

THE XAVIER UNIVERSITY NEWSWIRE

Published since 1915 by the students of Xavier University



92nd year, issue 24

week of MARCH 21, 2007

www.xavier.edu/newswire

Sorrowful Saturday

LAST SECOND SHOT SINKS MEN WOMEN LOSE SHOOTING STROKE VS. WVU

JOHN LAFOLLETTE
Sports Editor

For the second year in a row, the Xavier men's basketball team saw its season end after devastating late-game heroics, this time with a game-tying shot by Ohio State with two seconds left. Exhausted and demoralized, the Musketeers came out flat in overtime and succumbed to the Buckeyes 78-71 last Saturday afternoon in Lexington's Rupp Arena.

With Xavier leading by two and 16 seconds remaining in the game, Ohio State junior guard Jamar Butler missed a go-ahead 3-pointer. Senior forward Justin Cage emerged from the ensuing rebound battle with the ball with 11 seconds to play, and was viciously fouled by freshman center Greg Oden two seconds later.

The foul, which appeared to have been committed intentionally and out of frustration, was Oden's

fifth and sent him to the bench amid bi-partisan booing from the sell-out Rupp Arena crowd.

Cage made the first of two free throws, giving the Musketeers a three point lead with nine seconds remaining. His second caught just enough of the rim to bounce off, and Ohio State came down with an uncontested rebound.

Fifth-year senior guard Ron Lewis caught a pass from freshman guard Mike Conley Jr., took a dribble to his right and made a game tying 3-pointer over the outstretched arm of junior guard Drew Lavender.

Lavender's last-second heave came up short, sending the game into overtime. Ohio State opened the extra period with a Conley-led 7-2 run that was too much for the physically and mentally exhausted Musketeers to overcome.

See **BRILLIANT**, page 8



Both the men's and women's basketball teams bowed of the NCAA Tournament Saturday. For coverage of both games, see sports.

PHOTO COURTESY FRANK VICTORIES

Former NFL lineman sacks homophobia

ESERA TUAOLO SPEAKS TO XU ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY IN PRO SPORTS

RACHEL PETERS
Senior News Editor

Last Thursday, the Xavier Alliance hosted former NFL lineman Esera Tuaolo, a Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transsexual (GLBT) friendly speaker who came out in 2002. The presentation was held in the Cintas Center Schiff Family Conference Center.

About 275 people were in attendance including members of the Xavier Alliance, students, faculty and members of the outside community. Several members of the Gay/Lesbian/Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) were also in attendance and handed out brochures and information about their monthly meetings.

As a prelude to the Tuaolo presentation, the Xavier Alliance handed out 500 free T-shirts with the tagline "Gay? Fine by me." on Tuesday. The slogan is part of



PHOTO COURTESY XU RES LIFE

Former Minnesota Viking Esera Tuaolo spoke to Xavier Thursday.

a campaign by Fine By Me, Inc. to encourage friends and allies to "come out" against homophobia. Fine By Me, Inc. has contributed over 60,000 T-shirts since 2003.

Xavier Alliance president sophomore Patrick McNearney commented that the T-shirt campaign greatly supported the Tuaolo presentation.

"The purpose of the T-shirts is to condemn homophobia and support equal rights, and I can't think of a more macho and homophobic organization than the NFL."

The Alliance hopes to hand out more T-shirts in April, as well as participate in the Day of Silence on April 18. The Day of Silence is a nationally recognized annual event held to commemorate and protest anti-GLBT bullying, harassment and discrimination in schools.

Students and teachers observe the day in silence to echo the silence that GLBT and ally students face every day. The Day of Silence is one of the largest student-led actions in the country and is in its 11th year.

Tuaolo grew up "dirt poor" on a banana plantation, but his passion

for football eventually pulled him out of poverty. Tuaolo played college football in Oregon and eventually went on to the NFL, but never revealed his sexual orientation to his teammates or coaches.

"I started living a double life. I started being bigger and tougher and stronger than anyone else so that no one would know that I was gay," said Tuaolo.

Tuaolo tried to keep his speech entertaining and lighthearted, but the presentation became emotional after he showed the clip of his coming out on ESPN in 2002.

He spoke of the pain and anguish he felt and how many times he thought of ending his life. Being raised in a "holy roller" church, Tuaolo struggled with his homosexuality and said that he asked God to take away the burden or his life many times.

Tuaolo believes that homosexuality is something people are born with and that it is not a choice

because no one would choose to be discriminated against.

"Although some argue that [Tuaolo] is a big shot who went to the Super Bowl and can't relate to struggling young adults, I heard many things on Thursday which I could relate perfectly well with—whether it be not wanting to live a double life, the relief after coming out, the panic attacks of what people might say or do, having to hide the person you love and care about—these are all very hard issues that we all deal with as human beings," said McNearney.

"Personally, as leader of the Alliance, [Tuaolo] gave me even more courage and strength to keep fighting these issues—to keep fighting so that in 10, 20, 30 years, being a gay athlete is no more taboo than anything else."

"The country is extremely torn right now and in some ways I see it my responsibility to fix it," said McNearney.

©2007
THE XAVIER NEWSWIRE
All rights reserved



Fax (513) 745-2898
Advertising (513) 745-3561
Circulation (513) 745-3130
Editor-in-Chief (513) 745-3607

Inside the 'Wire...

- Can you hear me now? How college students might be going deaf: **Campus News, page 2**
- Hypersensitivity and Greg Oden as God's taint: **Op-Ed, page 6**
- XU jazz director's triple travels to the Super Bowl: **Diversions, page 10**