



Gardner-Webb University THE PILOT

May 2, 1997

Issue #10

The Official Campus Newspaper

Boiling Springs, NC

Gardner-Webb sponsors winning cycling team

by Karen Brower
co-editor

Gardner-Webb recently became the first college or university to sponsor a national cycling team, President Chris White announced at a press conference on Friday, April 25.

Team Shaklee, which bears the Gardner-Webb logo on its uniforms, is among the nation's best cycling teams, according to Director of Public Relations Matt Webber.

Team Shaklee competed in the annual Carolina State Bank Criterium held in uptown Shelby April 25. The team placed three of its members in the top ten, including Criterium winner J-Me Carney. The other members finishing in the top ten were Matt Koschara and Scott Mercer.

Team Shaklee competed in the 1996 Olympic Team Trials held in Boiling Springs last June. The team stayed at Gardner-Webb in 1995 for a week-long training period.

But Gardner-Webb will be more than just a sponsor to Team Shaklee; its campus will be an East-Coast "home base" for the team.

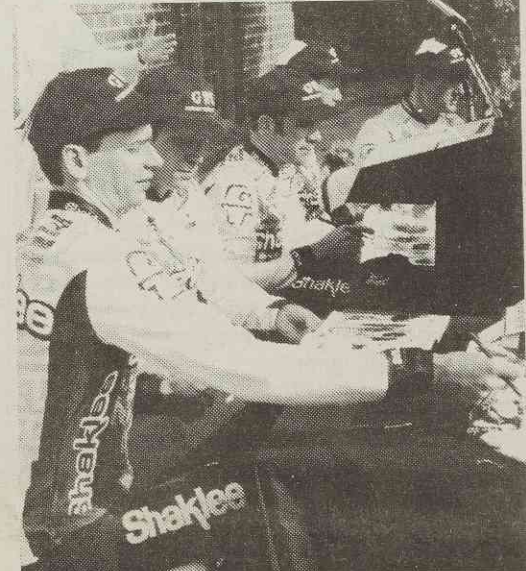
Team Shaklee likes the area surrounding Gardner-Webb because its terrain and weather are perfect for training, Webber said.

"Only a handful of colleges and universities around the country have sponsored professional sports teams, but as far as we know, we are the first to have our name associated with cycling," said Kevin Jones, GWU director of athletic training.

Frank Scioscia, Team Shaklee's manager, says Gardner-Webb will have impact "far and wide" because the team sets up tents at each event it participates in and distributes free sponsor materials.

"There are definitely national implications for the University with this sponsorship. And providing us with a home base for training truly benefits the riders and staff. GWU will be somewhat of a home away from home for us," Scioscia said.

President Chris White is excited about the prospects of this sponsorship. "We hope that this will be more than just a sponsorship. We hope that this is really a relationship, not just with our staff, but with our students," he said at the press conference.



Team Shaklee was on hand at last Friday's press conference to sign autographs for cycling fans. Gardner-Webb is an official sponsor of the team, which competed in the April 25 Criterium in Shelby.
(Photo by Karen Brower)

GWU names new vice presidents

by Randy Capps and Julie Gibson
staff writers

Gardner-Webb University has recently filled two administrative positions: vice president for athletics and vice president for enrollment management.

Chuck Burch, current athletic director at Liberty University, will become Gardner-Webb's Vice President for Athletics this month, President Chris White announced at a press conference on Monday, April 21.

Dean of Special Studies Bob Shackelford has been appointed vice president for enrollment management effective mid-May, White has also announced.

Burch will replace Ozzie McFarland, who announced his resignation earlier this year. McFarland will remain at GWU to teach classes in the new Sport Management program.

Burch has served at Liberty University, a Division I program in Lynchburg, Va., for the past 15 years.

As a 1979 graduate of GWU and a native of Charlotte, N.C., Burch has a great appreciation for the school and the region.

"My experience as a student and an athlete at Gardner-Webb shaped who I am personally and professionally. This is an incredible opportunity for me to return to my alma mater," Burch said.

See "New VPs" on page 8



President White gives new Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch a Gardner-Webb hat and his blown-up yearbook photo from his days at GWU. Burch is one of the vice presidents recently appointed by the university.

(Photo by Karen Brower)

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