

sports



Jackie Bacoate in action, spiking the Lady Bulldogs to their fourth straight win. Photo by David Pickett

Women's volleyball on the rise

By Carol Whitener

After losing their first three matches in their own tournament held in Justice Center, September 10, the UNCA women's volleyball team has won their last four matches.

One of the reasons for the drastic turnaround could be the dip in competition on the ladies' schedule. The initial tournament posed team threats such as Georgia, South Carolina, and East Tennessee State universities. The schedule since, in all fairness, has been an easier row to hoe.

In their first home match Sept. 14, the Lady Bulldogs thrashed Milligan 15-7 and 15-2 in straight games. The team passing from the back lines to the power positions on the front of the offensive set was much improved from the previous encounter. The butterflies that accompany a first college match seemed to have disappeared.

The second match that night proved that fact reliable as the women coasted to their second win over Gardner-Webb, 15-1 and 15-2. The strong frontline play of Beth Panwithz and the passing of Sarah Orozco were two keys to winning. First-year coach, Myra Sims said, "They all played great."

On Sept. 17 the Lady Bulldogs traveled to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The first game was a barnburner with the women losing to Alabama A & M 13-15. They fought back, however, to win the match with 15-6 and 15-victories. Coach Sims said, "We got off to a slow start, but the girls didn't quit when they could easily have done just that." She attributed the slow start to the long trip and a flat tire on the way to Chattanooga.

The women put their fourth consecutive win under their belts by edging UT-Chattanooga 15-7 and 17-15. The two returners Jackie Bacoate and Bonnie Hipps were instrumental in the victory while Beth Panwithz and Pat Bemby continued their consistent frontline play.

It can also be said of the discrepancies between the team's early performance and the current success has to do with personnel. The first matches the women played were against NCAA Division 1 schools which offer full volleyball scholarships. UNCA is a member of the NAIA District 26 and only offers partial scholarships.

NAIA Soccer Standings District 26

	W	L	T	F	GA	Pts.
UNC-Asheville	1	2	0	5	4	217
Guilford	2	1	0	11	6	217
Pembroke State	0	0	1	6	5	200
High Point	1	3	0	2	11	180
Belmont Abbey	0	3	0	2	10	150
Pfiever	1	1	0	2	2	125
Wingate	0	1	0	0	7	100
ACC	1	2	0	12	12	83
Catawba	1	3	0	4	21	81
Elon	0	2	0	0	8	75

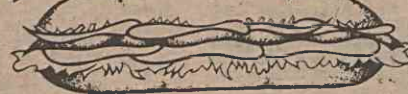
Note - District point totals are an average figure between 0 and 350 based on a power rating system covering opponent strengths, records and game sites.

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