

Utah, Who-tah? Bulldogs demolish Pac-12 member, gain experience

Featured Bulldog



J.P. Primm

Standout play: Scored 20 points in the game against Utah Saturday night and earned his 500th career assist.

Hometown:
Dickson, Tenn.

Class: Senior

Q: What's your favorite thing about UNCA?

A: My favorite thing about UNCA is probably the culture part of the university, and the people that make the university a great one.

Q: How long have you played basketball?

A: I've been playing ball since I was 5.

Q: What's your major?

A: Mass Communication

Q: What do you plan on doing after college?

A: I plan on playing in the NBA or overseas, then coaching.

Q: Who has been an inspiration for you in your life?

A: My mom has influenced me to never give up on anything I want in life. My brother that plays pro basketball in Turkey inspires me.

Todd Marshall

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The Bulldogs roared past Pac-12 member Utah, 87-65, in the final game of the Battle "4" Atlantis Tournament.

"This is a great win for UNC Asheville. To lose two tough games like we did back-to-back and to come out and play as well as we did is very encouraging," said UNC Asheville Coach **Eddie Biedenbach**. "We grew up a little bit tonight. I thought we had a tremendous team effort as everybody who played contributed and made plays for us this evening."

UNCA (3-4) finished in seventh place in the tournament after losing close games to Connecticut and College of Charleston the first two nights.

J.P. Primm scored 20 points and earned his 500th career assist Saturday night against Utah.

The Bulldogs began the tournament by losing to #4 UConn at Imperial Arena late Thursday night.

Matt Dickey led UNCA with 18 points, while Jeremy Atkinson added 14 points and nine rebounds. Primm finished with 10 points and seven assists.

After UConn raced to a 16-3 lead and took a 38-29 advantage in the second half, the Bulldogs' Chris Stephenson scored a 3-pointer to cut UConn's lead to seven with 17:12 to play.

"We've played in games where we had to fight back," Dickey said. "When we cut it to seven, we definitely had a feeling we could make a comeback. A couple breaks that would have gone our way, and we could have gotten it closer and made a real run of it at the end."

The Bulldogs made their run late but could not get any closer with the game ending, 73-63.

Huskie Coach Jim Calhoun was impressed with the Bulldogs.

"They (UNCA) played the 100 percent against the way we want to play, and if we stopped doing things the right way for a minute, they came right back at us. I wouldn't want to play them every single day," Calhoun said in a press conference.

In the consolation round, UNCA lost a heart-breaker to Charleston on Friday night, 68-66.

The Bulldogs (2-4) had a chance to tie with seconds remaining, but Primm couldn't get a shot off as the buzzer sounded, giving the Cougars the win.

UNCA was led by Dickey with 20 points, while Stephenson added 19 points and eight rebounds.

"This is a great way for us to go into Big South Conference play," said Biedenbach. "These three games will help us throughout the year starting on Thursday night."

UNCA opens conference play Thursday night when the Bulldogs play at Gardner-Webb at 5:30 p.m.

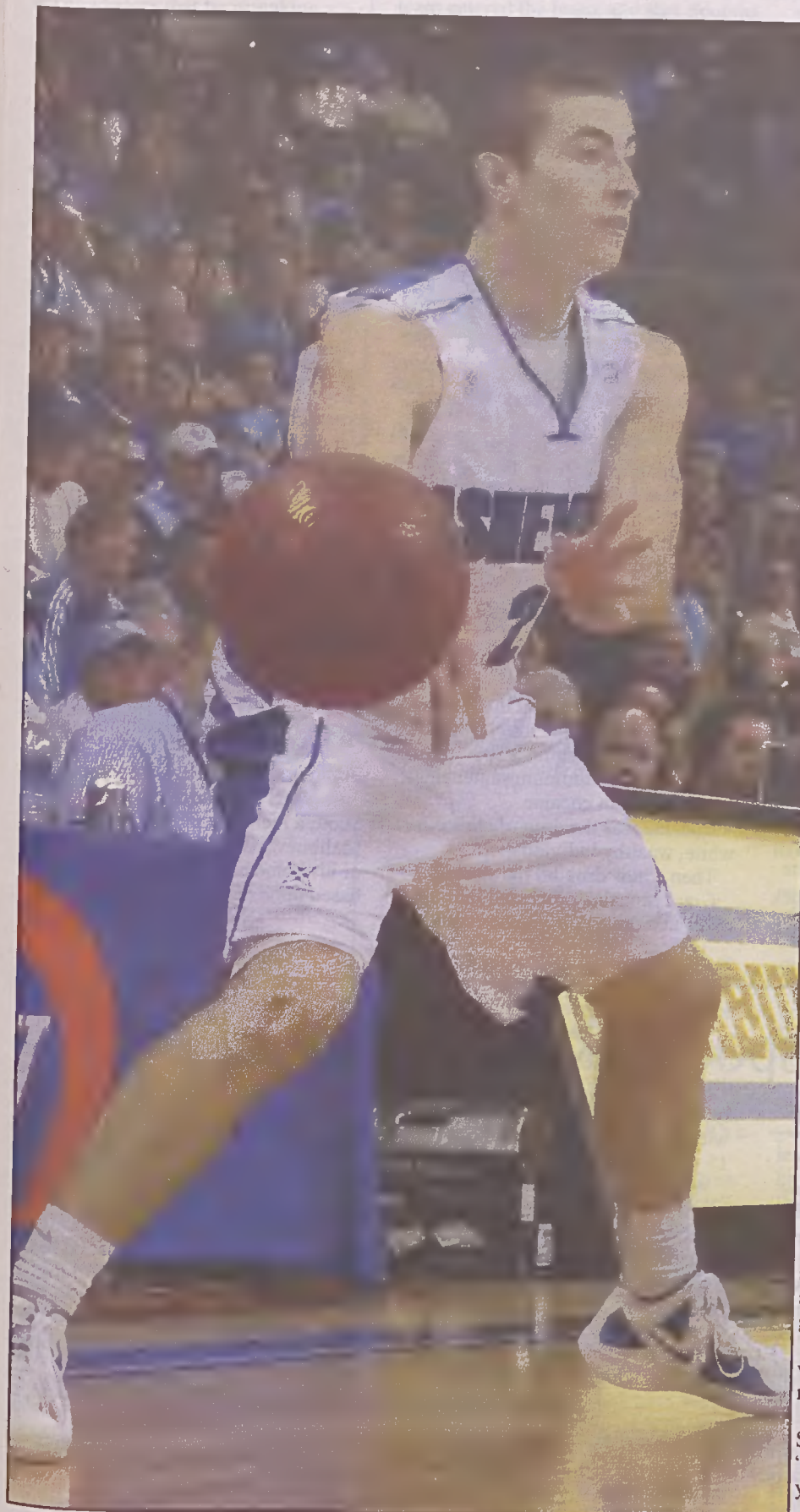


Photo by Dustin Stuart - Photography Editor

Senior Matt Dickey led the Bulldogs against UConn, scoring 18 points.