



Nick Nichols/The Brunswick News

College of Coastal Georgia senior Crystal Chaney looks for a teammate during the Mariners' Feb. 14 game against Brewton-Parker College at Howard Coffin Gym. The Coastal women are in Montgomery, Ala., today to face Auburn-Montgomery in the quarterfinal round of the Southern States Athletic Conference tournament.

# Coastal women eye national bid

By **BUDDY HUGHES**  
The Brunswick News

The goal for every college team playing basketball at this time of year is to reach the national tournament. The College of Coastal Georgia women's basketball team could see that dream come true in their first season of postseason eligibility in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

The Mariners (23-7 overall, 15-5 Southern States Athletic Conference) could get an at-large bid into the NAIA national tournament, but the easiest way to guarantee a spot will be reaching the finals of this week's SSAC tournament in Montgomery, Ala.

Coastal, the No. 3 seed out of the SSAC East division, begins play in their first-ever league tournament at 1:45 p.m. today against Auburn University at Montgomery. The Warhawks, the No. 2 seed out of the West, are 21-8 on the season with a 13-5 mark in league play.

LaKenya Drayton has led Auburn-Montgomery on the stat sheet all season. The senior forward is averaging 12.2 points per game and also leads the team in rebounding at 8.2 boards per contest.

Coastal lost to Auburn-Montgomery 56-52 at Howard Coffin Gym on Nov. 30. The Mariners trailed by 12 points halfway through the second half and came up short in their comeback

Please see **COASTAL, 9A**

## SSACDiary

College of Coastal Georgia senior basketball player **Brittany Clark** is reporting each day from the **Southern States Athletic Conference** tournament, where the CCGA teams are competing.



The team was up early (Wednesday) getting shots up in Howard Coffin Gym before taking off to Montgomery, Ala., for the

conference tournament.

"This is the moment we've waited for all season," said head coach Betsty Harris.

Facing Auburn-Montgomery today, the girls look to avenge their 56-52 loss to the Lady Warhawks when the teams met Nov. 30 in Brunswick.

We arrived for the tournament banquet as the evening's festivities were ready to get under way starting at 7:30 p.m. (Central time) at the Multiplex in Montgomery.

Sadly, the CCGA men's team lost earlier in the day to Loyola, which ended their season.