

SPORTS

Tennis Teams Compete in Big South Tournament



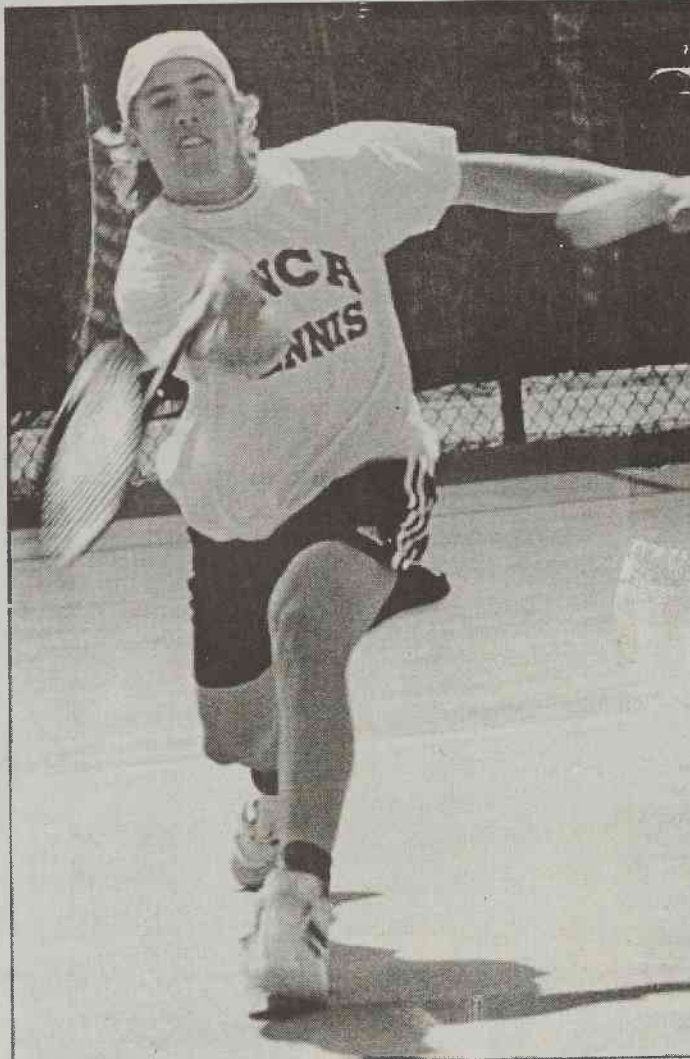
ANTHONY GRECO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior Stephanie Shuba returns a backhand in recent action.

Final Big South Conference Standings for Women's Tennis

1. Coastal Carolina
2. Charleston Southern
3. Elon College
4. High Point University
5. Winthrop University
6. UNC Asheville
7. Radford University
8. Liberty University

"It was great working with the girls. They kept a positive attitude throughout the season."

-Paul Pound,
UNCA Tennis Coach



ANTHONY GRECO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Stephen Poulos will return next year to help the Bulldogs improve on their 4-18 record.

"I think with the new coach the team played the best it has in the four years I have been here. The team had a sense of unity despite its losing record."

-John Rockwell,
UNCA Tennis Player

Final Big South Conference Standings For Men's Tennis

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8. UNC Asheville

Bulldogs Lose 6-0 to Charleston Southern University in First Round, Rockwell Earns Academic All-Conference Honors

Jessica Welch
Sports Reporter

The UNCA men's tennis team finished the season, losing to Charleston Southern University, in the Big South Tournament 6-0 April 19.

The team went into the tournament with a competitive attitude, according to Head Coach Paul Pound.

CSU, the number one team in the conference, just outclassed the Bulldogs, according to Pound.

CSU prevailed in the tournament, beating second ranked Winthrop University in the men's final, 4-1.

The victory marked CSU's fourth consecutive win and the fifth win in six years, in the Big South Tournament, according to

the Athletics Web site.

Freshman Nick Neal played a strong match against CSU's Rohan Wadehra, according to Pound.

Neal and Wadehra's match went unfinished because CSU won the overall match.

Neal played Wadehra earlier in the season, losing 6-2, 6-1. Neal improved his game, according to Pound.

"This match shows that Nick has the ability to sustain a high level of play," said Pound.

"My match proved that the team and myself individually could have performed better than what we did this season," said Neal.

Although the Bulldogs lost the match, a few members on the men's and women's teams received Big South Conference honors.

Senior John Rockwell was named to the Academic All-Conference

their first-ever Big South women's tennistitle.

Coastal Carolina placed second last season, earning the runner-up position for the fifth time since 1987.

Two players from the UNCA women's team earned Big South honors.

Livesay earned Academic All-Conference honors.

"It was an honor," said Livesay about her achievement.

Junior Stephanie Shuba made the All-Conference team.

"I thought it was a good season," said Livesay. "Everyone improved."

"It was great working with the girls," said Pound. "They kept a positive attitude throughout the season."

Next year, UNCA will lose only one player, so the team will be more experienced, according to Pound.

Livesay and Shuba will lead the team as seniors next season.

"Having two seniors will make an impact," said Pound.

This season, the Bulldogs were devoid of senior leaders.

Pound has plans to approach next year differently.

With Pound coming to the team late in the year, he felt the girls did not have enough preparation with workouts prior to the spring season.

"The girls will work out a lot harder physically in the fall, to prepare for the upcoming season," said Pound.

Coastal Chanticleers Eliminate Bulldogs in First Round Action

Jessica Welch
Sports Reporter

The UNCA women's tennis team lost to Elon College in the Big South Tournament 4-1 April 19. The Bulldogs finished the season with an overall record of 7-13.

This marks the third consecutive year the Big South Championships were held at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center on the Elon College Campus.

Freshman Sarah Cox won her singles match in the three sets against Elon's Aubrey Rhoads 6-4, 1-6 and 6-0.

Cox's match was the only UNCA victory.

Though freshman Emily Ackers-Estes played a strong singles match against Jennifer Fulmer, she was unable to finish, according to head coach Paul Pound.

"The team put in a tremendous effort," said Pound. "We hoped for better results than what we got."

"It was a tough match," said senior Nancy Livesay. "We definitely showed improvement from the first time we played them."

Earlier this season, UNCA lost to Elon College 5-2.

Top-ranked Coastal Carolina University defeated second-ranked Charleston Southern University 4-3 in the women's final.

CCU, without any seniors, won



ANTHONY GRECO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior Nick Brannon throws a pitch to the opposing team.

'Dogs win two against Radford

Eric Price
Sports Reporter

The UNCA baseball team won two games in a three-game series with the Radford University Highlanders April 20 and 21 at Greenwood Field.

In the first game of a double-header April 20, the Bulldogs played the Highlanders for 10 innings, but ended up losing 6-3.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, UNCA came close to winning. With two hits and a walk, the bases were loaded with two outs. With junior Curtis Moncus up to bat, the Bulldogs figured they might have a chance, according to the UNCA Athletic's Website.

However, junior Ryan Speier struck out Moncus to end UNCA's chances in the ninth.

Speier pitched ten complete innings and allowed eight hits, three runs, four walks, while striking out 10.

In the top of the tenth inning, senior Tom Van Hoose hit a double to bring in a run from second and seal the victory for the Highlanders.

Freshman Bobby Ryan followed Hoose to bring in two more runs to extend the lead to 3, the final margin of victory.

However, senior pitcher Nick Brannon helped lead the Bulldogs to victory by shutting out the Highlanders 9-0 in game two.

Brannon, who was named Big South Player of the Week April 24, recorded his second career shutout, fourth consecutive victory, and tied former teammate Jason White's career school record for appearances with 77.

In his last 22.1 innings pitched, Brannon has allowed just one earned run.

UNCA sealed the victory with a four-run fourth inning.

Senior catcher Brett Muhlhan pushed the 'Dogs' lead to six runs by knocking in two runs on a single in the sixth inning.

In their second 10-inning game in two days, the Bulldogs managed to capitalize on their extra inning fortune.

In the seventh inning, Radford went ahead on the scoreboard thanks to freshman Jeff Swidrack. Swidrack hit a two-run double to give the Highlanders a 7-5 lead.

The lead for Radford would be short lived however. Over the course of the next two innings, UNCA tied the game.

In the bottom of the 10th, with exactly the same situation as the previous 10-inning game, the Bulldogs would not miss their opportunity.

Muhlhan hit the first pitch to him into right field to score the game-winner for the 8-7 victory and 2-1 edge in the series.

The next and final home game for Bulldog Baseball will be May 2 at 3 p.m.

UNCA's 29th Annual Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage

The UNCA Biology Dept. will hold its 29th annual Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage May 4-6. The weekend opens at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 5, with a talk on the landscape ecology of plants and wildlife in the Southern Appalachians and Northern Rocky Mountains by Scott Pearson. For more information, call David Clarke, UNCA Assistant Biology Professor, at (828) 232-5152.

Sports Question of the Week:

Q: Who was the last Quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy and become the number one overall selection in the NFL Draft?

UNCA Baseball Team to Host Western Carolina University at McCormick Field

The UNCA baseball team will play its final home game of the 2001 season Wednesday, May 2 at McCormick Field beginning at 7 pm.

The Bulldogs will play the Western Carolina University Catamounts. Cost for the game will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

UNCA students get in for free with ID, while UNCA faculty and staff get in for \$2.

Prior to the game, the Bulldogs will honor their six seniors. The seniors are pitcher Nick Brannon, outfielder Stephen Hull, infielder Jeremy Manning, outfielder Corey Mercer, catcher Brett Muhlhan and outfielder Jason Ronai.

For more information or to buy tickets, call 251-6923.