



# THE PILOT

## GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY



November 20, 2007

Volume 11 No. 6

Serving the Gardner-Webb University community for more than 60 years

### This Edition

— In campus news —

Christopher Shaver interviews GW students on their experience traveling to NYC. See page 2.

Samba Fall tells what it was like playing in Madison Square Garden. See page 2.

Students share their favorite Thanksgiving traditions. See page 2.

Carl Cartee comes back for the 10th benefit concert. See page 4.

Carole Edwards competes in Miss. Deaf North Carolina. See page 4.

Males and females participate in "No-Shave November." Page 4.

— Opinion/editorial —

Editor Rebecca Clark shares Thanksgiving memories. See page 3.

Jacob Conley comments on Liberty's football victory against GW. See page 3.

— In sports —

Men's basketball wins against Radford. See page 5.

Volleyball season has a quick end. See page 5.

Womens basketball team's youth shows in tournament defeats. See page 5.

### Weather

Today	Wednesday
Nov. 20	Nov. 21
76/46	76/55
Sunny	Mostly sunny

Source:  
Weather  
Channel

### Index

News	page 2, 4
Op/Ed	page 3
Sports	page 5
Photo	page 6



Photo by Dr. Bob Carey

Grayson Flittner, 4, and Auryn MacMillan go up against University of Oklahoma players Friday in Madison Square Garden. The Bulldogs were defeated 55-69, finishing fourth out of the 16 teams that participated in the 2K Coaches vs. Cancer tournament.

## Scruggs has dreams come true

By Nancy-Pat Dire  
Pilot advisor

Rick Scruggs' voice is back — until tonight, at least, when the Runnin' Bulldogs basketball team takes on the University of Connecticut again.

The team's head coach said the voice he famously lost during the game against the University of Kentucky Nov. 7 "sort of comes and goes."

"It's still not back totally," he said. "It comes back and then leaves again after the games."

He croaked his way through the ESPN interview Nov. 8, but his voice held up Sunday as Scruggs summed up life since the upset win over Kentucky that took his team to last week's 2K Coaches vs. Cancer tournament at Madison Square Garden.

"It has been surreal," he said. "Hectic, but well worth every minute. I'm tired and the kids will be, too."

"They got their fill of basketball this last week," he said laughingly. "I'd go through it all again in a heartbeat, it's been so much fun."

Dream come true

Scruggs said that it was a dream to play in Madison Square Garden.



Photo by Bob Carey

The Gardner-Webb University Runnin' Bulldogs faced UConn in the semi-finals of the 2K Coaches versus Cancer Tournament in New York Nov. 15.

And beating Kentucky in Rupp Arena is something special for coaches across the United States.

"I'm still worried somebody is going to wake me and my wife up, and I'll find that the Kentucky game hasn't happened yet."

The reality of it all began sinking in when the team arrived in New York City last Wednesday, he said, because that was the first chance they had to reflect on what they'd accomplished.

"It was a hectic couple of days right after the Kentucky game," Scruggs said.

Still, it was hectic in New York City, in part thanks to the media.

"After the Kentucky win, you worry about the pressure with the media blitz," he said. "ESPN interviewed us again, and Sports Illustrated followed us around for a whole day."

That gave the team a taste of what it's like for the big-name athletic programs.

"It was fun to see it from the other side," said Scruggs.

The media experience was a good one on both sides, he said, because of the Bulldogs' accessibility. The big-name schools aren't as open with the press, so GWU's willingness to give interviews was to the media's liking.

Scruggs was glad to do what he could to spread the word about GWU.

"Our identity has been escalated over the last couple of weeks," he said. See SCRUGGS page 5

## It all started in Kentucky ...

By Ashley Chatham  
Special to The Pilot

Gardner Webb University's men's basketball team went into Kentucky's Rupp Arena Nov. 7 and astonished the 22nd-ranked Wildcats by winning 84-68 before 20,000 fans.

A lot of other people were astonished, too, but not the team and Coach Scruggs.

Player Auryn Macmillan said that he went into the game confident and that the entire team had the same mindset.

"We have to remember that the opposing team is human too and that it's not impossible to defeat them," he said. "They breathe like us, they bleed like us."

The few GWU fans in Rupp were not the only ones bursting with excitement as the game progressed.

Back at the home of the Runnin' Bulldogs, the student body was rapidly gathering in the newly renovated Kennel in the Dover Campus Center, which can hold 150-200 people.

The game was playing on each of the eatery's televisions and students began to migrate to the "Kennel" to observe the Bulldogs. Soon, there were more than 150 crammed in the space.

Students filled every chair, were seated on the floor or peered through the windows to catch a glimpse of the score.

Student Taylor Hutchins said that when the meal exchange was renovated, it was never expected that a such a momentous event would create such a gathering there.

"Including the people that were pouring in from outside the 'Kennel' and the people lined along each window, there had to have been 400 people there," said Hutchins.

"It was such a great sound of constant enthusiasm. We woke up this morning to people screaming 'Go watch ESPN, we're the top story!'" exclaimed Hutchins.

When the game ended, the celebrating began. Students gave their recaps the next day in a pep rally at Paul Porter Arena.

Grace Whiteside said, "After they won, guys were ripping their shirts off, running through the quad, the dormitories and the apartments trying to get other students

See KENTUCKY page 5

## Redding has '5 seconds of fame' on TV in NYC

By Nancy-Pat Dire  
Pilot faculty advisor

The Gardner-Webb University basketball team players weren't the only GWU students to appear on television last week in New York City.

Rachel Redding, a communications-video/film major from Atlanta, had what she called her "5 seconds of fame" Friday morning when she was interviewed briefly by Al Roker, weatherman for NBC's "Today" show.

Redding, a junior, was one of the students who made the journey to New York City to cheer on the basketball team in the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament. She and other team supporters had a plan to show their support on national TV outside of Madison Square Garden.

"Today" does part of its broadcast from a plaza area outside the television studio. The anchors interact with visitors who stand behind barriers around the plaza.

"We made signs in advance because we wanted our signs to be seen," Redding said. "We wanted people to know the support we had for the team."

Roker saw the large sign hanging on the barrier and came to talk with them during a commercial. Redding then went away. She didn't expect him to come back and ask her about Gardner-Webb during the broadcast, but he did.

"It was the chance of a lifetime," she said. "We were so cold and excited, we just soaked it all in."

After that her phone started ringing, as parents and friends called to say they had seen the group on television. Redding said that an hour later, as they were walking up 5th Avenue, a woman they didn't know came up and said she'd seen them on "Today."

That just added to the overall adventure, which Redding said started as a spontaneous decision to try and get some of the coveted \$50 tickets for the GWU-sponsored bus trip to the Big Apple. She and her friend Lauren Bilyeu camped out for 15-16 hours Sunday night and snagged tickets 86 and 87 out of 100.

Even that was a fun experience, Redding said, because Coach Rick Scruggs brought pizza to the campers, and players hung out, too.

"All of the players stopped by to show their appreciation."



Photo courtesy of Rachel Redding

Rachel Redding, right, and Lauren Bilyeu walk in Central Park after appearing on the "Today" show Friday.

One reason why Redding wanted to go to the tournament was because of her personal relationships with team members.

"I have classes with a lot of the guys. I was in New York City supporting my friends," she said.

"It was so exciting to see the men play at Madison Square Garden. It is something to talk about for the rest of our lives."

The whole experience has created a stronger bond with the university, Redding said.

"It makes me just enjoy Gardner-Webb a whole lot more, to see how our campus is unified now. It's more fun."