

Diamond Dog HIGHLIGHTS Baseball In Review

by C. Wiles and B. Bridges

Gardner-Webb opened its baseball season against Central Wesleyan on Feb. 25 with two victories. In the first game of the doubleheader, the Bulldogs topped Central Wesleyan by the score of 4-2. Keith Bridges was the winning pitcher, giving up just two hits and striking out six in the complete game victory. Brett Bridges and Mike Cheek led the Bulldogs offensively both going 2 for 3. Monte Whitener collected 2 RBIs while going 1 for 3. In the second game Richard Ivey was the winning pitcher, striking out seven batters while scattering five hits. Gardner-Webb collected 13 hits, 3 of which were doubles by Jeff Spargo. Jeff also scored three runs. Other leading hitters were Brett Bridges (2-4,HR), Monte Whitener (3-4,1 RBI), Scott Lee (2-3, 2 RBIs), and Kirk Dotson (2-3).

The Bulldogs next victory came at Pembroke State. The highlight of this game was the spectacular pitching of John Johnson who came in for Richard Ivey. Johnson, a transfer from Spartanburg Methodist College, went three innings allowing only one hit and no runs. The leading hitters were Jeff Spargo who went 3 for 3 and Mike Cheek who went 3 for 5. Scott Lee provided 2 RBIs in the Bulldogs' third victory.

Next, Gardner-Webb defeated Mars Hill by the score of 5-2. Keith Bridges pitched the victory, scattering five hits and striking out nine Mars Hill batters. Joey Moss scored two runs and collected one hit, while Scott Lee went 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs. Mike Cheek also had two hits.

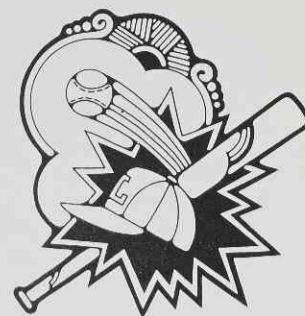
In the next Bulldog victory against Guilford, boxing gloves were needed as a bench-clearing brawl broke out. At a close play at the plate, winning pitcher Richard Ivey threw a right hook after being shoved by a Guilford player. A 20 minute brawl followed before the umpires regained control. The Bulldogs then used the bats on Guilford, pounding out 22 hits and scoring 17 runs. Ivey gave up only 4 earned runs after putting down the boxing gloves and returning to the game. Robert Stokely collected 4 hits, 2 of which were triples, and knocked in 4 runs. John Johnson went 4 for 5 and drove in 2 runs. Monte Whitener added 3



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hits and 1 RBI in the Bulldog victory. The second game was much calmer, but Bulldogs still managed to claim another victory. Keith Bridges pitched the victory as the Bulldogs belted out 12 hits. Scott Lee led the Dogs' attack going 2 for 3 and driving in 3 runs. Kirk Dotson added 2 RBIs, and Monte Whitener ripped 2 singles and scored 4 runs in the 9-6 slugfest. Against Atlantic Christian College, a pitcher again took the spotlight as Richard Ivey entered the game after starter Tom Plaster left with arm problems. Ivey came into the game and shut Atlantic Christian (the nation's 18th ranked team in the NAIA) down with an array of pitches that baffled the opponents. Ivey said of his performance, "Those guys didn't have a clue about my split-finger fastball. They were swinging at something they couldn't see." Ivey had behind him an infield that made very pivotal plays. They were led by Jeff Allred who has one of the surest gloves in the infield and on the team. Allred's presence on the field dampened any hopes of comeback for Atlantic Christian.

These were some of the bright spots for the Diamond Dogs' disappointing season.



Softball Ladies Get Tough, Finish Strong

by Burt Wilson

Softball The Lady Bulldog softball team finished the season with a very respectable 9-13 record. They were paced by Mechelle Hamilton, who had a sensational batting average of .567 to lead the team. The junior leftfielder also led the team with 4 triples, 4 homeruns, and 17 runs batted in. Second baseman Amy Dellinger led the Lady Bulldogs with 5 doubles and also had 12 RBIs.

Other members of this year's team included: pitchers Laura Martin and Sarah Gettys; catchers Donna Hendrix, Eve Whitlock, and Lisa Sabbarth; first basemen Donna Robertson and Rhonda Edwards; third basemen Susan Moore and Michelle Radford; shortstop Benita Tilley; and outfielders Lisa Stewart, Laura Sellers, and Kim Haywood.

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