**SPORTS**

**GAME REPORT**

Mesa leaves Lady Jaguars seeing red

Goalkeeper’s ejection leaves Lady Jaguars short-handed, beaten

By Diego Marinas
Assistant Sports Editor

With the ferocious roar of the Jaguar blaring, the Lady Jaguars soccer team took the pitch to host Pacific Coast Conference opponent San Diego Mesa feeling like big, bad jungle cats. They left feeling like kittens.

Unable to overcome their ejection of the goalkeeper, the Lady Jags lost, 6-1.

In the 77th minute, a disputed play at the top of the box saw Shanna Falch make a leaping save in front of a San Diego Mesa forward. Jessica Romero beat the Mesa defense with a solid strike from the top of the box for its fourth score to seal the red card.

The spirited freshman was peppered with blasts from Mesa strikers streaking into the net.

Mesa’s third score was a dreaded own goal when freshman Ylze Serna attempted to clear a ball inside the Jags’ box, but instead booted the ball past Falch and into the net.

Before the half, the Jags had their first opportunity to clear the gap when forward Paola Aleman played a hard-fought ball in the box, but could not locate her shot resulting in a strike right into the arms of Mesa’s goalkeeper, Kate Newman.

Combining good defense with a solid strike from the set piece, the Jags saw positives and improvements within the match. Playing short-handed, air seemed to go out of the Jags, who were already trailing 2-0 despite some great saves by Falch. The spirited freshman was peppered with blasts from Mesa strikers streaking into the net.

Fall, who made a diving save.

The Jags were ruled too rough when Falch and a teammate went for the ball.

Unable to overcome their ejection of the goalkeeper, the Lady Jags lost, 4-1.

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SWC scored in the 54th minute when a clean lobbed shot by freshman forward Jessica Romero beat the Mesa defense and keeper.

A brilliant run by freshman Brittany Wayne almost pulled the Jags closer in the 78th minute. She weaved through the Mesa defense with a solid strike from distance but could not beat the Mesa keeper, who made a diving save.

Falch was cited in the 77th minute on a play that did not seem to warrant a red card.

Mesa piled on with a strike from the top of the box for its fourth score to seal the match.

Sophomore captain Kristina Hernandez saw some positives and improvements within the squad after the loss.

“The team will continue to use a 4-4-2 formation that we are much more comfortable with,” she said.

SWC’s record is 4-1-1 going into next week’s match at Miramar.

**SEASON RECORD**

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**PHOTO CREDITS**

[Image 771x1401 to 826x1493] by Jiamay Austria

**ANTHONY DACION**

Leaving a pastime behind

“For World Series TV ratings up 36%” read a headline of a November issue of USA Today. With the inclusion of the New York Yankees, the most revered franchise in all of baseball, the 2009 World Series drew an 11.4 rating on the Nielsen rating system meaning 11.4 percent of all households in America tuned in to watch the clash of titans of the sport – the culmination of a seven month long season.

While the World Series has sound impressive, consider the following—these ratings were trampled on by many other major professional sports, and even some amateur sports, which drew much larger audiences. And consider that even the average regular season NFL game in 2009 drew the exact same 11.4 rating.

Numbers never lie—at least in sports they don’t.

So what does that 11.4 mean for baseball? Simple. Its reign as America’s pastime appears to be over and it has been for some time.

Since the AFL-NFL merger in 1969 and emergence of the Super Bowl era, the average regular season NFL game has made even a Yankee World Series appear to be no more important than a soap opera since September rolls around.

So what has changed in the past 100 years that has caused America to become less interested in its most historic game? Is it the unattainable goals of some of its players like Manny Ramirez and Alex Rodriguez who demand more than $20 million a year for their services? Is it how the past generation of ballplayers, including the aforementioned sluggers, have tainted some of the sport’s most celebrated records with their use of performance enhancing drugs? Is it the newer generations of fans whose attention spans have caused MLB commissioners to alter rules in hasty attempts to speed up the historical slow game? Perhaps those have contributed to the demise, but it seems as though America is simply less and less satisfied with sports in which it seems acceptable to lose.

Fans do not want to tune in, let alone pay money to watch a game in which the fate of the game is utterly irrelevant. In baseball’s seemingly never-ending seasons, 162 in the pros and between 50 and 60 in the college ranks, it is acceptable for a team to lose four or five games in a row without creating much of a panic. When losing any game is within the acceptable limits of fans, players and managers alike, the game becomes less of a sport and more of a hobby.

In the NFL, losing four or five games has gotten coaches fired, quarterbacks benched and turned local media outlets upside down. In college football, losing just one game can be the difference between a spot in the national championship and a spot on the couch. In college basketball, March Madness, arguably the most exciting tournament in all of sports, the selling point is that it forces every team to come out and play their hearts out every single time they put on their uniform.

Every tackle, every pass and every shot is crucial, and that is the essence of sports. That kind of pressure forces fans and players to care. Baseball is no longer America’s pastime because the innumerably lengthy 162 game seasons allow for lapses in performance without consequences.

Unless we are talking game seven of a Yankee-Dodgers World Series, baseball is no more a sport than it is a novelty.

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**SPORTS**

2.32 Kills per game for sophomore middle hitter

Physicca Eghuna. She leads the Lady Jags volleyball team in kills and blocks as well as averaging nearly three digs per contest.

88 Combined percentage of freshmen on the SWC men’s and women’s water polo teams. The young squads have a combined record of 0-20.

Number of the nation’s top university cross country teams that competed at the 37th annual Stanford Invitational. SWC was the only community college invited.