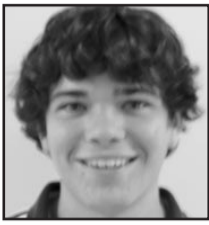


# Sports

Contact Sports Editor Clint Kimberling, (601) 974-1211 or kimbercl@millsaps.edu

## In the Bleachers...

### Poker: The newest spectator sport?



**Clint Kimberling**  
Sports Editor

Last week ESPN premiered its new show "Tilt"—a dramatic series about the world of high stakes gambling. "Tilt" profiles professional gambler Don "The Matador" Everest and is just the latest installment in the cable TV poker craze. It is almost impossible to watch television without seeing poker. Even Bravo and the Travel Channel have cashed in on the craze (pun intended).

Frankly, I'm a little sick of seeing hand after hand of Texas Hold 'Em on ESPN2. What makes televised poker even worse are the incessant reruns of the World Series of Poker. Viewers already know that Chris MoneyMaker is going to make his flush on the river and live to play on. There is no excitement or suspense to watching televised poker. Knowing the outcome of a hand is detrimental to viewing pleasure, but may not be the worst thing about TV poker. Without a doubt, the single worst aspect of televised poker is watching B-list celebrities pretend like they know what a straight is.

Poker is obviously more fun to play in person than watch someone on TV. Even watching edited hands that make a poker game fly by in a matter of minutes is so boring its making watching golf on TV seem appealing.

Should poker even be considered a sport? Maybe. I'm willing to concede that high stakes poker is a skill game having very little to do with luck. This fact alone does not lend Texas Hold 'Em enough credibility to consume blocks and blocks of airtime. So, why then does it air on ESPN? We don't see Blackjack Tournaments or the World Series of Roulette on the all sports network. What's next, poker highlights on Sportscenter? Can we expect to see Sammy Farha on the next Sportscenter commercial, sharing airtime with Trey Wingo. I think I would rather watch episodes of the Worlds Strongest Man competition rather than a poker game that was decided months before it aired.

Poker on TV is a phenomenon that simply got out of hand...quickly. Perhaps "Tilt" is a blessing in disguise. Maybe it takes a poorly conceived TV show to help network execs find the error in their programming ways. ESPN should stick to what it does best: broadcasting games and showing highlight reels.

## Majors Basketball fighting off a tough schedule

**Ashley Willbourn**  
Staff Writer

Tough competition, young players and injuries are all things that can make the beginning of any team's season a nightmare. All three of these comprised the opening of the Millsaps Majors' basketball season. Freshman contributors Rodney Rogan and Sandro Norris have been stricken with injuries. Carr Van Brocklin, a junior, suffered an ankle injury.

The Majors early schedule included tough, scholarship schools such as Belhaven College and Rust College, as well as stiff competition from the always competitive Mississippi College. These were the circumstances facing a team with no sophomores, no seniors and ten freshmen. The question of why could be asked. Why play these tough games? That question is now being answered.

At this point in the 2003-2004 season, the Majors had less wins and had already lost to Oglethorpe University, who the Majors beat this season. Last season's Majors also lost to Centre who the Majors beat 57-54 in a tough battle at Millsaps this past weekend.

Those tough games from earlier in the season have helped develop Coach Tim Wise's young players, giving them the experience they needed to excel in the conference. "We feel like we're getting better, but for us, we must continue to get better and have improvement on a daily basis," Wise confirms.

Beginning on Jan. 12, Millsaps began their four game home stand, demolishing the University of Dallas 96-61. Friday night the Majors faced Sewanee, an SCAC opponent. Sewanee was able to

dominate the boards, taking a 40-14 rebounding advantage and eventually the game in a 76-65 win for the Tigers.

ment could be best seen. "Centre is off to its best start in school history with an 11-3 record. They're 3-1 in the conference," Wise

The Majors shot 35.5 percent in the first half against the Colonels, leading when going into the half 24-19. The Majors held on to their lead through the rest of the game, building a double digit lead in the second half before Centre went on a run, showing why they had won 11 games throughout the season.

With only one minute left, the Majors held on to a 55-54 lead. Millsaps worked, getting the ball to floor leader Tyler Warren, who drove the basket but was unable to come up with the shot. Centre had the ball for the final shot of the game. They also were able to work the ball under their own basket, going up for a lay-up, but the ball would not fall. They fouled the Majors, who increased the score to 57-54, winning the game, and beating the third best team in the conference.

Concerning the rest of the season, Wise comments, "The key now for January and February is the weekend conference games. The addition of the conference tournament for the top eight teams in the league awards those schools and gives them a second chance in the post season." Wise knows his team must focus, concentrating and improving. "If we are improving and doing things right, the wins will take care of themselves."

His team agrees with him. Freshman Lorenzo Bailey remarks, "Hard work and having faith in your teammates and your coaching staff [make] a difference in a team's performance." Bailey understands that the game of basketball has a lot to do with desire and momentum, but hard work will always come first. The Majors have been working hard. They have the desire, and now momentum seems to be on their side.

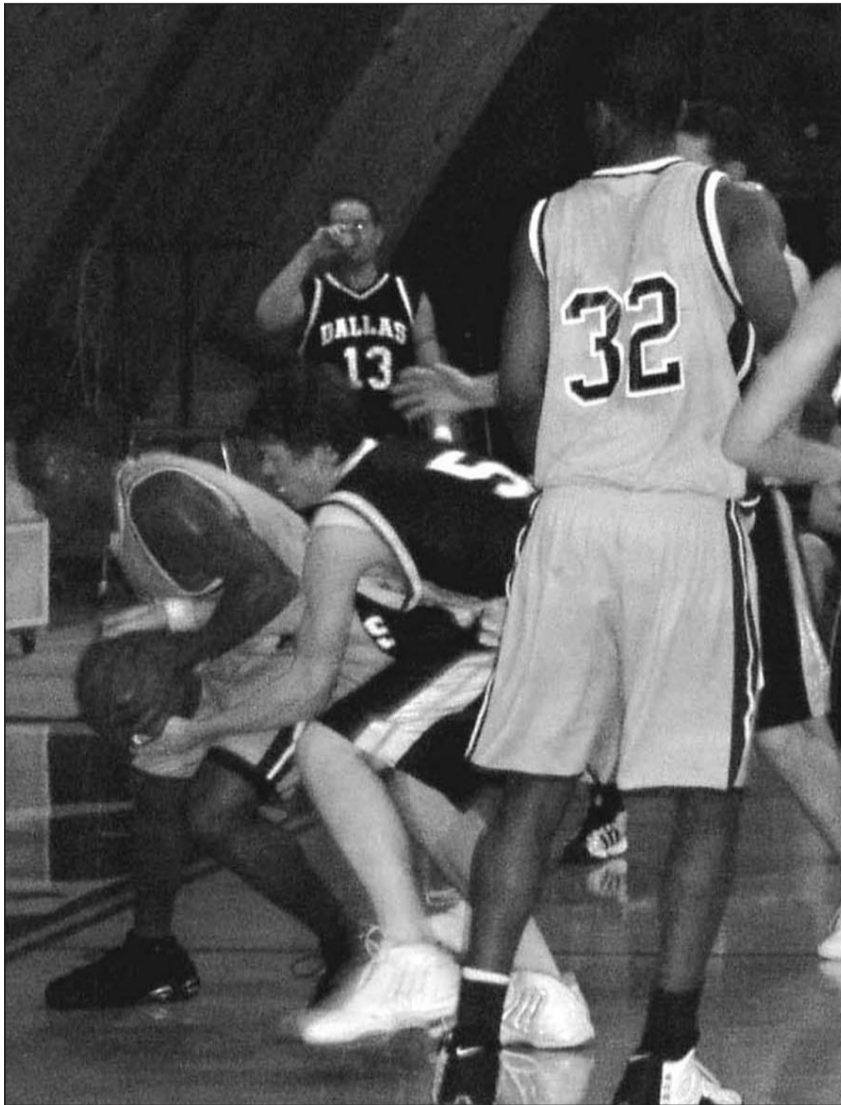


Photo by Jason Jarin  
**Rodney Rogan watches on as two players battle for a rebound. The Majors defeated the University of Dallas by a score of 96 - 61. Justin LeBlanc led the Majors with 26 points.**

Sunday afternoon's game against the highly successful Centre Colonels proved to be the game where the Majors' improve-

explained. "We had to be ready to execute against a team that is very solid on the offensive and defensive end."

## Mark Your Calendar

### Men's Basketball

Jan. 22 3:00 EST  
Millsaps @ Ogelthorpe College  
Atlanta, Ga.

Jan 23 3:00 EST  
Millsaps @ LaGrange  
LaGrange, Ga.

### Women's Basketball

Jan. 22 1:00 EST  
Millsaps @ Ogelthorpe College  
Atlanta, Ga.

Jan. 23 1:00 EST  
Millsaps @ LaGrange  
LaGrange, Ga.

## MILLSAPS WOMEN START NEW SEASON

Senior player Jillian Compton, number 11, plays a tough defense here against one University of Dallas player. Compton finished the game with a team high of 13 points.

Miranda Rosar pulled down nine rebounds to lead the team. The Majors went on to win the game by a score of 61-38.



## Major Basketball Athlete

### Biography

**Name:** Miranda Rosar

**Class:** Junior

**Height:** 6'0"

**Position:** Center/Forward

**Hometown:** Philadelphia, MS

**Major:** Biology

**Future Plans:** Join the Air Force

### Favorites

**Food:** Sushi

**Caf' Food:** Apple Crescent

**Drink:** Powerade

**Restaurant:** Hard Rock Beach Club

**Movie:** Napoleon Dynamite

**TV Show:** The Real World

**Band:** Breaking Benjamin

**Sport to Watch:** Football

**Sport to Play (besides basketball):** Volleyball

Miranda leads the Lady Majors Basketball team in rebounds per game and is second in points for the season.

**Miranda Rosar**