



The News in Brief

Bulldog basketball rises to the national radar

For the first time in school history, the UNC Asheville men's basketball team received a single vote in the AP Top 25 poll this week.

The team also rose three places to the No. 12 spot on the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll after wins over Coastal Carolina and Winthrop.

The Bulldogs beat Winthrop 71-56 Saturday, with senior guard K.J. Garland scoring a season-high 26 points. As a result of the impressive performance, Garland was named Big South Player of the Week.

The Bulldogs look to continue a seven-game winning streak when they travel to Lynchburg, Va. Saturday to face the Liberty University Flames.

Bodies of hikers recovered after four-month search

The body of missing hiker John Bryant was discovered by a hunter on Feb. 2 outside Franklin.

The hunter was walking through the woods along a forest service road when he spotted a skull.

Bryant and his wife Irene went missing in October while hiking in the Pisgah National Forest. Investigators discovered the bludgeoned body of Bryant's wife shortly after the disappearance.

Police suspect Gary Michael Hilton, a 61-year-old drifter, in the murders. Hilton received life in prison on Jan. 31 after pleading guilty to the December murder of Georgia hiker Meredith Emerson.

Police are investigating if Hilton is behind other disappearances and murders in North Carolina and Florida.

President proposes largest budget in history

President Bush proposed a \$3.1 trillion federal budget this week.

Both national and border security programs would benefit the most, while many domestic programs would receive substantial cuts in funding.

The Department of Defense would receive \$515 billion, a figure that does not include an estimated \$200 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Many domestic programs would receive a cut in funding, including a \$200 billion reduction for Medicare and Medicaid.

The budget, which would boost the federal deficit to \$407 billion, is facing stiff opposition in Capitol Hill.

Total federal debt is expected to exceed \$12 trillion by 2013.

Compiled by Jon Walczak

Bulldogs exact revenge

UNCA wins first regular season game against Winthrop since 2000

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Senior guard K.J. Garland knows how to win in style.

The Greensboro native scored 26 points and dished eight assists leading the Bulldogs to a 71-56 blowout against conference foe Winthrop in front of a sold-out crowd in the Justice Center.

"This was a big win for us," said Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach. "We made some big shots in the second half and played solid defense throughout the game that kept us in front of Winthrop. I am very proud of this team."

The Bulldogs (16-4, 7-0, BSC) were without Kenny George who sat out the entire game. At the half, the Bulldogs trailed the Eagles 26-33. In the beginning of the second half, the Bulldogs came out on a 14-2 run, preventing the Eagles first field goal until eight minutes into the second half. Winthrop (14-8, 5-2 BSC) is ranked No. 2 in the Big South Conference and defeated then Top 25 ranked Miami University during their non-conference schedule, but proved to be no test for the Bulldogs.

"Beating Winthrop feels really good," Garland said. "We beat them my freshman year in the playoffs but never in the regular season. The whole team just played well together. We know that we are a second half team, and we knew that we had to pick up the momentum and it worked for us."

In the paint the Bulldogs stepped up to fill the void left by George with strong play from senior forward Garret Moles, sophomore forward Reid Augst and redshirt freshman John Williams, who made the student section in the Justice Center erupt with each of his three blocks and a fast break dunk in the second half.

"I thought Kenny was playing down in the paint tonight," Garland said. "The way the ball kept coming back away from the rim was ridiculous. A lot of players, when they go up against John, think that they can out man him, but rarely is that the case. He and the guys that played down low did a great job."

Senior guard Bryan Smithson had another solid night for the Bulldogs scoring 14 points, grabbing six rebounds and four steals. Senior forward Vincent James was second for the Bulldogs in scoring with 15 points.

"The coaches did a really good job with the scouting report," Smithson said. "It was a great team effort. We knew that we were going to be without Kenny down low and together we made some big plays to get the win."

As George sat the bench, the Bulldogs wasted no time making their presence felt in the paint. The Bulldogs matched the Eagles' six blocked shots for the game.

"John made really strong defensive strides in the game," Smithson said. "When he is down low he might be out-matched in size, but he always makes up for it with strength."

With the Bulldogs up by 17 against the Eagles, Garland silenced the Winthrop section of the Justice Center with his fourth 3-pointer of the game, made as he faded away with 3 seconds left on the shot clock in the second half.

"We went 7-0 the first half of conference play, now its time to start over," Garland said. "There is no time for relaxing and we realize



Above, the Justice Center crowd gives love to fan-favorite John Williams while Special Assistant to the Chancellor and former N.C. Rep. Wilma Sherrill waits to congratulate the freshman forward. Williams had three blocks and one earth-shattering dunk in the win. Below, K.J. Garland saves the ball to Williams.

that. We are the only undefeated team in the Big South, so we have a target on our back. It tough to beat teams twice, so we will see what happens one game at a time."

It was the kind of night for the Bulldogs where everything went right.

"K.J. showed out tonight," Smithson said. "With him knowing that I wasn't 100 percent, for him to shoot 9-11 from the field is just incredible. He definitely deserves a lot of respect after his performance on the court."

The Bulldogs travel to Lynchburg, Va., on Feb. 9 where they face the Liberty Flames. The Bulldogs' next home game comes on Feb. 16 as the Bulldogs face the VMI Keydets. The game will air on Fox Sports South at 7 p.m.

"While it was a great victory there is still a ways to go for our team," Biedenbach said. "Winthrop is a good team, and we still have to head down to Rock Hill to play them. It was a fine job by our guys



tonight."

The Justice Center was filled to capacity once again with attendance calculated at 1,198 people.

"Not only am I thrilled for the coaches and players, I am so proud of our student body support," said Janet Cone, athletic director. "The student body presence is something we have been working on for our athletic events for the past four

years, and I am so proud of the turnout by our students. They do not realize how much their attendance contributes to the victories that we have."

For fan reactions to the Winthrop win and a history of the two team's

Radio station prepares for future

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The Blue Echo faces changes with the graduation of station manager Alex Bowser looming near.

"I think there's a lot of things that can really improve in terms of incorporating with the school because right now I feel like it's a little bit isolated," said Bowser, senior multimedia major.

Large improvements may be

in the works for The Blue Echo, according to Bowser. A new location as well as greater motivation for students to participate would increase the number

of students involved in the project.

"Supposedly there is the potential for some kind of academic credit, and that would be a good thing," Bowser said. "I just heard of that being a possibility."

The location of The Blue Echo, downstairs in the Highsmith Student Union, causes problems for the station, according to Bowser. Noise problems affect offices around the station's location.

"We are a noise pollutant in Highsmith and it's problematic," Bowser said. "We're going to take some steps to improve on not bothering people. For the time being, where we're

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Students conduct research on fatal disease

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Alzheimer's disease afflicts a new person every 72 seconds, according to the Alzheimer's Association, a fact the UNC Asheville chemistry undergraduate research program is combating as they research new ways to inhibit death rates from the debilitating illness.

"It was always really stressful for my family," said Caitlin Erwin, a senior literature major who lost her grandfather to Alzheimer's disease in 2006. "We had to watch him forget and eventually die. My mom just was not functioning as the mother she wanted to be for us."

Watching a loved one suffer from the disease was very difficult, she said.

"On bad days, he had an incredibly difficult time communicating with us. He was an extremely intelligent man who could normally

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This Week



Travelogue

Student visits the unspoiled Thailand wilderness, page 10.



Arts Etc.

Sci-Fi blends many musical styles into a unique jazz style, page 8.

Weather

	THURSDAY		FRIDAY
53	30	54	32
	SATURDAY		SUNDAY
50	27	42	22