

# Bulldogs

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Junior guard Lindsey Thompson currently leads the Big South this season in scoring due to her incredible shooting against USC Upstate.

Photo Courtesy of UNCA Athletics

the arc to tie the game at 16 with a little more than 13 minutes left in the first half.

That was the last time the game was tied.

Thompson made her first 3-pointer in 8 minutes, putting the Bulldogs up 23-18.

"She plays very, very well," Bloise said. "She's a great shooter with tremendous range. She's in the gym every day. It's important to her. She's becoming better at putting the ball on the floor, and she's a great free throw shooter. If no one guards her, she will knock it down. I can guarantee that."

After being down 14 points with less than six minutes left in the first half, Webb's free throws sparked a 6-0 run for Upstate, but it was not enough to inch past the Bulldogs.

"They made a couple of little runs, but we seemed to be able to get back on track and be able to maintain the lead we had and build on it," Bloise said.

At the end of the first half, the Bulldogs had an 11-point lead. Thompson and Shepard were already in double figures, with 21 points and 10 points, respectively.

The second half began with a layup from Upstate forward Chelsea McMillan, followed by another layup from Webb. However, the Spartans' run came to an end when Shepard scored the Bulldogs' first points post intermission.

"We played a 2-3 zone most of the game to prevent them from driving and getting to the basket. We knew that most of the team wanted to penetrate, so we wanted to take them out of their game," Thompson said.

With 10 minutes left in the game, the Bulldogs were up 79-59. Riles, who had eight rebounds for the game, made both of her free throw shots after the Spartans committed yet another turnover. Riles then made a layup off an assist from Shepard, which brought the game to 85-62.

"Our team wants to attack in transition and get easy baskets. We've done a good job with that so far," Thompson said.

With five minutes left in regulation, two foul shots from Shepard led to a 25-point lead, the Bulldogs' largest lead of the night.

However, the Spartans went down fighting, putting up 12 more points including a shot from downtown in the last 30 seconds. The buzzer sounded at 95-76, Bulldogs.

"We're going to outwork our opponent.

We want to have fun. We really do. We want to have a good time competing," Bloise said.

Upstate suffered from 13 turnovers in the first half and nine in the second. UNCA had 18 turnovers overall.

"We decided prior to the game to pressure the ball as much as possible to see if their guards could handle pressure, and it ended up working out well for us," Assistant Coach Tiffany Gwynn said.

Asheville was 11-25 from behind the arc, while Upstate was only 5-26. The Bulldogs also hit 14 of their 18 foul shots.

The Bulldogs will head to Boone tomorrow to face the Appalachian Mountaineers. Their next home game will be against Furman at the Justice Center Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.