

# Sports

The Blue Banner

6

## Bulldogs lose to Augusta in first round

Joel Perkins  
Staff Writer

The roller coaster ride finally ended for the Bulldogs on Feb. 28 as the Augusta Jaguars tripped up the Dogs 62-53 in the first round of the Big South Tournament.

Over 200 Bulldog supporters made the journey to Anderson, S.C. in hopes of watching a UNCA victory, but Augusta had another thing in mind.

The game started much like many previous games for the Bulldogs. Augusta jumped out to an early 14-1 before the Dogs could blink an eye.

Jermaine Henegan started the barrage with a layup and Derek Stewart followed with a 10-footer to give the Jags a four-point lead.

Then it was William Lester's turn as he drilled a 10-footer to

heighten the lead to six with 17:36 left in the half. The Dogs finally got on the board when Jeff Lippard made one of two free throws to make the score 8-1. And free throws would be the big story for UNCA.

In the first half alone, the Bulldogs shot a mere 30 percent (3-10) from the bonus stripe.

"We're not a great free throw shooting team, but we're not that bad," said UNCA Coach Don Doucette.

The Augusta run finally ended when Cedric Hurst canned two free throws to make the score 14-1 with 14:40 remaining in the half.

The comeback started when Jeff Lippard nailed a three to give the Dogs their first field goal of the half. A missed Jaguar jumper and a Robert Watson layup cut the

score to 14-6, and Mike Alexander cut the lead to seven when he connected on a long-range bomb.

The Dogs 19-7 run ended when Darryl Sanders lofted another 3-pointer to tie the score 20-20 with 6:34 left in the half. The Dogs finally captured the lead at the 4:31 mark when Chon Black sank a free throw, but Derek Stewart answered right back with a 15-footer and the Jags led again 24-23.

The lead flip-flopped over the last two minutes but the half came to an exciting end when Willie Black retrieved a loose ball, turned from 10-feet away and buried a jumper to give UNCA a 31-28 halftime lead.

Momentum was high as the Dogs took the court for the second half. Brent Keck came out

of the gates and hit a layup to give the Bulldogs their biggest lead of the night, 33-28.

But UNCA would stay on 33 for over four minutes and Augusta capitalized, retaking the lead 37-33. Augusta increased the lead to nine, 47-38 with just over 11 minutes left in the game.

Augusta led 55-51 with 3:12 left when a crucial play happened. With just over 25 seconds showing on the shot clock, a Jaguar took a shot only to have Robert Watson block it. The shot clock reset to 45 seconds.

In past years, when the defense blocked a shot, the clock reset to 45, but this year the NCAA voted to reward the defense by not resetting the shot clock when a blocked shot occurred.

With the shot clock reset, the

Jaguars went to the delay game and as time wound down, Keenan Mann hit a desperation three giving the Jags a 58-51 lead with only 1:16 left in the game. UNCA never recovered and Augusta captured the first round win and the right to face Radford in the semifinals.

It was a frustrating night for the Dogs from the charity stripe, as they only shot 30 percent (8-26).

"We really struggled with that. I thought in the first half we could have been ahead by more than three," added Doucette.

"The second thing that hurt us was at the start of the second half we didn't do a good job on the boards and it allowed them to get some easy stickback buckets and give them some momentum."

For UNCA, Willie Black led all

Bulldogs with 14 points. Jeff Lippard added 13 and senior Darryl Sanders chipped in with 11.

For Augusta, Derek Stewart pumped in 22 points and hauled down 10 boards. Teammate Keenan Mann scored 15 points to go along with 16 boards, 10 on the defensive end.

"Keenan Mann had a bad night shooting, but did a great job on the boards," said Augusta Head Coach Clint Bryant.

The Bulldogs ended the season at 8-20. A long season, but a season Coach Doucette keeps in perspective. "Our goal at the start of the season was to be a better basketball team at the end of the season, and I think there's no question we got better."

### Bulldog Action

Women's Basketball	Mar. 10	Augusta
Big South Tournament		AT Augusta
March 7-9	Radford University	Mar. 12 Carson-Newman
Men's Tennis		Hilton Head, SC
Mar. 9	Erskine College	Mar. 13 Transylvania
	Coastal Carolina	Hilton Head, SC
	Augusta, GA	Mar. 14 Washington
Mar. 10	Augusta College	Hilton Head, SC
	Augusta	Mar. 16 Baptist College
Mar. 12	Lynchburg College	UNCA 10:00 a.m.
	Hilton Head, SC	Mar. 19 Appalachian St.
Mar. 13	Transylvania College	UNCA 2:00 p.m.
	Hilton Head, SC	
Mar. 14	New Mexico Military	Baseball
	Hilton Head, SC	Mar. 7 At East Tenn.
Mar. 16	Baptist College	State
	UNCA 1:00 p.m.	Mar. 10 At East Carolina
Mar. 18	Queens	Mar. 11 At East Carolina
	UNCA 2:00 p.m.	Mar. 12 At East Carolina
Women's Tennis		Mar. 13 At High Point
Mar. 9	Erskine College	Mar. 18 At Appalachian
	Coastal Carolina	State
	AT Augusta	Mar. 20 Tennessee
		UNCA 2:00

## Lady Bulldogs finish regular season

Mike Ellis  
Staff Writer

The Lady Bulldogs ended the regular season on a sour note this past weekend. They had been coming on strong toward the end of the season, before suffering two straight home losses.

On Feb. 28, Eastern Kentucky came to the Justice Center for a non-conference game, and beat the Bulldogs. Conference leader Campbell followed on Mar. 2 with a victory.

The Lady Bulldogs could have moved up in the standings for the upcoming conference tournament by beating Campbell. They tied for fourth in the final standings, and will play the Lady Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina in the first round of the tournament at 4 p.m.

The tournament, at Radford University, starts on Mar. 7 with the first round games, and ends with the championship game on Mar. 9.

The Lady Bulldogs hope to rebound from the two losses at the end of the regular season, and make a strong showing in the conference tournament.

During the final part of the season they have played well, and have been in almost every game until the waning moments.

The Lady Bulldogs looked to close the season with a good

showing at home. Eastern Kentucky came in and dominated play, taking home a 96-80 victory.

One bright spot for the Lady Bulldogs was the 3-point shooting for the game. They sank a school record 11 treys, and have also shattered the school record for 3-pointers made in a season.

Ashley Woods led the way for the Lady Bulldogs with a career-high 22 points. She matched her individual high with six 3-pointers in the game. Tara McMinn also had a strong game with 17 points. Paula Roberts chipped in 11 points, and Lynn Nester had nine.

Eastern Kentucky got great performances from Angie Cox and Kelly Cowan. Cox had a game-high 25 points, while Cowan had 24.

The Lady Bulldogs dug too deep a hole to get out of in the first half. Eastern Kentucky was able to break away from the Bulldogs for a 46-31 halftime lead.

UNCA put 49 points on the board in the second half, but Eastern Kentucky scored 50 points to keep the game out of reach. The 3-point barrage was not enough to get the Lady Bulldogs close enough to seriously challenge at the end of the game.

The Lady Bulldogs were thinking upset when conference leader Campbell came to the Justice Center for the final regular season

game. The Lady Camels put their perfect 11-0 conference record on the line, and came away with a tough fought 72-56 victory.

Nester led the team with 16 points. Dee Godette pitched in 10 points. Woods had nine points in her last home game for UNCA. Roberts and McMinn chipped in eight points apiece.

The Lady Bulldogs held true to form in the first half by playing tough and trailing only 25-24 at intermission.

UNCA played the Lady Camels even for the first five minutes of the second half. At the 15-minute mark the score was tied at 35. Campbell quickly went on a 14-3 run to break the game open. Tammy Brown led the way for the Lady Camels during the spurt with eight points.

The Lady Bulldogs were able to keep the score relatively close, but were unable to recover after the run. Campbell held on for the final 72-56 score.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the regular season 6-6 in the conference and 8-18 overall.



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