

SPORTS

After Two Games NC Wesleyan Football Team Still Trying To Find Its Identity

By Trevor Seibert
Decree Staff Writer

Each Saturday the North Carolina Wesleyan football players must face their toughest opponent...themselves.

On September 3rd, in its first game of the sophomore season, Wesleyan lost 37-21 to an athletic Newport News Apprentice team that took advantage of three turnovers Wesleyan committed in the red zone. Wesleyan's one bright spot was once again the rushing of Javon Williams, who carried the ball 18 times for 150 yards and 2 touchdowns.

A week later, the Bishops again almost handed away the game, but showed a lot of enthusiasm as they crushed the South Virginia University Knights, 36-15. The Bishops muffed three punts, which resulted in two touchdowns and a field goal for the Knights. But the Bishops offense piled up 378 yards and put up the most points in one game in their two-year history. "We showed much more enthusiasm on every play, offense and defense, and that was the difference," said head coach Jack Ginn.

Prior to last year's inaugural season, Ginn had one thing on his mind: question marks. This season, Ginn said, the questions lingered. "I know as much about what this team will do as you do," he said before the season began.

Wesleyan returns 17 of its starters from last year's 5-4 team. Included in those returnees are two 2004 USA South rookies of the year, Williams on offense, and Andrew Quigley on defense. While starting only seven games last year, Williams led the Bishops attack by rushing for 924 yards. He will be co-offensive captain with returning offensive lineman Brandon Craig who helped open holes for Williams last year. Quigley, tops on the team with 99 tackles, will lead the defense as co-captain with returning middle linebacker Bo Brown.

Despite returning most of last year's team, Ginn's main concern is going into

the season a little cocky. If the NCAA had recognized Wesleyan's win over George Mason University's club team, last year's team would have tied an NCAA record for most wins in a season by a first-year program. "This year is a new North Carolina Wesleyan football team and we'll find out what kind of team we are" in coming weeks, Ginn said.

Ginn noted that the team worked hard during pre-season camp and that no major moves were made in any of the positions, except quarterback. Last year Cedric Townsend shared time with Josh Dunnigan. During this year's camp returnee Kevin Allen showed much improvement and now shares time under center with Townsend.

With all the returning players and the success of last year's team, one would think that the Bishops would receive respect from the other teams in

the conference. But after finishing fourth in the conference, the Bishops were picked to finish sixth out of eight teams in the 2005 pre-season poll.

2005 Football Schedule

09/03	at Newport News Apprentice
09/10	SOUTHERN VIRGINIA U.
09/17	HUNTINGDON COLLEGE
09/24	at Methodist College
10/01	MARYVILLE (Homecoming)
10/15	at Averett University
10/22	SHENANDOAH U.
10/29	at Christopher Newport U.
11/05	FERRUM COLLEGE
11/12	at Greensboro College

New Cross Country Team Up and Running

By Christine Werfelman
Decree Staff Writer

The North Carolina Wesleyan College athletic department keeps growing. While last year was the inaugural season for the NCWC football team, two more teams have been added to the list. Women's cross country and lacrosse are finally established at NCWC and both are coached by Lorin Smith.

Smith is a 2004 graduate of Greensboro College. As a member of the lacrosse team, she was selected player of the year twice and first time all-conference three times in the USA South Athletic Conference. She was chosen to the all-tournament team three times in her four-year career at Greensboro.

Smith has devoted the last year to establishing the lacrosse and cross country programs at NCWC. Lacrosse will begin its official season in the



Lorin Smith has joined the NCWC Athletics Department as coach of cross country and lacrosse.

spring. The NCWC women's cross country team opened its 2005 season at Methodist College September 10 at the Clayton-Sykes Invitational.

NCWC's Kaitlin Wells, a freshman, placed second with a time of 30:09 on the 6K (or about 3.7 miles) course. The other women on the team include Allie Style, Sarah Smith, Tiffany Roberson, Kristen Fleming and Stephanie Branch.

"The first meets will be new, not hard, but I believe the girls will be just fine," said Smith, who added that Wesleyan's runners,

accustomed to the flat Rocky Mount terrain, found the hills at the Methodist meet challenging. The coach intends to vary the practice session sites, on and off campus, to prepare for different courses the runners will encounter during the fall season.

While Wesleyan develops its own course, the team will travel to all its meets this season. Smith expects Christopher Newport and Greensboro to provide the stiffest competition this season, in their 5K and 6K meets.

NCWC Men's Soccer Team Starts 2-3

By Anthony DeGregorio
Decree Staff Writer

The men's soccer team fell to Eastern Mennonite when a late goal broke the scoreless tie. It was the team's third loss in a row after two early victories.

"We just need to finish out our games and keep positive," said Jason Kilby, who is entering his fourth year as head coach. Kilby earned USA South coach of the year honors last year. "Our goals are to win the conference tournament again and make a run in the NCAA tournament again this year."

The team looks to improve upon one of the best seasons in school history. It finished last season at 16-2-2 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament after claiming the conference title.

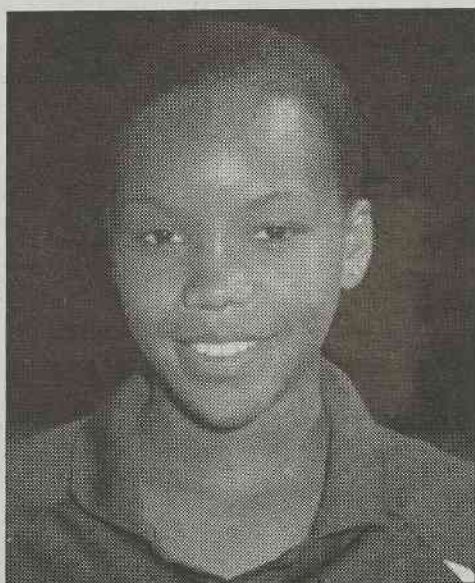
"This team has a great attitude which makes them very easy to coach," Kilby said.

Key returners include Stephen Tupy, Jason Bottani, Chris Forcum, Dan Jones, Salvador Benitez, and Lucas Fuentes, who will lead the Bishops in their quest for a national championship. Freshman Alimamy Jabbe, already a conference rookie of the week, hopes to make an impact in his first year. The team's leading scorer after the fifth game, he is one of many first-year players on the team.

Important conference match-ups include Greensboro (Sept. 20) and Christopher Newport (Oct. 29). The Bishops will be tested outside of the conference against strong opponents such as Salisbury University (Sept. 24) and Mary-Washington (Oct. 1).

Godfrey Posts Shutout, McCloud Scores Only Goal As Women's Soccer Team Raises Record to 2-1

Mt. Olive, NC—The North Carolina Wesleyan women's soccer team raised its record to 2-1 following a 1-0 victory over Mount Olive College.



Freshman Reva McCloud.

NCWC was paced by freshman Reva McCloud who scored her first goal of the season in the 38th minute. She was assisted by Mayra Gomez, who set up McCloud at the right top of the box.

Though Mount Olive held Wesleyan to 4 shots on goal, it was unable to get on the scoreboard as Bishops goalkeeper Bryanne Godfrey made 14 saves, the last one during a wild scramble as time expired. Mount Olive had five of its 15 corner kicks in the first 15 minutes of the match, but failed to capitalize.

For Mount Olive, it was the first shutout in 19 matches and its first home loss in 11 matches.

NCWC begins USA South Conference action Sept. 17 at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. On Sept. 21, the team travels to Newport News for a match with Christopher Newport University, and on Sept. 30 it hosts Greensboro College.

NCWC Volleyball Team Sweeps Guilford, 3-0

Led by Erin Bryant's 10 kills, the Wesleyan volleyball team continued its impressive play, sweeping Guilford College by scores of 30-15, 30-22 and 30-16 September 13 at home.

The Bishops have won six of their last seven contests to push their overall record to 6-4.

NCWC's April Wilson added eight kills and six blocks while Caitlin George tallied 22 assists. Melissa Leonard again anchored the defense with a game-high 16 digs.

As a team, NCWC made eight blocks and recorded a .253 hitting percentage, compared to Guilford's .030.