

# SPORTS

## Bulldogs take two of three against Radford

**Jennifer Bacon**  
Sports Reporter

The UNCA baseball team came out on top of a Big South Conference three-game series against Radford University on Apr. 12 and 13.

"I'm really pleased to win another conference series," said Head Coach Matt Myers in an interview on UNCA's Web site. "Radford has had some big wins this year and this is a big series for us to win."

The game, originally scheduled for Friday night, but was postponed. Thursday's rain and snow left the field too wet for play. The teams played a doubleheader on Saturday and play a single game on Sunday at McCormick Field downtown.

Starting pitcher, junior Aaron Rembert helped lead the Bulldogs to a 7-1 victory in the first game. Rembert pitched the first seven innings, striking out four and walking one while allowing only one run on nine hits. Seniors Seth Denon and Brad Beck pitched the last two innings for the Bulldogs.

Senior infielder Daniel Pruitt blasted two homers with three RBI's to help with the win, and

sophomore Grant Rembert drove in three runs.

Others who contributed runs for the Bulldogs were centerfielder Jake McCongia with one, designated hitter Drew Sandri with one, second baseman Robert Rudder with one, and Rembert, who played right field, with two.

Radford scored their only run of the game when pitcher and designated hitter Mark Fleisher hit a homerun to right field in the second inning.

In the second game on Saturday, UNCA fell to Radford 7-3.

The Bulldogs shot ahead in the first inning with a lead of 3-0. McCongia scored after a stolen base and an RBI courtesy of Grant Rembert. Sandri hit a homerun to right field allowing Rembert and himself to score.

Radford answered back in the second inning with three runs, and scored four more times by the end of the game.

Senior Judson Ballard pitched the entire game for UNCA. Sandri and junior left fielder Steve Sherman had two hits finishing up Saturday's doubleheader.

On Sunday, the Bulldogs easily handled Radford in a 15-4 win.

The highlight of the game came in the third inning when the 'Dogs sent eleven batters to the plate and came out with seven runs scored.

UNCA 7  
RADFORD 1

UNCA 3  
RADFORD 7

UNCA 15  
RADFORD 4

Behind only 1-0 in the third inning, center fielder Ben Padgett hit his first homerun of the year to left field tying the game 1-1.

Hitting the next pitch over the right-field wall for a 2-1 UNCA lead was Grant Rembert.

Radford's pitcher then walked Sandri and first baseman Bill Carley.

Third baseman Josh Coyle was then hit by a pitch to load the bases. Catcher Nick Jakas and Rudder were walked forcing in two runs for the Bulldogs bringing the lead to 4-1.

Bringing in a relief pitcher didn't help Radford. With the bases loaded and two outs, McCongia hit a pitch to center field that drove in three runs.

At the end of the third inning, with only four hits and one-man left on base, the score was 7-1.

The Bulldogs secured their win in

the seventh inning with six additional runs.

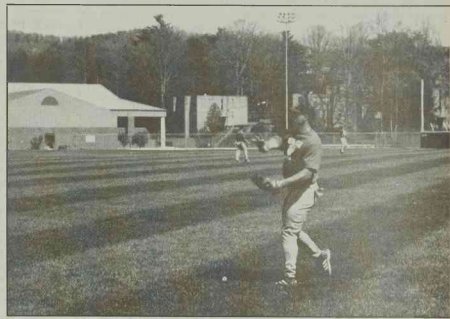
Third baseman Steve Burnich scored in the sixth inning, making the score 8-1.

After being hit by a pitch, pinch hitter and centerfielder Matt Roberts scored the first run of the seventh, and then Sandri followed with an unearned run.

Pinch-hitting for McCongia was right fielder Charles Pippitt who had a two-run double to right field.

Todd Coggins followed with a single to left field bringing another two runners home. Scoring runs were shortstop Scott Stolar, Burnich, Pippitt, and Rudder.

Rounding out the Bulldog's 15 runs was designated hitter Andrew Alexander. Alexander hit a solo homerun in the eighth inning mak-



TARA BARONE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Bulldogs are second in the Big South Conference standings behind Winthrop.

ing the score at the top of the ninth 15-1.

Radford scored three runs in the final inning of the game making the final score 15-4.

"We got some clutch hits today," said Coach Myers. "We're really using the bats well and once again got contributions from everyone in the

lincup."

Starting pitcher Steven Cook pitched seven strong innings, allowing only eight hits, while striking out one and walking one. The one run he allowed was unearned.

The Bulldogs next face Birmingham-Southern College at home in a three game series Apr. 25-27.

## A day in the life of a student-athlete



TARA BARONE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Natasha Lucki, a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, practices with the tennis team earlier this year.

**Ashleigh Austin**  
Sports Reporter

Barring the cold weather, Brazilian Natasha Lucki doesn't find tennis in Asheville too daunting. She is separated from her family. She misses her favorite Brazilian foods. But it's hard to get a complaint from this young tennis star, the number one seed on the UNCA Women's Tennis Team.

"I love it here. I was at Winthrop University last year and I transferred here," said Lucki. "The coaches are very cool. They are awesome. However, my coach (Chase Hodges) is always trying to motivate me and make me feel as comfortable as I can be. Coach (Hodges) wants me to do the best that I can, but also to play for fun."

After a year at Winthrop, Natasha is clear on the differences in the two programs. "UNCA is different because of the type of players. Winthrop has more scholarships than UNCA so they have much more pressure to win and to win the conference and keep their scholarships," said Lucki.

"Here at UNCA, I don't feel pressure," Natasha does put pressure on herself. "I think that I have to win every match since I have been playing tennis for more than 10 years. 'I am playing some of my old teammates,'" said Lucki, who recently lost a match to someone from her old school. Her positive atti-

tude prevails, though. "No, I didn't win. It was a good match."

She's made some friends who attend matches in support. She enjoys hanging out with senior Ashley Jones, captain of the tennis team and one of her three roommates.

"I love them. They are very nice and we usually hang out around campus because we can't get into bars since we're not 21," said Lucki. "We like hanging out in the room or at a guy friend's house usually."

Most of her free time is reserved for her boyfriend.

"He is great. I am always with him between classes. All my free time, I try to be with him," said Lucki.

In many ways Natasha's day begins routinely and parallels any other college student's. She calls her parents every week and went home for Christmas. What's not ordinary is that her parents are thousands of miles from UNCA.

"My dad came last year, but they don't get to come too often because it's too expensive to get here. I won't go home again until next Christmas," said Lucki. She wakes up at 7:30 a.m. After her morning classes begin at 8:00 a.m., she eats lunch in the cafeteria. "I come back to my room and rest a little bit (after lunch)," said Lucki. "The rest of the afternoon is spent preparing for and attending a two-hour practice every day."

After practice she showers, goes to dinner and then studies for her sports medicine, chemistry, health

and fitness or Language 102 classes. Natasha holds a 3.4 GPA and hopes to go to graduate school to be a physical therapist.

"During the week, I don't get too much sleep, so on the weekends I try to sleep as much as I can," said Lucki. "I don't work now. I want to stay here and work this summer to make some money. I will get a job on campus in the gym or something because that is where I have to work. I can't work off-campus since I'm an international student."

"When I graduate, if I don't find a job, then I have to go back to Brazil, but I can stay if I go to graduate school," said Lucki.

"I have an uncle who lives in Jacksonville, and a friend who goes to University of Central Florida," said Lucki. "I want to go to Florida, maybe Jacksonville. It's warmer there. It's cold here. I am not used to the cold weather because Brazil is really hot."

"If I graduate and get a job then my employer will write a letter to the government and they can give me permission to stay on a work permit."

The weeks during tennis season become quite a routine, according to Natasha. She follows everyday patterns and hangs around campus on the weekends. As a hard-working athlete, Natasha devotes most of her day to tennis. With the season done, her focus will turn to finding a job for the summertime and playing some tennis now and then.

### Opinion

the electricity of the game will be enough to make you forget about that little basketball tournament every year because you'll be busy watching the quest for the Cup.

It's not too late to get into hockey this year. There are still three full rounds remaining. Take advantage of them. Next time you're flipping through the channels give the NHL

playoffs a try. They're not as well publicized as other major sports but you just might like what you see. The playoffs only come once a year. Take advantage of them.

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