

sports



From the baseline, Heather Hamilton displays her forehand. Photo by Carol Whitener

Women's tennis on upswing

By Tim Riddle

Women's tennis at UNCA has not followed a rising success story, but the intentions and determination of a nucleus of new talent is working hard to shake the "loser" tag.

Mike Sams, who took over as women's tennis coach in late spring, said, "We will be better than we were last year; how much better I don't know." He added, "I anticipate our being .500 by the time spring season is through."

The entire team should have a new look with only three returning players on this fall's squad of eight.

The new no. 1 player is junior Cathy Walgate, a walk-on from Skyland, N.C. "Nobody has won a set off her," said Sams. Walgate replaced last year's no. 1 player Melinda

Haynes, who will play at no. 2. Sams expects Haynes to win more matches this season since moving down.

Only four matches are slated this fall with the home opener Sept. 25, against Carson Newman. Sams sees the fall season as a warm-up for the 12 matches scheduled for the spring.

High hopes for women cagers

By Keith Flynn and Lora Watson

The women's version of UNCA Bulldog basketball comes off a season perhaps not quite as successful as their male counterparts, but causing concern for opponents across the state, nonetheless. An added dimension of four recruits tacked on to an already powerful nucleus of returners has given good reason for the enthusiasm circulating around the women's team.

Two recruits hail from Asheville. Karen Parker, a transfer from UNCA-Charlotte earned All-State credentials while at Asheville High and MVP honors at the 1980-81 Blue-White All-Star game. Parker, a 6-foot-1 inch inside threat averaged 18.3 points per game and 14 rebounds a contest that season.

Karen is a welcome addition to what was already a strong inside team," Coach Carroll said. "She has a lot to offer because of her ability to score and rebound."

Although Parker has broken her arm and it will be in a cast for two months, Coach Carroll said she should be ready to play in January.

Another Asheville product is Dawn Snyder, voted most valuable player at Ben Lippen School.

"Dawn will add depth to the team because she is a very hard worker and has a strong desire to improve her abilities," Coach Carroll said.

Another of the recruits is Julie Thompson, a 5-foot-2 inch player from Florida, who led her team in assists and to a runner-up position in the state finals. "She is a crowd pleaser with her exciting passes," Carroll said.

Also from Florida, Carrie Baker transfers from Florida Southern University and will play one of the lower post positions.

In her first year at UNCA, Coach Helen Carroll turned a struggling team at the beginning of the year into a team that almost shocked opponents in the state tournament. Much of the early season inconsistency could certainly be attributed to the youthfulness of the overall squad. This season the Lady Bulldogs do not graduate a single starter and will lose only one over the next two years.

The spotlight on the returning players is focused upon Sheila Ford, a 6-foot-2 center who was picked to both the All-State and NCAIAW

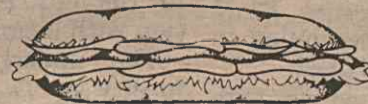
All-Tournament teams. Her 18.1 scoring average and 18.8 rebound mark paced the performances of fellow team members Trish Wyatt [13.5 ppg], Lisa Roberts, Kim Duncan, and Lori Mackanin.

Wyatt, who plays the point guard position, transferred from Western Carolina in time to add much-needed stability to the ballhandling duties of the entire team.

In 1982-83, the size of the Lady Bulldogs will remain their greatest asset. The post players will be slower than many of the teams they

will face, but the overall team height should overcome that disadvantage. The addition of depth at the point will also help in the speed department and make the women less susceptible to teams who play transition basketball.

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