

# Former MLB pitcher helps baseball

**Travis John**  
*Pilot staff*

Gardner-Webb was proud to have a former Major League baseball player pitch to the Bulldogs baseball team in their annual 100-inning baseball game.

Tommy John, who played for the Chicago White Sox, Oakland A's, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Dodgers, California Angels, and New York Yankees, was on hand to throw the entire game.

The game started at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 6 and broke around 12:00 for lunch. While the team was eating their lunch, Dr. White announced to the crowd that Gardner-Webb was beginning to build a baseball clubhouse for the players. The building will be built right behind right field.

White said, "This building will have locker rooms for the players, offices for the coaches, and an indoor batting cage for the players to hit in."

The foundation will be started sometime in the next

few weeks.

After lunch, the players continued with the rest of the game. Freshman Jason Palfrey was the first Bulldog player to hit a homerun off John. Not only was it the first homerun, it was the only grand slam homerun hit during the game. Allan Hegler was another Bulldog player to hit a three-run homerun.

As the game came down to the last three outs, the home team was losing by one run with two men on base. Palfrey hit a soft ground ball to the third baseman who overthrew the ball to first base. Travis John, the runner on second, saw the ball go over the first baseman's head and ran home to take the home team to a 36-35 victory.

Tommy John said, "I love doing anything that involves baseball. It is something that I played when I was eight years old. I love to see kids have a good time practicing the game, and if they need any help, I am willing to help out any way I can."



Photo by Jason Phillips

Tommy John, who pitched for various MLB teams, came to pitch for GWU's 100 inning Baseball Game.

## Lady Bulldogs ready to win

**Elizabeth Allen**  
*Pilot staff*

The 1999-2000 Lady Bulldogs are gearing up for what looks to be a promising season. The Lady Bulldogs have several returning players and quite a few new players that will be key factors this season, stated Coach Eddie McCurley.

"I feel like we're a more talented team and we're going to be a better conditioned team," McCurley said.

The past two years the Lady Bulldogs, as a team, have had to struggle through injuries. However, this year, the team has managed to remain injury free, McCurley said.

"Everybody's healthy and in pretty good shape; we're really looking forward to an exciting season," McCurley said.

Senior forward Jamie Boyles is also optimistic about this team and season.

"I believe we're coming along, slowly but surely," Boyles said.

Conference play for the Lady Bulldogs will not begin until January; however, the season will start in the next few weeks.

## Volleyball team ends record setting season

**Michelle Wood**  
*Pilot staff*

The Lady Bulldogs closed out a spectacular season by winning the South Atlantic Conference tournament held at Catawba College. The Bulldogs faced Tusculum College in the first round of the tournament. Gardner-Webb downed the Pioneers for the fourth time this season in an easy 15-0, 15-7, 15-3 victory.

The Bulldogs got solid play from everyone, with Heather Hauser totaling 18 kills and 22 digs. Linette Ramsey and Laura King each had 15 kills, while defensive specialist Kellie Williams added 16 digs. Reserves Cheryl McDonald and Shannon Goodson also played well,

while freshman Beth Ross finished with a career-high 6 digs. Jessi Fick recorded 47 assists for the match.

Saturday morning Gardner-Webb faced rival Mars Hill. Although the Lady Lions put up a good fight, they were no match for the Bulldogs, who won 15-7, 16-14, 15-8.

In the championship match, Gardner-Webb faced second-seed Presbyterian. The Blue Hose jumped out to an early lead, but the Lady Bulldogs quickly came alive showing fans why they were the conference champions. The Bulldogs won the first game 15-5. Though they found themselves behind early in the last two games, the Lady Bulldogs won handily 15-4, 15-6. Presbyterian offered a tremen-

dous effort, but it simply was not enough to defeat the Bulldogs.

Hauser had a team-high 10 kills, while King led the defensive effort with 8 digs and 5 blocks. Fick recorded 28 assists in her final match.

Ramsey, Hauser and Fick were named first-team all-conference, and King was placed on the second team. Ramsey was also named player-of-the-year, becoming only the second player in Gardner-Webb history to receive this honor. Head coach Angell Benson was named coach-of-the-year for the second time in her four year career. Hauser and Fick were named statistical leaders in digs per game and assists per game, respectively. The team also received awards for lead-

ing the conference in statistical categories including hitting percentage, kills per game, assists per game and digs per game.

Gardner-Webb finished the season at 42-4, the best mark in school history and one of the best records in the nation. Their 32-game win streak may well be the longest in the country this year. Benson attributed the team's success to their depth and sense of unity.

"We were a lot deeper team this year than we have been in the past, and the team was very cohesive. We played with lots of confidence. Whenever the girls stepped on the court, they had no doubt that they would win, Benson said.