

SPORTS

NEWS BRIEFS

by Joe Srebalus
Staff Reporter

NCAA FOOTBALL

■ The Auburn Tigers moved into a tie for second place in the Associated Press poll after defeating the previously sixth ranked Georgia Bulldogs 24-6. Auburn is now tied with Oklahoma for second, with bot teams sporting 10-0 records. USC remained unbeaten as well, knocking off Arizona 49-9 and holding at No. 1 in the poll.

■ NCAA investigators will visit the campus of Ohio State University this week in response to allegations made by former football player Maurice Clarett. Clarett revealed in an interview for *ESPN The Magazine*, that while at Ohio State, he received cars, passing grades by professors and thousands of dollars from numerous school boosters. Ohio State Athletic Director Andy Geiger denies all allegations.

MLB

■ The San Francisco Giants began the 2004 free agency signing period by inking shortstop Omar Vizquel to a three-year deal worth \$12.25 million. Vizquel, along with several other big name players including Carlos Beltran, Pedro Martinez, Adrian Beltré, and Carlos Delgado, filed for free agency this year.

MLS

■ D.C. United won their fourth MLS Cup in franchise history, with a 3-2 win over Kansas City. United spotted Kansas City a one goal lead early in the first half, but came back to score three goals in a seven minute span to end the first half. D.C. United is the only team besides the San Jose Earthquakes to have won multiple titles (two) in league history.

NFL

■ Eli Manning will take over as starting quarterback for the New York Giants following the Giants loss to the Arizona Cardinals, their second loss in as many weeks.

Manning will replace Kurt Warner when the Giants face the Atlanta Falcons this weekend. Manning, the younger brother of Indianapolis Colts' quarterback Peyton Manning, was the first pick in this year's NFL draft.

■ After throwing for 320 yards and five touchdowns, Peyton Manning is on pace to break Dan Marino's record of 48 touchdown passes in a season. Manning currently sits at 31 on the season and has led the Indianapolis Colts to a 6-3 start. Manning already exceeded his total from last year and he still has seven games remaining to catch Marino's record.

■ The Pittsburgh Steelers continue to be the NFL's hottest team, after defeating the Cleveland Browns, 24-10. They are now 8-1 on the year.

Rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is now 7-0, marking the best start by a rookie quarterback since the league merger in 1970. The Steelers will travel to Cincinnati to face the Bengals this weekend.

NBA

■ Even after losing All-Star point guard Steve Nash to the Phoenix Suns during the off-season, the Dallas Mavericks reloaded and look better than they did at the beginning of the NBA season.

The Mavericks, led by Dirk Nowitzki, have only lost once in their first eight games. Rookie pointguard Devon Harris and new acquisition Jason Terry have picked up in the absence of Nash.

'Dogs set record in final tournament

by Michael Davis
Staff Reporter

The UNCA men's cross country team took 16th place, and the women took 22nd place in the NCAA Southeast Regional at Lake Kristi in Greenville, N.C. Nov. 13. For the men's team, the 16th place finish was the highest ever for the Bulldogs.

UNCA finished just behind North Carolina and ahead of such schools as East Carolina, Richmond, Kentucky and Western Kentucky.

Senior Phil Latter led the men's team finishing in 38th place with a time of 31:24 over the 10K course. David Bell ran second for the Bulldogs and finished in 69th place with a time of 32:08. Carmin Mazzotta took 77th place with a time of 32:16, while junior Root Kirbach came in 98th at a time of 32:43. Nick Christian finished up the Bulldogs scoring in 168th place with a time of 34:46.

"At the mile I was probably at 150th place. I knew my pace, I could feel it and I could hear the guys around me breathing a lot harder than I was," said Latter. "A guy I have been running against from Appalachian State for four years started weaving his way through the traffic. I got in his wake, then went by him and kept picking off people."

The final meters of a regional race is always a sprint with the best ranked schools fighting for position, according to Latter.

"I was actually beating Chapel Hill's top guy until the last two hundred meters," said Latter. "It's nice to be beating big schools like them, and schools that are ranked about ten spots higher than we are. I think I am the highest finisher in UNCA history for the guys. Devon (Nemire-Pepe) was the highest for the girls last year when she got 33rd."

Head coach Dean Duncan talked about the kind of athletes he sends to regional tournaments for UNCA.

"I believe very strongly that if someone is running races well mentally, and they are putting forth that great effort, those are the people I want to line up for UNCA," said Duncan. "When I line those individuals up, I don't have a doubt in my mind about what they are going to do."

Nick Christian set personal records at the 3K, 5K, 8K and 10K marks in this race, according to Latter.

Latter is graduating this semester, and when asked what was the best thing about his career at UNCA, he told a story of personal growth.

"I was not a highly recruited kid out of high school,"



BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The women's team practices before going to the NCAA Southeast Regional where they placed 22nd overall. The men's team finished 16th overall, setting a new record finish for the Bulldogs.

he said. "I think my confidence in myself has grown, not the cocky side, but that sense if you put your mind to it, then you can do it."

For the women's team, senior Tiffany Carberry finished in 91st place with a time of 22:46 over the 6K course. Junior Kimberly Worlund came in 111th place with a time of 23:07. Elsa Allsteadt followed, coming in 129th with a time of 23:34. Freshman Hannah Bolen took 136th with a time of 23:51, while fellow freshman Ingrid Allsteadt came in 143rd at a time of 24:05.

The Bulldogs did not have the services of All-Conference performer Devon Nemire-Pepe who is experiencing knee pain, according to Carberry.

"I felt like I got out pretty well. It was in the 2-3K range I probably could have responded a lot better to external factors, the competition," said Carberry. "That is something I can take as a learning experience and bring it to the next race."

There were around 200 competitors in the race, according to the host Web site.

"I have had better races, I have had worse races. I could have responded better in certain areas of the race," said Carberry. "I could have gone with girls that passed me. It was very crowded in some areas. A couple girls around me almost fell. You almost have to be careful."

Carberry will finish her UNCA studies and running career in the spring with indoor and outdoor track.

"I am studying management with a concentration in marketing, and a minor in economics," she said.

Coach Duncan stressed that at UNCA his athletes need to do more than just do the workouts to compete for him.

"I look for all the things an elite athlete needs to do to be successful," said Duncan. "Taking care of all the other stresses of life as it is at UNCA being a good academic school."

'Dogs upset Winthrop in tournament opener

by Amber Saint Clair
Staff Reporter

The UNCA men's soccer team tied 1-1 with Appalachian State University Nov. 6 before going on to reach the semifinals of the Big South Conference Tournament, losing 1-0 to Coastal Carolina University.

The Mountaineers scored 10 minutes into the match, controlling the game until Bulldog midfielder Greg Yelverton blasted the ball in 50 minutes later. Despite double overtime, neither team scored again.

"At the end of the day, 1-1 was probably the right result," said head coach Steve Cornish. "I felt good about the way we played. We're undefeated in the last three games now and that's very important, and we've played well in the last five. We created a number of chances again, and you could just see that there's an increase in confidence in the players now."

The Mountaineers out shot the Bulldogs, 10-9. Bulldog keeper Michael Pereira had three saves in the last 50 minutes of the game, after replacing starting goalie Ben Saylor.

"We really got the ball around well, and then all of a sudden we coughed up a silly goal after 10 minutes, where very much against the run of play, (Appalachian) goes up 1-0," said Cornish.

"It's a testament to the character of our team, we kept plugging away. We had a couple of good chances, but they also looked a little threatening. I thought that if they could get a second goal, they could be very difficult for us."

Many fans were relieved that the Bulldogs were able to end their last match without a loss.

"Being the last game, I'm glad that they didn't lose, and that they played well enough to stay tied," said Nabi, a spectator of the game. "Greg (Yelverton) scored and that's good, since he's a senior and it's his last home game."

Remaining undefeated in the last three games helped the Bulldogs maintain momentum as they entered the Big South Conference Tournament Nov. 13.

"It helped out a lot, not losing before the conference tournament. We had a little



MAGGIE WEST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior midfielder John Chapuis practices with the team. The bulldogs played Winthrop in the first round of the Big South Tournament, winning 1-0.

streak going into the tournament," said Pereira, freshman. "We were pretty confident going in."

Seeded-sixth in the conference, UNCA's first match took place against third-seeded Winthrop University. When UNCA faced Winthrop a few weeks ago, they took a 4-0 defeat, but the Bulldogs remained confident in their ability to win in the tournament.

"The first time we played them, the score shows that they just killed us, but we knew we could beat them," said Pereira. "We couldn't finish our chances the first time, and in the second game we were able to come through in the end and beat them."

Although the Bulldogs felt that they played well against Winthrop earlier in the season, they knew they would have to work to correct their mistakes in order to prevent another loss.

"I thought we'd played decently enough to get something, but we didn't, and now we've got to tighten up defensively," said Cornish.

Cornish relied on the players, from seniors to freshmen, to come together and work as a team to take the win.

"The important thing is to play well, stay healthy, to make sure you don't pick up any silly cards, and, above all, to create a rhythm so that you can go into the tournament on a positive note," said Cornish.

UNCA succeeded in creating that rhythm, defeating Winthrop 1-0, despite Winthrop out shooting UNCA 25-13. Yelverton took four shots, while freshman midfielder Nathan Neal took three. Pereira made nine saves, compared to the five saves by the Winthrop keeper.

The following day, UNCA took on second-seeded Coastal Carolina University. The Chanticleers scored eight minutes into the game, and while UNCA kept them from scoring for the remainder of the game, they were unable to score themselves.

"They've been playing really well recently, just killing all of the teams they've been playing, so we knew they were going to be good," said Pereira. "At the end, we had a lot of chances, but definitely in the first half and, for portions of the second, they dominated

Vince Carter: not the next Michael Jordan

Laura Kirby
Staff Reporter

Five years ago, Vince Carter was labeled by many as the next Michael Jordan. Today, the Raptors' "franchise player" does not lead his team in any statistical category, and the former "Slam Dunk King" has only recorded two dunks in seven games so far this season.

In Toronto's recent road game in Portland, the Raptors were trailing by as many as 20 during the game, only to make an epic fourth quarter rally. Air Carter observed the game's final quarter from the bench, with a towel wrapped around his head and watched his team make their unsuccessful comeback.

Carter finished with four points in that game and recorded only 12 points when the Raptors did the unprecedented, and beat the NBA's reigning champions, the Detroit Pistons.

When he does make a shot, it is usually a mid-range jumper or a three-pointer, which is uncharacteristic if you compare the Vince Carter of today to the Vince Carter of the 2000-01 season, when he averaged 27.6 points per game (fifth in the league that season). Today his scoring average is a little more than half of that.

Carter is currently tied for second on his team in scoring, as both he and

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