

Sports

High Point stops UNCA

By Teshania Wiley
Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams lost their second conference match to High Point at home on Feb. 25.

"I think it can be connected to the fact that we have not worked as hard as we probably should have," said freshman Zack Malina. "Once you start winning, it keeps rolling and we just need to start that."

The men's team lost with a score of 7-0, according to head coach Jeff Duncan. In the No. 1 doubles, freshmen Andrew Herman and Stephen Poulos won 8-6. Freshman Mike Lefkic and junior Jakub Jez lost a close match at No. 2.

"We did pretty well in the doubles," said Lefkic. "We should have come out with that one point."

"I was a little disappointed in the singles matches," said Duncan.

Jez lost a tough match in the third set by a score of 6-4. The team's No. 1 player, junior Scott Prybys, is still down with an ankle injury.

"Hopefully, this will turn around in the next couple of weeks," said Duncan. "We are going to wait and see how his ankle does."

"I think that by the end of the

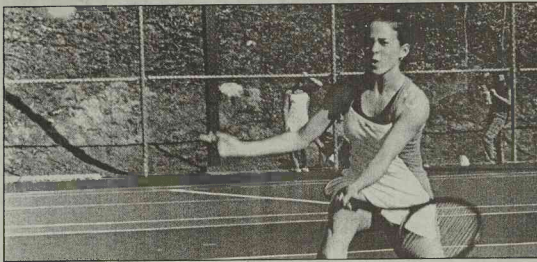


PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

The UNCA men's and women's tennis teams were defeated by High Point on Feb. 25.

year, if we can get everybody healthy, it will be a much closer match than it was over the weekend," said Duncan.

The women's team lost by a score of 5-4, according to Duncan.

"We had an injured player, so we started off the match down two points," said freshman Ashley Jones.

The team's No. 4 player, junior Laura Hastay, was not able to play due to an ankle injury.

"We would have won had she

played," said sophomore Stefanie Shuba. "We were already in the whole 2-0, and we only had six players," said Duncan. "We had to forfeit our No. 3 doubles and go into the singles lineup."

"It is kind of a slow start for the season," said Jones.

"There's definitely room for improvement," said Shuba. "All the matches were close and competitive."

Junior Cathy Rhoney lost a match 6-4 in the third set. Sophomore Nancy Livesay won two matches, 7-5 and 6-1.

"I was proud of the way they played," said Duncan. "They stepped up even though they started out in the hole."

"As we get into the season, good things will come," said Duncan. "Overall, it was good. We had a long day."

Both teams play Elon at home on March 11.

Asheville loses season opener

By Eric Porter
Staff Writer

The UNCA baseball team lost their season opener at home on Feb. 23 to Charleston Southern with a score of 5-0.

"We didn't play badly, but we're just not hitting the ball well right now," said the Bulldogs' head coach Mike Roberts. "Give credit to (Chad) Humbert, Charleston's right-hand pitcher, who pitched a fine game and didn't walk anyone."

"We just have to come out tomorrow and play a little better," said Roberts.

The Charleston Southern Bucs allowed only one hit to the Bulldogs by senior Todd Interdonato in the first inning.

Humbert only allowed one baserunner after that, and that was on an error in the sixth inning when senior Willie Stewart reached on third baseman Dave Martindale's miscue with one out.

The Buccaneers (1-1, 5-5) got two runs in the top of the first when Kyle Leon singled and Ted



PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

Junior Matt Corrado pitches for the UNCA baseball team.

Malikowski followed with a home run, his second of the year, for 2-0 CSU lead.

UNCA walked six in the fourth inning, which helped the Bulldogs add two runs in that inning and another in the fifth for a 5-0 lead.

Bulldog starting pitcher Matt Corrado (0-2) lost as he pitched the first three innings before leaving the game with a blister.

'Dogs topple Eagles

By Jennifer Crowl
Staff Writer

The UNCA women's basketball team defeated Charleston Southern on Feb. 23 with a score of 63-61 and continued to dominate with a win over the Winthrop Eagles (66-61) on Feb. 26 in Rock Hill, S.C.

"We want to go all the way in the tournament," said junior guard Emily Hill. "If we play like this, with the energy we had, then I think we have a good chance."

"This is a great win against a tough opponent on the road," said head coach Kathleen Weber. "We really seem like we're coming together at the right time, and we're excited about the upcoming Big South Conference (BSC) tournament."

Freshman center Tonisha Jackson scored a career-high 27 points to lead UNCA to a victory over Winthrop and the third-straight win for the Bulldogs. UNCA tied a school record for the most conference wins with eight.

"I was just sensational," said Weber. "She was unstoppable in the first half and then got double-teamed in the second half. She still scored some big points down the stretch."

Freshman center Jessica Guarneri had her eighth double-double of the year with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Junior guard Denise Wilbanks added nine points and six rebounds, while Shanny Kenley added eight points, according to the athletics Web site.

UNCA led 35-34 at halftime, and built the lead to six early in the second half. Jackson scored on a three-point play to put the Bulldogs up 60-59. A free throw by the Eagles tied it 60-60, but Jackson scored on a jumper to give UNCA 62-60 with 2:40 left on the clock. She then hit two free throws to push the Bulldogs ahead 64-60.

The Bulldogs led 64-61 with less than a minute on the clock, when Wilbanks rebounded and ran some time off the clock. Kenley hit a baseline jumper to win the game.

At Wednesday's game against Charleston Southern, the Bulldogs trailed by 18 late in the first half and followed by 15 at the halftime mark with a score of 38-23. However, UNCA came roaring back in the second half.

"It was a great win for us," said Weber. "I thought the beginning of the game, in the first half, our freshmen were having a typical freshmen



PHOTO BY WALTER PYLEER

Sophomore forward Tynisha Jackson prepares to take the ball to the hole for the Lady Bulldogs at a recent home game.

"Wilbanks did a nice job out there that her steal at halfcourt with the point guard was a big momentum for us," said Weber.

"It was exciting to come back from a 20-point deficit. We were persistent, and we were able to stay up," said Hill. "This was a big win, especially this close to tournament time."

"It was great how we fought back," said Guarneri. "Emily had a wonderful game."

"We played a little bit more inspired basketball in the second half. Our freshmen stepped up and started playing harder, and Emily's leadership pulled us out," said Weber.

"It was a great group effort and a great win all around."

"This puts the Bulldogs 8-6 in conference play and 9-16 overall. UNCA is now the No. 4 seed in the BSC. They will play against Elon Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Asheville Civic Center, where the Bulldogs will continue to fight for the championship.

UNCA athletes receive BSC basketball awards

Congratulations to the following UNCA men's and women's basketball players for their extraordinary performances during the 1999-2000 season. They have been recognized by officials from the Big South Conference for their athletic excellence. The Bulldogs participate in the BSC tournament on March 2-4.

Andre Smith: Rookie of the Year,

All-Rookie Team, Second Team All-Conference
Jessica Guarneri: All-Rookie Team
Nicholas McDevitt: All-Academic Team
Tonisha Jackson: All-Rookie Team
Brandon Carter: All-Rookie Team
Denise Wilbanks: All-Academic Team

Big Dogs slay Bucs

Men's basketball team falls to Winthrop

By Eric Porter
Staff Writer

The UNCA men's basketball team extended their winning streak to three with their first road win of the season, 76-61, at Charleston Southern on Feb. 23. The Bulldogs were then cut down at Winthrop University on Feb. 27 with a score of 90-50 in their last game of the regular season before the Big South Tournament.

"We should have won a couple more road games," said head coach Eddie Biedenbach. "That's the mark of young teams."

The Bulldogs (7-7, 9-18) had three players score in double figures for a significant win as they fought for seeds in the upcoming Big South Tournament.

"It was an important game that we had to have," said junior guard Nick McDevitt.

Freshman guard Andre Smith tied a career-high for UNCA with 23 points, including 14-17 from the free throw line. Smith has now scored at least 20 points in his last five games. The Bulldogs took advantage at the line by hitting 81 percent.

"We were very effective from the free-throw line," Biedenbach said. "We played a good game."

Both teams fought through the first half, but the Buccaneers acquired a seven-point lead with 3:49 to go. UNCA went on a 9-2 run

that sent the teams into the locker rooms tied at 34. Charleston Southern hit 11-29 from the field and eight of 11 from the line. However, during the second half, the Buccaneers struggled.

The 'Dogs took their first lead of the game early in the second half off a layup by Smith. The Bucs' shooting sank to 25 percent as Asheville's soared.

"Our shooting has been much improved," said Biedenbach. "That's something that's been really good for Asheville this year."

Senior forward Matt Oskiwicz scored 20 points, and junior center Adam Earnhardt turned in a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulldogs.

"We really sucked it up in the second half," said McDevitt. "We also played in a tie for third place with Coastal."

The win was UNCA's first road victory of the season and broke a 16-game losing streak on the road, which dated back to last season.

UNCA's final game of the season took place at Winthrop in Rock Hill, S.C. on Feb. 27.

Asheville's three-game winning streak came to a grinding stop Saturday at Winthrop when the Eagles tore through the Bulldogs. This was the worst loss for UNCA in Big South Conference play.

"We didn't match their intensity and gave them some wide-open three-pointers early," said Biedenbach. "(Winthrop) wasn't in a very good mood after losing

Big South Conference Tournament action starts March 2 at the Asheville Civic Center. UNCA's women play Elon at 9:30 a.m. and the men play Liberty at 7:30 p.m. Free admission on Thursday for UNCA faculty and students with school ID. Winners compete in semifinals on March 3 at noon (women) and 6 p.m. (men). Go 'Dogs!

Wednesday night at Coastal Carolina and just took it to us. We need to forget about this game and get ready for the tournament."

The Eagles made 17 out of 35 threes, which tied a Big South record. The Bulldogs were led by Oskiwicz with 15 points, while Earnhardt added 13 points and nine rebounds. UNCA shot a season-low 27 percent from the field (16 of 58).

Asheville kept the Eagles within striking distance throughout most of the first half, until Winthrop went on a 10-0 run, which sent the Bulldogs out at the half 42-24.

In the second half, the Bulldogs lost any ability to handle the ball effectively as their shooting from the field slumped to just 24 percent. The Eagles continued to hurt them down three with impudent and their two-point field goal percentage jumped to 56.

"We gave up too many easy threes," said McDevitt. "That really hurt us. It kind of put the game out of reach for us."

Despite the massive scoring gap, the Bulldogs finished in style as junior forward Juma Jackson jammed a dunk down the relentless Eagles' throats with just 15 seconds remaining in the game. Jackson managed an amazing four points, two rebounds and one steal in just four minutes of play.

The Bulldogs face Liberty of March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Asheville Civic Center for UNCA's first game of the Big South Tournament.