

# Fall season a success

By Jim Gardner

If there were a win-loss record for athletic programs, UNCA could chalk up a victory for its fall season, according to Athletic Director Ed Harris.

"I'm very pleased with the season overall," he said.

The men's soccer team, the women's volleyball team, and the cross country team all contributed to the success of the program, according to Harris.

The men's soccer team,

which finished its season with a 14-6-2 record, battled all the way to the NAIA District 26 championship game before losing to Catawba, a team it had beaten earlier in the season.

The women's volleyball team, 19-8 for the year, advanced to the NAIA District 26 playoffs for the first time.

Their match with Mars Hill early in the season was comparable to the Battle of Gettysburg, according to Harris. UNCA won the first game 15-1,

but narrowly lost the next two games.

"That game was very exciting," said Harris. "The crowd was one of the most involved I've ever seen at a volleyball match."

The cross country team finished fifth in the Big South Conference. That was no small feat, Harris said.

"I'm extremely pleased with the cross country team," said Harris. "After having very little time to prepare for the season, Coach Bob Hartman did wonders with them."

Although the basketball season is young, both the men's and women's teams have started impressively, according to Harris.

The Lady Bulldogs, defending NAIA national champions, lost by 25 points against Tennessee Wesleyan in their second game of the year, but that may have been a blessing in disguise, said Harris.

"Getting beat by 25 points gets your attention," he said. "Everybody is keying on them because they are defending champions. Getting beat like that early in the season will make them a stronger team in the long run."

Since that loss, the women have beaten every Division I team they have faced, including Western Carolina University.

An early season highlight for the men's team was sharing the court at the Asheville Civic Center with the UNC Tarheels Nov. 21. Although the Bulldogs didn't play the Tarheels, the exhibition gave UNCA good exposure, said Harris.

That exhibition was reflective of the growth of the entire athletic program at UNCA, he added.

One indication of the program's growth is the greater depth of the various teams, said Harris.

The women's basketball team, for example, had only nine players last



THE SOCCER TEAM battled its way to the District Championship game before losing a tough battle.

Staff photo by Phil Ross

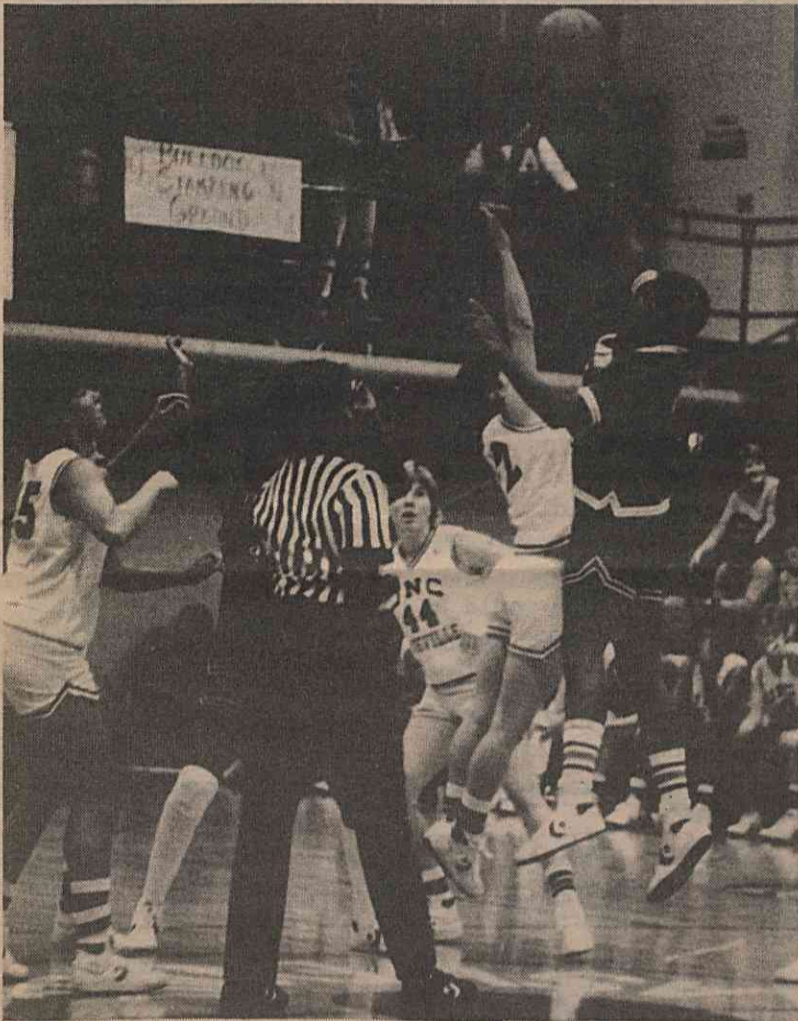
year. This year they have 15.

With increased participation comes some problems, however, said Harris.

"Our biggest problem is lack of facilities," he

said. "We badly need more outdoor facilities."

That problem should disappear next year, when UNCA constructs a baseball complex across from the soccer field, Harris said.



THE LADY BULLDOGS are depending on strong team effort to defend the NAIA national title. Staff photo by Phil Ross



THE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM made it to the Districts. Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins



THIS YEAR THE BULLDOGS are a reflection of the growth and depth of UNCA's athletic program.

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

## This Week

### Basketball

Dec. 15, UNCA men vs. Milligan at Milligan, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 15, UNCA women vs. Winston-Salem State at Winston-Salem, 6 p.m.