

SPORTS

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Volleyball completes regular season

By Megan Rawls
Staff Writer

The women's volleyball team won 3-1 against Presbyterian College in their final game of the regular season, giving them their 11th win and a confidence boost as they begin Conference tournament Thursday.

"Even though we won the game, you want to do it right, so that when they press you, like we knew that they would somewhere in the match, we we're on top and we don't fall apart," said Head Coach Julie Torbett.



Lauren Ficker

The Bulldogs played a sloppy first match, according to Torbett.

Freshman Kelsey Benorden and sophomore Lauren Ficker tied for kills with 15 each, and the Bulldogs finished the match with 68 total kills.

"I don't think they were a bad team, but I think we came out stronger, and we weren't going to lose, because it's senior day," said senior Ashley Wrihtenberry. "We've lost a lot this year, and we just want to have good confidence going into the tournament next week."

Sophomore Bridget Holiday led defense with 20 digs, Benorden contributed 16 digs, and Raquel Miotto added another 13 digs. The Bulldogs took a quick two-point lead for the second game. The team struggled to keep the lead throughout the match, but managed to take the win with a final score of 30-24.

"We just let them come back at times when we should have shut them down, so they had a good game, and we didn't fight back the way we should have," said sophomore Kaitlyn McDaniel.

Presbyterian led the third game, but the Bulldogs kept the score close, until Presbyterian won 30-25.

"Emotions were high. That comes from being a young team, not having a lot of wins," Torbett said. "That team has a winning record and has had a very good season, and I think that the fact we jumped on them for the first two games really hurt them, because they don't know how to lose, and we are just now figuring out how to win."

The Bulldogs lost focus in the third game according to Wrihtenberry.

"We fell a little in the third game, and we let our focus down a little, and communication, but overall, I think it was a good win," Wrihtenberry said.

Holiday said the team was overconfident after the first two games, which helped Presbyterian win the third game.

"I think we just lost our focus there, but we were able to pick it back up in the last game," Holiday said.

The Bulldogs recovered for the fourth and final game, and won 30-22.

"Well, of course, we like to win. On senior day, and we everything that was going on, bulldog bash, a good crowd, we of course like to produce a win," Torbett said.

The team held a post-game homage to Wrihtenberry, the only senior on the team, who played her final home match Saturday.

"We were really excited we pulled off the win, mostly for Ashley, because it was all about here today," McDaniel said.

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Men's Basketball season perfect

The Bulldogs begin the regular season with a perfect 3-0 record, their best start ever

By Nora Stoney and Devon Dow
Staff Writers & Sports Editor

The Men's Basketball team begins the regular season with a perfect 3-0 record, shattering the previous 2-0 start record held by the 1989-1990 team. The Bulldogs have convincingly recorded victories against Furman, Lees-McRae, and Brevard at the Justice Center.

Record set against Brevard

The Bulldogs held Brevard to a team record low of 35 points as the team went on to win the game 75-35 Tuesday night.

"This was a great team effort," said Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach. "The defense for our team really stepped up to the plate tonight. There have been great efforts by the entire team in practice and players are stepping up and wanting to contribute to the team's success. I could not be more happy for these guys."

The Bulldogs were led in scoring by red shirt freshman John Williams who went a perfect 5-5 from the field and 2-2 from the free throw line. Williams also led the team in blocks with three.

"This game we emphasized defense and it worked," Williams said. "When I was out there on the court, like my teammates, I was trying to do whatever I could to help us out and get win. So far this season has gone well for us and I hope that we continue to add to our success."

While Williams led the team in blocks for the game against Brevard, Junior center Kenny George leads the Big South with 17 blocks on the season. George was named the Big South player of the week for his first two games of the season averaging 13.5 points, 8.0 rebounds and 7.5 blocked shots.

"It feels good to be able to contribute this year, George said. "I am stronger, and fast as I can be, plus as a team we are all on the same page. As the year continues we hope to continue to succeed on the court."

Kenny George is the type of player that when you put him in the game he changes team's offenses altogether according to Biedenbach.

The Bulldogs allowed Brevard only 16 points in the second half and scored 26 of their 75 points off of turnovers.

"We get better everyday," said



senior forward Vincent James. "We are happy to be 3-0. This year the team has been stepping up and Coach B, and the rest of the coaching staff have been preparing the team well and it has shown on the court."

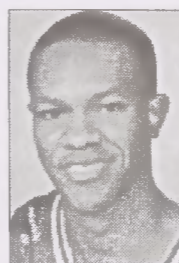
James steps us up for Bulldogs

Sunday's game against Lees-McRae proved to be another solid win for the Bulldogs as they played without their starting seniors for most of the game. Garland sat out due to a finger injury and Smithson's hand was injured prior

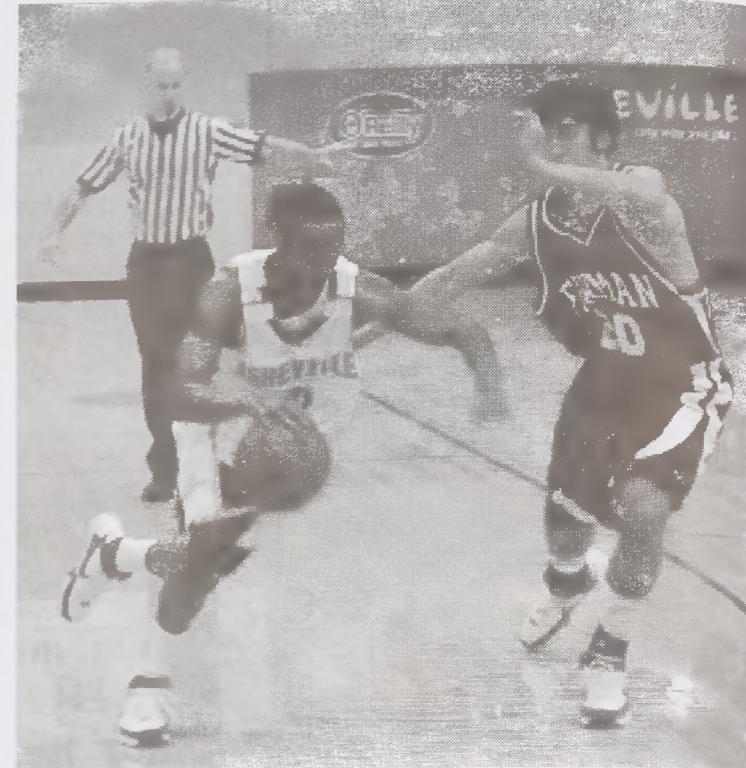
to halftime, taking him out for the rest of the game.

But the injuries didn't phase the Asheville team. The rest of the Bulldogs stepped up to shut down the Bobcats 74-48.

Vincent James scored 18 points and George just missed the first triple-double in school history with 15 points, 10 blocked shots and nine



Vincent James



PHOTOS BY CLINT LATHINGHOUSE - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, senior Guard KJ Garland blows past a Furman defender during the Bulldogs first victory of the season.

Left, junior center Kenny George was named the big south player of the week. This season George lead the Big South conference in blocks with 17 in just three games played.

rebounds.

"We battled through some things today to pick up the victory," Biedenbach said. "I was proud of our effort in the second half and we came together to beat a scrappy Lees-McRae team. There are some things we need to work on as we gave up way too many offensive rebounds (21), but overall it was a good performance and it's always good to win."

Season opening victory against Furman

The Bulldogs downed Furman 78-75 Friday night at the Justice Center, in front of a packed crowd of 1,123 fans.

"We played hard for 40 minutes and our crowd was just terrific as they gave us a lot of energy," said Biedenbach. "Our guys will get better, and this game was a first step."

The team was lead by seniors

Bryan Smithson and K.J. Garland, both of whom scored in double digits. Smithson with 24 points and Garland with 19. Kenny George came off the bench to score 12 points, grab seven rebounds and block five shots. The Bulldog team came out strong and secured a 35-29 lead at the end of the first half.

But Furman was not going down without a fight. With just 3:51 left in the second half, the Paladins cut an 11-point deficit to two, coming as close as 77-75 with only 24 seconds left. A free throw by Garland at the 23 second mark secured the win for the Bulldogs, leaving the score 78-75.

"We are lucky to have two fifth-year seniors this year, both of whom are really good guards who shoot and handle the ball well," Biedenbach said. "We were nervous going into this game. Furman came in determined with two exhibition games under their belt. Because of scheduling problems, we haven't had that experience this year. I'm definitely pleased with the win, but we're going to have to play better than we did tonight." "It was a good win against a good division one team. We played pretty well and moved the ball well," said junior guard Reid Augst. "Our main focus was finishing out the game. We need to learn how to be comfortable with our lead, not lightening up in the end of the game. I think we can accomplish this."

Bulldogs mangle Montreat, 75-48

By Gordon Gundlach
Staff Writer

Freshman Lindsey Montgomery dropped 15 points and snagged 15 rebounds in her collegiate debut, as the women's basketball team blasted Montreat College 75-48 in the Justice Center Monday night.

"I was pleased with the game," said Head Coach Betsy Blose. "It's early in the season; there's a lot to work on. We can play faster. We've been practicing since August, so it's nice to get a game in. The freshmen got their feet wet. For our opener, I thought we did a lot of good things."

Junior Ana Baker led the team with eight steals. Baker scored 11 points for the Bulldogs, and passed seven assists.

"Ana Baker was amazing. I think she tied the school record for steals tonight. I thought she did a great job leading the team," Blose said.

The Bulldogs held the lead against the Cavaliers at the half, 37-26, but the team was out-rebounded, according to Blose.

"I think we started off slow in the first half, but we picked up momentum in the second half," Baker said. Baker said she was frustrated when the team was rebounded at the half.

"That's really what we've got to be, a rebound team. I yelled at them," Blose said.

The Bulldogs picked up rebounds in the second half, and finished the game with 55 rebounds, while



Above, junior guard Anna Baker recorded 8 steals in the teams home opener. Right, freshman Lindsey Montgomery recorded a double double in her first game as a Bulldog.

Montreat managed 40. Freshman Kiana Rainey and sophomores Kyla Jones and Rachel Williams spent the game on the bench.

"We have some injuries, but hopefully everyone will be able to play soon," Blose said.

The Bulldogs lost upperclassmen from their championship season but gained five freshmen.

"We have a lot of new people, and we're all going to have to step up," Baker said.

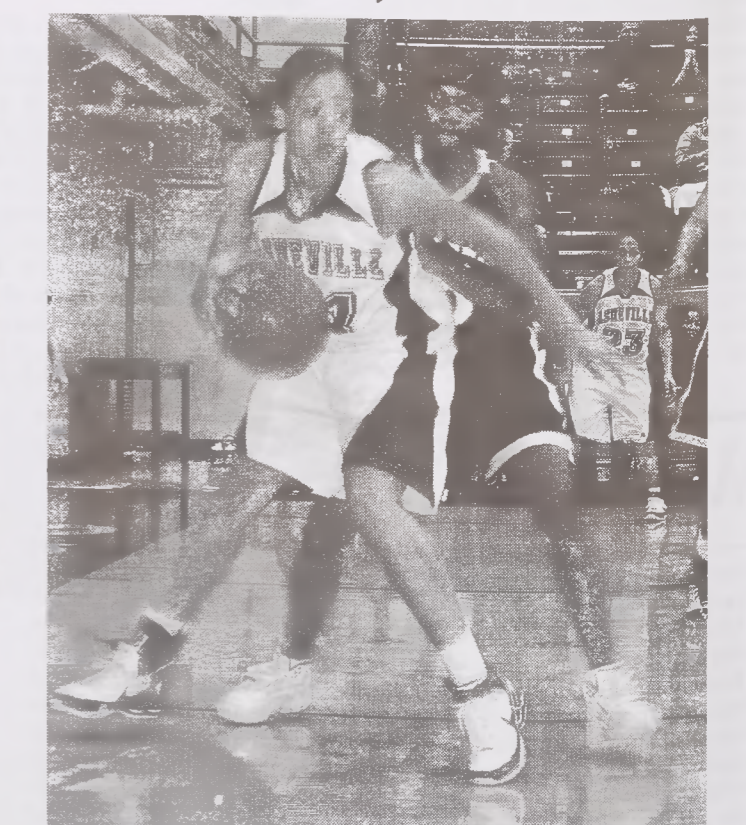
The Bulldogs played a full court

press for the entire game, and made the Cavaliers work hard for every throw and every movement down the court.

"We're a young team, and we can run the court. Ninety-four feet, for 40 minutes," Baker said. "We've a very fast team, that's what we want to excel at."

Freshman Chioma Okoli scored 14 points for the Bulldogs in her debut, and Baker contributed 10 points.

"I played decently, but I'll have to step up more. We've lost a lot of



TREY BOUVIER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

scorers," Baker said.

Besides Baker's stellar defensive performance, the Bulldogs as a team recorded 19 total steals against three steals for Montreat.

"We're fierce on the boards," Blose said. "It was a good game defensively for our team, our young players really stepped up when we needed them to."

Montreat has a new coach, which made the team more difficult to beat, according to Blose.

The Bulldogs next home game is Friday against Davidson College, which started their season 0-1.

"Montreat is much better than last year," Blose said. "What we hoped was that our style of play was effective and it was."