

Sports

Track teams earn wins

Tracy Kelly
Staff Writer

The UNCA men's and women's track and field teams ended their indoor home season with four wins, at two a piece, in a dual meet against Winthrop, Campbell, Charleston Southern University, and Wofford this past Saturday.

With one meet left in the indoor season, the men's team record is 4-2, and the women's is at 3-3.

"They competed with a lot of intensity," said Stan Rosenthal, head coach of both the men's and women's track and field teams. "This was like a mini-conference for us. Our goal is to finish in the top three at conference this year."

The men defeated Winthrop 42-37 and Campbell at 46-31. Charleston Southern, who is ranked second in the Big South Conference, came out on top of the Bulldogs, 48-37.

The women defeated Charleston Southern, 51-40, and Wofford, 50-30. However, Winthrop won over the Lady Bulldogs, 54-37.

The Bulldogs dominated the distance races, winning five out of eight of the races.

For the men's team, freshman Tim Gautreau, Brandon Trollip, and junior Eddie Legair placed first, second, and third respectively in the mile race. In the 5K, senior Pat Spencer took first, with senior Jamie Vaughn taking third. Freshman Ed Matthews won first in the 800 meter. In the 3,000 meter, Gautreau placed second, and Legair took third.

For the women, senior Emily Olinger placed first in the mile. Freshman Keelin Mooney and junior Siobhan Keenan followed with second and third respectively. The 5K saw senior Becky Vonderhaar win first place and freshman Misty Buchanan take second. Olinger placed second in the 800, with freshman Shanley Rasser following in third. Buchanan took second in the 3,000 meter for the Bulldogs.

Team members also placed well in other events. Junior Mike Slaughter placed second in shot put, and junior Jenny McGrane took third



PHOTO BY DEL DeLORM

Emily Olinger rounds a turn at the Bulldogs' home meet.

for the women's team.

Freshman Stephanie Alexander placed third in the 500meter, and McGrane and Keenan placed second and third in the 300 meter respectively.

"We're still not covering all the events, but we're doing well in the ones we are," said Rosenthal. "Some set personal bests [this weekend] which is hard."

This season was marked with the opening of the Justice Gym Track and Field complex. This has had both a positive and slightly negative effect on the teams.

"The turns are tight which is slowing some of the times. People don't get to see how well we can do," said Rosenthal. "It would be nice to have a bigger facility, but this one is good for training."

The outdoor track will be resurfaced next spring.

The new facility does allow for more meets to be held at UNCA.

"The opportunity to hold meets is good," said Rosenthal. "It gets noisy

and exciting. A lot of schools who have already come want to come back."

Two weekends ago, UNCA was able to host an invitational meet for approximately 30 area high schools. This was good for both the future of the team and the university. Many of the high school students had never been to UNCA according to Rosenthal.

The invitational allowed them to see what the school and track and field team had to offer. It also allowed the UNCA to see some prospective students, as well as athletes.

The Bulldog's last meet will be Saturday, March 1, at East Tennessee State University.

As of now, the Bulldogs have broken ten school records, eight Freshmen records, and six number two all-time records.

"If we keep this up and stay healthy over the next two months, we should do really well," said Rosenthal.

Champs *continued from page one*

regular season, giving them the regular season title.

UNCA entered the Big South Conference tournament as the top seed and faced off with number eight seed University of Maryland Baltimore-County on Feb. 26. The Bulldogs downed the Retrievers 54-51.

UNCA held a 16-point lead at half-time, but UMBC took the lead 48-46 with three minutes left in the game. The Bulldogs then used a 5-0 run to take the lead 51-48. UMBC's Mark Lay tied the score at 51 with 50 seconds left in the game.

With 17 seconds remaining, junior guard Josh Pittman delivered a pass to junior forward Robert Stevenson who scored to give UNCA the lead back. UMBC's Lay missed the front end of a 1 and 1 and UNCA took the ball back. Sophomore guard Mike Matthews then converted the front end of a 1 and 1. Lay's 3-point attempt at the buzzer fell short giving UNCA the win.

"When you win a championship you are special and that means you have done some special things. Our kids deserve the championship. They played well and played together all year," said UNCA Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach.

UNCA held the lead against Winthrop and were up by 17 points in the second half. The Eagles then used a 17-5 run to close the gap to 53-48. With seven minutes left in the game, Winthrop closed the gap to 60-56. UNCA used baskets by sophomore Kevin Martin and Pittman to open the game back up.

Pittman fouled out of the game with just over five minutes remain-

ing. The Bulldogs were able to step up to the free throw line and drill 12 of 14 free throws to seal the Bulldog's title.

Stevenson had a big game for the Bulldogs, scoring another double-double with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Sophomore guard Juelian Flowers came off of the bench to score 15 points and 4 steals.

UNCA picked up another conference win on Feb. 20 against University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 74-67. The Bulldogs were down by 10 points at half-time before coming back to down the Spartans.

Pittman led the Bulldogs by scoring 24 points while Martin pulled down nine rebounds and scored 18 points.

UNCA's season started slowly as they lost their first two games at East Tennessee State University and at Kansas State University. The Bulldogs then rebounded from these losses by downing Montreat College in UNCA's home opener, 84-45. Pittman and Stevenson led the Bulldogs scoring 22 and 21 points respectively. Stevenson also had 12 rebounds in the game.

After a loss at Kansas, the Bulldogs pulled off their biggest upset of the season by defeating the Gamecocks of South Carolina, 80-74. Pittman, again, led the Bulldogs with 31 points.

UNCA then suffered a three-game losing streak. The Bulldogs fell to Marshall, Kentucky, and Mt. Saint Mary's.

On Dec. 28, The Bulldogs defeated Maine in the Bow Tie Classic Tournament. This was the beginning of an 11-game win streak

that ran until Jan. 30. During the run, the Bulldogs upset New Mexico State and ran over all of their conference opponents. This win streak set the stage for the Bulldog's phenomenal season.

With a 7-0 conference record, the Bulldogs fell into another three-game skid, losing games to Coastal Carolina, Charleston Southern, and Radford.

The Bulldogs rebounded from the losses with a double-overtime win at Liberty. Pittman and Stevenson led the Bulldogs with 17 points apiece. Martin led the Bulldogs with 10 rebounds, and he hit a baseline jumper that sent the game into a second overtime session.

UNCA finished out its season with wins over UMBC, UNCG, and Winthrop.

UNCA has dealt with adversity throughout the entire season. In a Dec. 21 match-up with Marshall University, starting junior point guard, Vincent Krieger suffered a broken cheekbone.

Biedenbach moved Matthews from the shooting guard position to the point guard position. Matthews was a key player in UNCA's win over Winthrop on Jan. 16. He scored 19 points in the win.

The Bulldogs also had to deal with the loss of junior guard Jeff Coble. Coble had to be red-shirted early in the season after he got sick with pneumonia. Coble was expected to come off of the bench and play the shooting guard spot.

UNCA also had to play without seven-foot center Remco Smits. Smits was red-shirted due to back problems.

Hunnicutt named to NCAA post

UNCA Athletic Director Tom Hunnicutt has been appointed to a three-year term on the NCAA's business and finance cabinet, according to a Big South Conference

announcement.

The finance cabinet is a 26 member committee that is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations concerning the

NCAA Division I budget proposals having financial implications, and marketing and licensing proposals.



Tom Hunnicutt



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the 3rd Race Across Campus

Sunday, March 2, 1997

Psychocross/Bicycle Race at UNCA

First in the Southern Cyclocross Race Series

Category:	Distance:	Start Time:	Prizes:
Beginner	30 minutes	11:00 a.m.	To top 10
Women	30 minutes	11:00 a.m.	To top 6
Intermediate	45 minutes	11:45 a.m.	To top 10
Team Relay	5 laps	12:50 p.m.	To top 3
Kids Race	5 - 9 yrs.	1:40 p.m.	Kid Stuff
Kids Race	10 - 14 yrs.	2:10 p.m.	Kid Stuff
Expert	60 minutes	1:35 p.m.	To top 10

Entry Fees: Team Relay \$5/person, All other races \$10

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