

Sports

SLAP SHOTS

As the Worm turns

Brian Castle
Features Editor

Has America had enough of Dennis Rodman? Has the Worm turned?

I personally can't get enough of the compelling story of one man's quest to get under the skin of every last American citizen. Dennis Rodman is a basketball-rebounding, team-mate-mystifying, coach-defying, referee-headbutting, photographer-kicking, commissioner-baiting, fan-pleasing, hair-dyeing, body-tattooing, cross-dressing, book writing, Jean-Claude Van Damme movie-acting, television-starring, Madonna-scoring, milk commercial-making—well, he's a one man industry.

Rodman Industries has cornered the market on rebellion. The Worm is the 90s rebel without a cause, since his actions stem from his broad philosophical tenet, "I don't give a damn about anybody but myself." His philosophy and his devil-may-care approach in living that philosophy to its extreme ends are the elements that polarize Rodman-lovers, who are few in number, and Rodman-haters, whose number equals that of the grains of sand on Waikiki Beach.

To most Americans, Dennis Rodman represents a threat to the system they hold so dear to their hearts. The American sports system dictates that professional athletes must behave like preachers, above reproach, so the nation's children may pattern their lives after them. Dennis Rodman is the self-appointed antichrist meant to break down the American sports machine's role model factory. As Houston Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon, a devout Muslim and vital cog in the machine, puts it, Rodman "is corrupting society."

While many sports purists may agree with Hakeem's condemnation, some fans see the other side of the Rodman coin. These fans live vicariously through the Worm's mission of hedonism unbridled. They love Rodman because he commits all of the sins they themselves are afraid to commit. To these people, the Worm is no antichrist. He is Dionysus, and they worship at whatever temple he happens to reside, whether at the United Center, the bookstore, MTV, or the movie theater. Wherever Rodman happens to be wreaking havoc on the system, his followers dance to the beat of this most different of drummers. They watch as he curses authority and explores his sexuality—and still makes his money.

I propose that Dennis Rodman is today's finest example of American ingenuity. He has created an image that transcends every entertainment genre. This image compels people, provokes them into confronting their own issues in life, whether they idolize the Worm or despise him. Some people welcome the confrontation, others don't.

Women chalk up two conference wins

Erin King
Staff Writer

The UNCA Lady Bulldogs improved their Big South Conference record in two games and experienced defeat in another during the week of Feb. 3.

They won both conference match-ups against Coastal Carolina University on Feb. 3 and against Liberty University on Feb. 8, but fell to sixth-ranked University of Georgia in a non-conference game on Feb. 5.

Head Coach Ray Ingram said the Lady Bulldogs won through "teamwork, cohesiveness, and determination."

"These guys are determined to win. They're beginning to feel good about themselves," said Ingram.

UNCA lost to the Coastal Carolina Lady Chanticleers by one point earlier in the season, but with five players scoring in double figures, the Lady Bulldogs beat them 98-60.

Ingram said the "ability to rely on the other players" has improved UNCA's game.

"Everybody steps up, and when you feel that way, you work a little harder because you want to hold up your end of it," said Ingram.

Ingram sees the team getting better with every game but not reaching their peak just yet.

"We train to get better as the season goes on. We work hard not to peak too soon," said Ingram.

The Lady Bulldogs set four new school records in their game against Coastal Carolina. They included the largest conference win, and most points by UNCA at home.

UNCA also now leads the nation in three-point shooting ac-

ording to the latest statistics provided by the NCAA.

Senior Lee Christiansen led UNCA in scoring with 18 points and four rebounds, and freshman Emily Hill added 17 points.

Other high rebounders for UNCA were junior Jessica Januskeski and freshman Dana Polakowski.

The Lady Chanticleers' high scorer was Kelly Shutters with 12 points, and Meredith Luebbers had 15 rebounds.

The Lady Bulldogs went on the road to play the University of Georgia, losing the game 83-44.

Despite the loss, Ingram thinks that his team came out with more confidence in their playing abilities.

"Sure, we got beat, but Georgia is the number six ranked team in the nation, and I think our girls came out of that game feeling pretty good about themselves, and yet not feeling so good that they thought they'd be able to not work in the conference," said Ingram.

Hill was the only UNCA player to score in double digits with 18 points. Senior Vicki Giffin had six rebounds.

Freshman La'Keshia Frett scored 21 points for Georgia, and freshman Brandi Decker grabbed nine rebounds.

"None of the games are going to be easy, but the level of confidence has gone up, and the ability to rely on the other players has also," said Ingram.

The Homecoming game against the Liberty University Flames gave UNCA another conference victory. The Lady Bulldogs finished with 67 points to Liberty's 59 in front of a record crowd of 1,300, putting their conference record at 5-4.

Ingram said his team was ready to play hard against Liberty and to go for the win.

"We need to be ready to come out and play, and I think they were prepared physically to come out and give Liberty everything they needed to," said Ingram.

Hill scored 17 points, and Giffin added 14 points and 10 rebounds, moving her to third place on UNCA's all-time high scorers list.

Ingram said the Lady Bulldogs still have room for improvement.

"We make mistakes. We don't run as much, we don't do a lot of things," said Ingram.

The Lady Bulldogs also have certain skills that need to be worked on in practice, said Ingram.

"We play, right now, such aggressive defense, and everybody works so hard to stop their man that, sometimes, our defense suffers from that. You're watching your man so closely that you don't see somebody else cutting behind you," said Ingram.

Ingram also thinks his team needs to work on "playing within ourselves."

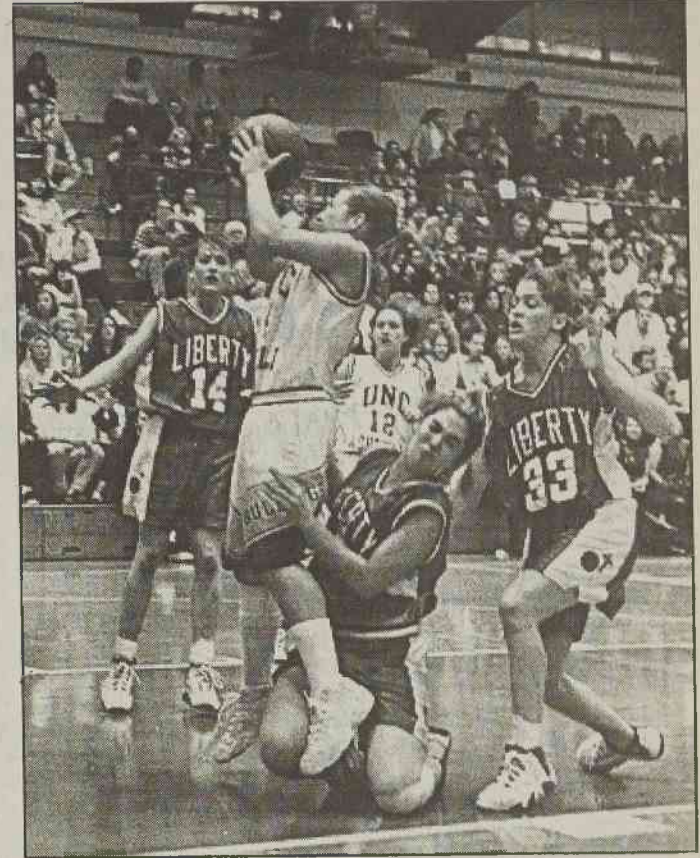
"Sometimes we try too hard to make a great play. We had a couple of situations in the games when things were going our way and somebody tries to make that big basket, or make that great pass. We don't need to do that," said Ingram.

"We just need to continue playing and, at the same time, don't set boundaries on ourselves," said Ingram.

Ingram still thinks that some players have yet to fulfill their complete potential as players.

"I'm looking for a couple of big offensive outputs from, probably, three or four players," said Ingram.

Sharon Wilkerson and Elnea Kisseleva were high scorers for the Liberty Lady Flames, with 17 and 14 points respectively.



PHOTOS BY DEL DeLORM
(Top) Marion Kuehn battles through three Liberty defenders. (Bottom) Dana Polakowski breaks to the basket. UNCA defeated Liberty 67-59 at the Homecoming game.

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San Antonio, TX
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