

Sports

SLAP SHOTS

Swimsuit edition gets buff

Kyle S. Phipps
Sports Editor

Many years ago *Sports Illustrated* started printing an issue during the spring that featured female models in the latest swimsuit fashions. Wedged around this pictorial was standard *SI* stuff: coverage of the big NBA playoff race, stories from baseball spring training, and coverage of NCAA basketball. This year *SI* has taken on an even bigger story. *Sports Illustrated* covered the 50th anniversary of the bikini. "Nothing but bikinis" as printed on the cover of the magazine.

There's nothing wrong with *SI* celebrating the anniversary of the bikini. However, an entire issue of mostly naked supermodels isn't necessary. Most people really do read the magazine for the articles (the same excuse that men use for *Playboy*). However, this issue is nothing but a soft-core skin magazine.

SI has completely forsaken the idea of running a magazine about sports for this one issue. The closest it comes to covering sports is telling about how Niki Taylor did bonfishing in Venezuela and an article about how much Tyra Banks likes the Los Angeles Lakers.

Sports Illustrated spared no expense getting some of the top models in the world to pose for its mag. Tyra Banks, Niki Taylor, Naomi Campbell, and Vendela all appear in next to nothing for their pictorials. So close to nothing that in almost one-fourth of the pictures, the models are only wearing half of the bikini.

How much of an appreciation for a woman or a swimsuit can a person get when all they can see is Banks' back with a tiny bit of blue thong? What's the point of a picture of Vendela wearing a frilly bikini bottom with her arms delicately crossed across her chest? The only way that these pictures could be anymore revealing would be if the swimsuits were crumpled into a ball laying in the floor.

Even some of the advertisements in this issue are centered around the bikini. Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum ran a five-page advertisement of women in swimwear with red mustaches drawn on the models by The Captain himself.

Sports Illustrated has gone too far with this issue of the swimsuit edition. There's nothing wrong with running an issue of a magazine that features a section of beautiful women in swimsuits. However, the point of this issue is not to show the evolution of the bikini or to celebrate the beauty of the female form. Sports isn't even an issue in this edition. This magazine aims to sell lots of copies based on pure sex appeal.

SI was able to save a little bit of face with this issue. Two pictorials are of a couple of the most attractive women involved with professional sports: top-ranked women's tennis player, Steffi Graf, and professional beach volleyball player, Gabrielle Reece. This is important because people should recognize that not only are these women at the top of their professions, but they are also beautiful women. They are also beautiful women without the aid of implants or cosmetic surgery.

Despite all of the 1997 swimsuit edition shortcomings, it isn't completely trash. Page 240 is a picture of Princess Leia chained to Jabba the Hutt in that oh-so-lovely gold bikini.

Lady Bulldogs lose in quarterfinals

Erin King
Staff Writer

The season ended for the UNCA women's basketball team on Feb. 27 with a 70-60 loss to Winthrop University in the Big South Conference Tournament quarterfinals. The Liberty Lady Flames won the tournament at home over UNC-Greensboro.

Coach Beth Coil said that the first half decided the game for the Lady Bulldogs, especially offensively.

"The only thing that hurt us was that we came out flat in the first half," said Coil.

"We got some good looks at the basket early in the first half, but we just weren't putting them down," said Coil.

Winthrop started the game with a lay-up by Katherine Kitchin. The Lady Bulldogs answered with Senior Marcia Napier's jumper to tie the game, but it was the only time UNCA would come close to the lead the entire game.

With almost 14 minutes left in the first half, Winthrop's Misty Mooring hit a jumper to give the Lady Eagles a 10-point lead, making the score 14-4.

A jumper by freshman Emily Hill cut the lead to four with four minutes left in the half, but the Lady Bulldogs could not catch up, and the half ended with Winthrop in the lead, 33-22.

UNCA tried to stop the offense

of Winthrop center Jennifer Churchill in the first half, said Coil.

"Defensively, we worked on shutting down Churchill and their defense," Coil said. Churchill ended the game with 27 points and 18 rebounds.

17 of Churchill's points came in the second half as the Lady Eagles continued to lead. Her jumper at the start of the second half gave Winthrop a 13-point lead.

UNCA started to come back, though, with junior Cary Gay and freshman Dana Polakowski contributing lay-ups to cut the lead to 10.

Senior Lee Christiansen and junior Mandy Edwards also contributed to cutting the Lady Eagle's lead. With ten and a half minutes left in the game, Winthrop still held the lead, 48-41.

Coil said she thought UNCA played much better in the second half, but Churchill still caused problems for the Lady Bulldogs.

"The second half, we did better, but Churchill still hurt us inside. We ended up winning the second half by one point, but that wasn't enough to overcome the 11-point deficit we had," said Coil.

UNCA came within one point of Winthrop in the second half. After bringing the Lady Bulldogs within four points of Winthrop, Christiansen made a lay-up after junior Amy Freed's free throw to make the score 55-54 with four and a half minutes left in the game.

Churchill led the Lady Eagles to victory, though, scoring 11 points

in the last few minutes of the game. Her two foul shots with two and a half minutes left made the score 62-54.

Christiansen brought the Lady Bulldogs within four points again with 53 seconds left after making two free throws, the score being 62-58.

Junior Jessica Januski scored the last lay-up of the game for UNCA with 33 seconds left, making the score 66-60.

Hill fouled out with 16 seconds left, and the two free throws made by Churchill made the final score 70-60.

Christiansen led UNCA in scoring with 14 points, with Hill adding 12 points and Senior Vicki Giffin contributing 10 points.

"Lee Christiansen had a really good game. She really attacked the basket and had some nice drives and drew some fouls. She probably played the best, I think," said Coil.

The game marked the last one the senior members of the women's team would play for UNCA.

"There were a lot of tears in the lockerroom afterwards and a lot of emotions. They were hoping to go a little bit further, and it just didn't work out," said Coil.

Coil said that she did not think the women lost because they were ill-prepared, but because it was not meant for them to win.

"I talked to the girls afterwards about how, any given night, any team can win, and it just wasn't our night," said Coil.

"We were pretty prepared. We



PHOTO BY DEL DeLORM

Cary Gay drives to the goal against Radford. The Lady Bulldogs fell to Winthrop in the Big South Tournament.

worked on everything," said Coil. "Offensively, we pretty much went with our same set offenses that we'd run all season."

Coil said that Winthrop was a good team that worked hard and deserved "a lot of credit."

"They played very intensely, very hard, and they were really aggressive on defense," said Coil. "Winthrop was very prepared and really wanted to win."

UNCA was the number three seed in the tournament.

Va. Tech creates sanctions

(CPS)- Virginia Tech officials say they were so embarrassed last season by the wild misconduct of football players that they've set new sanctions for athletes who break the law.

The new plan, proposed by a student and faculty committee, will impose a mandatory punishment on any athlete charged with a crime.

Only a handful of universities have established separate policies for student-athlete behavior. Most simply follow the guidelines set by the university's student code of conduct.

"Playing athletics at the intercollegiate level is a rare privilege afforded very few students," said Virginia Tech president Paul Torgersen. "We expect the (athletes) at Virginia Tech to uphold the highest values of sportsmanship, honor, integrity, and respect for others."

He added: "If... athletes are not up to this standard, they won't be playing for us."

The tougher sanctions are in response to a string of arrests that scandalized the 10th ranked Hokies. In November, seven football players were charged with beating up a track team member. Another player was charged with abducting a University of Virginia student.

In December, two players were arrested on rape and sodomy charges, bringing the total of arrests since November 1995 to 19.

Under Virginia Tech's new code, an athlete charged with a felony or a crime that involves gambling or game fixing, will be suspended until charges are dropped or resolved. An athlete who pleads guilty or no contest to those charges will be permanently kicked off the team.

Also, any athletes charged with a misdemeanor will be subject to sanc-

tions by the athletic director, ranging from a warning to dismissal from the team.

Torgersen said the university also would expand the number of support programs available to athletes, such as peer mentoring and drug awareness programs.

"We... understand that the role of a student-athlete brings special pressures and responsibilities," he said.

Virginia Tech athletic director David Braine said he would take steps to improve the recruiting process.

"We want to try to do everything we can to get the right kinds of kids to begin with, help them succeed in the college environment, and clearly communicate our values and expectations about civil behavior," he said.

Turning Two



PHOTO BY BONNER BUTLER

UNCA's Ty Wigginton turns a double play versus East Tennessee State University. The Bulldogs fell, 7-6, to the Buccaneers. UNCA plays at home again on March 7.

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