

# SPORTS

## Wesleyan Football Team Moves to 2-0 in Conference

By Decree Sports Staff

The Bishops football team broke the 50-point barrier for a second straight week, exploding for a 51-20 Homecoming victory over conference rival Maryville before 1750 fans on a cloudless, hot day at Rocky Mount Athletic Complex.

The team's third consecutive win improved its conference record to 2-0 and its overall mark to 3-2. Wesleyan is tied for first place with Ferrum, while Christopher Newport is in second at 1-0. The Bishops next play October 13 at Danville, Va., against conference foe Averett, which is 0-2 (0-4).

Assessing the season as the Bishops enter a bye-week, Ginn said he's pleased over all, but believes the team can elevate its game.

"I don't think we have played to our full capability yet," he said. "We've gained momentum here lately, and have showed the ability to carry that momentum from one game to the next. It will be an interesting challenge to see if our team can sustain that through our open week and into the Averett game."

One week after it scored 50 points at Methodist, Wesleyan staked itself to an early lead against Maryville. The team led 14-0 five minutes into the game and extended it to a 21-0 advantage on the first play of the second quarter.

"I thought we played well," Ginn said. "We made plays in all the phases: offense, defense, and special teams. I was impressed. Our team played with excitement. I thought we were ready to play right from the start, and it showed."

It was important that the Bishops maintain their intensity for the full 60 minutes after last year's debacle against the Scots, a 50-48 loss in quadruple overtime. Playing at Maryville, Wesleyan built a 24-3 lead before it surrendered three fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Last season's game was on the minds

of Ginn and his coaching staff. In fact, at one point, the fourth-year head coach was seen on the sidelines berating his offense after a stalled drive, even though his team led by three touchdowns. After the game, players said that the coach wanted to prevent the kind of letup that led to last year's loss.

Once again, the Bishops offense was paced by senior quarterback Cedric Townsend, who ran for three touchdowns and threw for three more. He rushed for 67 yards and completed 16 of 24 passes for 218 yards on the day. The Bishops running attack was potent, with 100-yard performances from fullback Brian Haywood (8 carries, 120 yards) and tailback Teron Bush (12-101). Wideout Orlando Webb grabbed 4 passes for 113 yards and a score.

The Bishops outgained the Scots 503 to

358, though much of the Maryville offense came after the outcome had been decided.

The NCWC defense was spearheaded by the linebacking tandem of Davelle Whitney (6 tackles, 4 assists) and Justin Augustin (6-3). Strong safety Jezreel Davis increased his team-leading interception total to 3 with a second quarter pick, which he returned 55 yards.

Wesleyan got on the scoreboard first, as Townsend ran 9 yards for a TD five minutes into the game. The scored punctuated a 13-play 78-yard opening drive.

A minute later the Bishops capitalized on the first of three Maryville fumbles. Two plays after Brian Binkley recovered the loose ball, Townsend found Webb open in the left flat and the second-year receiver made a breath-taking 25-yard rumble down the left side, bullying over several tacklers

before he plunged into the end zone. It was Webb's fifth TD catch of the season.

The Bishops increased their lead on the first play of the second quarter, a 6-yard pass from Townsend to Bush. The TD followed a sensational 76-yard punt return by defensive back Davon Collins, who fielded the Maryville punt, found open space around midfield and then raced down the left sidelines. On several occasions, Maryville players were poised to knock Collins out of bounds, only to watch him cut back and then break tackles along the sidelines.

By halftime, the Bishops were winning 35-6. In the second half, they held their lead and maintained their cool as the Scots were penalized numerous times for unsportsmanlike conduct and personal fouls.

In the previous two games Wesleyan beat non-conference opponent, Emory and

Henry, 20-16, and then trounced Methodist, 50-10, in Fayetteville.

The two victories lifted the spirits of the Bishops after two tough losses to top-flight opponents, Wesley and Widener.

Senior tight end Matt Schell said after the Methodist game it was clear that the Bishops had recaptured the magic of last year when they won their last four games to finish at 6-4.

"We're slowly finding our niche," Schell said.

Against Methodist, Haywood ran 13 times for 128 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Bishops. Townsend passed for 238 yards and two scores, one a 57-yard strike to Webb one minute into the game, the other a 47-yard pass play to Bush.

## Men's Soccer Team Remains Undefeated

By Decree Sports Staff

The undefeated men's soccer team finished September with impressive wins against a number-two ranked Greensboro College and regional power Mary Washington University, as it opened a lead in the USA Conference and rose to fifth in the national rankings.

On September 29, the Bishops extended their winning streak to 10 with a 2-0 victory at Methodist. Sixth-year coach Jason Kilby is pleased with his team's performance in the early going, but wants to guard against complacency.

"We're doing well," he said. "We've got a group of guys who have been very disciplined. We're working together." In games and practices, Kilby added, "we're trying to stay consistent and come every day. We're concentrating on small details such as set pieces like corner kicks and penalty kicks."

Against Methodist, the Bishops jumped

to a 2-0 lead by the 20th minute, but failed to knock out the opponent. Kilby would like his team to develop a stronger killer instinct. "After we got the lead," he said, "it was as if we only played as hard as we had to play. We didn't play well. I think all our players would tell you that."

The team's play was more inspired in the three previous games, an 8-0 drubbing of Chowan and, in particular, the wins over Greensboro and Mary Washington.

Playing at home on September 19, Wesleyan avenged last year's 2-1 loss that Greensboro administered to the Bishops in the conference semi-finals. First-year striker Marco Kirsch scored in double-overtime to send the Bishops to 2-1 victory against the Pride, which entered the match as the number two team in the country.

The decisive goal was set up by Jimmy Pierce, who received a pass on the left side, beat his man, cut back to his right and served the ball 25 yards to Kirsch in the middle. Kirsch then volleyed—or kicked the ball out of mid-air—into the top right corner of the goal. "He roofed it," Kilby said. "It was beautiful goal."

The coach called the Greensboro victory one of the most impressive he's seen during his tenure as Bishops coach, pointing out that his players adhered to the team's system. "We've had talented players in the past," he said. "But it's the team that wins. Talented players will only get you so far. That was a team win against a very good team."

Midfielder Danny Jones said the victory raised the team's confidence level.

"Coach Kilby really liked the way we

came together as a team," Jones said. "I think the win showed him that we really are contenders this year. We cleared up the doubts that we had before the game. We had played well in the previous six games, but we had lapses where we let up goals. We really came to play against Greensboro."

Kirsch sparked the Bishops in the next game, a 4-0 win over Mary Washington, a Virginia school that is in the same region as the Bishops. Should the Bishops fail to win their conference, the victory will increase their chances of receiving an at-large bid for the NCAA tourney.

Not only did Kirsch open the scoring, but he made a pretty pass to set up Jones on the second goal. Breaking free in the box, Kirsch passed on a sure goal before slipping the ball to Jones, who was open just to the right of the goalkeeper.

"He probably has the best vision in the conference," Jones said. "He reads the game very well and locates open men with ease to distribute the ball."

Kirsch leads the team in scoring with 7 goals and 11 assists for 25 points. Besides impressive offensive skills, the 27-year-old German brings leadership to a team with many young players of diverse backgrounds. "He's a natural leader," Kilby said. "He's got a lot of experience. Because he's older, he's like a player/coach. He's been very positive to the young players who need guidance. I think the players can learn a lot from him."

Jones, a senior captain, agreed. "Marco is a respected teammate that has a lot of knowl-



Marco Kirsch, the soccer team's 27-year-old striker.

## Rockies Will Take Series over Red Sox

By Brock Griffin  
Decree Sports Writer

(Editor's note: Brock's picks were submitted prior to the playoffs.)

As a baseball fan, this is the most exciting time of the year. It's time for the Major League Baseball playoffs to begin and the awards for the 2007 regular season to be handed out. I'm going to give you my predictions of who will win this year's World Series and who will be leaving with the hardware for their regular-season performances.

The final four teams in the American League are the Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Angels, Cleveland Indians, and the New York Yankees. The Red Sox are playing the Angels in the one match-up while the Indians and Yankees are in the other. The Red Sox will take the Angels in four games. The Red Sox have a deeper rotation and lineup than do the Angels.

In the other match-up, the Indians will find a way to slow down the Yankees and take them in five games. This series will go to the Indians because of their two great young pitchers; C.C. Sabathia and Francisco Carmona. In a short series, these two will be enough for the Indians to get past the Yankees.

Now, for the American League Championship Series, the Red Sox will play the Indians. The deep pitching of the Red Sox will help them get by the Indians in six games. The Red Sox have the best bullpen in the Major Leagues and pitching wins championships.

The final four teams in the National League are the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs, Philadelphia Phillies, and the Colorado Rockies. The Diamondbacks will play the Cubs while the Phillies will have to handle the red-hot Rockies. The series between the Diamondbacks and the Cubs will come down to experience. The Diamondbacks are such a young team, and it will be interesting to see how they handle the pressure. I predict the Cubs will take this series in five games because of the team's experience and better lineup, which includes Alfonso Soriano, Derek Lee, and Aramis Ramirez.

In the Phillies-Rockies series, we'll see a battle of the two hottest teams in baseball and I feel the Rockies will carry the momentum through to the next round. Both teams have great lineups, but no team has played better defense than the Rockies this season. Their defense will not give the Phillies any extra opportunities; however, the Rockies are likely to receive some

defensive gifts from the Phillies. These extra outs will be the difference in what should be a high-scoring series.

This leaves the Rockies and the Cubs in the National League Championship Series. The Rockies offense will prove to be too much for the Cubs pitching staff to handle. The Rockies will take the series in six games.

The World Series will pit the Rockies against the Red Sox. The Rockies seem to have no chance in this one-sided series. However, my gut feeling tells me the Rockies will win it all, riding their current hot streak all the way to the World Series title. Their superior defense, adequate pitching, and powerful lineup will pull the series out in seven games. The series win will give the Rockies their first World Championship title ever.

As for the awards, the American League MVP will be the NY Yankees' Alex Rodriguez. He led the majors in home runs (54), RBIs (156), and slugging percentage. He batted .314 for the season and stole 24 bases while only getting caught 4 times. He kept the Yankees in the playoff hunt all by himself. The National League MVP should go to Matt Holliday of the Colorado Rockies. He has been one of the most underrated hitters in baseball. That should change after this season. He won the NL batting crown with a .340 average and led the NL in RBIs (137), edging Philadelphia's Ryan Howard by one. He helped carry the Rockies in to the playoffs.

The Cy Young awards go to Josh Beckett of the Red Sox in the American League and Jake Peavy of the Padres in the National League. Beckett gets the nod here because he was the majors' only 20-game winner. Likewise, Peavy gets the award for leading the National League with 19 wins. More impressive for Peavy is the fact he led all starters with an earned run average of 2.54 and had 240 strikeouts.

The Rookie of the Year awards goes to Ryan Braun in the National League and Delmon Young in the American League. Braun, the Milwaukee third baseman, became the first rookie to lead a league in slugging percentage (.634) since Mark McGuire in 1987. He had 34 home runs, drove in 97 and batted .324, despite playing in only 113 games. Delmon Young had 93 RBIs and 38 doubles for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

These are my predictions for the close of the 2007 MLB season. Whether my opinion proves to be right or wrong, I am certain this will be an entertaining post season.

## Volleyball Team Takes Three Matches in a Row

By Jade T. Johnson  
Decree Staff Writer

The Battling Bishop Volleyball team has made striking leaps forward since the 2000 season. Coach Robin Pietryk's first season, and their hard work can be seen every time the team steps on the floor.

With a host of exciting young talent, Pietryk has a promising outlook for the season. She added that she's pleased "to get everyone healthy, finally." Coming off a 12-19 season in 2006, the team looks to make their mark this year.

The team has a few tough opponents still left in the season, Chowan University being one of them. But Pietryk says her team is "ready for anyone."

Junior Sydney Bens has been impressed so far by the skill level of her new teammates.

"We're way better than last year," she said. "We have a whole lot more skill, more individual skill."

The individual skills meshed well in a recent three-match winning streak that raised the team's record to 5-4 in the conference and 13-10 over all.

On September 29, the Bishops beat both Peace and Shenandoah in a tri-match in Raleigh.

Bens said the victories helped build confidence for the young team, which includes 11 freshmen. "I think the coach was very satisfied with our performance," said Bens, who noted

that in the early going the team's play was marked by inconsistency. "We have a lot of skill," she said. "So it really boggled our minds."

Against Peace and Shenandoah, Bens said, "We were more enthusiastic and pulled together and played together, which made a huge difference."

Wesleyan carried that enthusiasm and strong team play into a match October 2 against Guilford, a 3-2 victory for the Bishops. Brittany Insley paced Wesleyan with a team-high 19 kills. Freshman Kelly George turned in a career-high 32 digs on defense, while Caitlin George, her sister, amassed 28 assists. Bens added 13 kills and 15 digs.

Bens is one of only three upperclassmen on the team. The others are senior Caitlin George and sophomore Insley, a middle hitter, who leads the Bishops with 309 kills so far this season and is on her way to besting her last year team high of 456 kills.

Significant contributions have been made by the talented freshman class that includes Alyssa Balzano, Kelly George, Jessica Johnson, Alexis Gallop, Carla Pridgen, Kacie Brandes, Cassie Durham, Sarah Gibbs, Brittany Nichols, Barbara DeRatt, and Jasmine Johnson. "The freshmen are adjusting well," Pietryk said.

(Sports Information contributed to this article)

"We have dynamic players," Kilby said. "You get them in the corner and they can get out of the corner. They can beat you on the dribble. Against Greensboro, we had two bicycle kicks. It's rare that you see a bicycle kick in our league



Sophomore Juliana Richardson paced the Wesleyan cross country team with a time of 26:45 to take 14th place in a 5K race at the recent Salem College Invitational. The Bishops, led by first-year coach Dominic Modise, finished last of the four teams. Other Bishop runners included Jessica Pollard, who finished 20th with a time of 29:15, and Meghan Herd (24th, 33:19) and Tasheika Fulmore (26th, 35:31). Salem's Rachel Fichthorn took individual medalist honors with a time of 20:34. Sports Information Photo