

## SPORTS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

by Joe Srebalus  
Staff Reporter

## UNCA

Junior forward Jordan Holthouser and junior goalkeeper Mich Mattos were named the Big South players of the week for men's and women's soccer for their performances last week. Holthouser scored three goals during the week, while Mattos posted two shutouts.

## MLB

Barry Bonds was tested for steroids Sept. 24, the night before his game against the Dodgers, according to the *Contra Costa Times*. The results of drug tests are not released to the public unless a player tests positive twice.

MLB decided to use special balls for the Seattle Mariners as their outfielder Ichiro Suzuki approaches the league record of 257 hits in a season. These special balls are numbered and marked with a hologram. Suzuki currently sitting on 254 hits, has five games left to break the record set by George Sisler in 1920.

The 2003 World Series Champion Florida Marlins were eliminated from postseason contention following their 6-3 loss to the Atlanta Braves. Marlins manager Jack McKeon blamed his team's poor performance partly to the hurricane season that has hampered Florida for the past month and half.

## NFL

The Oakland Raiders lost quarterback Rich Gannon for six weeks after he broke a vertebra in his neck following a helmet-to-helmet collision. Gannon missed most of the 2003 season after going on the injured reserve because of shoulder surgery.

Tennessee Titans' quarterback Steve McNair was taken to the hospital after bruising his sternum during a loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars Sept. 26. McNair was not allowed to speak to reporters while waiting in the training room because he was having trouble taking deep breaths.

The Philadelphia Eagles improved to 3-0 for the 2004 season after defeating the Detroit Lions Sept. 26. It marks the best start for the Eagles since 1993 when they began 4-0. Terrell Owens, who the Eagles acquired in the off-season, already has seven touchdowns in 2004.

## NCAA FOOTBALL

Kyle Orton continues to make his case for Heisman Trophy consideration after completing 35-of-50 passes for 336 yards and four touchdowns in Purdue's win at Illinois. Orton has not thrown an interception all year. Purdue is 3-0 and ranked 15 in the latest polls.

Wisconsin fullback Matt Bernstein, put in one of the most inspirational performances this year after fasting for 24 hours before his team's game against Penn State Sept. 25. Bernstein did not eat for 24 hours in observance of the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur. He received an IV prior to the game and then proceeded to rush for 123 yards on 27 attempts in the Wisconsin win.

Wyatt Sexton will make his first career start for the Florida State Seminoles Oct. 2 against the North Carolina Tar Heels. Sexton replaces the often-criticized Chris Rix, who injured his ankle Sept. 25 in the Seminoles' win against Clemson.

## NBA

After many rumors began to spread last week of another Michael Jordan comeback, it was Jordan who quickly ended all speculation. Jordan went on ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption* and cleared up all confusion of a possible return. Rumors circulated that Jordan would join Shaquille O'Neal in Miami for the 2004-2005 season.

## Holthouser gets hat trick, 'Dogs remain No. 1

by Amber Saint Clair  
Staff Reporter

After a disappointing 3-0 loss at East Carolina University Sept. 19, the UNCA men's soccer team rebounded to defeat High Point University 3-1 with a hat trick from Jordan Holthouser Sept. 22.

"It's very rare that players get hat tricks, and those are the only three goals you score," said Head Coach Steve Cornish. "One was a penalty, which was a well-struck penalty, but the other two goals, in terms of the buildup and the execution and finish, were just phenomenal. I sat back and I felt thoroughly entertained. Jordan's a special player."

Locke also recently won the Big South Player of the Week award for a second time in his UNCA career.

East Carolina out shot UNCA 11-4. Bulldog midfielder Nathan Neal took two shots, both saved by Pirate keeper Brian Pope, while forwards Barrett Locke and Daniel Bandoly each took one shot.

"(ECU) kept us at arms length most of the game," said Cornish. "They added a second (goal) just before halftime, and we changed our formation a little bit to see if that made a difference and it did. I thought we had some good chances. Their goalkeeper made a couple of sharp saves."

East Carolina proved to be a strong opposing force, according to midfielder Cameron Allison.

"They were good," said Allison. "They definitely have some good players. They were quick, and they were able to get in behind our defense well."

Both Cornish and Allison believe that a lack of preparation may have cost the Bulldogs the win.



ANGIE FESPERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Forward Jordan Holthouser got a hat trick when he scored all three of UNCA's goals against High Point University Sept. 22.

"No excuses, but we didn't get to practice on Friday because of the hurricane, and then we had to travel on Saturday and played on Sunday. That might be a reason why we came out flat," said Allison, undeclared sophomore.

Many UNCA players held injuries that affected their performance, according to Cornish.

"We were running on one leg most of the time," he said.

The Bulldogs came back when they played the High Point Panthers three days later.

Forward Jordan Holthouser scored all three goals in the game for the Bulldogs.

Holthouser became the first Bulldog to record a hat trick in Big

South Conference play since the 1990 season, according to Sports Information Director Mike Gore.

"It was a great soccer match. Either team really could have won it, and Holthouser was the difference," said Cornish. "We played very, very well the whole game. It was a nice rebound after ECU."

The Bulldogs showed more energy when ECU pressured them.

"They're a good team, but at times we dominated play and our

players came up big, like Jordan," said Michael

Pereira, undeclared freshman keeper.

"I was definitely pretty nervous, at times in the game, especially at the end when we were just trying to hold them off," he said.

Allison is also pleased with UNCA's performance during the match.

"The High Point game was a good game for us. It put us 2-0 in the conference, which is big, that's what matters most," said Allison. "We played very well as a team."

High Point took 15 shots, only one less than UNCA, but the Bulldogs' defense worked hard and Pereira made seven saves, three more than High Point keeper Matt Long.

"Pereira made a big-time save to keep it 1-0 in the first half and made another save to keep it 3-1 in the second half, and they missed a couple of full chances," said Cornish.

"If they had pulled it back to 3-2 with 15 minutes to go, then it's 'game on', and who knows what would have happened?"

Allison also credits the Bulldogs with strong possession of the ball.

"We worked the ball around well, switched the field," said Allison. "That's how we were able to get in behind them and get open shots like that."

The win against High Point put UNCA No. 1 in the Big South Conference, according to the Big South Web site.

"It's nice to be number one for now, and hopefully we'll keep it for the rest of the season," said Pereira.

Allison is excited about the Big South ranking, as well.

"That's very important; to be number one in the conference. We're in a tough conference, and we've got a lot of

good teams," he said. Cornish is happy with the result but he has a few plans to improve the Bulldogs' game.

"Going forward, I still think we need to do a couple of different options, and we've got to start to work on our set pieces as well," he said.

"It's always good to win on the road in conference. We've got some very, very tough games coming up."

**"It's very rare that players get hat tricks and those are the only three goals you score."**

Steve Cornish  
Head Coach  
men's soccer

School	Overall			BSC		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
UNCA	3	0	0	4	3	0
Liberty	1	1	0	4	3	1
BSC	1	1	0	4	3	0
VMI	0	0	1	3	3	1
Winthrop	0	0	0	2	5	0
Coastal	1	2	0	6	2	0
Radford	0	1	1	1	1	3
High Point	0	1	0	4	4	0

## Bulldogs lose to Furman after close match

by Michael Davis  
Staff Reporter

The UNCA women's volleyball team hosted the Furman University Paladins in a match that took five games to decide the victor Sept. 21 in the Justice Center. UNCA took the lead early in all but the fifth game, but ultimately lost the momentum.

"We played hard, and we're getting better," said Head Coach Julie Torbett, according to the UNCA Web site. "But we had leads in the second and third games and just couldn't finish the games off. We need to get better in that area. However, I'm proud of the way we fought the whole match and never quit."

The scores for the match were 30-27, 28-30, 28-30, 30-26 and 13-15.

In the fifth game, Furman raced to a 7-2 lead, but Rose Butler and Elif Unlu led the Bulldogs to tie the match 11-11.

Chibuzo Aguocha then scored two kills for Furman to push the lead to 13-11. Unlu took UNCA to 14-13, but Whitney Purser finished the match with a kill to give the Paladins the win.

UNCA won two games, but lost 15-13 in the final game. The Bulldogs were led by Unlu who had 15 kills and 14 digs.

Allison Lambert added a career-high 14 kills and seven blocks.

Rose Butler chipped in 12 kills and 15 digs, while Talia Ogle had 10 kills and 13 digs.

Aguocha had a game high 22 kills and 11 digs for Furman. Whitney Purser and Ally Hock combined for 37 kills. Julia Frederickson added 16 kills and six blocks.

All team members fill out an

evaluation after each game.

"While the match is fresh in their minds, we have them fill out an evaluation form," said Torbett. "I think it helps to go back and see right after it happens, what it was, what they need to fix and what it is we need to work on. They are very studious players, and very smart."

The Bulldogs had the lead in two of the three games in which they lost.

"We are the better team. I think we should have won in three. We blew it with mental lapses," said Torbett. "We needed to finish the match, and we didn't finish it."

Torbett tries to create the kind of scenarios in practice sessions that the players saw in competition with Furman.

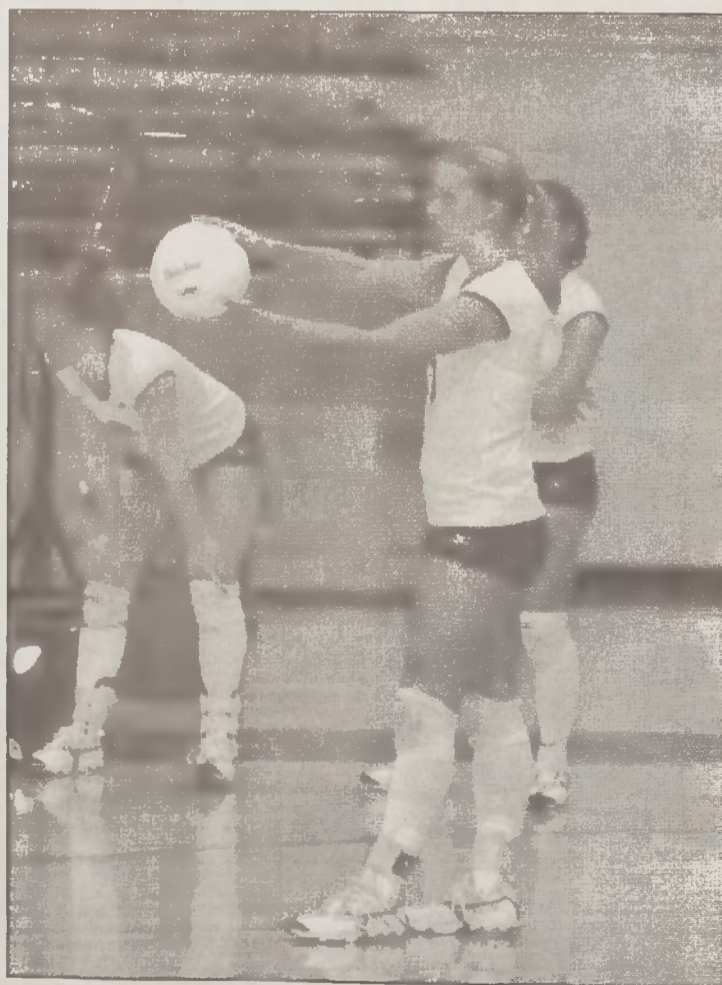
"That's one problem that we are having. It is very hard to fix that problem because it is very hard to create that situation in practice," said Torbett. "To actually have a match on the line and to have it come down to crunch time, it's not real in practice. That's a difficult one to fix. It's a mental thing."

The team is able to keep up the intensity during each game, but at the end, it doesn't come together.

"We are just having a hard time executing at the end of games. We play well throughout the whole game, and then when it comes down the very end, we are not finishing like we need to," said Butler. "We are in shape, but it's just a mental block at the end of games we have to overcome."

The defensive lapse and recovery in the fifth game was fresh in minds.

"In the fifth game we gave away seven points in the beginning, which made it very, very hard for us to come back," said Butler. "We just made too many errors on our



JOANNE HUGHES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Krysti Havens saw action in 110 of 112 games last season and is a strong player in the libero position.

side."

Furman went on a serving run and that helped their game.

"In tight situations, like especially in the third game that we lost, we will let them go on a serving run," said Megan Murphy. "We fought really hard. I thought it could have gone either way."

The Bulldogs did not get in as many shots as Furman.

"In certain situations we tried to kill the ball rather than just place it," said Murphy. "They're

a big team. They played good defense on the other side."

The deciding match came up again.

"When it's such a short game, only to 15, being down by four or five points in the beginning is just hard, and we never had the lead in that game," said Murphy. "We tend to do that more in the fifth game. We get down real early and have to fight our way back. That's something we need to work on; jumping on them from the start."

## Tennis teams participate in invitationals

by Micheal Davis  
Staff Reporter

The UNCA men's and women's tennis teams attended their second meet of the 2004 season with the men at the N.C. State Wolfpack Invitational and the women at the UNC Wilmington Invitational Sept. 17-19.

"I can't win matches. It comes down to the players and they have to win the matches," said Head Coach Chase Hodges. "It's all about recruiting. Luckily I have been able to bring in some recruits that have taken us to the next level. We are a lot more competitive now. Both programs are headed in the right direction."

Senior Julien Vulliez took second place in the Wolfpack Invitational. Vulliez had four victories on his way to taking second place.

In the first round he downed John Bustamante of UNC Greensboro, 6-0, 6-7, 6-2. He defeated Tygh Carstens in the second round, 7-6, 6-7, 10-5.

In the quarterfinals, Vulliez rallied after falling behind to Ben Zink, 4-6, 7-6, 10-5. In the semi-finals, he won in two games over Charlie Drew, 6-3, 6-1.

Vulliez fell in the championship match to Mason Schermerhorn of N.C. State.

"(Julien) had to fight and battle in every one of his matches to reach the finals. I was really pleased to see how he played and competed," said Hodges, according to the UNCA Web site.

Vulliez recounted his finals match

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