

Photo Corner:

## Men's Tennis



Photos by Davis Farthing - Staff Photographer  
Freshman Daniel Kripak serves against Mars Hill on Saturday.



Photos by Davis Farthing - Staff Photographer  
Above: Senior Matt Waissen returns a serve against Mars Hill on Saturday. The Bulldogs shut out the visiting Mountain Lions.  
Left: Senior Pete Conaty stretches to reach a return on Saturday.



## WINLESS

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"This loss was a very difficult one for the team to take. We laid everything we had on the line, but came up just short," Blaylock said. "I was very proud of the heart and fight our team displayed tonight. We will learn from this loss and make adjustments as needed."

Positive words from their coach provided some comfort, but the loss still hurt, Riles said.

"Our coach told us after the game that it's OK to feel down and hold your head down when you pour your heart into something and still not get the result that you were fighting for," the 22-year-old said. "It was a hard loss, very hard. One of those you go to sleep thinking

about and wake up thinking about and just make you sick to your stomach."

Both Big South opponents present different challenges, Kirkpatrick said.

"Charleston Southern has one of the premiere post players in the conference," the 34-year-old said. "Coastal Carolina, on the other hand, is a very transition-oriented team. They like to push the basketball, they don't play the ball inside, but they will try to get us to turn it over."

A lack of victories this season, with their last win coming on Dec. 8 against Columbia College, can cause a team's self-confidence and self-respect to weaken, Kirkpatrick said.

"I think that when you haven't had a lot of success, it can affect you mentally and psychologically and it can affect your expectation because you're not used to win-

ning," Kirkpatrick said. "If you start dwelling on that, it can become difficult to perform. You start playing not to lose instead of playing assured that you're going to win."

To finish the season with a winning perspective, the team must continue to fight, said Blaylock.

"I think we need to continue to play fearlessly. We have to be willing to lay our hearts on the floor every game," the Roanoke, Va., native said. "It can be difficult to do when you do not get the wanted result, but we will put ourselves in a good position to win if we play with that attitude."

Kirkpatrick said the respect for her team runs deep. "I'm just really proud of them," she said. "It's not easy every day, but they come to work and we get better and we prepare for the next opponent. And we're going to give it our best shot every time."