Colors
The origin of Furman’s school colors can be traced to the 1890s when, at an alumni meeting headed up by James Andrews Tate of York, S.C., it was officially decided that royal purple and white would serve as school colors. Furman’s purple is PMS 268.

Logos
Furman’s athletics program is represented by the Diamond “F” logo, which was introduced in 1973. It was conceptualized by Dick Sheridan, then an assistant coach on Furman’s football staff, and designed by Furman junior art major Dennis Zeiger for $25. The Diamond F has been copied (and letters changed) by numerous high school athletic teams in the Southeast, often times by former Furman student-athletes now in the coaching ranks.

Nickname, Mascot
Furman University’s official athletic mascot is a knight on a horse and the school’s intercollegiate athletic teams are nicknamed “Paladins.” Prior to 1961 this was not the case as the baseball team was known as the “Hornets,” the football team “Hurricane,” and the basketball team “Paladins.” First used by a Greenville sportswriter in the 1930s to describe Furman’s basketball team, “Paladins” became the official nickname of all school intercollegiate athletic teams following a vote of the student body on September 15, 1961.

A “Paladin” is defined in the American Heritage College Dictionary as a “paragon of chivalry; a heroic champion; a strong supporter or defender of a cause; and any of the 12 peers of French emperor Charlemagne’s court.” While the same dictionary does not specifically describe a knight as a Paladin or vice-versa, the knight’s definition of “a defender, champion, or zealous upholder of a cause or principle” closely resembles the aforementioned definition of a Paladin.

While history reveals knights and Paladins were not always mounted men-at-arms, the modern image of a knight has no doubt played a role in the development of Furman’s mascot as a knight on a horse.

Furman’s knight is known as “Sir Paladin,” and the horse that currently serves as Sir Paladin’s mount is Fury, owned by Dave Hanson of Palmetto, Ga.