

# Sports

April 20, 1995

## BULLDOGS DEFEAT ETSU; BUT FALL TO 0-12 IN CONFERENCE PLAY

Chris Smith  
Staff Writer

The UNCA baseball team enjoyed another one-run victory over East Tennessee State (ETSU) on April 13, but the Bulldogs continue to struggle in Big South Conference play.

UNCA, which had defeated ETSU 5-4 on March 28, led 10-3 entering the ninth inning and withstood a furious Buccaneers rally to post a 10-9 victory at Greenwood Field. But, the Bulldogs would drop a three-game weekend series to conference-foe Radford by scores of 16-11, 6-0 and 9-3.

UNCA is now 0-12 in conference play an 9-25 overall (9-13 outside of the conference).

In the Bulldogs 16-11 and 6-0 losses to Radford on April 15, the nightcap featured a pitching gem by a Highlander freshman. Jason Anderson no-hit UNCA in the seven-inning game, while walking four batters and striking out six.

Anderson allowed a leadoff walk in the seventh to UNCA's

Eric McLaughlin, but preceded to pick McLaughlin off of first base for the innings first out. The freshman, who is now 3-4, got Eric Filipek to fly out and struck out Eddie Bauer to end the game. Anderson entered the game with an ERA of 7.78.

Radford took the opener behind four home runs. Jeff Dean led the Highlander attack by going 5-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs and Kelly Damper chipped in with 4 RBIs also.

In UNCA's victory over ETSU, the Bulldogs jumped out to a 10-3 lead on the strength of four seventh-inning runs and two eighth inning runs.

But, the Bucs would rally on two-run homers from Scott Muhlhan and Wade Evans and a solo-shot by Britton Phelps. With two outs in the ninth, Len Hart's RBI double pulled ETSU within 10-9, but UNCA's Billy Hillier, Jr., entered in relief and induced Brian McKee into a game-ending ground out. In doing so, Hillier earned his first save of the season, and preserved the win for Michael Jones (2-1), who allowed five runs in his eight innings of work.

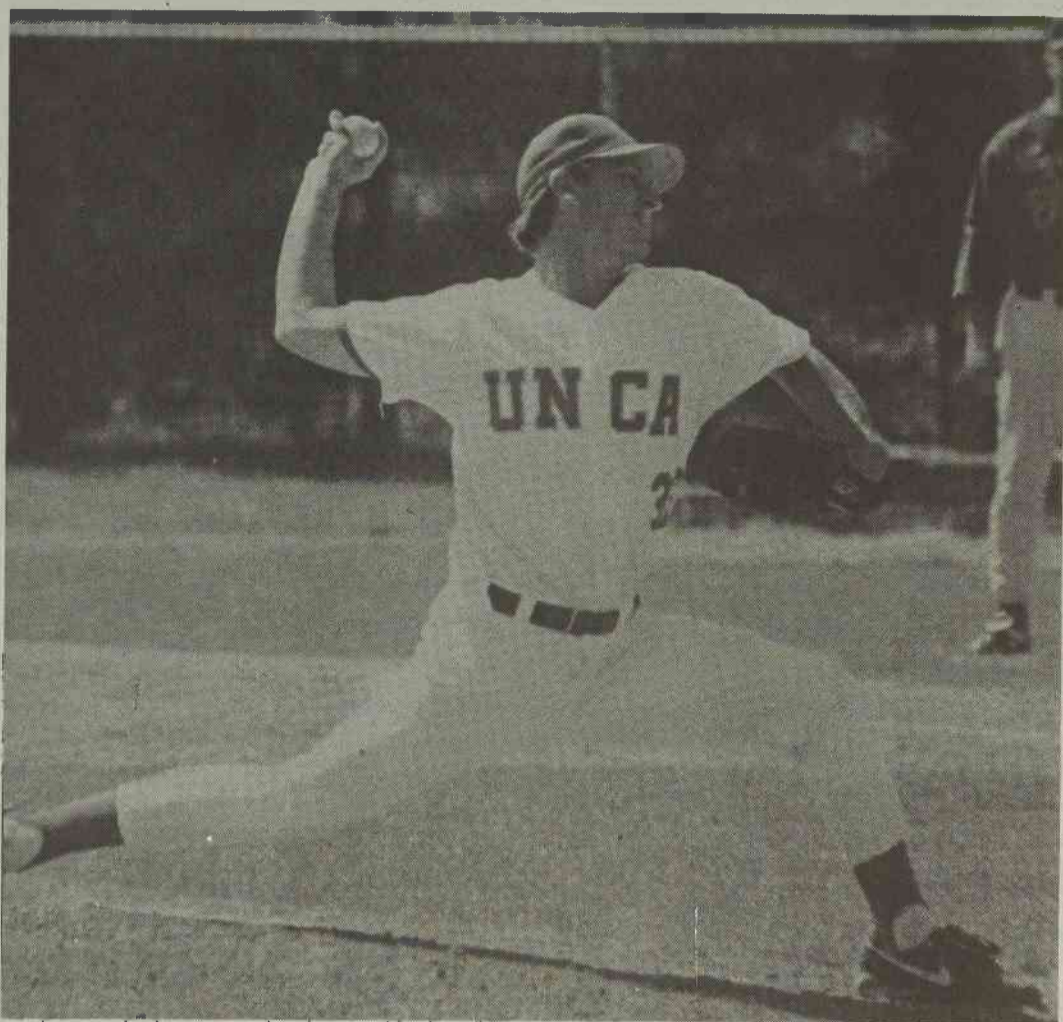
Hillier also led the Bulldogs offensively with three RBIs, while Bauer and McLaughlin chipped in with two RBIs a piece. Filipek had a solo home run for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs have lost seven games this season by three runs or less, and are 3-3 in one-run games. UNCA has done a nice job of holding on to leads, as the Bulldogs are 7-2 when leading after six innings. However, the Bulldogs are just 2-23 when trailing after six innings.

UNCA has also struggled with left-handed pitching, as the Bulldogs are 1-10 versus southpaws and 8-15 against right-handers.

Filipek leads the team in all three triple crown categories. Filipek is hitting .355 with 23 RBIs, and is tied with teammate Patrick Jenkins with a team-leading six home runs. Jenkins also has 15 RBIs, but has struck out 28 times, and is only hitting .227.

Freshman Michael Slaughter (.333) and Hillier, Jr., (.300) have 19 and 20 RBIs, respectively. Bauer (.279) ranks second on the team with 21 RBIs, while Filipek and Hillier share the team-lead with 24 runs scored.



Freshman Michael Jones started on the mound for the Bulldogs against Furman

Photo by Lat Ray

## Seniors Honored

Emily Guidry  
Staff Writer

Graduating seniors of UNCA's tennis team were recognized in a ceremony at the tennis courts last Monday afternoon. Patricia Spove, Ryan Vaughn, and Michael Owenby were commended on their achievements and given presents and awards.

Following the ceremony, the tennis team played their last regular-season match against North Carolina A&T. The men's team won 7-0, and the women's team won 6-1.

Spove joined the tennis team last year as a transfer from East Carolina University. "Last season was Patricia's first year here, and she was one of the few players that could play well," said tennis coach Rebecca Offenbacher. Offenbacher said Spove has been helpful to some of the freshman by showing them how to play at a college level. Spove ended her last regular-season match with a win on Monday.

Vaughn will be unable to play for the rest of the season due to an ankle injury. "He is absolutely a blue-collar person, he always works very hard," said Offenbacher. "In two years he has never missed a practice or a match. For tennis to be an individual sport, Ryan is very much a team player." Offenbacher said that when she came to UNCA as the new head tennis coach, Vaughn was very helpful. "I think that he has as much confidence in me as I have in him."

Owenby will attend North Carolina State University for graduate school next fall. "He is a hard one to see leave," said Offenbacher. "He is a hard worker in academics and in sports. He can balance the two very well all of the time." Owenby also won his final regular season match. "He played very well. I was pleased that he could win his last match," said Offenbacher.

The women's team is ranked 7-of-8 in the Big South Conference, and the men's team is ranked 7-of-9. "We were a much stronger team than last year. Our improvement was not shown in wins, but rather in the improvement of scores," said Offenbacher.

The tennis team leaves for the conference tournament on Wednesday, where the men's team will face Charleston Southern, and the women will play Coastal Carolina.

## Team Prepares For Conference Competition

Jeremy Letterman  
Staff Writer

The UNCA Men's and Women's track and field teams competed in the Western Carolina University Invitational on April 22. Coach Stan Rosenthal said that the meet in Cullowhee was a "last-chance tune-up."

"We were going to Western to sharpen up for the conference championships," said Rosenthal. "Every one pretty much ran shorter events than they normally do. For example, (Senior) Nelson Delgado, one of the favorites in the 800 meter in the conference meet, ran the 200 and 400. He set school records in the 200 meter, and ran a personal best as well. He also ran the second best 400-meter time in school history. He has the best time as well. He set that mark last year."

According to Rosenthal, freshman Siobhan Keenan lowered her previous best in the women's 1500 meter, and freshman Michael Creel set a new school mark in the javelin throw.

"He threw 126 feet and fouled on a couple that were out around 140 feet," said Rosenthal.

The Bulldogs travel to Towson, Maryland on Apr. 22 for the Big South Conference Championships. Rosenthal was glad that no one was injured in the Western meet, and said that the teams

would not practice that hard this week.

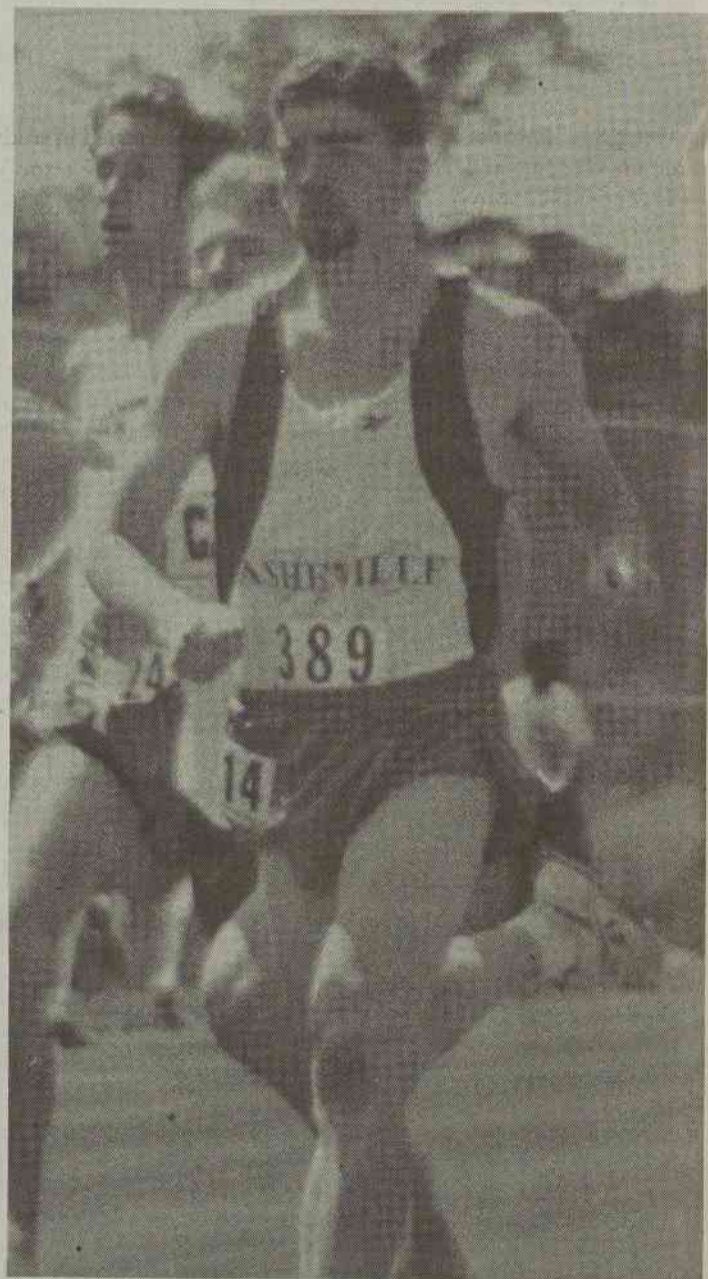
"At this point, if they aren't ready, they aren't going to be ready," said Rosenthal.

Rosenthal said that the women are projected to finish anywhere from third to fifth, and the men are projected to finish anywhere between fourth and sixth place.

"Our goal is to finish in the top half of the conference," said Rosenthal. "The object at the conference meet is to score the most points. We have got the best distance runners in the conference, so the vast majority of our points will come that way. Our lack of depth in the field events, hurdles in particular, hurts us on points."

Rosenthal said that several people are ranked in the top three of their events in the conference.

"Siobhan Keenan and Nelson Delgado are both ranked number two in the 800, and Siobhan is also ranked number two in the 1500," said Rosenthal. "(Sophomore) Becky Vonderhaar is ranked number two in the 10,000 and in the 5,000. (Senior) Ana Gerhardt is ranked number three in the 10,000. (Sophomore) Kristi Cummings is ranked number three in the javelin. Anyone ranked in the top three probably has a chance at winning their event."



The track team prepares for the conference meet.

Photo courtesy of UNCA Track Department

**FCA MEETS ON MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 IN ROOM 037 IN THE HIGHSMITH CENTER. ON MAY 1, THE SPRING ATHLETES WILL BE HONORED. ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ATTEND! PLEASE COME OUT AND JOIN THE FUN!**

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