

## Sports

### Softball season looks promising for team

Summer Hess  
Special to the Pilot

As the weather warms up, so does the Gardner-Webb sports teams' readiness for competition. This season promises to be more competitive than ever as the softball team joins with the rest of the school's athletics in Division I play.

Head Coach Tom Cole is optimistic. "Our goal is to win the NCCAA National Championship, pure and simple." But with teams like Villanova, Georgia State, Virginia Tech and Purdue on their schedule, it promises to be difficult a journey.

The girls, however, are up for the challenge. The team is led by senior captains Joni Carter, Stevie Bolin and Julie Dillon, all four-year players.

Both Dillon and Carter agree that this is the best team they have played for. "We have good, positive and enthusiastic mentors. The enthusiasm really rubs off," said Bolin.

All three also think that the team works really well together, "as a unit" said Carter.

Cole agrees. "We're ready to go right now! We're very happy with the players in this program. I know they're very excited as well. There's an attitude on this

team that we're ready to win."

Opposing teams better be prepared to play these ladies. It seems that some teams tend to overlook Gardner-Webb. But Cole issued a sincere warning to such competitors: "We have a team that will surprise them."

The season opened up at home against St. Andrews Presbyterian on Feb. 7.

#### 2002 Schedule Home games

2/7/02 2:00  
St. Andrews

2/9/02 2:00  
Campbell U.

2/23/02 1:00  
Shippensburg University

2/26/02 2:00  
College Charleston

4/11/02 2:00  
East Tenn. State

4/13/02 1:00  
Winthrop Univ.

4/14/02 2:00  
Morris Brown College

#### Women's Basketball

The Lady Bulldogs fell to East Carolina University, 61-60, on a jump shot by ECU's Samantha Panky with 16.4 seconds to go.

The Lady Bulldogs shot 34.4 percent from the field.

Leading the GWU attack was senior Shirley Andorful, who recorded 14 points and 17 rebounds.

Amanda Boles scored 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds, while Casey Collins added 13 points.

GWU (3-20) will play next on Saturday at Lipscomb University (Tenn.).

#### Tennis

Men's Tennis  
High Point 6, GWU 0

1-Widange (HP) def. Skelton  
2-Dorfh (HP) def. Weening  
3-Fahlgren (HP) def. Abraham  
4-Hagdahl (HP) def. Brown  
5-Sjoberg (HP) def. Osborne  
6-Ferguson (HP) def. Cooper

Women's Tennis  
High Point 5, GWU 1

1-Kennaugh (HP) def. McInnis  
2-Meyerson (HP) def. Hoeffner  
3-Foltyn (HP) def. Handzus  
4-Stridh (HP) def. Borders  
5-D'Aray (HP) def. DeJong  
6-Ilcheva def. Wicks (HP)



Photo by Joy Marinelli

Freshman Jennifer Chester flies across the Gardner-Webb pool via the back stroke during the meet on Jan. 26.

### Swim team finishes on top

Christi Hallis  
Pilot copy editor

The Lady Bulldogs finished the regular season with wins in their third and fourth straight meets this weekend.

Feb. 1 they won 11 events against NC A&T, beating them 165-38.

Jennifer Chester won the 200-meter freestyle and the 100

meter backstroke, and Cheryl Home won the 100-meter fly and the 500-meter freestyle. Katie Thrall took top honors in the 100-meter freestyle and the 200-meter IM.

Melissa Smith took the 100-meter breaststroke crown and teammate Jennifer Bishop captured the 1,000-meter freestyle.

Feb. 2 the ladies won seven of 11 events and beat Cumberland College, 133-64.

Among these events, they swept the 200 individual medley, with Chester in first, Becky Henninger in second and Kourtney Hamilton in third.

The Lady Bulldogs will travel to Jacksonville, Fla. Feb. 14-26 to compete in the Southern States Conference Championships.

The team will then compete in the ECAC championships on Feb. 22.

### Men's basketball season on track after nailing 27th-straight home win

Jamesia Brown  
Pilot staff

This season has been a great success for the men's basketball team. They have worked well together as a unit, giving the team, not an individual, the win.

"The season has gone tremendously well so far. The wins over Colorado State, South Alabama, Yale, Furman and Murray State were great," said Head Coach Rick Scruggs.

The season has held the tone of fellowship as the wins build up.

"I think it is going really well and we have been truly blessed," said Eli Strait.

Coach Scruggs stated that the team's strengths are "togetherness, trust, common goals and playing hard every night."

These are the skills that have come in handy with big wins so far this season.

"Everyone can play well together as a team and they can play well as an individual," said Bruce Fields. "It doesn't matter who is on the floor or who scores but how we play with each other."

Strait elaborated on their teamwork by saying, "No one is concerned about their playing time, just that the team does well."

In the latest game, the Bulldogs (14-8) went on the road to face a struggling Savannah State team (2-20). James Colwell scored a game-high 21 points, including four three-pointers, as Gardner-Webb squeaked by the Tigers, 75-67.

Despite shooting well

below their season average from behind the arc (29.4 percent), GWU held on down the stretch, outrebounding Savannah State 48-39.

Gardner-Webb used that balanced attack to avenge an early season loss to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, beating them 86-76 for their 27th consecutive home win on Feb. 2.

Fields led the way with 19 points and 11 rebounds, guiding the Bulldogs to their thirteenth win of the season.

James Colwell added 16 points and Chas Chriss scored 12, as the Bulldogs shot 46.6 percent from the field, knocking down 11 three-pointers.

The Bulldogs will travel this weekend to Lipscomb and will play again at home next Tuesday against Southern Wesleyan at 7:30 p.m.