

Gardner-Webb Sports

Sports Talk:

Hello, and welcome to this special "March Madness" edition of Sports Talk. I'm your host, Randy Capps. It's NCAA tourney time, so with that in mind, B.J. Johnson, Carlton Hurt and I would like to give you our thoughts on what has happened so far in the "Big Dance."

If you haven't been watching the tournament games on CBS, you've missed some great hoops action. This year's field has produced some improbable, some impossible and some very impressive stories. Clemson's recovery from a late-season slump to slip past Tulsa into the sweet sixteen was improbable, Coppin State knocking off South Carolina and UT Chattanooga's run to the third round was impossible and North Carolina head coach Dean Smith picking up his 877th victory against Colorado was nothing short of impressive.

Predictions are not exactly my specialty right now as I am way behind in my NCAA Tournament pool. But I'm going to give it a shot anyway. I think that North Carolina and Kentucky will breeze into the Final Four in the East and West regions, respectively. Kansas will meet little resistance coming out of the Southeast region. The Midwest region is where it gets interesting. This Final Four slot is wide open as all four teams have a shot to make the trip to Indianapolis. It will be exciting to see Minnesota and Clemson do battle for the second time this season. If the Tigers get past the Golden Gophers, Rick Barnes will lead his team past the UCLA-Iowa State winner. Why...strong defense and patience on offense.

Personally, I think that the Kansas Jayhawks will win the national title and cut the nets down in Indianapolis this year, but that's not my department. I'm going to kick it out to Carlton and B.J. for some analysis and predictions for the remaining games.

Thanks, R.C. This is B.J. writing to you in tears on behalf of Wake Forest fans everywhere. The fake Carolina (South Carolina) finally can shut up and realize they do not have a contending team. Now for the predictions. I think I will begin in the East where every Carolina fan in the entire country ought to be standing in line to kiss Serge Zwickler's butt for avoiding a first round tragedy versus the always tough Fairfield Stags. I have Carolina winning the East region but I will cheer for Texas. In the Southeast how can you possibly pick against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga?

Lady 'Dogs look to kick-start season

by B.J. Johnson
staff writer

The Gardner-Webb softball team enters the midpoint of its season with a respectable 14-9 overall record. However, the Lady Bulldogs are looking to rebound from a slow conference start which has left them 0-2 in SAC play. The team dropped two games at Elon last weekend, 8-0 and 7-5.

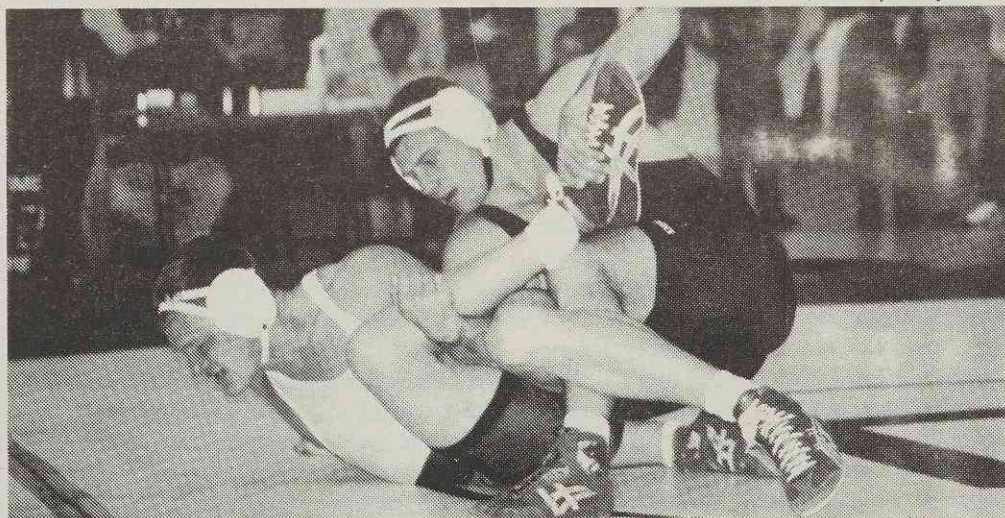
Over spring break GWU traveled to Charlotte to play in the Queens College Tournament. This tournament featured a collection of the best teams in the region. Gardner-Webb won three of four games, which included victories over Limestone 11-3, Barton 11-6 and Augusta State 7-6. Kerryanne Rishko pitched her way to a 2-0 record during the tournament while Tina Mitchum picked up one win. Against Augusta State, Wendy White went four for five at the plate while knocking in five runs. In the

Barton game, Mary Kirkman went three for four and Heather Price was two for three with two runs scored. The Lady Bulldogs traveled to Pfeiffer College on March 13 and split a doubleheader with the Falcons. GWU dropped the first game 2-5, and won the second by a score of 3-1. In the loss, Becky Reuter was two for three with a run. In the win, Tina Mitchum allowed only one earned run and four hits over eight innings. Reuter was two for four with a double and a stolen base. Angie Blair went two for four with a stolen base and a run-batted-in.

GWU will return to action on Friday, March 21 when they travel to Newberry. The team's next home game will be March 25 against Anderson College. The Lady Bulldogs have an important match-up next week when they go to Tennessee to play Carson-Newman, the defending SAC champions.

An All-American

(Photo by Garry Eller)



Gardner-Webb's James Short recently competed in the national wrestling tournament in Fargo, North Dakota. Short, shown here in a match during the regular season, finished eighth in his 190-pound weight class at the nationals. The top eight finishers in each class are declared All-Americans. Short is a native of Hendersonville.

Very easily actually, because Kansas is in their bracket. In the West, I like Stanford but Kentucky will travel to Indy. And last but not least is the Midwest. Minnesota is good but UCLA is better and will prove it by whipping the Golden Gophers. Anyway, I will agree with R.C. that Kansas should win it all. So, Carlton, who do you think will be left?

Well B.J., you guys are picking Kansas to cut the nets down and you may be right (for a change). After all, they have been

ranked #1 the entire season and they have a great point guard, which is always important in tournament play. Kentucky is also very dangerous, simply because of their style of play. The Wildcats can blow out anyone if they are able to run and shoot the "3". However, I was thoroughly impressed with Providence in the first two rounds. They looked very impressive against a good Duke team. I guess the Friars will be my dark horse

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