

SPORTS

Bulldogs take two wins in a row

By Joan Sterk and
Dale McElrath

They say the home-court advantage makes a difference in most sports.

If you ask the UNCA men's basketball team they'll tell you that old adage is right; at least for basketball.

The Bulldogs returned home to Justice Gym this week after a disastrous 2-4 road trip, and immediately went on a two game winning streak.

To open the streak, the Bulldogs warded off the herd of buffalo from Milligan College, 87-77 Saturday night in Justice Gym.

The margin could have been wider if the Bulldogs had more of a "killer instinct," according to UNCA Coach Jerry Green.

"Sometimes I think we're too nice. I mean, we get a team down but we just don't keep after them," Green said.

The Bulldogs (11-11) played well enough to add to Milligan's collection of losses (9-19), but did not impress Green as much as he had hoped.

"I just can't help but feel that sometimes we're like a car that's only hitting on five cylinders. We go good sometimes, but others we're jerky," Green said.

Jeff Jones was one of the cylinders that worked perfectly, pumping in 17 points for the Bulldogs. He also blocked four shots in the contest.

"I thought Jeff Jones played well for us both defensively and offensively," said Green. "He shot well and played good defense."

The Bulldogs had a shaky first half, turning the ball over 13 times. Nine turnovers were on transition, according to Green. He attributed the turnovers to indecisive passing and poor judgment.

Despite troubles handling the ball, the Bulldogs left the court at halftime with a 40-33 lead.

The second half proved to be more effective for the Bulldogs. They only



UNCA SENIOR CENTER Dwayne Winston attempts a dunk in Saturday night's 87-77 victory over Milligan. Winston finished with 15 points.

had six turnovers in the last half.

"We rebounded better and looked more settled in the second half," Green said.

But Green did not feel every aspect of the game improved in the second half.

"The inside defense was poor and some of the passing was indecisive, but the rebounding looked a lot better," Green said.

The Bulldogs were outre-

bounded in the first half, 22-14. And that was a statistic Green found particularly discouraging.

"For a small team (Milligan) they got way too many rebounds off us," Green said. "We weren't doing a very good job of blocking out."

Jeff Jones and Tom Haus grabbed seven rebounds each, leading the team. Byron Samuels and Haus also finished with 12 points each.

Dwayne Winston contribu-

ted 15 points from his inside play. Randy Shepherd executed long-range shots to finish with 13 points.

"It was a win, and I don't want to argue with that," Green said. "But I just can't help but feel we can play a lot better."

UNCA whips Bears

The Bulldogs did indeed play a lot better Monday night against Livingstone College.

UNCA avenged an early-season loss to the Bears by taking an easy 108-83 victory in front of 1,009 fans in Justice Gym.

Junior forward Byron

Lady Bulldogs roll

By Dale McElrath

You could say Monday night's 70-64 victory over Mars Hill signals a new era in UNCA women's basketball.

It was the Lady Bulldogs' final home game of the season. It was also the final game in Justice Gym for UNCA's three seniors: Kim Duncan, UNCA's all-time second leading scorer; Trish Wyatt, the number three scorer in UNCA history and the all-time assist leader; and Carrie Baker.

It would have been fitting for these three to dominate the Lady Bulldogs' effort against Mars Hill.

But they didn't.

Freshman center Kim Keith hit on 12 of her 18 shots from the field for 27 points and dominated the inside play with 13 rebounds to lead the Lady Bulldogs.

Duncan, hampered by foul trouble, finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds; Wyatt tossed in eight; and Baker added two.

In with the new—out with the old.

The Lady Bulldogs led throughout the first half, taking as much as a ten-point advantage, 32-22, with about five minutes remaining in the half.

The Lady Bulldogs settled for a 37-32 at intermission.

Keith scored four points

Samuels canned 10-of-11 shots to score a career-high 25 points to key the UNCA effort.

And, after losing six of their last eight games by a total of 20 points, UNCA Coach Jerry Green was glad to see a not-so-close contest.

"I thought we played with a lot of enthusiasm, drive and desire," Green said. "I just wish we had had some of this enthusiasm earlier in the year. In fact, maybe we could bottle some of this up to use during the rest of the season."

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early in the second stanza to give the Lady Bulldogs a 43-36 advantage with just over 17 minutes remaining in the contest.

It looked as if the game might become a blow-out.

But the Lady Lions' Lavonda Wagner scored four points to key an 8-2 Mars Hill rally that pulled the Lady Lions within 45-44 with just over 14 minutes remaining.

Keith answered with four straight points pulling the Lady Bulldogs back up by five, 49-44, with 11 minutes left.

Again, the Lady Lions rallied.

Karen Hefner connected on two long-range jumpers to lead Mars Hill on a 14-6 run that gave them a 58-55 advantage with 7:35 remaining.

UNCA's Julie Thompson canned a 17-foot jumper to pull the Lady Bulldogs within 58-57; but Wagner scored four straight to give the Lady Lions a 62-57 lead with 5:30 remaining.

It looked as if the Lady Lions might pull away.

But UNCA's Sherri Logan, another freshman, came off the bench to key the UNCA comeback.

Logan tossed in a 14-foot jumper and connected on 3-of-4 from the free throw line to lead the Lady Bulldogs on a 13-2 run in the final five minutes of the contest.