

# Runnin' Bulldogs outgunned in shootout, fall to 4-1



KAREN BROWER/staff

Wide Receiver Eric Harris outruns a pair of Wingate defenders in a 54-34 loss on Oct. 5. Harris had 11 receptions for 233 yards and three touchdowns in a losing effort.

by Randy Capps  
sports editor

The Gardner-Webb football team suffered its first loss of 1997, falling to Wingate 54-34 on Oct. 5.

As the score might indicate, this year's battle of the Bulldogs was an offensive affair.

GWU ran up 513 yards of total offense, with sophomore quarterback Clint Conner going 27-43 for five touchdowns and three interceptions while racking up 393 yards.

Junior wide receiver Eric Harris exploded with 11 receptions for 233 yards and three touchdowns, while sophomore Robye DeWitt had six catches for 60 yards and two scores.

Offense was not the problem for GWU on this afternoon. But the defense, which has been outstanding over the first four games, turned in its worst performance of the season.

Wingate rushed for 264 yards, with Tracy Bowen leading the way with 166 yards on 24 carries, as well as a pair of touchdown runs.

This game got off to a rocky start for the Runnin' Bulldogs as Wingate scored on their first possession on a Carvie Kempley TD pass to Kasey Blackwood.

The Bulldogs then blocked a Trey Greene punt for a touchdown and an early 14-0 Wingate lead.

Wingate would go up 21-0 before Gardner-Webb would finally get its offense going.

Conner hit Eric Harris on touchdown passes of 62 and 2 yards, and found Robye DeWitt on a 22 yard scoring strike to cut the Wingate lead to 21-20.

The extra point was blocked, however, and returned for two points for Wingate. A Tracy Bowen scoring run would give WU a 30-20 halftime lead.

The second half didn't begin any better than the first for GWU.

Wingate marched down the field for a touchdown on their opening possession of the second half.

"I thought that was bigger than being down 21-0," Coach Steve Patton said.

"The last two minutes of the first half and the first of the third quarter we went from trying to tie it to being down 17."

Conner would hit Eric Harris for a 24 yard TD pass to cut it to 37-27, but Wingate quarterback Carvie Kempley responded with a 70 yard bomb to Andre Rawlings, putting the game out of reach.

Coach Patton had nothing but praise for Wingate's performance.

"They are not 5-1 by accident. They were just more emotionally ready to play than we were," Patton said.

The Runnin' Bulldogs hope to rebound in time for Homecoming as they will play host to Lenoir-Rhyne on Oct. 11.

The Bears are winless so far this year, losing four games by the combined score of 169-51.

Lenoir-Rhyne has the conference's worst defense, so on paper, this game should be a nice tune-up for consecutive games against nationally ranked teams.

The Bulldogs travel to Salisbury to take on #4 Catawba on Oct. 18, followed by a home date with Carson-Newman, the nation's top team, on Oct. 25.

If GWU can come out of this three-game swing with at least two victories, the Runnin' Bulldogs will probably be in contention for the SAC crown and maybe even a NCAA playoff bid.

**Homecoming '97**  
**GWU vs. Lenoir-Rhyne**  
**Saturday, Oct. 11 at 1 p.m.**  
**Come out and support**  
**your Runnin' Bulldogs!**

## An introduction to the GWU Cross Country teams

by Randy Capps  
sports editor

What do you do on Saturday mornings? Sleep in, maybe catch a few cartoons? Not if you run cross country.

Male cross country runners put in around five miles in a meet, while the women log a little over three.

Now I've got a confession to make. Even though my roommate has been a member of the men's cross country team, I had never seen a meet in my life.

It's not my fault. Because there is not a course mapped out on campus yet, no meets are held here. So I do usually sleep on Saturday mornings.

Well, on Oct. 5, I crawled out of bed and made the trip to Monroe, N.C. to check out the Wingate Invitational.

I've never seen people run so fast for so long. These people run fast and make it look easy. Some of them, anyway.

One runner, who shall remain nameless, vomited about 100 yards from the finish line. Now that's what I call leaving it on the field!

And what made the meet really fun to watch was the fact that we actually have two good squads.

The women, however, are a sad story.

Led by Emily Harrleson, the women have some talented runners. The problem is, there aren't enough of them.

In order to qualify for a meet, a school must have at least five runners in the race to be eligible to win.

Therefore, the ladies have failed to qualify at any meet this year.

"We're one woman away from winning the conference championship," Coach Dick Wince said.

So, attention ladies! If you like to run and you have any school spirit at all, go over to Bost Gym and see Coach Dick Wince today, or call him at #4354.

Okay, let's talk about the men.

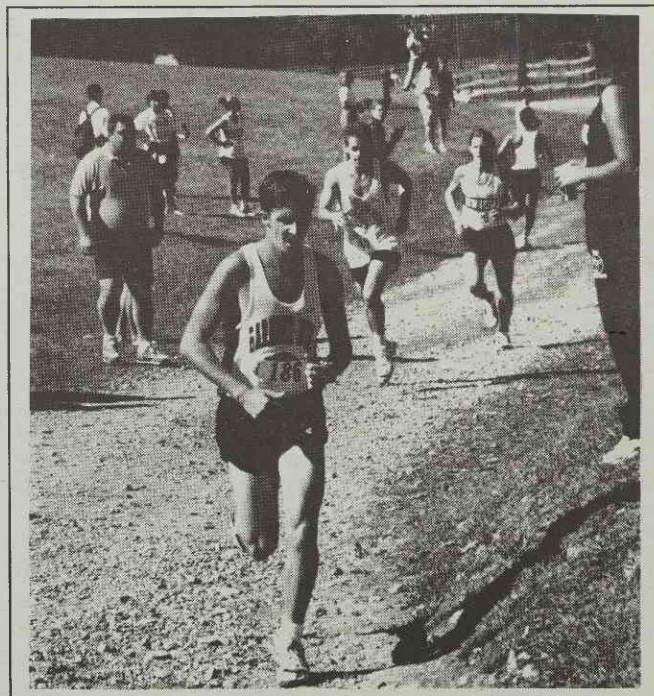
It would have been easy for these guys to get frustrated after 1996 SAC Runner of the Year Rob Stephens transferred.

Instead, the men have been running hard and gaining on the competition.

Case in point: at the Wingate Invitational, freshman Walt Miller led the squad, finishing 14th overall. Coming in at numbers 21-23 were Dan Steadman, Phil Kramer and Frank Spurlock.

Matt Walker passed a runner at the line to push GWU into a tie for second place with Catawba, while Livingstone finished first.

Let's just say it was exciting. I'll be going more often. Hope to see you there!



GARRY ELLER/staff

Freshman Walt Miller runs ahead of a couple of conference runners at the Mars Hill Invitational. Miller has been the top runner for the men's team so far this season.