

## At current pace, Wizards may need another training camp

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SPORTS EDITOR

After the Washington Wizards left Wilmington in October, many wondered what impact the pre-season training camp had on the team.

The team recently began regular season play, and, to date, the camp did not make the impact that the coaches were hoping to achieve. Currently, the Wizards' record is 4-14, and the team does not appear to be heading in the right direction.

"It seems like the players are trying so hard to make something happen," Wizards Head Coach Leonard Hamilton stated. "We need to make sure we complete games and overcome what is plaguing us."

The makeup of the team is quite similar to the roster the audience saw at the inter-squad scrimmage at Trask Coliseum last month. The only missing members of the pre-season roster are Brandon Titus, Milt Palacio, Dontae Jones, Harvey Grant, Lorenzo Williams and Cherokee Parks.

The current starting five are Juwan Howard, Jahidi White, Mitch Richmond, Rod Strickland and Felipe Lopez.

Friday, Nov. 10, the Wizards hosted the Indiana Pacers at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. Immediately, any viewer would be able to recognize which players make things happen and which ones are holding the team back.

During the first quarter, Howard and White gave the Wizards an early lead over the Pacers. White had nine points and two rebounds, while Howard added six points and two caroms of his own. Solid defense kept the Wizards alive until Indiana's Reggie Miller dropped three shots for six points. The Pacers entered the second with a one-point advantage, 20-19.

Indiana's success continued in the second, marking a 10-0 run on the Wizards, before Richmond hit a 20-foot jump shot. The Wizards found their way back into the game, off the hot hands of White and Richmond. Strickland alone turned the ball over four times, which in turn, kept



James Flint/The Seahawk

Jahidi White poured in 22 points and added 13 rebounds in the game versus the Pacers.

the lead in favor of the Pacers. White finished the first half strong with a dunk, giving the Wizards a tie heading into half-time.

Both teams entered the third quarter with a clean slate, as the score was even at 41. White continued to play great for the Wizards. The St. Louis native achieved his second double-double of the season notching-up his 11 rebounds and 20 points

to move into the final quarter.

Unfortunately for the Wizards, White's efforts would not be enough. Future Hall-of-Famer Reggie Miller took control of the ball and rim, adding 13 points to his night total and giving the Pacers a 68-62 lead heading into the fourth.

The Wizards had a call of reckoning to see who could keep the chance for a win alive in the final quarter. Howard and White stepped up, combining for seven of the final 12 points for the team. Washington was in the battle, until some sort of confidence-blocker, or even possible fatigue, set in with six minutes to go in the game. The Wizards only point came from a Jahidi White free throw.

The Pacers never eased off the gas, and eventually came out on top, 86-74.

"For some reason tonight at the five minute mark, we hit a wall," White said. "This is a hump we've got to get over."

Indiana Pacer Head Coach Isiah Thomas had sympathy for the Wizards. "It can be tough out [on the court]. The team has decisions to make, quick decisions."

At the team's current position, the Wizards need to find an offense to balance a solid defense. Only having three players reach double figures in points is not the way to win games.

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demics," Delisio said about the new undergraduate program.

On top of "Project 2002", the Seahawk Club still must achieve the goals set for its annual campaign, which raises money for the sole purpose of providing student-athlete scholarships each year.

"We hope to provide scholarships for the coaches so that their teams can stay competitive," Delisio said.

The Seahawk Club, a non-profit organization, raises money through the donations of UNCW athletics supporters. In return for their generous offerings, members of the Seahawk Club stand to gain UNCW sports-related benefits. These advantages can range anywhere from ticket priority packages to VIP passes to UNCW events. As for local corporate sponsors, their returned favor comes in the form of advertisements, which can be seen at all UNCW sporting events.

Since its official inception in 1978, the

Seahawk Club has grown dramatically in membership and, accordingly, in the amount of funds it has raised. In fact, just last year, it raised \$739,247 for its annual campaign, a total that more than triples the Club's earnings from 1990-91. This success can be attributed in part to a recent surge in membership numbers. Throughout the early and middle 1990s, the Club's membership has been floating somewhere around 600, but in the last three years it has doubled, exceeding the 1,200-member mark.

According to Delisio, much of the Seahawk Club's recent success is due to "the commitment of volunteers and the success of our student-athletes, on and off the field."

So, ideally, as membership increases and more money is raised, athletic advancements similar to the "Project 2002" can be accomplished to help ensure the growing success of UNCW athletics.

The Seahawk Club is very proud of their achievements, but Ballantine insists, "we're still a long way from where we need to be."

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