

Sports

SPORTS BRIEFS

by Dustin Jordan
Staff Photographer/Reporter

NBA

■With a 109-94 loss to the Seattle SuperSonics, the Minnesota Timberwolves will miss the playoffs. Representing the Western Conference is Phoenix, San Antonio, Seattle, Dallas, Houston, Sacramento, Denver and Memphis.

Representing the Eastern Conference is Miami, Detroit, Boston, Chicago, Washington and Indiana. Cleveland, New Jersey or Philadelphia will fill the remaining two spots.

NBDL

■The Asheville Altitude is set to defend their title after beating the Huntsville Flight 90-86. They will meet the Columbus Riverdragons in the NBDL Championship game April 23 at 7 p.m. The Altitude is in route to become the first team to win the league's post-season championship in back-to-back years.

NCAA Men's Basketball

■Wake Forest sophomore Chris Paul, the All-American point guard, is giving up his final two years of eligibility with the Demon Deacons to enter the NBA draft.

North Carolina junior guard Rashad McCants made the same announcement April 13. UNC will already lose seniors Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel and Melvin Scott because of graduation.

Other ACC players with similar choices yet to make, include Carolina's Raymond Felton, Sean May and Marvin Williams, as well as Duke's J.J. Redick and Sheldon Williams. Maryland may lose John Gilchrist. Miami's Guillermo Diaz may leave school early too.

Players must apply for the draft by May 14, but if they don't sign with an agent, they can withdraw from the draft by June 21.

NCAA Football

■Steve Spurrier's University of South Carolina Gamecocks look to improve from seasons past. Spurrier, USC's new head coach and former Florida coach, coming off a disappointing stint with the NFL's Washington Redskins, took over the team in November, replacing the retired Lou Holtz.

■Dave Wannstedt's first season as head coach of Pittsburgh started well. The Panthers' first spring game under Wannstedt yielded two rarities for Pitt: A power-running game and a turn away crowd. The team was greeted at a nearby high school by 8,007 fans, more than any spring game under Walt Harris' eight seasons as coach.

MLB

■After the altercation between Yankee's outfielder Gary Sheffield and a fan at Boston's Fenway Park, it doesn't look like police or MLB officials will take action against either man.

The confrontation came in Boston's 8-5 win over New York on April 14. Sheffield was fielding a two-run triple when the fan reached over the wall. Sheffield said the fan hit him in the face.

Sheffield shoved the fan before throwing the ball back to the infield. He then moved toward the fan and a security guard got between them. The fan was ejected from the ballpark, but not arrested.

■In their first year back to Washington, the Nationals are leading the NL East with a record of 8-4. They currently hold a five-game winning streak.

Baseball team drops series to Liberty Flames

by Tracy Horne
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs lost a three-game series to the Liberty University Flames at Worthington Stadium in Lynchburg, V.A., April 9-11.

"Liberty is a good team," said Tony Campana, freshman outfielder. "We knew it would be tough going in."

The Flames fed off one big inning to take game one 21-1.

"Big innings kill you," said coach Willie Stewart. "We have preached that all year."

The Bulldogs committed five errors in the fourth inning, which led to the Flames bringing in 12 runs off nine hits.

The Bulldogs started the game off with a run after Kevin Mattison reached first on a fielder's choice.

Mattison later stole second, moved to third on a ground out and scored on a wild pitch.

Liberty quickly answered back, scoring one run in the first and five in the third. Then in the fourth inning, Liberty brought the score 18-1.

The last three Liberty runs came in the seventh inning.

Liberty's Derek Bennion hit a double, which brought in Travis Johnson.

Jeremy Hendricks came in as a pinch hitter and hit an RBI single to center field. Bennion later scored on a sacrifice fly by Nate Maddox.

"They hit the ball really well and we didn't hit the ball at all," said Campana.

Chris White, undeclared freshman, took the loss for the Bulldogs, giving up 12 runs on eight hits in 3.1 innings.

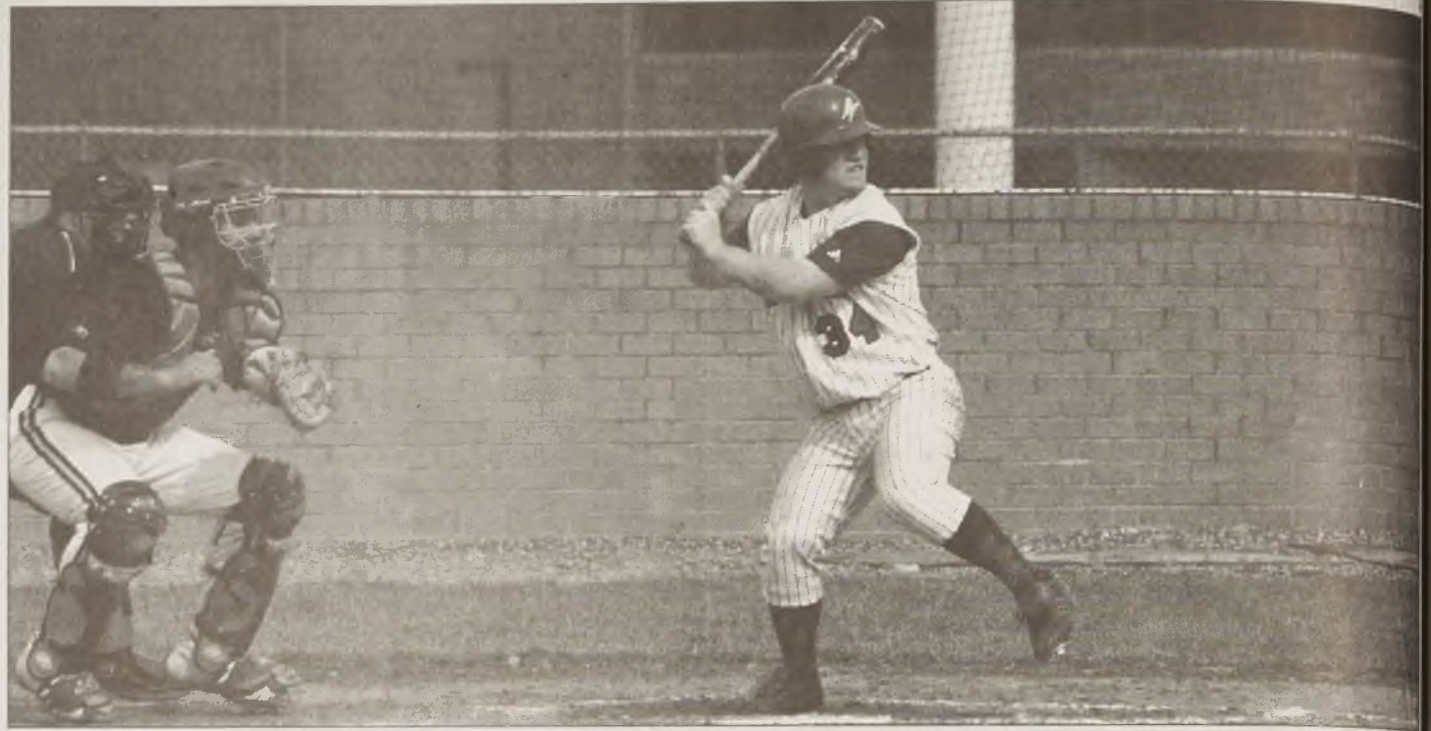
Andrew Alexander, junior management student, gave up six unearned runs in 2.2 innings.

For the Flames, Michael Solbach threw seven innings, giving up one run on three hits and striking out two.

Billy Daniels pitched the final two innings giving up one hit and striking out two.

Campana, Chad Gregson, undeclared freshman, Nathan Durham, junior atmospheric science student, and Ben Kerr, sophomore management student, all had hits for the Bulldogs.

"We had a bad day. We didn't play good



Junior Nathan Durham bats for the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs host Radford University April 22-24.

baseball," said Stewart. "Game one set the tempo for the entire weekend."

The Bulldogs left eight runners on base in the second game and handed the 5-1 win over to the Flames.

Liberty started the first inning off with a solo homerun from Aaron Grijalve to put them ahead 1-0.

"We had better pitching in game two, and we took a stronger approach at the plate, but we couldn't get any runs," said Elliott Arrington, freshman first baseman.

The Flames crossed home plate three more times in the fifth off back-to-back RBI triples by Chad Miller and Michael Just and a sacrifice fly by Grijalve.

The Bulldogs got on the board in the seventh as John Whitted hit an RBI single to center field to score Kerr.

Liberty's last run came off Jeff Brown's solo homer in the bottom of the eighth to finalize the score at 5-1.

"(Liberty) didn't hit as well in the second game but neither did we," said Campana.

Tim Johnson took the loss for the Bulldogs, throwing six innings, giving up

four runs on five hits, walking three and striking out four.

"Johnson pitched well in game two, but it's hard to bounce back from a game like the first one," said Stewart.

David Bechtold got the win for the Flames pitching seven innings, giving up one run on six hits and striking out six.

For the Bulldogs, Durham went 2-for-4 and Campana, Josh Coyle and Johnny Martinez all had hits.

Liberty's P.K. Keller hit a three-run homer in the third game to help complete the Flames' three game sweep of the Bulldogs with a final score of 14-3.

After only four innings, Liberty held a lead of 12-1, scoring three runs in the first, one in the second and third, and seven in the fourth.

"We had too many errors in game three and it all went downhill from there," said Campana.

Mattison gave the Bulldogs their first run, as he scored off Durham's double down the right field line in the first inning.

The Bulldogs scored again in the sixth

and seventh.

In the sixth, Campana lead off with a single, then advanced to second on a ground out and was brought in off Arrington's RBI single.

In the seventh, Kerr doubled down the left field line to get on base, moved to third on a fielder's choice and scored on a fielder's choice hit by Campana.

Graham Baughn came in as a relief pitcher throwing 3.1 innings giving up three hits, two runs and striking out two.

For the Flames, Chris Zuvich pitched three innings giving up two runs on seven hits. "To watch these young guys get better the season goes on is our main concern," said Stewart.

The Bulldogs committed too many errors over the entire series, according to Campana.

"We didn't hit, pitch or field the ball well all weekend, and you're not going to win when you do that," said Arrington.

The Bulldogs host Radford University at Greenwood Field for a three-game series April 22-24.

'Dogs place well at Duke Invitational

by Ben Walsh
Staff Reporter

The UNCA track and field team competed in several events at the Duke Invitational on April 9.

"I thought we had a pretty good weekend," said coach Dean Duncan.

Senior Nathan Hedgpeth finished second in the discus with a throw of 52.12 meters.

"That is the highest we've placed a thrower there ever," said Duncan. "It's a very good throwing meet and he placed well against some good competition."

Hedgpeth also earned a fourth place finish with a toss of 15.6 meters in the shot put.

"It's probably the best performance I've had so far this year based on both events," said Hedgpeth, biology student.

Duncan said Hedgpeth continues to improve with every meet.

"I finally got an OK mark in the shot put," said Hedgpeth. "I also increased my personal record in the discus by two meters, so I was very happy about that."

Hedgpeth is less than a meter from hitting the regional mark in the shot put, according to Duncan.

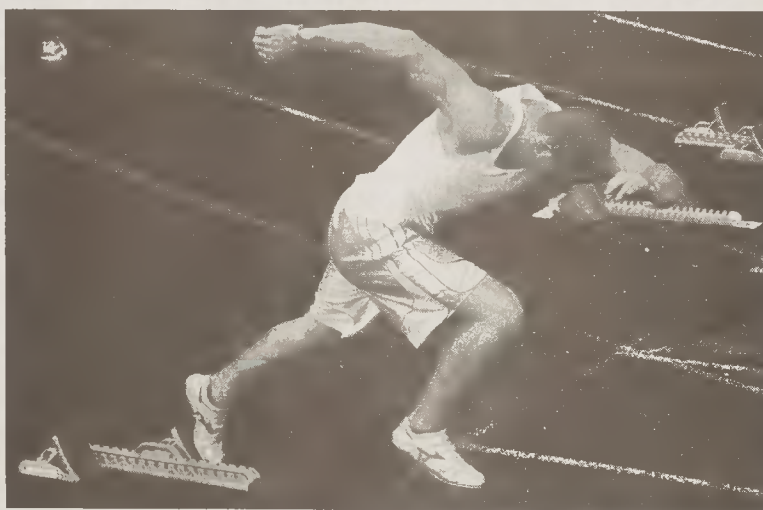
Troy Young, undeclared junior, recorded a throw of 52.16 meters in the javelin for an 11th place finish.

"We had a good javelin throw from Young considering the weather conditions," said Duncan. "We had a really bad headwind the night we had the javelin."

Thirty mph winds and heavy rains made it difficult for the team to have their best performances, according to Duncan.

"I think we raced as well as we could have," said Duncan.

In the 1,500-meter run, David Bell, junior environmental science student, finished 17th with a time of 4 minutes, 68 seconds.



DUSTIN JORDAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/REPORTER

Junior Troy Young recorded a throw of 52.16 meters in the javelin for an 11th-place finish at the Duke Invitational on April 9.

"Dave Bell ran a good 1,500," said Duncan. "It was a good race on his part."

Jason Jackson, sophomore economics student, also improved his time in the 800, according to Duncan.

Emily Mase, undeclared freshman, led the women with a time of 4:45.72 in the 1500 for a 10th place finish. Tiffany Carberry, senior management student, finished close behind in 14th place, while senior Loring Watkins finished 20th.

"We had a really good weekend in the 1,500 on the women's side," said Duncan.

Mase ran another personal best and is ranked in the conference, according to Duncan.

Carberry moved into eighth place in the conference with the race, according to Duncan.

"Carberry won her heat in the 800," said Duncan. "It's getting to be close to a personal best for her, and she's coming around at the right time."

The race went well and was highly competitive, according to Carberry. "I ended up passing three or four

girls in the last quarter of the race," said Carberry. "It was a huge confidence booster after that race."

Carberry and Mase rank in the top eight in the 800 in the conference, according to Duncan.

Ingrid Allstaedt, undeclared freshman, also has a chance to make the conference finals in the 800, according to Duncan.

"If things go well we will have three women in the finals in the 800," said Duncan. "We hope that will happen."

Senior Tanya Harris finished 10th in the 400 with a time of 55.84.

Harris leads the Big South conference in the 400 rankings, according to Duncan.

"She has a two second lead going into the conference meet," said Duncan. "That will give her a lot of confidence."

Harris also set a new personal record in the 200 and moved into third place in the conference rankings, according to Duncan.

"We're hoping for big things out of Tanya," said Duncan.

UNCA dance team places sixth in the nation

by Tiffanie Tatum
Staff Reporter

The UNCA dance team and cheerleading squad placed in top positions at the 2005 Chic-Fil-A Cheer and Dance Collegiate Nationals.

"The dance team received a first-place trophy for winning the Challenge Cup and a trophy for placing six in finals," said Jamie Osteen, head coach of both teams.

"The dance team was the first from UNCA to ever make the finals from either cheer or dance."

Also, the cheerleading team brought home a ninth place trophy in the Challenge Cup, according to Osteen.

"They were also the first cheer team to bring home a trophy," said Osteen. "I am very proud of both of my teams. They did an excellent job and represented UNCA well. We all should be very proud of both of these teams and how they represented UNCA."

In the Cheerleading and Dance Nationals, each team is divided into two different competitions, according to Osteen.

The cheerleading squad could have competed in either Division I Large Coed, Small Coed Division I or the Open Intermediate, according to Osteen.

Then, once in, each team participating must go through preliminaries, and advances to the finals if the score is high enough, according to senior Rebekah Andrews, captain of the dance team.

Any schools that want to participate in the Cheer and Dance Collegiate Nationals receive a bid at the NCA/NDA college cheer and dance camp, according to Osteen.

"Both teams received their bids at

camp this year," said Osteen. "It's harder to receive a bid at camp than it is by video."

Once admitted to nationals, the preparations of nationals start in August and continue all year.

"We practice all year in order to learn the basic skills involved in performing a cheerleading routine," said Devon Helfmeyer, sophomore political science student. "We practiced about three hours a night for two weeks straight."

This year the National Dance Alliance (NDA) formed a new division for small schools like UNCA called the Open Division.

"It was a whole lot easier competing against smaller schools like Loyola University," said Andrews. "We found the competition more to our level."

Even though UNCA is a Division I school, it was difficult for them to compete against other Division I schools because most schools are larger than UNCA, such as UNC-Chapel Hill.

"Competing against Division I schools is intimidating, say the least," said Helfmeyer. "The best way to approach the competition is not to think who you are competing against but to just do your best and hope that's good enough."

Also, the larger Division I schools are able to offer scholarships to members unlike UNCA.

In order for the teams to go to nationals, they have to raise money to pay for each member to attend.

Both teams raise money by having car washes or working at the Asheville Civic Center where they run a concession stand for movie events, according to Andrews.

However, not all the money raised and members have to pay out of pocket to attend nationals, according to Andrews.