

# Women's soccer faces tough opponents



Photo by Jessica Webb

Junior Michelle Vander Vart moves toward the ball at a recent game at Clemson University.

## Courtesy Sports Info

The women's soccer team tackles a difficult Division I schedule this year in their quest for a third-straight winning season.

Only once before in Gardner-Webb's soccer history has the women's program posted consecutive winning seasons.

The Runnin' Bulldogs won 11 games last year and have posted 24 victories over the past two seasons. A solid core of juniors returns to lead the young squad into a highly-competitive Division I schedule.

Junior tri-captains Amber Bolick, Dawn Zimmerman and Melissa "Mo" Austell, along with scoring stars Kim O'Brien and Michelle Haas have spearheaded Gardner-Webb's success since arriving on campus in 1999.

Third-year skipper Kevin Mounce hopes that a capable crop of newcomers will blend with the veteran core to raise the teams level of play.

"This year we will again look to improve," Mounce said. "We have a great core of players who have played with one another for a couple of years now and, with the addition of some talented freshmen, the future seems to get a little brighter each day."

Mounce made several adjustments during spring practice and expects the Bulldogs to be improved defensively.

"Our defense has to get better," he said. "I think they will after a solid showing in the spring. Our schedule demands that each player in the back must improve for us to compete at the highest level."

In only the second year of transition to NCAA Division I, and the final year as an independent, Gardner-Webb beefed up its schedule considerably. Not shying away from competition, the Bulldogs will battle 17 Division I foes in 2001.

## Highlights

RECORD: 2-3

### Southern Miss. 1 GWU 0

Southern Miss. squeaked by the Lady Bulldogs despite a great defensive effort. Hilary George kept the game close with 8 saves.

### Clemson 4 GWU 0

Clemson's Heather Beem scored twice as the Tigers dominated GWU, outshooting them 32-1. GWU goal keeper Hilary George had 7 saves.

### GWU 2 Campbell 1

Elizabeth Kier's goal in the 82nd minute broke a 1-1 tie and gave GWU a win to start the season. Amber Bolick also scored for the Bulldogs.

## Highlights

RECORD: 1-4

### Georgia State 3 GWU 2

A late goal lifted Georgia State past GWU. Brian Wentzel and Manny Trujillo recorded goals. Rio Oros had 5 saves.

### GWU 2 Radford 1

Sergio Lozano scored the game winning goal in overtime to push the Bulldogs past Radford for their first win of the season. The GWU defense only allowed five shots on goal.

### Winthrop 4 GWU 2

Sophomore Brian Wetzel led GWU with a goal and an assist in the loss. Rio Oros made 8 saves.

### Wofford 3 GWU 1

Manny Trujillo put GWU ahead 1-0 at half, but Wofford reeled off 3 goals in the second half to pull to victory.

# Men looking for a better season

Christi Hallis  
*Pilot staff*

The 2000 Gardner-Webb men's soccer season, according to their 2-17 record, was not a successful one. Despite last year's struggles with a young team and difficult schedule, the returning 2001 team has a positive outlook for this season.

Defender and co-captain of the team, Sophomore Tommy Boynton thinks the trials of 2000 were beneficial.

"We had a losing season last year, a difficult season. But I think we really learned a lot, and we're excited to be playing big teams like Clemson, Wake Forest and USC. We hope this experience will help us with a bid when we enter the Atlantic Sun Conference next year," Boynton said.

Co-captain Manny Trujillo echoed Boynton's excitement. "Last year was rough, but I think we've really grown as a team. We've gelled together and learned how to play."

Some of last year's standouts

who return to dominate this year are scoring threats Darnell Carroll and Sergio Lozano. Lozano anticipates a successful season. "We've got a pretty good team, and we're strong offensively and defensively—we just have to play as a team," he said.

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~Sergio Lozano

The veterans anticipate that this year's additions will only help to strengthen the team. Troy Steffen, a goalkeeper from Georgia, plans to get some time and experience in the net.

Freshmen midfielders Matt Clement, Chris Williams and Carlos Rameriz promise to bring speed and stamina to the field. Tony Hull, a freshman from Pennsylvania, will add depth and strength to the defense.

Bryan Kelly, a transfer from Scotland, is also an exciting addition to the team. A striker, who Trujillo calls "an excellent scorer; very composed" adds an exciting offensive element.

All of these elements—the learning experience of last season teemed with the new faces and huge schedule of the current season—will no doubt create a thrilling year for the Bulldogs.

The men plan to be a standout team at Gardner-Webb this year, and hope to win the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association (NCCAA) Championship.

"Men's soccer, even though we are a young team (90% sophomores) play more Top 25 teams than any other team here at Gardner-Webb," Trujillo added.

Sophomore defender, Todd Ulrich said, "This year, standout players need to step up and role players need to live up to their expectations. We're really excited about this season."