



SPORTS

Women's Basketball Team Hopeful; Academics Hurt Men

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After completing an eight-day, four-game basketball tour, the Women Runnin' Bulldogs, led by Coach Bud Black, are poised to break into the national top 25 rankings. "As far as personnel go, we have the ability to be a top 25 team right now. Earlier this year, we were listed in the 'Also Receiving Votes' section. Usually though, it takes a team three years to build up enough tradition to be recognized by the national media," said Black.

Led by high-scoring sophomore Fredia Lawrence, the Women Runnin' Bulldogs have compiled an impressive record of 16-6 (3rd in the SAC-8). Lawrence, who averages over 14 points per game, is joined by Lisa Campbell, Roslyn Edwards, Valarie Crowell, and Tricia Unterreiner in the double figure department.

Having just passed the midpoint of the season, Gardner-Webb is still searching for consistency in their night-to-night performances.

"No one player has established herself consistently. Several players have come to the front in different games. During the remainder of the season, the fans should look for the kind of exciting, high intensity, aggressive ball that we are capable of playing. We like to score a lot of points."

Perhaps the key to the Bulldog's stretch drive is the emergence of a recognized leader. Lawrence, working out of the forward position, is most often mentioned as the next Runnin' Bulldog superstar.

According to Coach Black, the most important games remaining with regards to possible post-season action are against Elon, Catawba, and Presbyterian. If the Women Runnin' Bulldogs win both games against each of those three, they will qualify for the first phase of the playoff structure--the South-Atlantic districts. With the women averaging over 79 points a game, Gardner-Webb fans are certainly in for an exciting championship race.

WOMEN RUNNIN' BULLDOGS STATS (TOP 5 IN EACH CATEGORY)

Points per game

1. Fredia Lawrence 14.8 ppg
2. Roslyn Edwards 12.3 ppg
3. Valarie Crowell 12.0 ppg
4. Lisa Campbell 11.6 ppg
5. Tricia Unterreiner 11.2 ppg

Rebounding per game

1. Fredia Lawrence 10.5 rpg
2. Valarie Crowell 9.6 rpg
3. Tricia Unterreiner 8.2 rpg
4. Roxanne Ferguson 4.5 rpg
5. Lisa Campbell 4.1 rpg

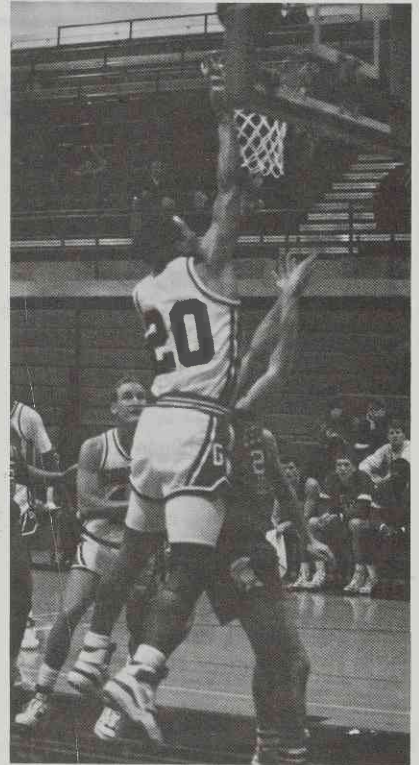
Assists per game

1. Lisa Campbell 4.9 apg
2. Roxanne Ferguson 4.7 apg
3. Fredia Lawrence 3.2 apg
4. Roslyn Edwards 2.3 apg
5. Tricia Unterreiner 0.7 apg

While the fortunes of the Women Runnin' Bulldogs are looking upward bound, their male counterparts appear headed in the opposite direction. Due to injuries and academic woes, Coach Jim Wiles' team has been forced to abandon the "Running Bulldog" tag in exchange for a "Crawling Bulldog" tag.

The team's roster has been depleted to nine active players: seniors Darren Sanders, Tom Plaster, Reggie Ampley, and Orlando Early, sophomore Bruce Harris, redshirt freshman Jerry Chollette, and true freshmen Greg Ross, Dwayne Ayers, and Kirby Watson. This line-up is a truly talented one, giving their all in every performance. However, the short-staffed Bulldogs, rather than push the ball up and down the court, the freeze on the ball and forcing. It is not a rare sight to see a starter forced to play 35-40 minutes a game.

Until recently, the Bulldogs looked sluggish executing the slow-down game plan. However, in games against Elon and Catawba, the Bulldogs executed the game plan to perfection, winning 73-48 over Elon and falling short 41-38 to Catawba. With the offense being held in check by the slow-down, the Gardner-Webb defense has risen to the test. Currently the Bulldogs are ranked #1 in the SAC-8 for scoring defense. One Bulldog in particular has excelled on the defensive end of the court. Jerry Chollette, using quickness and a superb leaping ability, is leading the team in both rebounding and steals, while chipping

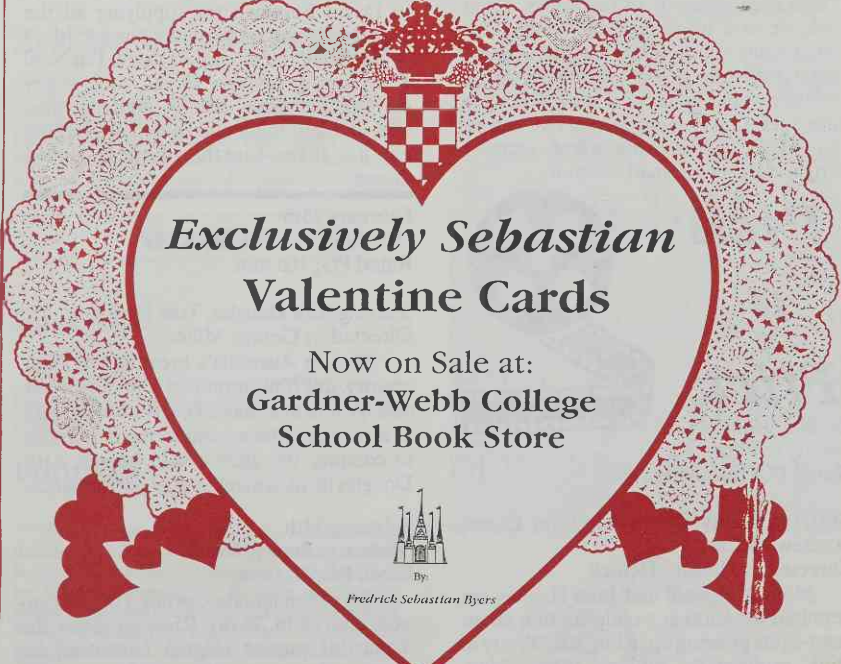


Jerry Chollette goes high for two.

in over 7 points per game.


Darren Sanders, forced in the role of shooting guard, has responded nicely, averaging almost 14 points per game. Post player Tom Plaster provides the other half of the Bulldogs scoring punch, scoring at a 12 points per game clip.

Injuries and academics may have changed the Runnin' Bulldogs of old, but this team is still your team, so come out and support Gardner-Webb athletics.



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By: Fredrick Sebastian Byers