

Art Exhibit

Bulldogs Kick Off Basketball Season

By Burt Wilson

The 1987-88 Runnin' Bulldog basketball team will tip-off their season Friday November 20 in the first round of the Coca-Cola/ Birmingham Southern Tournament in Birmingham Alabama. Gardner-Webb will play William Carey while Birmingham-Southern will face Belhaven. Saturday night will feature a consolation game at 5:30 followed by the tournament championship at 7:30.

The Bulldogs, who return 4 starters from last year's team, will be led by the 1986-87 District 26 "Player of the year" Stan Easterling. The 6'8" junior from McColl, S.C. averaged 18.3 points and 8.7 rebounds per contest last season. He currently ranks eleventh on the all-time scoring list and sixteenth on the all-time rebounding list and should be a strong contender for All-American honors.

Along with Easterling, the Bulldogs will be looking for leadership from this year's team captains. Coach Wiles notes, "Brad Smith, Barry Mayo, and Anthony Hailey are very good leaders who are dedicated to basketball as well as their studies."

Smith, a senior will return to his wing position this year after a fine junior season when he averaged 11.5 points (second on the team) and tied for the team lead in assists and steals. Mayo, also a senior, is a hard worker and probably the best defensive player on the team. His outside

jump-shot and three point threat should make him a major factor this season. Hailey, a strong rebounder, is described by Coach Wiles as the "catalyst" of this year squad. The 6'3" Junior Averaged 19.8 last season at Columbia Jr. College. Simmons, who Coach Wiles described as "the fastest player I ever coached," will step into the small forward spot vacated by Grady Martin.

Perhaps the most pivotal spot on this year's team will be at point guard where Darren Sanders is the returning starter. The 6' sophomore is a superb ball handler and is excellent in transition but he must develop consistency and improve his defensive play. "We really need Darren Sanders to make a contribution on this team," says Coach Wiles. "For us to be a good ball club, he needs to make a major contribution." Sophomores Orlando Early and Daryl Floyd should also see considerable time at the point this season.

Other players that will be fighting for playing time are Bill Fath and Thomas Plaster who Coach Wiles noted as "probably the most improved players from last year." He added, "Randy Grayson is going to be a valuable player for us also, if he continues to play like he has in the pre-season."

Another player that could contend for a starting spot is 6'7" Steve Conley. The junior from Marion N.C. is the best athlete on the team and a very strong offensive rebounder. Chad Gough and Reggie Ampley, both sophomores, will be ready to step in and give assistance in the backcourt. The only freshman the Bulldogs signed this year is Jerry Saddler, a 6'4" guard from Lexington N.C.

Coach Wiles feels that this could be an enjoyable season for Runnin' Bulldog fans, "We can't have a much more exciting ball club than we have this year. I'm very optimistic because we run and shoot the ball well and because of the strong defensive play that I've seen." He added, "the key will be staying healthy and staying on top of our studies."

Another reason to get excited about basketball is the quality of this year's schedule which includes North Georgia, William Carey, Birmingham-Southern, and West Virginia State. Wiles noted that this is the most challenging schedule he has had since coming to Gardner-Webb, "We're bringing the best players and teams in the nation to our arena because we feel Gardner-Webb fans deserve the top teams in the nation." He added, "We want to put Gardner-Webb College back in the fore-front of NAIA basketball. We want to be a regular among the NAIA top 10."

The Bulldogs figure to improve during the upcoming season. But a tough schedule awaits them as they try to regain Gardner-Webb's place among the elite of District 26 and the NAIA.

Notes: The Runnin' Bulldogs home opener will be Tuesday Nov. 24 against USC-Aiken. Prior to the game the Bulldog Club will have a Cover dish supper for the team. The start of the Gardner-Webb Doubleheader Saturday Nov. 28, has been changed to 6:30, with the second game beginning at 8:30. There will also be a barbecue dinner held in the gym on Nov. 28. The Lady Bulldogs will tip off their 1987-88 opener Nov. 19 at home against Presbyterian. They will also play at home Nov. 21 against Pfeiffer.



By Melissa Brown

Anyone who has been up to the third floor of the Dover Library recently is bound to have noticed a special treat, a display of art by Susan Bell who teaches art history, studio art, and art education at Gardner-Webb. The subjects consist mainly of various nature studies, including a section of foliage done in pen and ink for a graduate course. The exhibit also contains figured landscapes and a series of market places in watercolor.

Bell received her BA at Mary Baldwin College, her MA at Presbyterian School in Christian education, and is presently working toward her MFA begun at USC. In her works she emphasizes the simplicity of line and displays an interest in the use of diagonals and eye-catching value contrasts. "I try to look at the ordinary and find life and beauty in that," she states. Bell's works, most of which are for sale, will not be up much longer. It is soon to be replaced by a studio student art show.



Susan Bell

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