

# Sports

## Bulldogs roll over Soccer season opens Union College 4-2

UNCA's men's soccer loses to East Carolina in overtime 2-1 and University of Kentucky 3-0



Megan Harris, a freshman midfielder, struggles with a Union opponent for the ball, while junior forward Samia Fercha runs up to block the other opponent.

**Angela Nantz**  
Staff Writer

The UNCA women's soccer team combined teamwork with defense to claim the 4-2 win over Union college Sept. 2 at Greenwood Field.

The Bulldogs allowed Union College to score two early goals, but came back with four consecutive goals of their own.

"We struggled early but did a nice job coming back against a good team. As young as we are, it was nice to see we didn't panic or get down when we fell behind 2-0," said head coach Michele Cornish.

UNCA (1-1) picked up their first win of the season with goals from various players. "It was nice that we had four different people scoring the goals. That makes for a good team when we get a lot of people finishing," Cornish said.

Union College jumped out in front in the first 19 minutes of the game with goals from two of their four strong, players who really stood out, according to the athletics Web site.

The Bulldogs put an end to Union's scoring opportunities. "We

came back from a slow start. We're beginning to use our midfield well, our defense is getting organized. We're getting stronger," said senior forward Joanna Stocking.

Late in the first half, freshman midfielder Christie Martin passed to freshman midfielder Megan Harris, who scored from 20 yards out to cut the lead to 2-1, according to the athletics Web site.

In the second half, senior midfielder Amanda Wilkinson was able to score off a pass from junior forward Samia Fercha to tie the game.

"We came back strong in the second half and popped four right in like it was nothing. They were tired, you could tell, and we did a real good job of pressuring them and wearing them down," Wilkinson said.

The Bulldogs then scored twice midway through the second half to get the victory. Sophomore midfielder Bridget Goss scored off a pass from Wilkinson on a corner kick to give UNCA the lead at 3-2, according to the athletics Web site.

Less than five minutes later, freshman forward Kelsey Dawson scored to give the Bulldogs the final mar-

gin at 4-2.

Several factors led to this win for the Bulldogs, including coming together as a team. "We started creating space and passes, people were moving off the ball, and we started stepping up the intensity. We won because we wanted it more," said central defense freshman Keri Canevari.

The freshmen came in strong, and everyone started to work together so they were able to get the points in and hold them, according to Stocking.

"We kept control of the ball, and after our first goal they didn't even gain control. We're getting stronger and it's going to be a good season," said Stocking.

The team is still a little shaky, according to Cornish.

Nine players have played together before on a roster, and everybody else has not.

"We're getting there progressively. Every practice, every game, we have to do little things better," said Cornish.

There were good opportunities the team missed at the game. Fortunately, there were four opportunities they did not miss, which contributed to the victory, according to Cornish.

**Ben Ezell**  
Staff Writer

The UNCA men's soccer team lost 2-1 in overtime during their first regular season match of the year on Sept. 2 to East Carolina University (ECU).

In the ECU contest, played in Greenville, N.C., the Bulldogs controlled possession of the ball for nearly the entire game.

"We played well and created a lot of opportunities for ourselves throughout the game," said junior midfielder Colin Barnes.

However, they could not keep the ECU Pirates from scoring the tying goal late in regulation and the game-winning goal early in the overtime period.

UNCA opened the scoring at the 28:03 mark when Barnes knocked one into the back of the Pirates' net.

From that point until the middle of the second half, the Bulldogs continued to dominate play, but couldn't quite score the second goal that would have broken the Pirates' spirit and put the game a bit farther out of reach.

"We kept all of our shots on frame and made their keeper make a lot of tough saves," said Barnes. "We just could not put them away when we had the opportunity to do so."

That opportunity started to leave about midway through the second half when ECU started to gain momentum and mount the attack that would eventually result in the game-tying goal.

ECU began to start putting more pressure on the UNCA defense, but for the most part, the Bulldogs were able to absorb and contain the brunt of it, according to Barnes.

Eventually, ECU tied the score at 1-1 when a mis-struck UNCA goal kick landed at the feet of Pirate freshman forward Joe Ellington.

Ellington kicked the ball into the back of the Bulldog net at the 84:00 mark with a mere six minutes remaining in regulation.

In the overtime period, once again it was Ellington who struck for the Pirates. After the Bulldogs once again controlled the ball on the ECU end for the beginning of overtime, Ellington broke free and scored from six yards out to win the match.

"We played some very good soccer against a very good team. However, coming close is simply not acceptable. We had a great chance to get a big road victory today and did not get it done, and that is very frustrating," said UNCA's head coach, Steve Cornish, on the athletics Web site.

On Sept. 4 at UNCA's Greenwood Field, the Bulldogs lost 3-0 to the University of Kentucky.

The Bulldogs took on the Kentucky Wildcats, a team that competed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament last season.

Even though UNCA lost to the Wildcats 3-0, throughout the first half the two teams competed evenly, according to freshman midfielder Will Matthews.

"As the game started out, the teams were fairly even," said Matthews.



Freshman midfielder Greg Karrison, #22, blocks a Kentucky Wildcat from stealing the ball.

"However, I thought they were a little bit faster and they closed out on defense quickly."

The only real miscue the Bulldogs had in the first half ended up with the Wildcats scoring their first goal of the game.

UNCA lost the ball in the back and Wildcat forward Brook Pearson found his teammate Chris McDaniel alone in front of the Bulldog goal, where he promptly knocked it into the back of the net at the 22:10 mark to give the Wildcats a 1-0 lead.

Despite the early goal, UNCA had several scoring opportunities in the first half but simply could not convert when they had the chance, according to Matthews.

One of UNCA's best scoring opportunities occurred a few minutes after the Wildcats scored their first goal, when freshman forward Mike Kachan found himself open in front of the opposition's net, but his shot sailed just wide.

After the halftime break, another defensive breakdown led to Kentucky's second goal of the contest.

One of the Kentucky players was grabbed in the penalty box and awarded a penalty kick.

Chris McAlpine of the Wildcats scored on the penalty kick to extend the Kentucky lead to 2-0 at the 50:10 mark.

"That penalty kick hurt us badly," said Matthews, who admitted that the call that led to the kick was questionable.

After another stretch, in which the two teams played fairly evenly, the Wildcats got their final goal of the game when Kentucky's Chris Soler scored off a pass from J.D. Stephenson at the 75:54 mark.

After the game, Cornish said his players played well in some stretches, but admitted that the skill of the Kentucky team eventually wore the Bulldogs out a little bit.

"For about an hour, we played some good soccer against a great Kentucky team," said Cornish on the athletics Web site. "They wore us down a bit and took over the last 20 minutes of the game. We had some opportunities to score and didn't, and just made some real mistakes in the back to give them their first two goals. Our effort was tremendous, but we need to score some goals and start getting a result."

The Bulldogs play at home against Warren Wilson Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. at Greenwood Field.

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**Radford Volleyball Picked as Preseason Favorite**  
Radford University was chosen as the preseason favorite for the upcoming volleyball season, the Big South conference announced today. Liberty University, last years champion, was picked second and Winthrop University was chosen in third place. Selected fourth was UNC Asheville. Coastal Carolina University finished fifth in the voting, which is conducted by the League's head volleyball coaches and sports information directors. Elon College was sixth and High Point University was chosen to finish seventh. Charleston Southern University rounded out the poll, being selected to finish eighth.

**Liberty Favored in Men's Cross Country Preseason Poll**  
The Big South Conference today released its annual preseason men's cross country poll. Liberty University, last year's champion, topped the poll, garnering ten first-place votes. Coastal Carolina University, was picked second and UNC Asheville finished in third place in the voting, which is conducted by the League's head men's cross country coaches and sports information directors. Chosen fourth was Winthrop University and fifth was Radford University. Charleston Southern University was sixth and High Point was chosen to finish seventh. Elon rounded out the poll, being selected to finish eighth.

**Liberty Picked To Finish First in Women's Cross Country Preseason Poll**  
The Big South Conference today announced that Liberty University, has been picked to finish first in the women's cross country preseason poll, garnering eight first-place votes. UNC Asheville, last years champion, was chosen second. Coastal Carolina University, was picked third and Winthrop University was selected to finish fourth. Charleston Southern University was selected fifth and Radford University finished in sixth place in the voting, which is conducted by the League's head women's cross country coaches and sports information directors. High Point was chosen to finish seventh, and Elon rounded out the poll, being selected to finish eighth.

**Coastal Carolina Opens Inaugural Women's Soccer Season with 1-1 Tie**  
Coastal Carolina University opened its inaugural season of women's soccer today with a 1-1 double overtime tie against Appalachian State University. After a scoreless first half, the Lady Chanticleers took a 1-0 lead when midfielder Gretchen Shock recorded the program's first-ever goal at 63:12 of the contest. Shock tallied the goal on a penalty kick that was awarded following a foul called on Appalachian State keeper Leigh Hooten. Appalachian State tied the match at 77:17 as Christine Monica's cross on a corner kick found the head of Carmen Huneycutt. This is the first season Coastal Carolina has sponsored a women's soccer team.

Upcoming Bulldog Home Games:

Men's Soccer vs. Warren Wilson	Sept. 8 @ 2 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. High Point Univ.	Sept. 8 @ 4 p.m.
Tennis vs. Wingate University	Sept. 12 @ 2:30 p.m.
Volleyball vs. East Tenn. State Univ.	Sept. 12 @ 7 p.m.