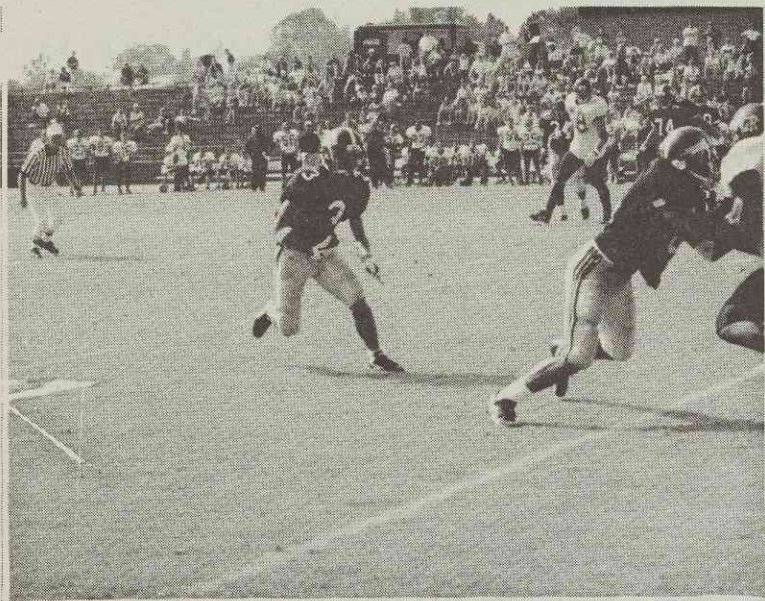


Football team stopped on the road, falls to 5-2 overall (2-2 SAC)



KAREN BROWER/staff

Robye DeWitt tries to turn the corner in Gardner-Webb's 32-0 Homecoming victory over Lenoir Rhyne. DeWitt, a junior from Chesterfield, VA, has stepped up his play in recent weeks to help pace the Runnin' Bulldog offense.

by Randy Capps
sports editor

The Runnin' Bulldogs found out first hand how tough life on the road in the South Atlantic Conference can be as they lost to Catawba (5-2, 2-2 SAC) 34-6 in Salisbury, NC on Oct. 18.

The story of this game was the Indians' defense. This unit came into this game as the top-rated defense in the SAC, allowing less than two yards per carry on the ground.

Gardner-Webb simply could not get their rushing attack going, as the Bulldogs were held to just 30 yards rushing.

CoCo Henderson, who gained 178 yards in the 32-0 Homecoming victory over Lenoir-Rhyne, was smothered in this contest as he ran for negative two yards.

The passing game didn't go much better. Sophomore quarterback Clint Conner was off of his game as he connected on just 10 of his 23 pass attempts for 79 yards.

While the Runnin' Bulldogs' offense sputtered, Catawba's was in high gear.

Senior quarterback Kevin Brown, the 1996 SAC Offensive Player of the Year, had his best game of the season.

Brown completed 13 out of 20 passes for 4 touchdowns and 218 yards. Tight end Jeff Cochrane was on the receiving end of two of those scoring tosses, while J.R. Gibson and Ryan Millwood combined for the other two scores.

Gardner-Webb was only down 10-0 at the half, but the third quarter was all Catawba.

The Indians scored touchdowns on three of their first four possessions of the second half.

After a fumble recovery by Kareem Jordan set the Runnin' Bulldog offense up inside the Catawba five-yard line, Clint Conner scored on a one yard TD run.

But the snap on the extra point attempt sailed over the head of the holder, Trey Greene, and GWU trailed 17-6 at that point.

However, they could pull no closer.

The schedule gets no kinder for Gardner-Webb as they will host the number one ranked team in NCAA Division II, Carson Newman, on Oct. 25.

The Eagles, led by tailback Tyrone Westmoreland, boast the league's best offense and the second-rated defense.

The Eagles are 4-0 in the SAC, including a 26-7 thrashing of Catawba in Jefferson City, TN.

Carson-Newman will be trying to wrap up a share of their fifth straight South Atlantic Conference Championship.

CNC has owned the series between these two teams, having won 23 out of 27 of the meetings. GWU's last victory in the series was in 1992.

It's tough for Coach Steve Patton and his staff to be too disappointed in the play of the Runnin' Bulldogs, after all, this is basically the same squad that finished 2-9 last season.

Men and Women's Tennis teams gearing up for spring

by Randy Capps
sports editor

Men and women's tennis is a spring sport, but both teams are playing fall schedules in preparation for the coming season.

Coach Andy Smith, who leads both the men and women's squads, is happy with the performance of his players so far.

In fact, this year's women's team could be the most talented group that Smith has seen.

A major factor in the success of the Lady Bulldogs is the arrival of Hagar Levy, a sophomore transfer from the University of Tulsa and a native of Ramat Gan, Israel.

Levy has already made some serious noise in her new home. She won the second annual Limestone-GWU Tournament, and was the runner-up in the prestigious Rolex Invitational Tournament.

On her way to the finals, Levy knocked off the number one seed in the East Region, Kim Hampton from SAC rival Presbyterian, 6-4, 6-0. Levy's success in this event was the best in school history.

Junior Lindsay Spradley is having a spectacular fall season in her own right.

The native of Peachtree City, GA lost in the third round of the Rolex to the eventual champion. Spradley will be counted on to provide leadership for the Lady Bulldogs this season.

Every woman who participated in the Rolex won a round, and the importance of this is not lost on Coach Smith.

"We were probably the third-best team there, right behind Barton and Presbyterian," Smith said.

The ladies have been impressive in match play as well, as they traveled to

Banner Elk, NC for a match against Lees-McRae. GWU returned home with a 6-2 victory and a sense of confidence heading into the spring season.

"We have the potential to finish in the top three in the SAC this year. With the addition of Hagar (Levy) and our freshman class to the core of our returning players, we should be right there," Smith said.

The men are not having as much success as the women, but they are gaining valuable experience for the coming season.

Murray Wellington and Jason Allen won two rounds at the Rolex in doubles competition, including a victory over the number two seeds in the East Region's Southern Division.

The Bulldogs have had more than their share of problems this fall, but everyone is back from last year's squad that finished third in the SAC Tournament.

Jason Allen, a junior from Palatka, Florida, and Murray Wellington, a sophomore from Perth, Australia, will have to step up and accept a leadership role for this team.

Coach Smith is still optimistic that his team can build on last year's success.

"Right now the men are working hard. We've had some injuries and some NCAA Clearinghouse problems, so we're at about half-strength. Our goal is still to finish in the top three in the conference like we did last season," Smith said.

The South Atlantic Conference is very strong in tennis, with Presbyterian College the odds-on favorite to win both the men and women's titles.

But with all of the talent on both the men and women's squads, don't be surprised if these teams challenge PC for the conference crown.

Local high school football providing terrific action

an editorial by Randy Capps
sports editor

Some things are just wonderful.

For some, it's sleeping in on rainy mornings. For others, it's a \$100 gift certificate to The Gap. For me, it's high school football.

There's something magical about Friday nights in Cleveland County. Whether it's Crest or Burns, Kings Mountain or Shelby, the atmosphere is tremendous.

The rhythm of the band, the crash of helmets and pads and the smells. Where else can you get the mixed odors of grass, popcorn and teen spirit.

Don't get me wrong. I like college and pro football as well, but there are important differences.

Pro make too much money. Most college players either don't go to class or pay someone else to do their work, probably with a booster's money.

In high school, if a player doesn't succeed in school, they don't play. And when they play, they play for love--not money.

In high school, everything matters just a little bit more. In football, it's almost not a game anymore. It's an all out fight to the finish.

A couple of weeks ago, my job as a reporter for Shelby Headline News took

me to Morganton, NC for a game between Crest and Freedom.

Right after the national anthem, a Freedom fan stood up and said, or should I say screamed, "We're gonna win! I know it!"

Crest fans responded with some PG-13 language and then they played football.

There are many more moments that I can't tell you about, this being a Christian school and all--but you get the point.

The best thing about high school football is that there is something for everyone.

Like a good marching band? I've never seen one better than the one at Crest High School. The majorette spins a flaming baton and the music is great too.

If you are partial to tradition and days gone by, go see the Shelby Golden Lions.

They have the old school, H-style goal posts, and the quarterback runs more than he throws.

If you thought Rudy was the greatest movie ever, make the trip up to Lawndale to watch the Burns Bulldogs.

They are small and slow, often outmanned and understaffed, but they play the game with the most heart and desire I've ever seen.

And Kings Mountain has the only press box that I know of that serves oysters.

Even if you don't like football, make the trip to a local high school game. You'll be glad you did!