



SPORTS

Men's Triumphant Basketball Season Draws to a Close

By Marty White
Sports Editor

The Runnin' Bulldogs men's basketball 1991-92 season came to a close in the NAIA District 26 championship game last Wednesday night. The 115-85 loss came at the hands of the Pfeiffer College Falcons, the seventh-ranked team in the nation. The Bulldogs, who had earned a bye in the first round of the playoffs by virtue of winning the South Atlantic Conference regular-season championship, defeated Elon College for the third time this season at home last Monday night by a score of 79-64. Jules Springs led the way against the Fighting Christians with 18 points. Against the Falcons, Springs again was the leading scorer with 21 points. Jerry Chollette added 12 points and was also the leading rebounder with 7 boards. Both Springs and Chollette were named to the District 26 all-tournament team.

Although it was difficult to bid farewell to the dreams of the national tournament in Kansas City, this season will always be regarded as the most successful in recent



Gardner-Webb history, and in the long run, may be remembered as the beginning of a long reign of dominance by the Runnin' Bulldogs over the rest of the SAC.

Gratitude is due to seniors Springs, Pat Colson, and Sherman Holloway, who endured the lean seasons of just a few years ago. Despite their loss, however, the

future looks bright. Next year, the team will return three starters (Greg Ross, Purvis Dukes and Chollette) as well as five promising freshmen and sophomores (Billy Palagonia, Kenneth Nelson, Mike Lane, David McMahan and Lance Bain). Bruce Harris and Art Hinton should expect increased playing time in the paint.

This season and this team restored pride and enthusiasm to what was an apathetic gymnasium not long ago. They will not soon be forgotten.

Almost lost in the hope of the men's post-season bid is the successful run of the women's team in the conference tourney, which was held on the GW campus. After defeating Elon and Catawba, the team lost a heartbreaker, 70-69, to Wingate in the championship game. Fredia Lawrence, Lisa Campbell and Mickie Drum were named to the all-tournament team. Although it will be difficult to replace all-American candidate Lawrence, the outlook for next year is optimistic. It should be a great year to be a Bulldog next year in Paul Porter Arena.

Tennis Team Nets Conference Win

By Marty White
Sports Editor

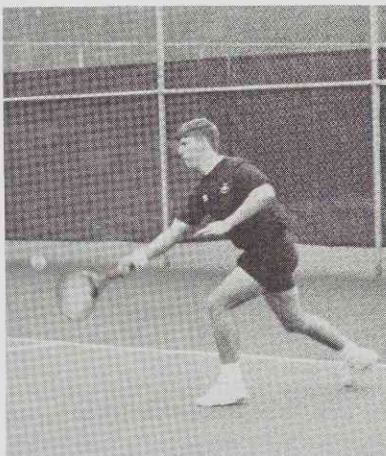
The Running Bulldogs men's tennis team gained its first South Atlantic conference victory of the 1992 season on last Thursday. The 6-3 thrashing of Mars Hill College opens the team's conference mark at 1-1. Junior Todd Davis commented that he thought the team played really well as a whole and was "glad to get the first conference victory for our new coach."

Coach Ray Hardee is in his first season at the helm of the team. Hardee, a former Runnin' Bulldog tennis standout, is "really pleased with the team's work ethic." He added, "We've got more discipline than in the past, and the guys are starting to act like a team." Two-time letterman Jeremy Webb emphasized before the match the "positive attitude that Coach Hardee has brought—everybody is upbeat."

Hardee pointed out the consistent play of Webb, junior Dave Jones and freshman standout Dave Clark. "Clark is a wizard with the racked," he remarked. "What we are doing is building a foundation for the future."

Hardee is confident that the team will be competitive in all matches and hopes to finish the season in the middle of the conference standings. Jones, a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, concurs. "We've made vast improvement since the fall, and we're much more balanced than last year. We'll surprise some people."

The next home matches are March 19 (North-Greenville) and March 27 (Wingate).



Results from Thursday's match against Mars Hill.

Singles

- # 1 Beard (GW) def. Martin 6-1, 6-0
- # 2 Clark (GW) def. Starkey 6-1, 6-1
- # 3 Webb (GW) def. Powell 7-6, 7-5
- # 4 Jones (GW) def. Foster 6-2, 6-1
- # 5 Bess (GW) def. Randleman 6-2, 6-3
- # 6 Davis (GW) def. Watkins 6-3, 6-3

Doubles

- # 1 Powell-Starkey (MH) def. Bess-Cloer 8-4
- # 2 Martin-Foster (MH) def. Wallen-Stricker 8-2
- # 3 Randleman-Watkins (MH) def. Beard-Davis 8-4

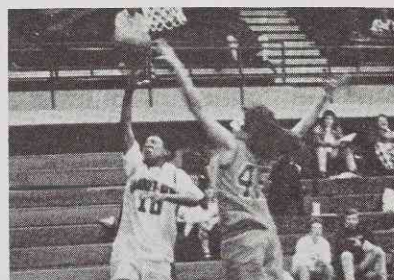
Ladies Close See-Saw Season

By Brian Siatkowski
Sports Writer

The women's basketball team ended a see-saw season with a record of 13-16. They definitely saved the best for last when they maneuvered their way through the SAC-8 tournament only to lose for the second year in a row to Wingate, 70-69. The tournament held a place for three GWC star players, who were selected to the all-tournament team, Lisa Campbell, Mickie Drum and Fredia Lawrence.

Lawrence also finished out the season by being selected player-of-the-year in the SAC-8 and District 26. Lawrence not only led the team in scoring and rebounded but also managed to find herself ranked nationally in the final NAIA and NCAA II scoring and rebounding polls.

Congratulations to the women's team on an impressive season.



Thanks Again,
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