



Bulldogs Drop First Three Games

Barry Bridges
Staff Writer

The UNCA men's basketball team opened the 1991-92 season with a 65-60 home loss to Union College on Nov. 23. The Bulldogs followed that game with two consecutive road losses to Western Carolina University and Syracuse University to bring their record to 0-3.

"Just looking at the first three games, I think we need to cut down on turnovers and stay in our offense," said UNCA Head Coach Don Doucette. "We're just a very young team, and there hasn't been any chemistry so far."

In the home opener against Union, Doucette said the Bulldogs were a little too anxious to properly execute the offense. UNCA kept the score close in the first half despite shooting 30 percent from the field.

"Basically, we were extremely tight," said Doucette. "We tried to force the issue, and we broke away from our offense. We had a lot of guys trying to step up and do it themselves instead of staying in the framework of the of-

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-- Coach Don Doucette

fense."

With three minutes left to play in the second half, UNCA took a 55-54 lead on a pair of free throws by forward Derek Borden. Union, however, went on an 11-5 run down the stretch to capture the victory.

"In the last three minutes, we got panicky defensively and lost our whole defensive concept," said Doucette. "We got ourselves in one big jam after another."

On Nov. 26, UNCA traveled to Cullowhee, N.C., to take on Western Carolina. According to Doucette, the Bulldogs played well in the 100-85 loss, but could not overcome turning the ball over 23 times.

"The story at Western was turnovers," said Doucette. "If we had cut down on turnovers, we would've had a shot at winning that game."

The Catamounts hit seven 3-pointers in the first half on their way to a 45-34 halftime lead. Western maintained a double-digit lead throughout the rest of the game.

"Western is a multi-talented, athletic team," said Doucette. "They're a terrific perimeter and 3-point-shooting team, and they've given people fits all year."

"It's hard to come back against a team that scores so well from the perimeter when you're down by 11 starting the second half," said Doucette.

On Nov. 30, the Bulldogs headed north to take on Syracuse University in the Carrier Dome. Doucette said UNCA turned in a good performance under adverse conditions.

"We played very, very well," said Doucette. "In a situation with a Big

East Conference school and 23,000 people in the Carrier Dome, it's tough for anybody to win."

UNCA led the Orangemen 20-16 with five minutes left in the first half, but Syracuse outscored the Bulldogs 15-8 to take a 31-24 lead at the break. The Orangemen pulled away in the second half and recorded an 83-68 win.

"There were a couple of mistakes, a couple of bad calls, and we found ourselves down seven. But we were still in great shape at halftime," said Doucette.

"Again, the one thing that came back to haunt us was turnovers," said Doucette. "We had 25 against Syracuse. They brought tremendous pressure and caused those turnovers, but we've got to learn to protect the ball."

At this point in the season, Doucette said UNCA must reduce its turnovers and stay within the offensive scheme. "The turnovers have just killed us," said Doucette. "The players need to let the game come to them instead of trying to force the issue. If we cut down on the turnovers and get into our offense, I think we'll be a pretty good basketball team."

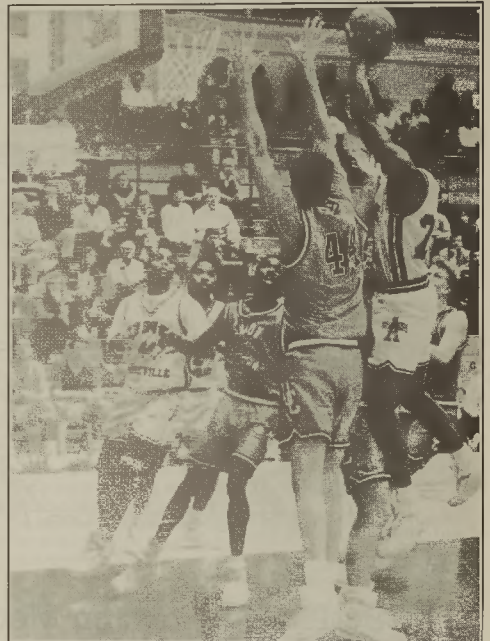


Photo By Bob Thompson

UNCA's Derek Borden fights for two points in last week's loss to Union College.

Lady Bulldogs Beat UNC-W In Season Opener

Mechele White
Staff Writer

The Lady Bulldog basketball team lost to Georgia State University and Campbell University at the Southern Invitational in Atlanta this past weekend. However, UNCA defeated UNC-Wilmington 61-60 on Nov. 23 in its season opener.

"Even though we came out of the tournament 0-2, we learned a lot and we all have a positive attitude about our season start," said sophomore forward Sheena West.

UNCA traveled to Atlanta for the Southern Invitational this past weekend. On Nov. 29, the Bulldogs lost to Georgia State 89-76. According to UNCA's Paula Roberts, the Lady Bulldogs did not work together as a team. "It was five individuals out there with the attitude that they could score and change the game individually."

West said that the referees made a couple of bad calls which put UNCA behind from the start.

On Nov. 30, the Lady Bulldogs played Campbell University. The Lady Camels won the game 68-66. At halftime, Campbell led by three 38-35. The game was competitive as it came down to the final minutes. Forward Tara McMinn added two points for the Bulldogs to tie the game at 66. "We made some bad defensive moves which gave them the advantage and they scored two points to win the game," said Roberts.

Darlene Hewitt and McMinn both had a good scoring game. Hewitt posted 12 points and McMinn scored 18.

West said that Campbell was 12-0 last year and the only time they lost was in the Big South Tournament. "They only lost one starter from last year's team. For us to only lose the game by two points, this proves how much better our team is this year."

"Campbell players said they won by luck," said Roberts. "They thought we would shock many people by the way we are playing this year. They said they were scared to play us again."

In the championship game at the Southern Invitational, Marshall defeated Georgia State 66-61.

UNCA hoped to begin its season with a victory against UNC-Wilmington. According to Mike Gore, UNCA's sports information director, both teams were trying to bounce back from disappointing seasons last year. The Lady Seahawks finished up 9-19 while UNCA ended the season 8-19.

At the half, UNC-Wilmington led 32-26. During the second half, each team stayed within a few points of each other. With 1:36 left on the clock, UNC-Wilmington led 60-57. Hall added two points to bring the Lady Dogs within one. McMinn scored a lay-up with one second remaining to give UNCA a 61-60 victory.

Hewitt had 15 points and three rebounds. McMinn had another good game with 11 rebounds and 17 points. Hall also contributed with 16 points and grabbed four rebounds.

"We refused to lose that game," said West. "We were pretty equal teams, but we played more together than they did."

"We had a tough defense and we intimidated them," said Roberts.

We played really well as a team and not individuals.

West said this year things are good because UNCA has a deeper bench and more people to go to. "We are playing a totally different game plan this year. We are ahead of schedule if not right on schedule with our plans. We have gained a lot of experience already and we are building on our mistakes."

"We are a different team this year because we are playing well together and we are willing to help each other," said West. "This will help us win a lot of games this season."

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