

The Banner Sports

Baseball loses two to Liberty, one to Davidson

By Patrick Alderman
Staff Writer

The UNCA baseball team was burned in two out of three games against the Flames of Liberty on April 30 and May 1, before falling prey to Davidson 6-1 in a single game on May 4.

Bulldog head coach Bill Hillier says he is looking for a strong finish to the season going into the Big South Conference Tournament.

"To this point, it has been a disappointing year for me," said Hillier. "I'm sure it has been for the team too, but we still have the tournament to look forward to.

"We're kind of banged up and kind of down mentally right now," said Hillier. "But I think our guys realize that, going into that tournament, there is no one dominant team (in the conference)," said Hillier.

Liberty took the first game of the series 9-1 on their home field in Lynchburg, Va. on April 30.

The Flames sparked off with a 7-0 lead after two innings and kept the heat on UNCA, holding them scoreless until the seventh inning.

The game was both won and lost on the mound as Liberty starter Darren Adams gave away only five hits and one run in his seven innings pitched, while senior Eddie Woods struggled for the Bulldogs, handing out five walks, four hits and seven runs

in his two innings pitched.

In the first game of a doubleheader on the following day, UNCA came out strong with a 3-0 lead, scoring once in the second and twice in the third inning.

Liberty started its comeback in the fourth, scoring one, then bursting back into action in the fifth with five runs to rack up the winning total of 6-3.

A single from Flames catcher Scottie Scott, a walk for first baseman Ryan McClellan, a sacrifice fly from outfielder Steve Baker, and a line drive to the base umpire by third baseman John Bona loaded up the bases for Liberty in the fifth inning.

An error by Bulldogs' sophomore second baseman Jason Ronai allowed Scott and McClellan to cross home plate while Bona reached third.

The Flames' Jay Sullinger stole second after his erred single, followed by a single from outfielder Trey Miller who reached second on a throw to the plate while Sullinger and Bona ran home.

Miller crossed home plate for the inning's fifth and final run on a double to center field by Flames' shortstop Anthony Pennix.

Woods and junior third baseman Stephen Deyo led the Bulldogs at the plate, each going two for four while left fielder Troy Stortz drove in the lone RBI for UNCA.

Freshman Judson Ballard took the loss by way of five hits, six runs and four walks in his seven-inning effort. Josh Brey pitched a solid nine innings for Liberty, giving away seven hits, three runs and one walk.

Game two of the doubleheader turned out to be a battle of the pitching staffs as the Bulldogs pulled out a 3-2 victory.

UNCA took an early lead of 1-0 as Stortz, who was walked to first and made it to second on a passed ball, crossed the plate on a center field single by Deyo in the first inning.

Liberty tied up the contest in the bottom of the second when McClellan stole second off a walk and was ushered home on a single to left field by Bona.

UNCA counterpunched in the third with a solo home run off Woods' bat.

In the seventh, a walk put the Flames on first and second, and a double by Pennix down the left line brought in the tying run. Liberty had a chance to take the win in the eighth when outfielder Tim Strong hit a pinch hit triple with one out, but he was left standing with no chance of making it home.

UNCA marked up the winning run when Ronai was sacrificed to second, and then brought in by a single to left center by senior first baseman Josh White, to wrap it up 3-2.

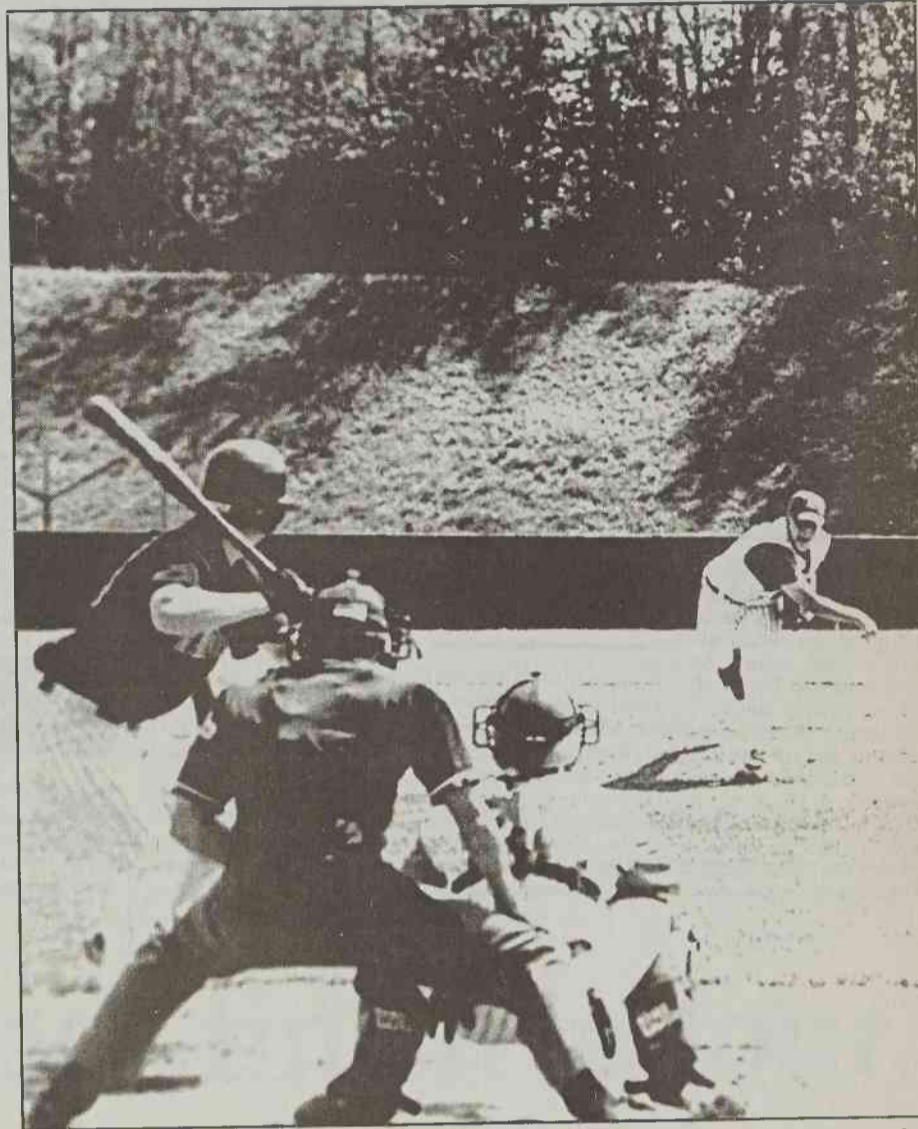
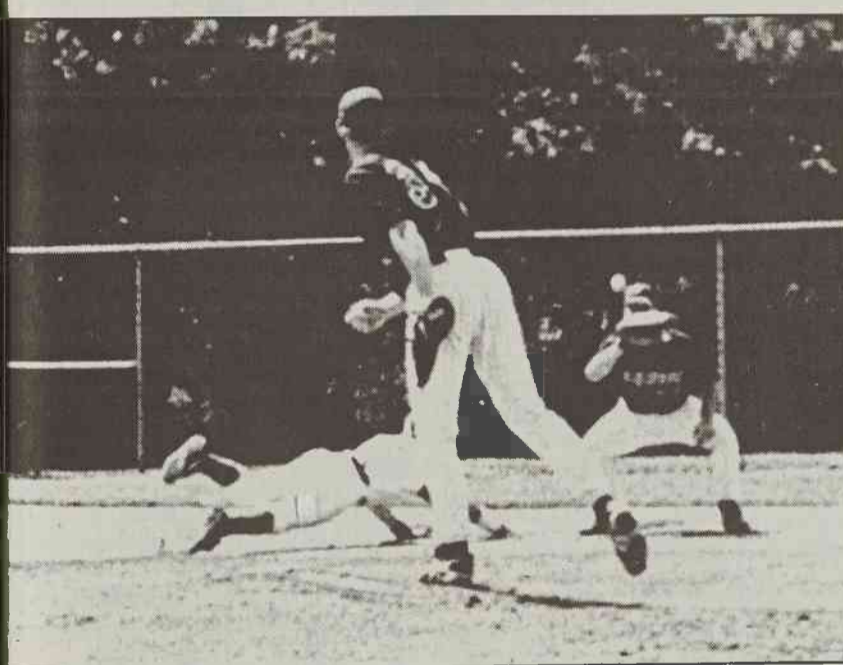
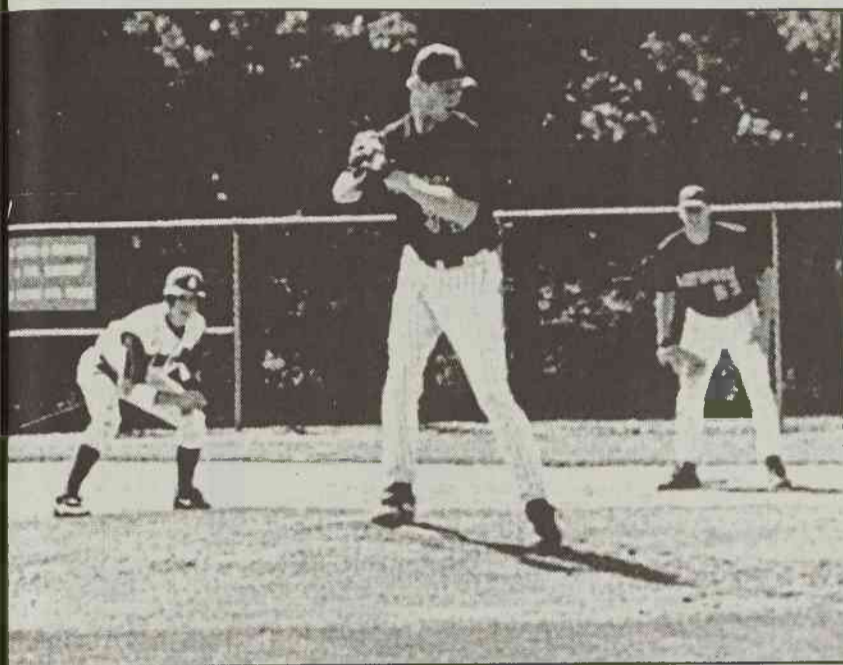


PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKEH

UNCA catcher Brett Muhlhan waits on a pitch during the Bulldogs' game against Davidson on May 4.



PHOTOS BY TRAVIS BARKEH

UNCA junior Pete Meterko avoids being picked off at first base.

Senior relief pitcher Jason White picked up his sixth win of the season, throwing for two innings, giving up three hits, walking two and striking out one.

Against the Wildcats of Davidson College, the Bulldogs mauled themselves, committing three errors that allowed for five Wildcat runs.

Davidson scored only one earned run, in the second inning, when right fielder Jeremiah Parvin opened with a triple and was sacrificed at home by catcher Kurt Davis.

Bulldogs' junior shortstop Pete Meterko drove in the Bulldogs' lone run off a single to bring home Deyo in the fifth.

First baseman for the Wildcats, Stew Sloan, capitalized on UNCA's errors, racking up four RBIs and driving in a bases

loaded, three-run double in the seventh to finalize the game at 6-1.

Freshman Brad Comer (0-2) took the loss for the Bulldogs, allowing three hits, two runs and three strikeouts in six innings. Wildcat Fritz Porter (2-2) earned the win with five strikeouts, five hits and one run in nine innings.

The Bulldogs were scheduled to face Wofford on May 5, Furman on May 6, and finish the regular season in Winston-Salem with two games against Wake Forest on May 9 and 10.

The Furman game will mark the Bulldogs' senior day, which will honor graduating seniors, Jason and Josh White, Woods and Stortz.

The Big South Conference Tournament take place in Conway, S.C. on May 20-23.

For more articles on UNCA baseball check out The Banner Online @ www.unca.edu/banner

Credito, Martin, Miller receive UNCA student-athlete awards

Andrew Pearson
Sports Editor

The UNCA athletics department recognized three of its athletes for their accomplishments during its Student-Athletes Awards Banquet held on May 2.

Kevin Martin, a senior forward for the UNCA men's basketball team was named Male Athlete of the Year with women's soccer player Mackenzie Miller taking the honor on the women's side.

In addition, senior center Candy Credito garnered the department's Scholar-Athlete of the Year award.

Martin, the Big South Conference Player of the Year for 1998-99 led UNCA in scoring, rebounding, assists, free throws and free throws attempted this season.

Miller, a senior forward finished her four years at UNCA as the all-time leading scorer for women's



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNCA ATHLETICS

Mackenzie Miller

soccer with 95 points and 39 goals. This past season, she led UNCA with 21 points and nine goals. Five of those goals were game-winning shots, including four in overtime.

Credito has started at center for two years under the guidance of UNCA head coach Kathleen Weber.

She has been a four-year member of the Big South Conference's Presi-

dential Honor Roll and has made the Big South's all-academic team for women's basketball twice. In the fall of '98, Credito was awarded a post-graduate Rotary Scholarship, which she will use to study in Germany.

Follow the Bulldogs' season from start to finish on The Banner Online @ www.unca.edu/banner

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