

Sports

Bulldogs pound CCU, sink to HPU

By Jennifer Crowl
Staff Writer

The UNCA women's basketball team is back at home from a four-game road trip that saw the Bulldogs go 1-3. The Lady Bulldogs won on Feb. 20 against Coastal Carolina with a score of 53-49. This now makes the Bulldogs 7-16 overall and 6-6 in conference play.

"They had to focus," said head coach Kathleen Weber. "That's what I'm so proud of. We've had a problem over the past two to three games with our composure at the end of the game. The last two timeouts that I called were specifically to tell them that they had to be smart about what they were doing."

Senior guard Emily Hill led all scorers with a team-high 14 points for the Bulldogs, according to the athletics Web site.

The Bulldogs were tied with Coastal Carolina in the first half at 14-14 with six minutes remaining. The score at the end of the first half was 21-23.

In the second half, the score was very close for most of the time. The teams were tied again at 45-45 with just 3:48 left on the clock. Finally,

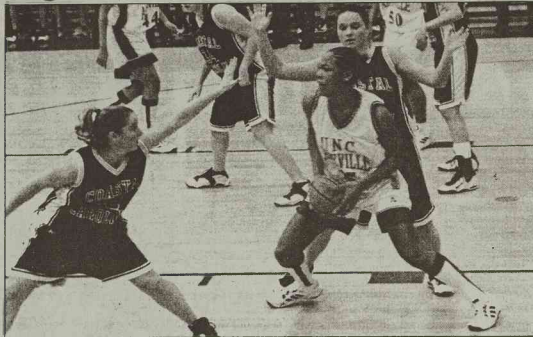


PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

The Lady Bulldogs bounced back from a homecoming loss to the High Point Panthers on Feb. 18 to beat the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers on Feb. 20 in the Justice Gym.

the Bulldogs overcame Coastal Carolina to win by four points.

"Just do what your responsibility is, and they did that," said Weber. "They didn't need to make any superstar plays, just good defense," said Weber.

Freshman center Jessica Guaneri made 12 points, while junior center Nicole Sampson added 11. Sophomore point guard Shammy Kenley chipped in 10 points.

"I thought Shammy Kenley was great. The way that she played

to play well at home," said Coastal head coach Alan LeForce.

Coastal Carolina is now 16-9 overall and 7-5 in conference play. The Bulldogs lost to High Point on Feb. 18 with a score of 54-61. The game was televised on Fox Sports South at 6:30 p.m. It was a hard game to start back with, said Weber.

"I think that tonight (Feb. 18) was a tough game. They came out, and they jumped on us early," said Weber. "It put us in a position where in the second half, we had to fight our way back into it."

The Bulldogs shot just 31 percent from the field, whereas High Point was shooting 61 percent from the field in the first half.

At the end of the first half, the score was 24-36 with High Point leading most of the game. High Point shot 75 percent in free throws.

By the second half, the score was 30-40 with 15 minutes left in the game.

UNCA came back in this half and cut the lead to 44-43 with 7:30 left, but High Point built a seven-point lead and UNCA could get no closer than five the rest of the game, according to the Web site.

"We made critical mistakes at critical points in the game which shows our youth as a basketball team,"

said Weber.

"What we needed was extreme discipline, both offensively and defensively. We didn't have it," said Weber.

Freshman center Tonisha Jackson scored 16 points, Guaneri contributed 12 points and 13 rebounds, and Hill scored 13 points. High Point was led by Annie Miller's 15 points and five assists.

"We fought back, but it wasn't our game," said Hill.

"They came out on fire, and it was a little something about our offense. They just didn't miss shots," said Guaneri.

The Bulldogs are down to eight players without junior guard Tanya Medhanie, who went down in the Radford game with a knee injury.

Medhanie will have surgery on her knee and will be out until next season. The Bulldogs hope the eight players is enough for the rest of the season.

"She was a big contributor for us on the floor, not only in points, productions or rebounds, but in leadership," said Weber. "Tanya helped Emily out in the leadership role on the floor."

High Point is now 6-18 overall and 3-8 in the conference play. The Bulldogs will play Winthrop on Feb. 26 in Rock Hill, S.C.

UNCA takes charge to win homecoming

By Eric Porter
Staff Writer

The UNCA men's basketball team is on a two-win streak after the homecoming game win against High Point University 72-57 on Feb. 18 and the Bulldogs' record rally back from a 26-point deficit to defeat Coastal Carolina 88-80 on Feb. 20 at home.

"We showed a lot of poise and toughness," said head coach Eddie Biedenbach. "These guys are starting to reap some of the benefits of their hard work."

Freshman guard sensation Andre Smith shot 10 out of 10 free throws and scored a career-high 23 points to lead the Bulldogs to victory against High Point.

"We came out with more intensity all around, offensively and defensively," said freshman center Ben McGonagill.

The game stayed close throughout most of the first half until Smith buried a three-pointer on an assist from junior point guard Brett Carey with just 25 seconds left, to extend the Bulldogs' lead to 31-27 at the half.

"We hung in there and did the job we were supposed to do," said Biedenbach.

In the first 10 minutes of the second half, freshman guard Brandon Carter sank three three-pointers, which extended the Bul-

dogs' lead to 57-37. However, the Panthers made use of the full-court press and began to charge back at the Bulldogs.

"I didn't like the way we attacked their full-court press," said Biedenbach. "We got a little disorganized."

High Point's pressure defense and some poor shooting on the Bulldog's part helped close the lead to just five with 4:03 remaining in the game.

"We slacked up on defense at the end," said Carey.

The Panthers had no choice but to foul with the clock running down and the Bulldogs still ahead. The Bulldogs took advantage and made 11 free throws in the last three minutes, and finished the opposition off with a steal by Smith and a forceful dunk by McGonagill.

"It was to our credit to get that lead and to come back after some poor play to finish off the game," said Biedenbach.

The Bulldogs faced off against Coastal Carolina next for UNCA's last home game of the season.

The Bulldogs were ready to play hard against the Chanticleers after they edged the Bulldogs out at the buzzer on Feb. 3, according to Biedenbach.

Coastal jumped out to a quick 10-2 lead within the first four minutes of play and were playing with a lot of emotional intensity, according to Biedenbach.



PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

The men's basketball team defeated High Point at UNCA's homecoming game on Feb. 18. The Bulldogs stomped Coastal Carolina on Feb. 20.

"When somebody comes out with that kind of emotion, you have to match it," said Biedenbach. "We've had the propensity to turn the ball over, and I think they wanted to exploit that."

The Bulldogs struggled throughout the entire first half just to bring their shooting up to par with the Chanticleers' amazing 11-for-16 from three-point range and 20-for-33 for twos. Coastal led UNCA by as much as 26 in the first half.

"Their picks were extremely hard, so they

got some open shots," said Biedenbach.

At the end of the first half, the Bulldogs went on a 9-0 run, which sent them to the locker room at the half trailing the Chanticleers 53-36.

The beginning of the second half was much like the end of the first, as the Bulldogs outscored Coastal 10-0 in the first three minutes, which cut the Chanticleers' lead to just seven.

"I think they played too hard with too much emotion early on," said Biedenbach.

"They didn't have enough later."

UNCA steadily knocked the lead down with solid play and, finally, at the 7:44 mark, took the lead with a jumper from Smith.

"We really picked it up in the second half," said junior center Adam Earnhardt. "It was one of the best comebacks I've ever been a part of."

"They weren't hitting their shots, so we gradually cut into the lead," said senior forward Matt Osikowicz. "We got the lead and held it."

Coastal tried to come back and took the lead 71-69 with 6:23 remaining in the game, but the Bulldogs overpowered the Chanticleers, who shot only 18 percent for two pointers during the second half.

Earnhardt tipped in a missed UNCA shot to give the Bulldogs back the lead for good with 4:26 left on the clock.

UNCA outscored Coastal 15-7 in the final minutes of the game and finished off the Chanticleers with an amazing dunk by Osikowicz on an in-bounds pass from senior forward John Risinger.

Risinger scored a career-high 25 points to help the Dogs win. Smith was also in double digits with 21, and Carey contributed 13. Smith also made 26 consecutive free throws, which beat the previous school record of 23 made by Tom Huns in the '83-'84 season.

CSU grabs victory

By Teshania Wiley
Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams lost their opening conference matches to Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C. on Feb. 15.

"Hopefully, by the end of the year, we will be a lot better than we are in terms of the more matches we play," said head coach Jeff Duncan.

The men's team did not do well in the singles matches, according to Duncan. The game results were 0-7, but there was a lot of depth on the men's side.

"We are trying to get some experience under our belts. We only have two returning players," said junior Scott Pybys. "The team is basically all freshmen, and we are playing a really hard schedule."

Pybys sprained his ankle last weekend when the team played in Florida, according to Duncan.



PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

Tennis player hard at work.

Pybys's injury put the team behind. The fourth, fifth and sixth slots for the men will be the most important slots.

"We played real competitively, but could not pull it out," said freshman Mike Lefke. "We were pretty competitive for all six matches, but ended up losing them all."

"The first part of the schedule is the strongest," said Duncan. "We play a lot of ACC schools."

The results for the women's team were 2-7, according to the athletics Web site.

The UNCA team's No. 4 player, junior Laura Hastay, lost the first set and won in the third, according to Duncan.

"She had a good match and showed a lot of heart," said Duncan.

The team's No. 5 player, freshman Ashley Jones, had a competitive match and won, according to Duncan.

"We did not have to play all of our doubles matches because we had already lost the match. It's sad that we lost, but by the end of the season we should be ready for our conference tournament," said Shuba.

"Hopefully, we will redeem ourselves and beat them."

"Once we start getting into playing in the conference matches, then good things will happen," said Duncan.

Both teams will play at home against High Point on Feb. 25.

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1999-2000 Big South Conference Women's Basketball

Through games of February 20, 2000

Team	Conference			Overall			Other			
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	Home	Road	Neu	Streak
Liberty	9	2	.818	17	7	.708	10-3	6-2	1-2	W5
Radford	8	4	.667	10	15	.400	5-6	3-7	2-2	L2
Coastal Carolina	7	5	.583	16	9	.640	10-2	5-7	1-0	L1
UNC Asheville	6	6	.500	16	30	.344	3-8	4-8	0-0	W1
Elon	5	7	.417	12	13	.480	5-6	6-7	1-0	W1
Winthrop	5	7	.417	9	16	.360	6-6	2-9	1-1	L2
Charleston So.	4	8	.333	8	16	.333	5-5	2-9	1-2	W1
High Point	3	8	.273	6	18	.250	2-8	4-9	0-1	W1

1999-2000 Big South Conference Men's Basketball

Through games of February 20, 2000

Team	Conference			Overall			Other			
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	Home	Road	Neu	Streak
Winthrop	10	2	.833	18	7	.720	12-1	6-6	0-0	W7
Radford	10	2	.833	16	9	.640	9-1	6-7	1-1	W3
Coastal Carolina	6	6	.500	9	16	.360	5-4	4-12	0-0	L3
UNC Asheville	6	6	.500	8	17	.320	8-3	0-14	0-4	W2
Elon	5	7	.417	11	15	.423	9-2	2-13	0-0	L3
High Point	5	7	.417	11	15	.423	8-2	2-12	1-1	L1
Liberty	4	8	.333	14	11	.560	10-3	4-8	0-0	L1
Charleston Southern	2	10	.167	6	19	.240	6-5	0-12	0-2	L4