



Photo by Beckett Bathanti - Sports Editor

City of Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy and members of the Bobcats front office pose for pictures.

NBA's Charlotte Bobcats headed to Asheville *Team picks UNC Asheville to host training camp*

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UNC Asheville's basketball profile continues to grow after back-to-back appearances to the Big Dance, and now as hosts of the Charlotte Bobcats' training camp.

In a few weeks, the Bobcats will arrive in Asheville to use UNCA's athletic facilities to prepare for their 2012-2013 season. With the hindrance of the NBA lockout, the team was unable to host their training camp outside of their hometown of Charlotte last year, but sought to make changes this year.

"We went through a process looking for somewhere to train," Rod Higgins, **President of Operations for the Charlotte Bobcats**, said. "We were looking for somewhere to get away because we knew getting away was important."

Previously, **UNCA Athletic Director Janet Cone** proposed the Bobcats host their training camp on campus, but it did not work out. The Bobcats' Chief Operating Officer Fred Whitfield telephoned UNCA

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Fred Whitfield

Bobcats' chief operating officer

this year and Cone had confidence in their decision.

"This year Fred called, and I knew he wouldn't turn me down again," Cone said. "And that was the conversation that led to this."

The Sherrill Center opened in November 2011, consisting of new classrooms, labs, fitness rooms and the Kimmel Arena, which seats up to 3,800 people. After a tour of the facility, Higgins and the Bobcats were set on Asheville as their temporary home this fall.

"From an organizational standpoint, it was two thumbs up for us," Higgins said.

The Bobcats made the announcement in Kimmel Arena at a press conference last Wednesday with nothing but positive acclamations toward the city of Asheville and high regards for the school.

"They (UNCA Athletics) have a family atmosphere with everyone working together," Whitfield said. "We hope to bring a lot of visibility to the schools and want to earn some fans here."

The Bobcats training camp is Oct. 2-6.

There is a possibility of the Bobcats playing a scrimmage open to students in Kimmel Arena, but is still undecided, according to Higgins.

Longwood slips past Bulldogs

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Sports Editor

The UNC Asheville men's soccer team came up short against Big South Conference newcomers Longwood as the Lancers escaped with a 1-0 win Sunday afternoon at Greenwood Field.

Longwood's only goal came in minute 74 when Devin Pierce blew a penalty kick by goalie Dan Jackson.

A very clean first half gave way to an increasingly chippy second half, with the first of six second-half yellow cards coming just three seconds after play had resumed.

Several of the calls against the Bulldogs had the coaching staff on their feet voicing their displeasure.

After the game, however, **Head Coach Matt Kern** was tight-lipped about the refereeing.

"You focus on what you can control. We can not control that, so I won't comment on that," said Kern, who drew a yellow card for arguing with a referee about the spot of a foul.

Sophomore goalie Dan Jackson said he barely saw the infraction that set up the game-winning penalty kick.

"He was kind of hidden from my view. Everyone said it was clean, but I don't really know," Jackson said with a shrug.

Jackson was not dwelling on the goal.

"I play the position where I need to come up big. You just have to keep your head up and move on," Jackson said.

Offensively, the Bulldogs had **co-captain Rob May** back on the field after he missed a game with a quad injury.

May said he had no lingering discomfort.

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