Matt Billman

MATT'S  
WORLD

AND HERE  
COMES THE  
TAG!!



# Homecoming '93 focuses on the alternative

by Renee Raper  
Staff Writer

The Fascination Street signs are up for USI's Homecoming 1993 and students should be prepared for an alternative scene with several events that are out of the ordinary.

Chairman Katrina Morgan said the "Fascination Street" theme was borrowed from the title of a popular alternative rock song.

"We wanted to do things different this year," Morgan said.

One of the "different" attractions appearing on Fascination Street this week will be the Rocky Horror Picture Show. The famous cult movie which involves audience participation is scheduled for Thursday in Forum I, following the men's basketball game against St. Joseph.

For those unfamiliar with Rocky Horror, Morgan described it as the "worst movie ever made."

"It's got really stupid char-

acters who go really stupid places and do really stupid things," Morgan said. In the film's early history, people shouted and threw things at the screen. Now, all the action has evolved into an audience pantomime that includes handwaving, throwing rice, singing and dancing.

"Some people even dress up as characters in the film," Morgan said. "It's a chance to be really crazy, to let loose and just be."

Prior to the show, Comedian Don Reese will perform "It came from Iowa" at 9 p.m. today in the UC Eagle's Nest. Morgan said Reese has appeared on MTV and at several other college campuses.

On Friday, a pep session, organized by APB member Shane Wessel, starts at 7 p.m. in the PAC. Morgan said students shouldn't miss this spirit-raising event and the several "surprises" Wessel has in store.

The final event of the week takes place at 1 p.m. Saturday with a quarter-mile parade starting at the Technol-

ogy building. Several USI organizations, 96 STO radio station and the Breckon Ridge Precision Drill Team also known as the STOMPERS will participate in the event. Hot chocolate and coffee will be available throughout the one-half hour parade.

At 4 p.m. Wessel will host a

tailgate party in front of the PAC in preparation for the women's basketball team's game against Lewis at 5:15 p.m. The men's team, also playing Lewis, begins at 7:30 p.m. During half-time, the homecoming king and queen candidates will take the floor. The homecoming dance,

following the men's game, will last until 1 a.m. with music provided by two local DJs, Chad Bell and Papoose.

"They will force you to have fun," Morgan said. She said all USI students should attend the events to let loose and "just be" at the "best-ever USI Homecoming yet."

## University profits \$17,000 from sale of campus lumber

by Mark Myers  
Staff Writer

Over Christmas break more than 200 trees were removed from the USI campus to pave the way for the construction of the overpass, which will begin in late spring.

Steve Helfrich, director of the Physical Plant, said USI brought in \$17,000 from the project. Helfrich said the money will be placed in the

Physical Plant fund to be used to offset the costs of repairs and construction on the campus.



The majority of the trees excavated by Export Timber were located at the entrance of the university along highway 62. The trees excavated included White Poplars, Red Oaks and Sycamores.

Additional trees were removed by the soccer fields in order to re-route an access

road to the tennis courts which will be constructed behind the PAC Building.

From the trees cut down about 50,000 feet of timber board will be used to make furniture.

Helfrich said free firewood is now available to students and the general public. Those interested must first go to the Physical Plant to fill out forms before they begin cutting any wood.

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# Despite weather, building construction stays on schedule

by Jeff Anderson  
Staff Writer

Students returning from Christmas break for the spring semester should have noticed by now that there is a huge hole in front of the Science and Administration buildings near USI's main entrance.

This hole marks the beginning of what will someday be the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions building.

Miles Mann, assistant director of the Physical Plant, said the construction of the building is on schedule.

"The weather is hurting a little," Mann said. "But they are working on a 19 month construction schedule and they're not ahead or behind."

Mann said the projected completion date for the building is June 1994. He

said despite a short break in the action due to rain right before Christmas, all the waterlines are down, and things are moving rather steadily.

"The basement will be completed this week as far as excavation goes," Mann said. "They'll start pouring the footers for the basement next week."

Mann said they are doing their best to work around the academic activities going on this semester.

"We've had one campus shut-down so far. That was Christmas break," Mann said. "Water and power outages are being confined to weekends so we don't disrupt student activities."

Kathy Funke, director of news and information services, said they were doing a good job working with the university.

"They've been trying to



photo by Jason Clark

Mark Will, a construction worker for Blahnenberger Bros. Inc., levels the land located in front of the Administration building in preparation for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building.

link the water lines and they had to shut off the water to (the Administration building) to do that," Funke said. Despite the temporary water loss, she said disruptions to the university's

working schedule are being kept to a minimum.

"They're trying to do a few things on the weekend," she said. "They're doing a good job of working around the school's programs."

The building, which will cost an estimated \$14.5 million, will house the School of Nursing and Health Professions and the Indiana University Center for Medical Education.

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**Dawn Wright** - Good Luck with Homecoming Queen. Alpha Gam Love, Brandi Jackson

**Jack** - Sorry about last week! You can cancel the trip to Canada now. Ad Man

All organizations - Good luck with the APB contest! APB

## PERSONALS

**Susan** - Good luck with Homecoming! Alpha Love, ASA

**Brandi** - Who are Mac & Jack? Ken M.

**Men's Basketball Team** - Congratulations on being Nationally Ranked. Good Luck in the GLVC. We're behind you all the way! The Women's Volleyball Team.

**Kelly Boy** - Are we still going to California? Kim believed me too! Your Setter.

**Ravi** - If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put 'U' and 'I' together. Your secret admirer-K.

**Beaner** - When will the cold, snow blow? Meet me Monday U.C. Designated place! Fire

**Jeff A.** - What'll we do without Iron Mike? Ken M.

**Janette Elkin** - One of these days maybe we'll go to a nice place for dinner, go dancing and shoot some free throws. Tarzan

**Joe** - I think you are cute. Let's go to the comedian. Snow

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# 'Forever Young' a Romantic Drama for All, Must See

Ravi Sheth

Entertainment  
Editor

In 1939, test pilot Daniel McCormick (Mel Gibson) has the world by the tail and he's having the time of his life. He has the perfect job - flying B-25s for the newly formed Air Corps.

He has a terrific best friend - loyal buddy and truly brilliant scientist, Harry Finley (George Wendt). And he has his true love at his side - his childhood sweetheart and beautiful soul-mate, Helen (Isabel Glasser). Life has given him everything he wanted.

Almost.

Daniel has only one problem: he can look danger in the face unflinchingly, but just thinking about emotions, much less declaring them, makes his throat close up. He gets weak-kneed at the mere prospect of proposing marriage to Helen. And every time he does, Daniel decides that he can wait until tomorrow to pop the question.

But tragedy suddenly strikes Helen, and Daniel's tomorrows are snatched from him in one terrible instant. Now, he must confront a life alone, knowing that he never truly declared his feelings for the woman he will always love.

Grief-stricken, Daniel volunteers for a top-secret cryo-



Daniel (Mel Gibson) gives young Nat (Elijah Wood) a flying lesson in a scene from Warner Brothers Heartwarming romantic drama, 'Forever Young.'

genics experiment conducted by his friend Harry - an experiment that accidentally puts him into frozen slumber for more than 50 years.

Icon productions' 'Forever Young' is a romantic adventure about courage, taking risks, seizing the moment and

getting one more chance. Directed by Steve Miner and written by Jeffrey Abrams, 'Forever Young' is produced by Bruce Davey and executive produced by Edward S. Feldman and Jeffrey Abrams. Warner Brothers will distribute the film worldwide.

Listen to WSWI 820 AM

alternative  
rock

## 'Love Songs for the Hearing Impaired'

Dean Cox  
Staff Writer

Love Songs for the Hearing Impaired by Dan Baird is his first solo album since before Georgia Satellites. Some of us will remember him as part of that rock band who appeared a couple of years back and then disappeared from the lime light as fast as they appeared.

I don't know what happened to the rest of the Satellites, but this album could put Dan on the charts in much the same way as Jimmy Buffet.

You can't really put the album in any certain class except rock. It is not hard rock, pop, rap or country but some of the rhythms on this album

can fit in almost any class but rap. As I put in this tape, I was hoping it was not another Georgia Satellites' and I was not disappointed. The first song on this tape, "The One I Am," has an up-beat sound that was nice and pleasant to listen to. The second song "Julie & Lucky" sounds like a John Cougar Mellencamp song but it is not John. The third song on the tape, to my shock, turned out to be "I Love You Period" which, thanks to the local radio stations, I am so sick of hearing. The song "Look at What You Started" which sounds a lot like it came from the movie "Eddie and The Cruisers" (for those of you who can remember the college scene.) The last song on this

side of the tape is nice but nothing to scream about.

Side two is a little more fun, and just as catchy as side one. The first song "Pick up the Knife" can get caught in your head very easily. The second song on this tape is the song that I feel has the most humor, once you get past the Hee Haw sound.

The song called "Knocked Up" looks at teenage pregnancy from a different view that includes getting kicked out, beat up and a shot gun wedding to boot. The rest of the tape is cool, if you like what I call "the road house." It is a sound that resembles the music of Jeff Healey, so I can not say if you will like it, but to me it is worth it.

Catch Comedian  
Don Reese  
Performing Live  
at 9:00 p.m.  
TONIGHT  
in the  
University  
Center

# Eagles fall from ranks of unbeatens in GLVC

by Greg Davis  
Sports Editor

They say in order to win the Great Lakes Valley Conference, you have to win all of your home games and split your road games.

That is exactly what USI has done so far.

The Eagles lost at Kentucky State 95-82 last Thursday but came back to win at Bellarmine 93-82 on Saturday.

USI entered the Kentucky State game ranked 18th and sitting on top of the GLVC at 3-0. But this was the Eagles first conference road game and it showed. The Thoroughbreds opened up a big lead in the first half before the Eagles rallied to cut the lead to 40-35 at the break. The good thing is USI shot only 32 percent from the field in the first half but they were still in the game. The bad thing is they did not shoot that much better in the second half. Kentucky State came out in the second half and took control of the game. The Eagles

tried to fight their way back into the game on numerous occasions, but Kentucky State would put out USI's rally with a key basket especially from Jermaine Couch. Couch, who finished with 17 points, shot down the Eagles with a three pointer every time USI was in striking range. The Thoroughbreds pulled away late in the game making 21 of 28 free throws in the second half. Cedric Fuller led the way for the Thoroughbreds with 27 points. Cornell Forrest added 18 points. Tyrone Tate led the Eagles with 18 and Deron Hebron added 16 points and 16 rebounds. Chris Bowles, who was slowed by the stomach flu, scored 11 points. USI shot 35 percent for the game, including 5 of 26 from three point land, while Kentucky State shot 51 percent.

"We didn't play very smart," Head Coach Bruce Pearl said. "We felt good before the game because we had split with the two Division II teams we had

played on the road and we thought that would help us."

Pearl did find something good about the Eagles' first road conference game.

"Putting it in perspective we were on the road playing against a team that was picked third in the conference," he said. "The thing was though, the players expected to come in and win this game and that is what we are looking for."

On Saturday, USI traveled to Louisville to take on Bellarmine. The Eagles played one of their better games of the year in raising their record to 10-3 overall and 4-1 in the conference.

USI controlled the game from the outset and sprinted to a 46-38 halftime lead. USI shot 53 percent in the first half, while holding the Knights to 45 percent. The Eagles extended their lead early in the second half and held off Bellarmine's charges to record their first conference road victory. The Eagles shot 52 percent for the game and commit-

ted only 12 turnovers. USI was once again led by Tate who finished with 22 points including 8 of 8 from the free throw line. Bowles finished with 16 and eight rebounds. Andy Pennick and Shannon Phillips led Bellarmine with 20 points apiece.

"Our goal was to play well on the road," USI assistant coach Rick Herdes said. "We won at Edwardsville, but we hadn't played exceptionally well. At Bellarmine we did."

Herdes says the Eagles use their press in many different ways.

"We press people to speed their game up and sometimes to slow them down," he said. "We would like to play an up-tempo game if we can."

Tate started to take more of a leadership role on the team this past weekend and that suits Herdes just fine.

"Tyrone is getting better every game especially this past weekend," he said. "He did a better job of substituting for himself. If he limits his playing

time a little bit he is more fresh on the court and that makes him the best point guard in the league."

USI hosts St. Joseph's on Thursday. The Pumas bring in a 13-1 overall record and are sitting on top of the GLVC with a 5-0 mark.

"They are on of the better, if not the best, teams in the league," Herdes said. "They have good depth and a good outside and inside game. They are the defending champs of the conference and they are experienced."

Homecoming is Saturday and the Eagles face Lewis at 7:30.

As far as the NCAA tournament is concerned, the top four teams out of each of the eight regions make it. In USI's region, as of now, Kentucky Wesleyan is first, the Eagles second, Northern Michigan third, and St. Joseph's fourth.

In the conference, St. Joseph's and USI are followed by Indianapolis, Kentucky Wesleyan and Fort Wayne.

## Lady Eagles control their own destiny with two conference games at home

by Greg Davis  
Sports Editor

The Lady Eagles split on the road this weekend beating Kentucky State on Thursday 87-59, and losing to Bellarmine on Saturday 95-87. The split put the Lady Eagles at 10-6 overall and 4-1 in the conference. USI is tied with Indianapolis and Bellarmine for the conference lead.

USI had pretty much their own way with Kentucky State. The Lady Eagles jumped out to an early lead and led 33-25 at the break. In the second half, USI outscored them 54-34 and coasted to the victory despite shooting only 36 percent from the floor, including 6-22 from the three point area. USI's defense was the key on this night however, as they forced Kentucky State into 26 turnovers and held them to 34 percent shooting and 0-11 from three point land. Glenna Bower led the way with 19 points. Charlene Tinner added 17 and Michelle Scott bagged 10 points and 11 rebounds. Kentucky State was led by Leslie Hay's 21 points.

On Saturday, USI played at Bellarmine. The Lady Knights held a couple of 20 point leads in the game but

USI fought back and made a game of it. Bellarmine led 51-42 at the half and looked like they were in control of the game. USI crept close to them a couple of times in the second half but the Lady Knights held them off down the stretch in collecting their eighth win of the season. USI played well even though they shot 29 percent from the field including 6-26 from the three point line compared to 48 percent for Bellarmine. The Lady Eagles also committed 31 turnovers for the game. Head Coach Chancellor Dugan was pleased with the team's play even though they did not shoot well.

"Our intensity was great from the outset," she said. "Bellarmine couldn't get the ball in against our press for about the first five possessions."

"We shot only twenty-nine percent and still we only lost by eight. They had a couple of twenty point leads but we kept coming back."

Kathy Lauck led USI with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Bower added 16 points and eight rebounds while Missy Hart scored 12. Jenny O'Bryan led Bellarmine with 18 while Renata Kuchowicz and Becky Robinson added 13 apiece.

One thing Dugan has been impressed with is the play of

Bower.

"Glenna is a natural two guard and she is starting to get her confidence back," she said. "She is a real spark off the bench and I am very pleased with her play lately."

The Lady Eagles host St. Joseph's on Thursday. The Lady Pumas were picked to finish first in the conference and are currently 8-4 overall and 3-2 in the conference.

"I expect a tough game against St. Joe," Dugan said. "I would like to see a big crowd out there Thursday night. When there are a lot of students there and they are making noise, that really helps to play better."

Lisa Wells, Tinner and Hart all missed practice Monday due to injuries. Dugan says she is more concerned about the injuries right now than anything.

USI can take control of the conference with two wins this weekend. That is something Dugan has talked to the players about.

"We have two games at home this weekend while everybody who is tied with us is on the road," she said. "We have an opportunity to take control of the conference. If we play our game, we should be ahead on the scoreboard at the end of the game."

If you have any questions or comments concerning USI Sports, or *The Shield's* sports page, please contact me at 465-1632 or come by *The Shield* office downstairs at the UC. Letters to the editor are welcome and will be printed.

# Elkin's good season not enough, forward demands more

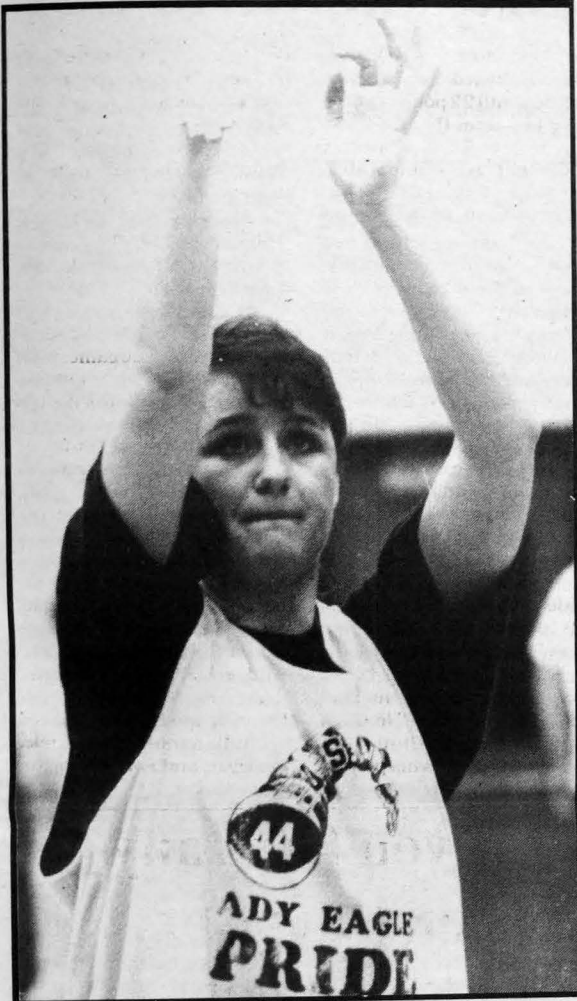


photo by Jeff Anderson

Jeanette Elkin warms up with free-throw snots Friday during the women's basketball team practice.

by Jeff Anderson  
Staff Writer

With the Lady Eagles off to their best start in years, you'd think that players like 5-foot-11-inch, forward Jeanette Elkin would be extremely pleased with the way they're playing. This is not the case.

"I'm not satisfied," said Elkin, a junior who transferred to USI from Eastern Kentucky. "I need to do a better job of rebounding and I need to score more. I need to be a better leader."

Elkin went to Madison Central High School in Richmond, Ky., where she and her twin sister Annette were known as the "Twin Towers." At USI, they're introduced as the "Wonder Twins."

"It's kind of neat," Elkin said. "It's a way of getting the fans (and us) pumped up."

Elkin said the main reasons for the Lady Eagles' success are their maturity, their physical play and their confidence.

"A more confident player who may not be all that talented can beat a player who has a lot more talent but no confidence," Elkin said. "There's better team chemistry this year and

everyone knows what the other will do.

"Last year we didn't know each other well enough and we sometimes said things that offended each other. Now we know what we can say. We play better together."

Elkin came to USI with her sister when Eastern Kentucky Assistant Coach Chancellor Dugan became the Lady Eagle's head coach because she'd known Dugan since she was little. Elkin said she felt she'd get more playing time at USI.

"I feel I made the right decision," Elkin said. "The education program here is great and the people here are very friendly."

Elkin said the fan support for games has been incredible.

"More people come here than what came to some (Division I) games," she said.

Elkin said the reason the women's program has turned around is because Dugan gets the best out of everyone.

"She never lets the team get down," she said. "She's a very positive influence. She believes in us when we don't believe in ourselves and she pushes us no matter what."

Elkin, an elementary education major, said she loves

children.

"Annette said when she has kids, I'm going to be her babysitter," Elkin said. "I've just always loved kids."

Elkin said growing up as a twin has been great.

"Annette is the one who criticizes me when I'm not playing right," she said. "We've always been best friends. There's never been any competition between us because she plays inside and I play outside."

While playing basketball in the third grade, Elkin said the high school basketball coach bought her and her sister a couple of pairs of Chuck Taylors shoes, letting them know he wanted them to play for him some day.

Elkin said she can't decide where she wants to settle down, but her future plans include teaching.

"I can't decide if I want to stay here or go back to Richmond," she said. "I'm not sure where I want to end up."

Eagle's fans are hoping she and the women's team end up at the top of the GLVC when the season's over. The Lady Eagles play Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the PAC against St. Joseph and Saturday at 5:15 p.m. against Lewis.

## Perek plays perimeter, juggles two USI sports

by Jeff Anderson  
Staff Writer

If you want to start a fire, you need a spark, and when USI women's basketball team member Laura Perek, a 5-foot-6-inch junior guard, comes into a game, she's expected to ignite the Lady Eagles.

"My job is to come off the bench and be a spark when I don't start," Perek said. "A big part of our offense, other than the consistent play of our inside players, is three-point shooting, and I come in to add to that."

Perek said she chose USI because she can play both basketball and softball here, something she wouldn't have been able to do at a Division I school.

Perek, ranking as the third all-time leading scorer for Lyon Township High School, was voted one of the top 10 athletes

in Illinois in 1990. She said basketball just sort of came naturally to her.

"I hung out with the guys in my neighborhood and we played a lot of basketball," she said. "I started playing competitively in the sixth grade."

Perek said there are many differences between high school and college basketball, mainly defense.

"There is a lot more pressure, and you have to work twice as hard to get open."

Perek said her best game to date has been the SIU-Edwardsville game during the Metro Classic in Indianapolis.

"I think that has been my most consistent game so far both offensively and defensively," Perek said.

In the past, women's basketball has not been as highly regarded as it is now.

"This is the turning point for women's basketball at USI

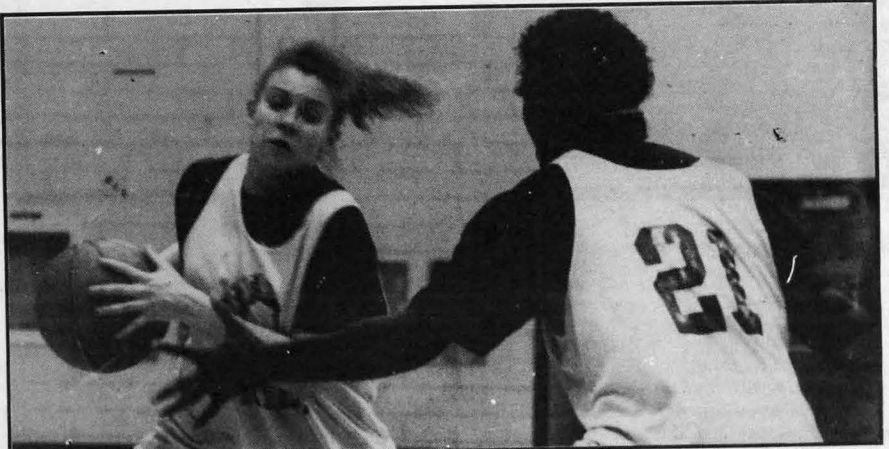


photo by Jeff Anderson

Perek looks to pass the ball during Friday's practice.

and it's all because of Coach (Chancellor) Dugan's ideas," Perek said. "Women's basketball has progressed so much in the past two years and it will continue to do so under Coach Dugan."

So what does Dugan do that no one before her could figure out?

"(Dugan) really knows how to teach the game," Perek said. "There's a difference between knowing it and teaching it. She emphasizes defense and she knows how to get the best out of her players."

Perek said her goals are mainly team goals. At the top of her list is for the Lady Eagles to finish in the top three in the

GLVC. She said their recent trip to Alaska should help them do just that.

"Alaska was incredible," she said. "The trip enabled us to become closer than we already were. I feel that if a team is going to be successful, they need to be like a family."

Perek, majoring in business, said she'd like to have her own company some day, which might involve her art hobby.

"I'd like to go to an art institute for two or three years right out of college and get a little more experience in that," she said, mentioning an interest in commercial design.

Perek said she is

impressed with the increased fan support.

"Last year there were mainly just parents at the game," Perek said. "This year more students are starting to show up."

Perek also plays softball at USI, but misses practices during basketball season which sets her back a little.

"It takes me a little longer to get into the swing of things," Perek said. "But playing basketball does help keep me in shape."

For softball fans, the spring looks promising; however, those having trouble adjusting to the cold can come to the PAC and let the fire warm them.

# Friends and familiar landscape draw Jones to USI

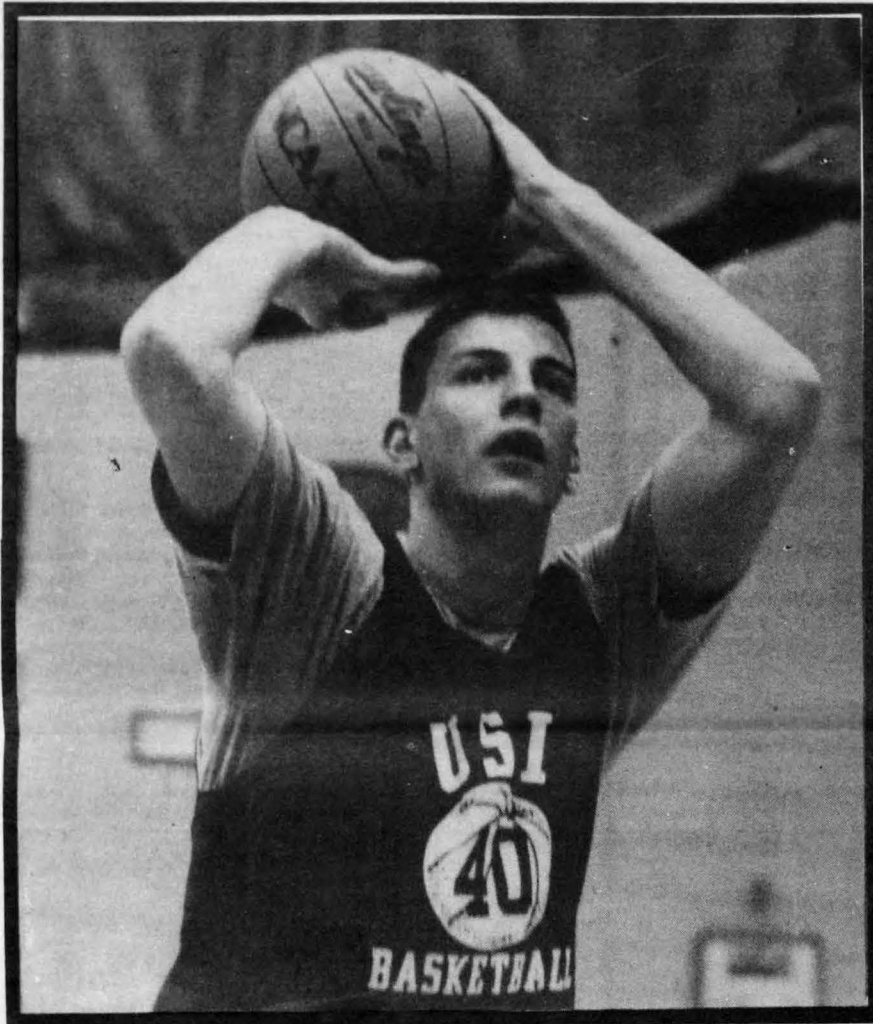


photo by Jeff Anderson

USI Forward Todd Jones warms up during Friday's practice with a three point shot.

by Jeff Anderson  
Staff Writer

Being in the wrong position at the right time paid off for Todd Jones and USI. The 6-foot-7-inch, 210 lbs., forward from Marengo was recruited by and went to Ball State as a shooting guard. However, his lack of ball-handling skills, necessary for that position, led him to the decision to transfer.

Moving closer to home and knowing friends who play for the Eagles led him to USI.

"Craig Martin is the reason I came to USI," Jones said. "We played against each other in high school and we worked together during a few summers. We've been good friends ever since and we will continue to be after school."

Jones also knew Jeff Doyle, the Eagles' other junior forward, and he liked USI's small, country-like campus.

"I knew where I was going when I left Ball State," Jones said. "I'm from the country and here you can look around and still see woods. It feels like home."

Jones, majoring in communications, said he never considered himself a star in high school.

"I was more of a team player," Jones said.

Jones said the main difference between this team and last year's team is intensity.

"The intensity is the difference," Jones said. "It's always there in practice and we're more confident as a team. We feel we can play with anybody."

Jones's role in the Eagles' system is to play aggressive defense and help out on the boards.

"I play the four man and put pressure on the ball out of bounds," Jones said. "Neil (Coyle) and I split that position. I mainly try to hit the boards and be a leader by playing aggressive defense."

Jones said the fan support this year has been tremendous and credits the high attendance to the playing style first-year coach Bruce Pearl has brought to USI.

"Pearl has made our style of play fun to watch," Jones said. "When I'm on the bench, it's fun to watch Scott (Taylor), and Craig (Martin) and Chris (Bowles) work the floor."

Jones's emphasis in communication is public relations and he made the Dean's list with a 3.6 GPA this past semester.

He said he'd like to get a job in coaching right out of college, but would also like to do something in the field of conservation.

Jones's and the Eagles will be trying to conserve what has been a fascinating start for the Eagles this season when they host St. Joseph on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Lewis on Saturday at the same time.

# Elkin shooting for NCAA tournament bid

by Jeff Anderson  
Staff Writer

At the beginning of USI's women's home games, PA announcer Todd Goens introduces 5-foot-11-inch forward Annette Elkin and her sister Jeanette as the "wonder twins".

"It's nice of him to do that," Elkin said. "We were called the twin towers before, but never the wonder twins."

Annette Elkin transferred to USI from Eastern Kentucky, where she played her freshman year. Elkin said she came to USI because of Head Coach Chancellor Dugan.

"Coach Dugan was an assistant at Eastern Kentucky," Elkin said. "When she came here, she offered me a scholarship to play ball, and

I knew I'd get more playing time than I would have there."

Elkin said she'd known Dugan since she was a kid, and she knew she'd make her play her hardest and be the best player possible.

"She's made a world of difference in this program. She brings in top competitors and she makes people play up to their ability," Elkin said. "She pushes me to do better."

Elkin, a business major from Madison Central High School in Richmond, Ky., said she and her sister are extremely close, but they do tend to argue more than most people on the team.

"This is the first year we haven't looked exactly alike," Elkin said. "I cut off all my hair."

Elkin said her dad, who was a basketball and football

coach at the high school, and he started her and her sister playing basketball.

"We've played together forever," Elkin said. "She's more of an outside player and I'm more of an inside player, so we've never had to compete with each other for a position."

She said they never did any of the twin tricks like switching dates, but they did switch classes one day. Annette got the worst end of the deal.

She told her sister she would never do that again.

Elkin said she likes USI because it's beautiful and the people make it that way. She said it's smaller than what she was used to, but the athletic staff will do anything in the world for the players.

Elkin said she is supposed to be the leading rebounder,

but she is trying to shoot the ball more this year.

"I would like to be more of an offensive threat," Elkin said. "I'm playing the best I've ever played I think (Dugan) has more confidence when I shoot now."

Elkin said her main goals for the team are: 1) finishing in the GLVC's top three and 2) getting a bid into the NCAA tournament. After last year's performance, that goal may seem a little lofty, but Elkin has high hopes.

"Last year Glenna (Bower) was the point guard, but she's a better two guard," Elkin said. "This year we have a true point guard in Lisa (Wells), and Glenna gets plays two-guard. We're a very close knit team, and that's important."

"You don't have to be best of friends, but you have to get

along. We all want the same goals, and we have fun together."

Elkin said the team really appreciates all the fans who come and watch every game, but she'd like to see more faces.

"We appreciate the ones that come to all the games," Elkin said. "They make us play better, but it's hard to come out of the locker room after a game and see the number of people coming in for the guys game. It's only an hour earlier."

Elkin said she's not sure where she wants to settle down after school.

"I don't know where I'll end up."

Eagle fans hope she ends up at the top of the GLVC this year and they'll get a chance to support that effort on Thursday and Saturday.