

Eagles soar past men and women's tennis

By Gordon Gundlach
STAFF WRITER

The men (4-10) and women's (3-11) tennis dropped their last conference matches of the season to Winthrop (men 16-7, women 16-10), the No. 1 seed, on Saturday afternoon in Rock Hill.

The women lost 7-0, the men lost 5-2. No matches went to three sets. The men won the doubles point and freshman Damien Snare won his singles match, 7-5, 6-2, recording his fifth singles win of the season.

"We did better than last year," said junior Tyler Begg.

Last season the Eagles crushed the men 6-1, winning the doubles point.

The women returned to action on Tuesday, edging past Division II Mars Hill. Leslie Smith, Rachel Rhoney and Rachel Poole all picked up wins for the Bulldogs. Smith took her match in three sets 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Smith and Tania Mateva picked up the tie-breaking doubles point 9-8 to give the Bulldogs the doubles point and win.

Against Winthrop juniors Whitney Abbot and Rachel Poole of the women's team were unable to compete after getting into a car accident.

"Unfortunately we were a bit handicapped with five girls," Assistant Coach Joanna Cahi said.

Leslie Smith fell 6-1, 6-0 to Winthrop's No. 1 and No 2 Louise Bottomley fell 6-0, 6-0.

"Winthrop is our toughest competition anyway. They all played well. Louise played well, hung in there and was tough," Cahi said.

In the men's doubles matches, one Winthrop player was knocked out after the tennis ball hit his racket and bounced into his face, according to Cahi.

Nunnery, Asheville's No. 1 fell to Winthrop's Rodrigo Santos 6-1, 6-2.

"Rob's guy was one of the top players in the conference. They competed, showed heart and spirit," Cahi said.

"Pretty realistic about the level of play. Just need to compete, and concentrate on basics, and not get beat by themselves. The talent is there, just got to bring it out," Cahi said.

The men's team ranks sixth in the Big South Conference, ahead of Birmingham-Southern (1-6) and Liberty (0-5).

"We won the doubles, they were just too tough in singles. We did better than last year," freshman Joseph May said.

The men's team caps their season with three non-conference opponents while the women face four.

Both teams travel to Radford for the Big South tournament on April 19.



Tennis Rankings

Men's

1. Winthrop (6-1)
2. Radford (5-1)
3. High Point (5-1)
4. Charleston So. (2-1)
5. Charleston So. (3-2)
6. Coastal Carolina (3-3)
7. UNCA (2-5)
8. Liberty (0-6)

Women's

1. Winthrop (7-0)
2. Coastal Carolina (4-1)
3. Charleston So. (4-1)
4. High Point (4-2)
5. Liberty (3-4)
6. Birmingham-So. (2-5)
7. Radford (1-4)
8. UNCA (0-7)

'Dogs come up short to Tourists, fall 8-6



Brett Robinson faces off against Tourist pitcher Zach Simons. Trailing early on, the Bulldogs tied the game in the fifth inning 5-5, but the Tourists took control in the seventh inning, scoring three runs to win their season opener 8-6. The Bulldogs fell again on Wednesday as Appalachian State held off a ninth inning assault to edge the Bulldogs 8-7.

Bulldogs drop two out of three to Winthrop, then battle against the Asheville Tourist and Appalachian at McCormick Field.

By Devon Dow
STAFF WRITER

After defeating East Tennessee State University and losing a 2-1 series to Winthrop over the weekend, the Bulldogs returned home to play the Asheville Tourists in an exhibition game at McCormick field, falling 8-6 in the Tourists' season opener.

"We saw some things for the future of our program that looked pretty promising," said Head Coach Willie Stewart. "The young guys pitched and hit well for us tonight. If nothing else this exhibition was a good opportunity for us to put these guys in certain situations to see what they could do."

On Wednesday against the Appalachian State Mountaineers, the Bulldogs trailed 8-1 going into the eighth inning, but rallied from behind, scoring two and four runs in the final two innings.

With the bases loaded, a full count and the Bulldogs trailing by just one run, junior Kevin Mattison popped out to end the game. The Mountaineers won 8-7.

Rob Vernon led the Bulldogs, going 3-4 from the plate with an RBI. Mattison went 2-4.

The Asheville Tourists

The Bulldogs scored four runs in the first inning led by senior outfielder David Williams who smacked a triple off of the center field to drive in two runs. Senior infielder Matt Henson continued to swing the bat well, recording two base hits on the nights.

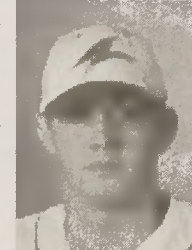
"It was a good experience," said freshman pitcher Matt Dalby. "It was good to play against guys who got drafted, and guys who are supposed to be better than you."

After the Bulldogs shut the Tourists out in the first, the Tourists returned in the second to put five runs on the board, including a home run. The Bulldogs battled back and tied the game in the sixth. During the bottom of the seventh inning the Tourist tacked on three more runs to give them the cushion needed to win the exhibition game.

"A game like this is great for the community, plus for us a lot of our guys have aspirations to play on the next level," Stewart said.

"Tonight they got to see what the next level is all about. I guarantee you, some of our guys are walking away from this game saying that they can compete with these guys and give them a run for their spot on a professional team."

The Bulldogs played five pitchers throughout the game with sophomore Jordan Dorsett starting and throwing for an inning. Freshman Dan Weller pitched the second, and Matt Dalby, freshman, replaced him, throwing for four innings. Sophomore Michael Bogaert and freshman Justin Shumer rounded-up the evening for the Bulldogs, pitching two and one inning respectively.



Justin Shumer

For the freshmen, the game gave them an opportunity to show what they could do against professionals.

"It's a whole different ball game playing against the Tourists," Schumer said. "There are guys that I played against in high school who are getting paid to play baseball now, and it is so different than the college game. The professionals play with wooden bats and we're playing with aluminum. It's a completely different atmosphere."

"This year's freshman class has contributed for us on and off the field. They get it done in the classroom and on the playing and practice field," said senior infielder Steve Burnich. "They are all good guys and great teammates. Dalby pitched really well tonight for us. The freshmen are good teammates, although we give them a bunch of crap because they're new to the team."

As the upper classmen headed to the locker room, the freshman gathered up the baseballs from the

practice mounds and cleaned out the dugout, according to Shumer who said he hopes this is his only year doing the dirty work.

"We do my share of work as a freshman on this team, it isn't anything harsh," Schumer said. "I have to carry a lot of stuff, do what I'm told it's all in fun. Hopefully next year things will change with being a sophomore because we are paying our dues this year."



Steve Burnich

East Tennessee State

Over the weekend the Bulldogs traveled to Tennessee and downed the East Tennessee Buccaneers 4-3. Down 3-1 in the top of the ninth, the Bulldogs came back and scored three runs with hits from

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Bulldog runners grab top spots at Western Invitational

By Ben Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

After facing heavy competition at the UNC Charlotte and Wake Forest invitational meets, the track and field team squared off against local colleges, including Division I schools Western Carolina, Appalachian State and East Carolina at the Western Carolina Invitational this weekend.

"I thought it was good to have a small meet to give everyone a chance to compete on a more level playing field so we're not going up against ACC or SEC teams every weekend," said Head Coach Dean Duncan. "It's good to go against some other schools of our size."

Natalie Pearson continued her streak of dominance, taking first place in the 100-meter in 12.00 seconds and in the 200-meter in 24.53.

Pearson approaches the national qualifying standards for both events, set at 11.75 for the 100 and 23.96 for the 200.

Surpassing the national standard qualifies athletes for East Regionals held at the University of Florida from May 25-26.

The freshmen sprinter holds the school record in both events.

Junior Ingrid Allstaedt took second place in the 1500 in 5:02, behind East Carolina's Jennifer White.

"I was in the fast heat, but we didn't have the tons of competition like we have at Wake or at Duke this upcoming weekend," Allstaedt said. "I just took it out in first place and tried to set a place and hold it. I held it for three laps then she passed me, I just tried to hang on with her."

Allstaedt's personal record is



Juniors Ingrid Allstaedt and Eliza Duncan practice together in preparation for Duke Relays this weekend. Allstaedt placed second in the mile in 5:01.78 and Duncan took eighth place in the 800 in 2:25.36

4:50.

"I always prefer to run at big races out of my league," Allstaedt said. "That pushes me to a personal record more than likely."

Troy Young picked up second

place in the javelin, throwing 56.16 meters, his best distance this season.

The national qualifying standard for the javelin is 61.60. Young used the entire 1:30 minutes allot-

ted to competitors to get his throw, balking twice before throwing for his season's best with just a few seconds left, according to Assistant Coach Kyle Wies.

"I thought he was going to get a bad throw, but he went up his third time and with only couple seconds left, he unleashes a 56," Wies said. "I don't know how he does that."

Also for throws, Daniel Corriher set two personal records, placing fifth in the shot put throwing for 13.94 feet, and throwing 40.59 in the hammer.

"I felt great even though I know I can throw the hammer a lot farther," Corriher said. "I haven't practiced, but it will come eventually toward the end of the season. But for the shot put, everything felt really smooth."

Freshmen Keith Scruggs placed 16 in the shot put, throwing 11.16 feet, and placed 13 in the hammer throw, throwing 40.59 feet.

"I'll predict that Keith throws 43 in the hammer on Saturday," Wies said.

In last week's issue of *The Blue Banner*, Wies predicted Erika Walker to break one minute in the 400-meter.

Walker finished in 59.66, shaving over one second off of her previous record. Wies hesitated in picking Walker to break 59 seconds this week.

"I predicted it last week," Wies

said. "I don't know if I should try to predict that she'll break 59 yet."

Western Carolina's Raquel Ramseur took first, running 54.87 in the 400, while Walker took fifth.

"She won her heat and that was a little bit of a confidence booster for her," Duncan said.

In the 400 hurdles, Junior Brandon Hamilton took sixth place, setting a personal record with 56.96 seconds.

"That was my personal record," he said. "I ran under 57 which was my goal for the entire year and I've already matched it. I'm looking forward to the conference meet, placing fifth maybe picking up some points for the team."

Brandon said his new goal is to break 55.5.

Taylor Little and Emily Mase took the weekend's competition off, choosing to rest for Duke Relays this weekend.

Little also approaches the 1500 national qualifying time for regionals, set at 3:47.80. Little ran 3:53.40 at the Wake Forest Invitational on March 25.

"Troy's obviously closing in. Natalie's getting close, Taylor's getting close in the 1500 and 5K. Those three are the one's that we'll probably be taking to regionals in Florida."

Top 10 Performances

women			
	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Natalie Pearson	100	1	12.00
Natalie Pearson	200	1	24.53
Ingrid Allstaedt	1500	2	5:02
Erika Walker	400	5	59.66
Liza Duncan	800	8	2:25
Morgan Weeks	javelin	10	24.98f
men			
Troy Young	javelin	2	56.16
Omar Ahmad	trip. jump	5	12.85f
Daniel Corriher	shot put	5	13.94f
Brandon Hamilton	400 hurd.	6	56.96
Erik Nabi	javelin	10	45.93f