

Lady Lions fall short to Lady Eagles

By Devin Dourisseau
Sports Writer

It was a fight to the finish, but unfortunately your Langston Lady Lions fell short 3-2 to Southwestern Christian University on Sept. 26, at the C.F. Gayles Fieldhouse.

It was a dog fight at the beginning with the Eagles taking the first set 25-21. The Lady Lions countered with 27-25 in the second set, but then Southwestern struck back with a 25-20 win in the third set. In the fourth frame the Lady Lions tied it up 25-20 going into the fifth set, but ultimately they fell short in the final match 18-16.

"We fought hard last Thursday and unfortunately we came up short and couldn't bring home the win," said freshman Jada Murray. "We have been doing our best to gain a stronger game day mentality that

will help us compete better," she added, explaining how the team can get over the hump in close matches moving forward.

According to the Dakstats website, the Lady Lions were led by Brittani Bailey who had 26 kills and 20 digs. Antonesse Tatum racked up 18 kills and six digs, and De'Asha Banks put up nine kills and five digs.

Regardless of the first half of the season, the Lady Lions still feel confident in their abilities.

"Despite the losses, I feel as if our season is going pretty well," Murray said. "We have improved a lot since day one and we're finally learning to play together... we can and will definitely overcome this slump."

As of Oct. 4, when The Gazette was sent out for publication, the Lady Lions had a record of 2-14 overall and 1-7 in conference.



Courtesy Photo

Lady Lions Jada Jolly (far left), Antonesse Tatum (middle) and Serena Torres get in defensive position as they prepare to guard the net during a home match.

Stomp-N-Shake brings 'urban style of cheer' to campus

By Lea Houston
Contributing Writer

Moving, shaking, stomping! That is what's getting the campus energetic during basketball games and pep rallies at Langston University.

Floydrika "Flo" Young, junior elementary education major, is not only the 2019-2020 Miss Black Langston University, but she also is the captain of LU's Stomp-N-Shake team, which performs during basketball season.

"Stomp-N-Shake is an urban style of cheer and dance," Young said. "We're kind of like cheerleaders, but we're a little more aggressive. It's a real funky style of cheer."

"I remember it was my freshman year, [and] Stomp-N-Shake was hosting a two-day tryout," Young said. "The first day, we learned the dance and cheer; then the second day, I tried out and I made the team," Flo said.

Stomp-N-Shake has been on Langston's campus since 2017. It was founded by previous captain and 2018 Langston alumna Chelsy Carter.

Before Stomp-N-Shake became an official organization on campus, it originated from students who were interested in the cheer team. However, Carter and some others felt that the cheer team was losing its culture and HBCU spirit, and that's something they weren't willing to sacrifice. So, Carter led a group of students to create Stomp-N-Shake. From then on, the team began to prepare for Midnight Madness, which was the team's first live performance.

Being an incoming freshman and Stomp-N-Shake being a new organization on campus at the time, Young thought this team would lead her to better exposure for her future endeavors, and it has done just that.

Stomp-N-Shake has not only exposed Young to who she is and what she does on campus, but it also helped her achieve the title of Miss Black Langston.

"Stomp-N-Shake is definitely something I can come to and really just be my whole entire self," Young said. "I feel with Stomp-N-Shake I can express

myself through my passion for cheer and dance. This is something I take seriously and see myself doing in the future."

As captain of Stomp-N-Shake, Young's day-to-day responsibilities consist of reminding the team about prac-

tice and hydration, making sure dancers are mentally and physically healthy, and ensuring that everyone maintains the GPA requirement to stay in the organization.

Stomp-N-Shake is not a year-round organization; the

team mainly performs during the basketball season. Tryouts usually take place each spring in April.

Stomp-N-Shake's first performance of the year will be at Midnight Madness in the C.F. Gayles Gymnasium on Oct. 21.



Courtesy Photo

The Stomp-N-Shake cheer team performs for high school students during their visit to Langston University last spring.