



STEVE WOODY COVERS the ball in Thursday's match-up against High Point. Although the Bulldogs won Thursday's game, they were unable to defeat Catawba on Saturday in the championship game. Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

# Women's basketball: another miracle?

By Joan Sterk

The UNCA women's basketball team, the defending national champions for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes, is under a new coaching staff this year.

Coach Ellen Evans accepted the position of head coach last season when Coach Helen Carroll stepped down.

Coach Evans is preparing for the upcoming "competitive season by taking what we have and working with it."

She said she is not applying pressure to win the title again this year, but hopes the team can "pull off another miracle like they did last year."

The season opens Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. when the Lady Bulldogs face Milligan College in Justice Gymnasium.

UNCA will host the Lady Bulldog Holiday Tournament over Thanksgiving.

The tournament will feature teams from Newberry College, Shorter College and Clark College, as well as UNCA.

During the tournament UNCA plays Nov. 23 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Evans hopes to win at least 20 games this season. She feels this tournament will give the team a good start.

She said the team has "10 solid players" this year which is more than the complete nine-member squad of last year's champions.

Evans mentioned forward Kim Keith; and Mechio Kornegay and Tabby Welch, who will play the wing positions.

Welch holds the scoring and rebounding records in her high school, and is adjusting to the college level of play.

Returning starters from last year's championship team are Trish Wyatt as point guard, Kim Duncan as forward, and Julie Thompson as guard.

Evans is running a 1-4 offense with Wyatt at the top of the key. This offense does not use a center as did last year's offense with center Sheila Ford.

Evans prefers the defensive aspect of the game. "We have as good a defense as any team I have seen play," she said.

Her biggest thrill of the game comes when the Bulldogs run down the 30-second shot clock.

This clock forces the offensive team to get a shot off before the 30 seconds run out. Evans said the girls have been successful in their defense, and haven't allowed the offense to take a shot before the clock runs down.

Evans looks for strong defense to be a major factor this season, and added "offense sells the tickets, but defense wins the game."

She has a choice of two set teams. She said the five starters are smart and execute the desired plays which makes Evans feel like she "is conducting music."

The second team will appeal to the fans because "they are exciting and make things happen," Evans said.

## Lady Bulldogs lose in district playoffs

By Anne Snuffer

Although the Lady Bulldog volleyball team managed to reach the district playoffs for the first time in UNCA's history, they lost in their first-round effort against High Point last Friday at Mars Hill.

"I was really disappointed we didn't win on Friday, but High Point was really on," said Head Coach Suzanne Patterson.

She said the Lady Bulldogs' 19-7 season "was one of the best we've ever had here."

Player Kim Groendal made the All-District team, "primarily because of her front-line play," said Patterson.

Groendal had the highest hitting percentage on the team, and the most blocks.

Groendal won the honor from the votes of coaches in the district who looked at the players' statistics throughout the season.

Player Sara Orozco received an honorable mention for the second year

in a row "for her leadership ability and consistent setting," said Patterson.

Patterson is optimistic about next year's team. "We're losing three players, but we'll have four seniors so we'll have some experience," she added.

Patterson has recruited several good freshmen and junior college transfers for next year's team.

In order to keep the team playing, the Lady Bulldogs will play United States Volleyball Association volleyball.

"It's a sort of club volleyball where schools and players throughout the area have clubs which compete in tournaments every Saturday," said Patterson.

Patterson said the competition is good because only people who are interested in volleyball participate.

She added that participation in the club "will perfect our skills."

## Fall tennis

By Joan Sterk

UNCA's women's tennis team finished their fall season with a 5-3 record.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Mike Sams, the Lady Bulldogs prepared for their upcoming spring schedule in fine form.

The team, consisting of three freshmen and three sophomores, knocked off Appalachian State University, Catawba College, Campbell University, Mars Hill College and Erskine College.

Sams feels the girls had an impressive season. He highlighted the second place finish at the Mars Hill Tournament as an accomplishment that proved UNCA to be a tough team in the districts.

The spring season opens March 22 against Catawba. Sams has the girls conditioning now, and will reserve indoor courts for practice at the Grove Park Inn when they return in the spring.

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