

SportsTalk

Hello, everyone, and welcome to this edition of Sports Talk. I'm your host, Randy Capps, and for this first edition of 1997, the entire Pilot sports staff is in the house. That's right, B.J. Johnson and Carlton Hurt are on hand to drop a little knowledge on you, our loyal readers. Anyway, let's get to some calls.

Hi, this is Chris from Chapel Hill. I am a huge college basketball fan and I just love the Tarheels, so what's up with them and who are the teams to watch right now?

I'm the host, so I think I'll take this one. Let's see...what's up with UNC? I'll tell you. How about the NBA? If Rasheed Wallace, Jerry Stackhouse and Jeff McInnis would have stayed in school, North Carolina would win 30 games and a national championship. But money talks, and those Tarheels walked. So now, UNC will struggle to win 20 games and there is no way they will finish in the top three in the ACC.

No, I'm not crazy. It's just that two of the country's best teams also play in the ACC. Wake Forest is one of the best teams around because of their perimeter shooters, and that center...what's his name? His name is Tim Duncan, and he is the truth! And my boys from Clemson. Rick Barnes has revived a dead program down in Clemson, even if they can't win in Chapel Hill, and now his Tigers are the deepest team this side of Kansas.

Speaking of the Kansas Jayhawks, I think it's their year. They have the guards to contain Clemson, the big men to stop (or maybe slow down) Duncan, and the depth to out-run Kentucky. So in April, the Jayhawks will win it all.

All right, the phone is ringing again. Carlton why don't you take this one.

This is Sparkie from Spindale - Those Panthers were just awesome this year but can they do it again next season?

That's a good question. The Carolina Panthers had an unbelievable season. Winning the NFC West, beating the 49ers twice, knocking off Dallas in the playoffs, and playing in the NFC Championship Game. Wow.

But now the expectations going into next season will be huge. And repeating the success of this past year will be hard. The Panthers' offense will steadily improve with Kerry Collins' continued maturation into a solid NFL quarterback and with the return of Tim Biakabutuka in the backfield. Carolina has a nice young nucleus to work with on offense. However, the defense is anything but young. And herein lies the question: How much longer can some of these defensive players go?

I think the Panthers have one more legitimate shot at the Super Bowl next season. But after that, there may be a youth movement



GWU Coach Rick Scruggs holds the game ball from his 200th career victory against Johnson & Wales on Dec. 14. His Runnin' Bulldogs are currently riding a three-game win streak and are on pace to win 20 games.

(Photo courtesy of Sports Info.)

on the defensive side of the ball. Hopefully the front office and coaching staff will be wise in this spring's draft and get some young defensive players to help build for the future.

Thanks Carlton. Let's go back to the phones. **This is Leroy from the Physical Plant and I want to talk Super Bowl. How 'bout dem Packers!**

Hey, my man B.J. is all over this one.

Thanks R.C. Yeah, the Packers were definitely the best team this season. I am elated that the Charles Barkley of football, Reggie White, got his championship. He deserved it after 14 years. Not to mention, GWU's own Gabe Wilkins got his first career championship. But I am not a happy man. Everyone knew that Green Bay was going to win, but I am calling for Holmgren's job. Why? The greatest quarterback to ever put on shoulder pads did not play. Jim McMahon was the reason I wanted the cheeseheads to get one. It was nice to see him on the sidelines, but I wanted him to do the Super Bowl Shuffle. Anyway, a Titletown cheer, for your boys are champs again.

We have another trivia question for you faithful readers. Where did the greatest quarterback of all time, Jim McMahon, play his college ball? The person who answers correctly will receive a complimentary pink slip autographed by....

Whoa! Calm down B.J. You'll have to excuse my man; he gets a little excited sometimes. Anyway, we here at The Pilot sports staff are looking forward to a great year in campus sports that you can read about right here! Until next time, play a sport and somebody tell me: What is a "Green Room?"

Lady Bulldogs looking to rebound in conference play

by Carlton Hurt
sports editor

The Lady Bulldog basketball team enters the midway point of their South Atlantic Conference schedule with a 4-3 mark, 10-5 overall.

Second-year coach Eddie McCurley has his team in the hunt for a conference title despite playing just two home games in the month of January.

Gardner-Webb has been getting outstanding play throughout the season from senior Tayuane Dewberry. Dewberry has recorded eight double-doubles so far this season. She leads the team in scoring at 15 ppg, and rebounding with 10 a game.

The Lady Bulldogs have also been getting solid play from guard Susie Gaines and forward Katie Joseph. Gaines leads the team in assists and amazingly pulls down five rebounds a game despite being the smallest player on the court most of the time.

Joseph is second on the team in rebounding and along with Dewberry forms one of the best front lines in the conference.

Gardner-Webb will be at home quite a bit in February and that's bad news for Lady Bulldog opponents. G-W is currently 5-0 at Paul Porter Arena and has won 16 consecutive games at home dating back to last season.

"We've lost some games we shouldn't have lost," said Dewberry. "And at times we don't play as a team."

Dewberry also explained that the team goal, which is to win the conference, is still within reach.

"If we pull together we can do it because the talent is there," Dewberry said.

Women's Home Basketball Games During February:

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| Feb. 1 | Catawba |
| Feb. 3 | Limestone |
| Feb. 5 | Carson-Newman |
| Feb. 12 | Lenoir-Rhyne |
| Feb. 19 | Elon |
| Feb. 22 | Wingate |
| Feb. 26-March 1 | SAC Tourney @ GWU |

