

Volleyball looks to stay strong in play

Courtesy Sports Info

In its second year of transition to NCAA Division I competition, the Gardner-Webb women's volleyball program is set to improve on last season's 14-match win total.

A solid core of veterans, including a quartet of seniors who have helped Gardner-Webb to a combined total of 84 wins in three seasons, return to lead the lady Bulldogs.

Head Coach Angell Benson welcomes supremely talented outside hitter Linette Ramseur back to the lineup in 2001 following a redshirt season.

"Having Linette back in the lineup immediately adds firepower for us," said Benson.

"Her explosiveness around the net is amazing and she's been a clutch player for us in the past. She plays her best in big matches. She knows how to win."

Seniors Bethany Trouville and Cheryl McDonald also will be expected to raise their level of play and provide leadership for the Lady Bulldogs. Trouville, a 5-foot-10 outside hitter, finished fourth on the

team with 250 kills last season and had a team-best 386 digs. McDonald, a defensive specialist, had 266 digs and 12 assists.

The return of Rebekah Coan adds another element of athleticism for the Lady Bulldogs. After spending the 2000 season away from volleyball, Coan hopes to duplicate her 140 kills as a sophomore in 1998.

"Each has been involved in our success in the past and are aware of what it takes to win at this level," said Benson. "Experience is always a plus, and both players are seasoned veterans. Rebekah is a great athlete who will be playing a new position in the middle. Her return is a plus for our team."

This season's schedule is the Lady Bulldogs' toughest ever, with matches against 10 solid NCAA Division I opponents, including Central Florida, Furman, Western Carolina and Virginia Tech.

"Our schedule is going to be tougher each year, but it is necessary for our players to experience top-flight competition," Benson said. "The ladies had a good pre-season. If they continue to work this hard, they should do well in the season."

Richardson has second 100-yard game Bulldogs lose to Bucs

Mike Shade
Pilot sports editor

The Gardner-Webb University football team traveled to Johnson City, Tennessee, on Saturday, September 9 to give East Tennessee State all they had. And it was all the Buccaneers could handle.

In the end, ETSU triumphed over the Bulldogs 30-17, behind a strong defensive effort and 3 second-half field goals. Yet the 'Dogs gave them all the game they wanted.

The Buccaneers marched 77 yards for a touchdown on the opening drive, concluding with a nine-yard lob from quarterback Matt Wilhelm that found Cecil Moore in the corner of the end zone.

On the Bucs' next possession, Wilhelm gave it right back, with a high pitch on an option play, resulting in an ETSU turnover. Gardner-Webb took over, and ended an 8-play drive with a Jeremy Martin touchdown pass to William Andrews to even the score at seven.

East Tennessee State looked like they might pull

away in the second quarter, pulling ahead 21-7 with 7:43 remaining in the first half.

But GWU would not fold. Senior Justin Richardson's barreling eight-yard touchdown run pulled the Bulldogs to within seven with a mere 29 seconds left in the half.

Early in the second half, a Jensen Turner interception gave GWU the ball deep in Buccaneer territory, and set up an Andrew Harmon 32-yard field goal, making the score 21-17 ETSU.

That was as close as Gardner-Webb would get. Despite the defense not allowing a touchdown in the second half, the Buccaneers' Con Chellis connected on field goals of 34, 27 and 30 yards to lead ETSU to victory.

The Gardner-Webb defense was led by Jim Maxwell with 12 hits, and Adrian Clark with nine tackles.

Richardson rushed for 133 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries to lead Gardner-Webb. Richardson and the Bulldogs next travel to Louisiana for a game with Northwestern State (2-0) and will host Samford September 22 at 6 p.m.

Highlights

RECORD: 1-1

GWU 45 UT Martin 20

Senior Tailback Justin Richardson rushed for 170 yards on 22 carries as GWU cruised to an opening night victory. QB Jeremy Martin went 16 for 25 for 197 yards with two touchdowns. Brandon Gentry led the defense with five hits.

ETSU 30 GWU 17

Justin Richardson now averaging 151 yards per game in 2001. Darin Bradford helped the offensive effort with a pair of catches for 74 yards.

Runners set goals for improvement

Margaret O'Driscoll
Pilot staff

Gardner-Webb cross country is off to a good start with high expectations from head coach Bryan Fetzer.

With this being the last year in transition to Division I, he hopes the team will continue to build and improve.

When asked for his outlooks on the coming season, Coach Fetzer said, "We want to be good now as well as next year."

This period will be a growing year for the team but the school can anticipate the hard work to pay off. He is expecting leadership from his two seniors Mike McCauley and Melissa Houghton to strengthen the team.

Assistant coach Brian Baker is a new addition to the cross country team this year.

Coach Baker, from the University of Arkansas, is expected to bring the knowledge and experience needed to push the athletes toward Division I quality.

"We want to be good now as well as next year."

Coach Brian Fetzer

ECAC champion Sylvia Chelimo will be given a much deserved rest this season after placing 10th in the World University Games 5,000-meter run in China this fall.

Coach Fetzer could not be more proud of her accomplishments. All students are encouraged to come out and watch their fellow Bulldogs compete in the next home meet on October 5th.

Highlights

Men's Cross Country

RECORD: 1-0

The team swept the top three spots in the danielchapterone relays making its way to defeating Wofford College.

The team of Michael McCauley and Greg Maliterno finished first with the time of 35:26.90. They were closely followed by Bulldog teammates Adam Gaske and Johnathon Dameron (35:44.00) and Jesse Haygood and Chip Carter (37:23.00).

The race was scored in a head-to-head team format, and the men's team came out topping Wofford in the 10,000 meter race.

Women's Cross Country

RECORD: 1-1

The women's team finished second behind Clemson University in the danielchapterone relays.

Clemson earned the top two spots in the 6,000 meter race while the GWU tandem Petona McClymont and Kathryn Phillips finished third, and fellow Bulldogs Melissa Houghton and Amanda Hofacker came in fourth.

Gardner-Webb went to 1-1 on the season, losing to Clemson, but beating Wofford.