

## 'Dogs Earn Playoff Berth

With last week's 106-72 victory at USC-Spartanburg, Gardner-Webb tied its school record of 25 wins in a season.

Twice the Bulldogs have reached the 25-win mark, the first time being in 1971-72 when G-W posted a 25-5 campaign. The second time came in 1973-74 when the 'Dogs went 25-3.

Last night's game at Limestone plus the upcoming District 26 playoffs give Gardner-Webb the opportunity to establish its best win-loss mark in the school's seven-year history of senior-college competition.

The District 26 playoffs get underway Tuesday, March 2, but pairings and game sites are still undetermined. Gardner-Webb has secured the berth reserved for the independent team with the best win-loss record. Teams most likely to be in the playoffs are CIAA champion Winston-Salem State, Catawba and Guilford, depending upon the outcome of the Carolinas Conference tournament this weekend.

For the first time this season, the Bulldogs have six men scoring in double-figures. A seventh is flirting with the group. Leading the offense is Dave Bormann who is averaging 22.3. After Bormann comes Carl Martin at 12.1 and Norman Mukes at 11.0.

Lester Stinson and Will Franklin are close together with Stinson averaging 10.9 points and Franklin averaging 10.6.

The newcomer to the list is freshman John Borders, a 6-2 jumper who has come off the bench and given the Bulldogs a lift over the last

month. Another freshman, Lew Young, has improved his scoring pace to 9.5 after a 20-point performance against Spartanburg.

"We've had great balance on offense throughout the season," said Coach Eddie Holbrook. "Someone different has played an important part in each game so far. I just hope we haven't run out of people."

The Bulldogs will approach the playoffs in the best physical shape they've been in since Christmas. Martin, who suffered a stress fracture in a foot in early January then came down with the flu, completed his first full week of practice in the past six last weeks. Both point guards, John Pait and Steve Mitchell are slowed by nagging injuries, but are capable of playing.

The only exception is Franklin who has been playing with a foot injury identical to Martin's.

## G-W Nine Faces Tough Slate But Bryson Likes Chances

Gardner-Webb baseball coach Jerry Bryson expects to have another winning season this spring even though the 'Dogs are missing six key players from last year. Bryson also feels this will be the toughest schedule his team has ever played.

The Bulldogs will open at home March 16 with a doubleheader against Heidelberg.

The 'Dogs will be looking to three men to lead the hitting attack. Sophomore Greg Hefner will be the power man in the lineup along with juniors Eddie Tyndall and Rick Young.

Hefner will be replacing last year's team leader Gary Robinson at catcher while Young and Tyndall will play third and short respectively. Robbie Moore, who saw some action at second base last season, will fill that position. A pair of players, Jim Fitts



Bulldog Coach Eddie Holbrook Gives Instructions To Freshman Point Guard Steve Mitchell.

## 'Steak and Beans' Bowl Concludes Grid Practice

Gardner-Webb will wrap up its spring football drills with a new twist Saturday with the first annual "Steak and Beans" Bowl.

The Bulldogs will play their intra-squad game at 1:30 p.m. in Spangler Stadium when head coach Oval Jaynes will give a pair of

grandstand coaches their day on the field.

Frank Ballenger, Shelby Daily Star sports editor, and Glenn Wall, WADA sports-caster, will coach the two squads while Jaynes will retire to the press box.

At stake will be Saturday night supper. The winning team and its coaches will be treated to a steak dinner while the losers will eat beans.

"I'll be a completely impartial observer," said Jaynes. "Except I won't be eating beans."

The teams will play a four-quarter, game-type scrimmage. In case of a tie, the game will have a sudden-death playoff.

The Gardner-Webb coaching staff will be equally divided, and the Bulldog coaches will hold a player draft Wednesday to evenly divide the squad. Jaynes and his staff will conclude practice Thursday.

"Wall and Ballenger will have charge of practice Friday," Jaynes said. "Whatever they chose to do will be up to them and their assistants."

Gardner-Webb will end spring practice much the same as last fall's 2-6 campaign concluded—with a number of players on the injured list.

Not expected to see action Saturday are linebackers Jeff Keene and David Mullis, defensive end Frankie Smith, defensive back Knox Talbert, tight end Rusty McKeown and quarterback Dean Gillilan.

"I feel like we've had a good effort from the players during practice. We've had good performances out of most of the players," Jaynes said. "Hopefully we've made some progress and improvement."

Only seven players will graduate from last year's team, four of those were starters.

and Vernon Gregory will fill the responsibilities at the field.

In the outfield, Frank Cauthen, a center-fielder last season, will move to left, and Darrell Vandylke should play center. Several players including Bill Salyers and Bryan Florence could play in right.

Bryson feels the 'Dogs should have a strong pitching rotation led by righthander Dale Gantt, the mound leader last year. Another righthander, Tim Huff, is expected to recover from arm problems and have a strong year.

Lefty Larry Irvin will be another important man on the staff. Righthander Rick Hord rounds out the rotation.

Several other players including Mike Pino, Arnold Lietzsey, and Mark Robbins should give some support off the bench.

## TENNIS SCHEDULE Spring 1976

Tuesday, March 16	USC-Spartanburg	Away 1 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17	Wofford	Home 3 p.m.
Thursday, March 18	Lafayette	Home 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 20	Guilford	Away 1 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24	Catawba	Away 2 p.m.
Friday, March 26	Lenoir-Rhyne	Away 2 p.m.
Saturday, March 27	Belmont Abbey	Away 2 p.m.
Monday, March 29	Limestone	Home 2 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30	USC-Spartanburg	Away 3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 31	Lenoir-Rhyne	Home 3 p.m.
Thursday, April 1	Limestone	Home 3 p.m.
Friday, April 2	Belmont Abbey	Home 2 p.m.
Saturday, April 3	Guilford	Home 1 p.m.
Monday, April 5	Catawba	Home 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 7	Warren Wilson	Away 2:30 p.m.
Friday, April 9	Wofford	Away 2 p.m.
Saturday, April 10	Warren Wilson	Home 2 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13	Mars Hill	Home 3 p.m.
Thursday, April 15	UNC-Asheville	Away 2 p.m.
Tuesday, April 20	Western Carolina	Home 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 21	Mars Hill	Away 2 p.m.
April 23-25	District 25 Tourney	High Point

## Coach Taylor Optimistic

# Netters Anticipate Good Season

Coach James Taylor is looking forward to a strong '76 tennis season. "We have a lot of experience and our schedule isn't that strong. We should have a good season," predicts Taylor.

The No. 1 man for the 'Dogs will be senior Randy Alexander from Gastonia, who was also No. 1 last season. Burt Brimberry, also a senior, will return at the No. 2 position. Another senior, Tim Gregory, will play the No. 3 position. Glenn Phillips, the only freshman on the team, will be filling the No. 4 slot.

"We're solid at the top four spots. Randy, Burt and Glenn are strong, but our key will be if Gregory's knee will continue to get stronger after an off-season operation," Coach Taylor relates. "Another strength is in our doubles teams. We're solid at the No. 1 and 2 spots, but we don't have any experience at the No. 3 position."

The 'Dogs only problem may be consistency in the lower positions. There are several players who could be strong in the 5 and 6 positions. Seniors David Watson and David Marks are the most likely to fill the slots, but sophomore Phil Nixon and Junior David Tubbs could play important roles in the G-W lineup.

The 'Dogs' toughest opponents should be Limestone and UNC-Asheville. The 18 matches are evenly distributed with nine home and nine away. Times for the home matches are 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 2 p.m. Friday; and 1 p.m. Saturday.