

The Blue BANNER

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Champions!

Women's soccer team wins title

Kevin Watson
Staff Writer

The UNCA women's soccer team was picked to finish second to last in the Big South Conference, but the team had higher expectations and thought they had a shot at the conference championship.

They thought right. The Bulldogs made history Nov. 5 by becoming UNCA's first ever Big South Conference women's soccer champions with a 1-0 upset victory over the nationally ranked University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) Spartans at Greensboro.

"I'm surprised, I guess is the best word," UNCA Head Coach Michele Cornish said in the middle of the post-game celebration. "It's something we've talked about all year. We beat UMBC handily to get ready for Greensboro. We dug in defensively and Greensboro got frustrated."

The win against UNCG capped an already successful season with the Bulldogs finishing with a 15-5 record overall.

The Bulldogs finished the regular season with the second best record in the conference behind the Spartans and were seeded second in the tournament. The top two teams had first round byes, so UNCA played their first game of the tournament in the semi-final round Nov. 3 against UMBC. The team defeated the Retrievers 3-0 to get to the championship match.

Against UNCG the Bulldogs had their hands full in the first half. The Spartans out-shot the Bulldogs 8-1 in the first half, but goalie Jill Young stopped all of the attempts to keep the game tied at 0-0.

Greensboro again was the aggressor early in the second half taking the first two shots but were still unable to score.

At the 33:25 mark in the second half the Bulldogs took their first step toward the victory celebration. A shot by Mackenzie Miller was deflected by UNCG's goalie and Ashley Hart was there for the rebound shot to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead in a game dominated by defense on the part of both teams.

"It was so exciting. I was just at the right place at the right time," said Hart.

After scoring the goal, the Bulldogs dug in defensively for the rest of the game. The Spartans had three more shot attempts but couldn't score.

The game was marred at times by rough play. The teams combined for 27 total fouls.

There was a good turnout for the game and all of the UNCA supporters counted down the final ten seconds of the game. The Bulldogs held on for the win and all of the players rushed the field in celebration after the final horn sounded.

"I couldn't believe it. It feels tingly," said Young. "The feeling when the goal was scored was beautiful. We've been thinking about this since the preseason."

The crowd of UNCA fans and UNCG fans stayed on the cold and windy afternoon for the presentation of the trophies and the naming of the all-tournament team as well as the naming of the tournament most valuable player.

Eight players for the Bulldogs made the all-tournament team. They were: Miller, Hart, Kristi Cummings, Alison Gehringer, Kerry Gaschler, Jodi Winterton, Mary Milligan, and Jill Young.

Young and Gehringer were named co-MVPs for their outstanding play in the tournament.

"The feeling right now is indescribable," said Winterton. "The last 35 minutes of the game went by so slowly. I was shaking. The last ten seconds of the game when the crowd was chanting my legs just weren't there. This just feels like it really hasn't happened yet."

The team and coach all embraced at mid-field after it was officially over while the players from UNCG looked on in disbelief. The Bulldogs enjoyed the moment.

"It's an amazing feeling. All of the hard work has paid off. It's well deserved. We brought in our family today," said Miller.

Junior defenseman Chesha Cofini attributes the victory to team work and a positive attitude.

"This is the best feeling. Everyone played tremen-



Photo by Lal Roy

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The UNCA women's soccer team celebrates after making history with its championship win against UNCG last Sunday. The Bulldogs defeated the Spartans 1-0.

Students act as mentors for local children

Amy Cannon
Staff Writer

UNCA teaching fellows, along with volunteers from the Center for Creative Retirement, are participating in the Adopt-a-Class 2001 program at the Asheville Middle School.



Photo courtesy of the Center for Creative Retirement

Uwe Soenksen, a volunteer from the Center for Creative retirement, talks with Asheville Middle School students.

Carolyn Williams, coordinator for the Adopt-a-Class 2001 project, helps to establish relationships between volunteers and middle-school students for tutoring. The tutoring program will start with sixth graders and follow them through graduation from high school.

"The public school system is on thin ice right now," said Williams. "UNCA undergrads are really answering the call."

Williams says the organization adopted the technique of direct instruction when whole language (teaching word memorization) was proven not to work for all children. Adopt-a-Class 2001 believes the opportunity to read is the most significant help they can give to children, and the children should have this opportunity three times a week.

"Whole language has not worked for enough of the students," said Williams. "This is a very practical, very straightforward, very concrete strategy."

Williams prefers using volunteers who are willing to make a strong commitment of one hour per week, for one year. Three volunteers make up a team that will work with one child for the year.

"Middle school, for kids who have fallen through the cracks all along, is their last chance," said Williams. "If their reading comprehension is really

Rally held to protest sexual harassment

Tracy Singleton
Staff Writer

A sexual harassment awareness rally was held Oct. 31 in front of the UNCA's new dining hall.

"A campus is a community, and I think we have a right to some kind of behavior guidelines (pertaining to sexual harassment policy)," said Amy Hengge, a rally organizer and former UNCA student and employee.

Both Hengge and Leah Boccia, a senior creative writing major, said they were holding the rally in order to get the word out about sexual harassment, its results, and how one can learn about peaceful relations.

"It would be great if we could get up enough support to be taken seriously," said Boccia.

The purpose of the rally was to show the board of trustees that students are concerned about sexual harassment, according to Hengge and Boccia. Boccia said she is curious as to why there is not a policy concerning dating relations between students, faculty, and staff.

Boccia said she would like to get enough student support in helping to

create a written proposal for the chancellor and a committee on sexual harassment.

Hengge said paper was provided for rally supporters to write their own words about what sexual harassment means to them.

White masks were also provided as a symbol of silence about sexual harassment and assault.

Boccia said sexual assault victims often act happy when they really are not.

This creates the image of a hidden face.

Posted at the rally were various quotes, newspaper and magazine articles, and information.

Both Hengge and Boccia said sexual harassment can now be seen in elementary school age children.

Chris Small, a rally participant, said people are often afraid to get counseling.

She said when someone is victimized, they find it hard to share their feelings with others.

"It (fear) might be because of pressures," said Small. "Structures are in place that make it (getting help) difficult, embarrassing, and hard to speak up in a safe environment."

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