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Monday, August 9, 2010

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Former Hoopston man named assistant coach at Georgia

Wagoner to help guide women's guards, post, serve as recruiting coordinator

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. – Georgia College & State University women's basketball head coach Maurice Smith recently announced the hire of Toby Wagoner as assistant coach. Wagoner moves over from the Bobcat men's team, where he served as graduate assistant coach for the 2009-10 season.

The Bobcat men went 22-6 in 2009-10, picking up a Peach Belt Conference (PBC) West Division championship. The men's squad also advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second-straight season.

Wagoner will work with a mixture of players, guiding both guards and post, and will serve as the program's recruiting coordinator. His strong ties will assist in bringing in top-level talent both locally and in the Midwest and Northwest.

He came to Georgia College from Bishop McNamara Catholic High School in Kankakee, Ill., where he served as the head boys basketball coach since 2006. Prior to that he spent two seasons at the helm of the Athens High squad in Athens, Ill.

"Coach Wagoner brings a wealth of knowledge and experience this program needs," said Smith. "He also fuels energy and enthusiasm – an impression that will pass through to our players and improve the team atmosphere. Having worked one year in the department as a coach, Toby has made great relationships already with the campus community, and has proven to be a loyal



WAGONER

and hard-working coach."

Wagoner is originally from Hoopston. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, he then went on to earn a Masters in Education from the University of North Dakota. At UND, he worked for two years as a graduate assistant coach for the NCAA Division II men's basketball program.

After finishing at UND, he moved on to Division II Tusculum College, working for another two seasons in men's basketball as the Pioneers' assistant coach.

He and his wife, the former Kimberly Benedict live in Milledgeville.

The Bobcat women were PBC West Division Champions in 2009-10, compiling a 21-8 record overall. The ninth 20-win season in program history, it was the seventh since the program joined the NCAA Division II and the PBC. Georgia College put two players on the All-PBC teams a year ago.

The GCSU Department of Athletics, back-to-back winners of the PBC Commissioner's Cup, sponsors 10 varsity athletic programs at the NCAA Division II level. As a Division II program, Georgia College prides itself on balancing the life of the student-athlete, evidenced by the Bobcats' multiple appearances in post-season competition as well as documented academic success and community-service involvement. Sign up at www.twitter.com/GCSUBobcats for up-to-the-minute reports, and visit www.GCSUBobcats.com to nominate your favorite former Bobcats and Colonials to the GCSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

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1st place 25% of proceeds
2nd place 15%
3rd place 10%

Former resident writes fantasy book, to visit local library

At four feet, nine inches tall and 95 pounds, beautiful Willow Brown considers herself an ordinary person. Photographer Noah Phelps doesn't agree after he sees her fly—with her own wings.

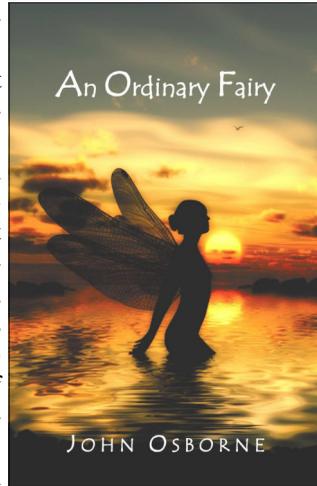
"An Ordinary Fairy" by John Osborne tells the story of feisty little Willow and her "mere human" photographer friend, set against the backdrop of Willow's woodland home.

Osborne, a first time author and former area resident,

will speak and sign copies of his book at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 21, at Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St.

Known to many local residents from his previous position as plant manager at FMC Corporation in Hoopeston, Osborne currently works in information technology at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Called a "adult urban fantasy" by its author, "An Ordinary Fairy" uses the Hoopeston area as its setting and references many sites which will be familiar to local residents. Mystery, fantasy and magic intermingle in this fanciful tale.



Police News



A 60-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 4:31 p.m. Thursday that someone damaged her vehicle in the 300 block of South Market.

A tan Huffy 10-speed bicycle was reported stolen at 8 p.m. Thursday from Jerry's IGA, 1030 W. Chestnut.

Obituaries

MATA - Juan C. Mata, 46, of Champaign, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 3:16 a.m. Thursday, August 5, 2010, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. There will be no services. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is assisting the family.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 91. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 71. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 93, low 73.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

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