

Torbett kicks off 13th season

By Ben Walsh
STAFF WRITER

For the 13th consecutive season, Julie Torbett, volleyball head coach, leads the Bulldogs on and off the court.

"She is the best coach I have ever had," said Talia Ogle, junior literature student. "She has taught me so much about volleyball and life."

Torbett gives her players guidance as a coach, according to Krysti Havens, senior management student.

"She supports all of her athletes and the athletic program in general," Havens said. "She likes to promote women in sports, as well as volleyball."

With a career record of 190-164, Torbett holds the best coaching record in UNCA volleyball history.

Torbett's career also includes a long list of personal athletic accomplishments.

At Eisenhower High School in Russell, Pa., she lettered in volleyball for four years. She led her team to three league championships and received team MVP honors two years in a row.

Torbett also excelled in basketball and track and field. She set school records in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles that still stand today.

Torbett's success continued at Penn State as a middleback defensive specialist for four years.

At Penn State she played under Russ Rose, one of the most successful coaches in the United States, according to Torbett.

After graduating with a degree in exercise and sports science, Torbett moved to Asheville.

She did not plan, however, on becoming a volleyball coach.

"I thought I would go into corporate wellness," Torbett said. "It was big in the early '90s and I was a wellness director here in Asheville for two years."

Torbett soon missed the competition and came to UNCA looking to become involved somehow.

"I offered to volunteer as an assistant and I was hired by the previous coach," Torbett said.

A year later, the head coaching position opened, and Torbett decided to pursue the job.

"It was either go for it or wait and see if the new coach would want me as an assistant," Torbett said. "So I just went for it."

Torbett provides more than just volleyball to the women, according to Havens.

"She helps a lot without us realizing it," Havens said. "She will say something and a month later I will apply it and then realize where it came from."

Torbett really cares about the development of her players, according to Ogle.

"She always makes sure that we know she cares," Ogle said. "She wants us to be awesome volleyball players but great people, too. I think that is a really great benefit of this program."

"Volleyball-wise, my proudest moment was when we won the regular season championship against Winthrop in our gym in 2002," Torbett said. "We were picked last in the conference that year and we finished first."

While enjoying success in recent years, Torbett does not focus on past accomplishments.

"We have done everything that I set out to do when I took over, except win the conference championship," Torbett said. "That is something that has eluded us, so I would like to accomplish that."

Major revamp in works for athletic sites

By Melissa Deckert
STAFF WRITER

UNCA is renovating several of its outdoor athletic facilities to make them safer for athletes, students and community members.

"The main reason we're doing this is a student athlete and student welfare issue," said Janet Cone, athletic director. "Our soccer field was in such bad shape that other teams were refusing to come play us because they felt like it wasn't safe."

Cone's goal for renovation of the athletic facilities is split into two different parts. The first part consists of renovating the outdoor facilities, which include the soccer field, baseball field, track and field, tennis courts and intramural facilities.

"We are looking at our outdoor facilities to make them safer, not only for our student athletes, but for our students and fans that come to watch (games)," Cone said.

Another important part of the renovations relates to conference championship games.

The Big South Conference rotates schools that host championships, and right now UNCA does not have the proper facilities to be eligible, according to Cone.

"We don't have lights, press boxes, concession stands or bathroom facilities, so it would really add all those things we need in order to really host a Big South championship on our campus for our sports," Cone



ALANA RADE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNCA athletics is in the process of renovating several of the outdoor facilities including the soccer field, above, baseball field, track and field, tennis courts and intramural facilities.

said.

The full extent of Cone's plans involve a plaza that links together the soccer, track and baseball fields, making them one big outdoor sports complex.

The second part of Cone's goal is being completed with the help of a state endowment of \$35 million to build the North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness.

"What we decided to do, since it has to be something that we can host graduation at, that we would at the same time add a facility for basketball and volleyball," Cone said. "We're not building an arena by ourselves; it's going to be part of that North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness." The center will seat approximately 3,500

people for basketball and volleyball games and will have the ability to expand to about 5,000 for events such as graduation or national conferences, according to Cone.

There are no exact completion dates set for either of the renovation projects, but the North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness should be finished within four to five years.

"We still have to raise \$5 to \$7 million in private money to complete that project," Cone said.

Renovations for the outdoor facilities have already begun. As the money is raised, the project will be performed continually, and all necessary upgrades should be completed within five to seven years, according

to Cone.

Thus far, the six tennis court surfaces have been completely redone and new fencing surrounds the entire perimeter. Also, the soccer field has been leveled and resurfaced.

"I'm absolutely thrilled, it's a beautiful surface and it's only going to get better," said Michele Cornish, women's soccer head coach. "It's made coaching wonderful and playing even better."

Janet Cone and members of the soccer teams echoed Cornish's sentiments.

"It's great to finally be able to practice and play matches at home," said Kelsey Lenhardt, sophomore midfielder for the men's team.

Volleyball wins AT&T Classic

By Ingrid Allstaedt
STAFF WRITER

UNCA's volleyball team defeated Chattanooga and fell to North Carolina A&T, before their win over UNC Wilmington to win the A&T/Terry LaBonte Classic at the Greensboro Sportsplex Sept. 2 and 3.

Elif Unlu, junior outside hitter, Amanda Wiles, senior setter and Rose Butler, senior middle-back all received All-Tournament Team honors.

Talia Ogle, senior outside hitter, Unlu and Butler each recorded double-doubles in the match against Wilmington, and Wiles was just shy of a triple-double.

"We were the strongest team in the tournament," said head UNCA volleyball coach Julie Torbett.

The Bulldogs defeated Chattanooga 3-1 in the first match of the tournament, with a 30-25, 26-30, 30-26, 30-27 victory Friday. The Chattanooga standouts were Lara Newberry, with a match-high of 20 digs, Lindsey Galloway with 20 kills and Kari Wiedinger with 13 kills.

"Friday night was a good match," Torbett said. "We played well against Chattanooga."

The Chattanooga head coach was the head coach at UNCA during the same time when Torbett was the assistant coach here, according to Torbett.

"I was definitely excited to win," Torbett said. "For personal reasons I was happy with our performance."

The Big South Conference named Unlu the Choice Hotels Player of the Week for her performance during the tournament.

Unlu had a phenomenal tournament in general," Torbett said. "She had a really good match against them."

Unlu helped the team out with her career-best of 23 kills and 21 digs, according to Ogle.

"If Elif keeps playing this

good than we will do really well this season," Ogle said.

The Bulldogs defeated Wilmington 3-1 in the first match Saturday 26-30, 30-18, 39-37, and 30-24.

"We beat Wilmington who we have lost to the last couple of years," Torbett said. "The girls wanted to avenge those losses."

The Wilmington game started off shaky at first, but ended with a win for UNCA, after pulling the performance together, according to Rose Butler, junior middle.

"I am glad we could pull it together and win the Wilmington match so we could win the tournament," Butler said.

The Bulldogs lost to North Carolina A&T 3-2 to wrap up the tournament. UNCA lost the first two games 31-29 and 30-28, bounced back by taking the next two games 30-17 and 30-23, but lost to the A&T Aggies in the deciding game 18-16.

"We lost disappointingly to A&T, because we are a better team in general," Torbett said.

UNCA's performance should not have earned the team the tournament title, according to Ogle.

"We did not give A&T enough credit," Ogle said. "They are a pretty good team. I was disappointed that we lost to them but still won the tournament."

Torbett was not satisfied with the Bulldogs' overall performance this past weekend, according to Ogle.

"She always pushes us to do better," Ogle said. "She never allows us settle with our performance. It is good because we work harder and always improve."

Butler said the tournament as a whole went well.

"I thought the team played great together, for it being so early in the season," Butler said. "Winning the tournament was definitely a confidence booster."

Interested in doing Track & Field?

The UNCA Women's Track Team is looking for walk-ons for a limited commitment. Anyone wanting further information should contact Dean Duncan at 251-6921 or Crystal Goure at 251-6595.

This Weekend at the Doghouse

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Men's soccer plays Belmont at 4 p.m.	Women's soccer plays S.C. State at 2 p.m.	Men's soccer plays Lipscomb at 1 p.m.