

## Sports

## GWU tennis teams spend spring break on the road

Jennifer Menster  
Pilot web editor

While many Gardner-Webb students were enjoying the sun of Florida or relaxing on the couch at home, the men's and women's tennis teams were on the road, playing matches along the Atlantic coast.

The men played against five teams, with one win and four losses. The ladies played in three different matches, losing all three.

"I felt we performed and played well," said Coach Andy Smith. "Both teams are playing better, and hopefully we will finish up the season strong."

Action began for the Bulldogs March 2 at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The men lost the match 4-1. Sophomore Bryan Edmonds recorded the win, defeating his opponent 6-2, 6-3.

The Lady Bulldogs had the same result, losing to Wilmington 4-2. Recording wins for the Bulldogs were sophomore Courtney McInnis, who won 6-4, 6-4. Sophomore Brandy Borders also won, defeating the competition 7-5, 6-4.

After getting rained out March 3 against Coastal Carolina, the teams headed to Charleston, S.C. on March 4.

While the ladies had a day of rest, the men would face Holy Cross in the morning and The Citadel in the afternoon. Morning play went well for the Bulldogs, who won 7-0.

The men would not have the same positive results against The Citadel, losing 5-2. Recording the two wins for the Bulldogs were sophomore Phil Skelton, beating his opponent 6-3, 6-0. Senior co-captain Matt Cooper also recorded a win, defeating his opponent 6-3, 6-4.

Freshman Alex Weening and Edmonds recorded a win in doubles defeating the competition 9-7.

Coming off an ace victory and a tough loss for the men, both teams would play a day later against host Jacksonville University.

In men's action, sophomore Mike Osborne defeated his opponent 6-4, 1-6, 7-6, recording the only Gardner-Webb win in a 6-1 Jacksonville victory.

Osborne and partner Aaron Brown, senior co-captain, took the only GWU win in doubles, winning 7-6.

The Lady Bulldogs would also record a tough loss against Jacksonville University, losing 7-0. The Dolphins were perfect in play, defeating the Bulldogs in all six single matches and three double matches.

The last action the teams would see for the week was on March 6 at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona, Florida. The men fell 6-0 in singles and 3-0 in doubles.

After a tough loss in Jacksonville, the Lady Bulldogs fought hard against Embry-Riddle. But, their efforts fell short, losing 7-2.

Sophomore Elena Itcheva defeated her opponent 6-0, 6-2. The other Bulldog win came in double competition when freshmen Molly Hoeffner and Lorielle Ferlita defeated the Embry-Riddle pair 8-4.

On March 15, the Bulldogs faced Lees-MacRae at home. The men lost 6-1. Brown recorded the only Bulldog win. Cooper and Skelton won their double match.

The ladies gave their all but still came up short, losing 4-3. Freshman Melissa DeJong defeated her opponent 6-0, 6-1.

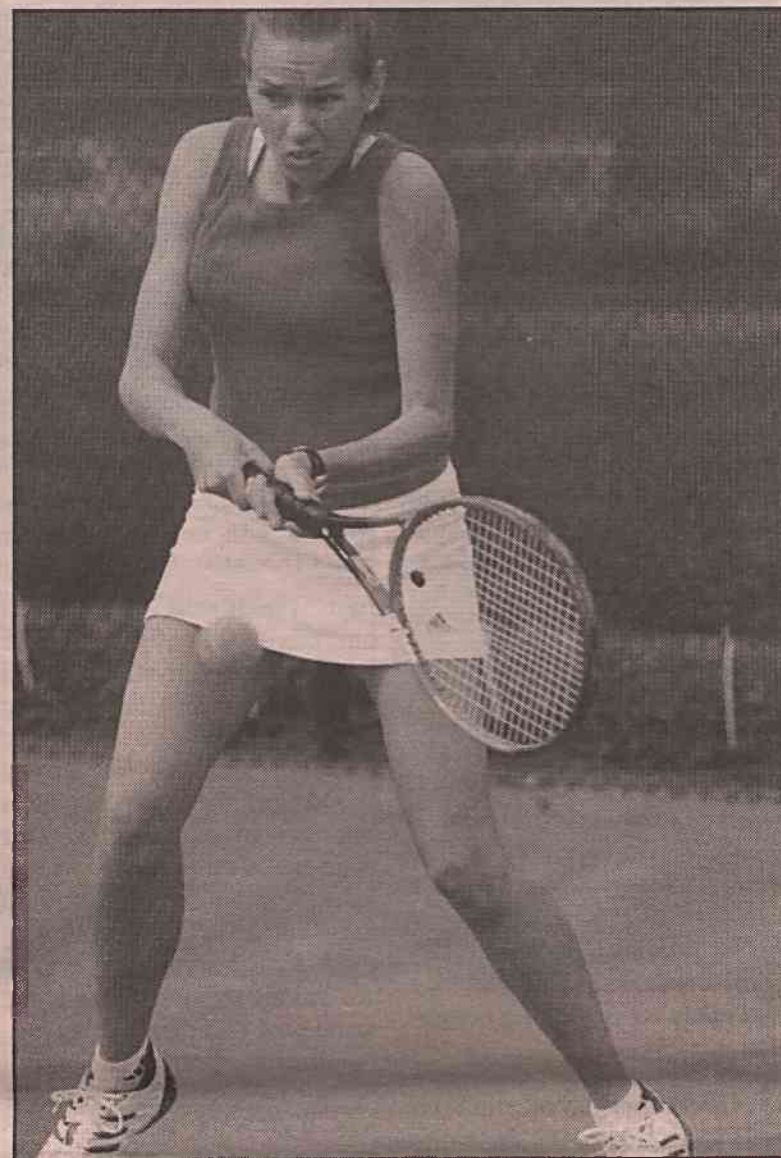


Photo by Jessica Webb

Lisa Handzus hits a backhand return during a match against East Tennessee State University earlier this spring.

## Baseball team anticipates rewarding season

Jennifer Menster  
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*There is a saying that blondes have the most fun. Just ask the baseball team. For the start of their 2002 season, the team dyed their hair. Maybe it was for team unity or maybe it was just something to do.*

Going into the 2002 season with blonde heads, one of the team's goals was to win the National Christian College Athletic Association World Series.

"We want to win the whole thing," said junior Jay Bennett. "Everyone wants to get a ring."

In the 2001 season, the Bulldogs bounced back from a slow start to make it to the regionals. The young team won the regionals and headed to Ohio for the World Series, where they came up short. "It was tough," said Coach Clyde Miller, who is in 13th year as baseball coach at Gardner-Webb.

The team had no seniors and was composed of eight juniors, 15 sophomores and 11 freshmen.

"We were very young and inexperienced," said Miller. "But we improved with each game."

The team finished the year 29-32. Sophomore Clay Konas was named NCCAA All-American, and sophomore Sam Bradford, senior Rod Lane, then-junior Eric Lawing and senior Dan Rothem were selected to the NCCAA all-regional team.

Going into the 2002 season, the team had more



Photo by Jessica Webb

Senior Brook Collins pitches against Georgia State University on Tuesday, March 21.

experience and lots of practice, going six days a week during the fall and spring semesters.

"We started playing much better once we got to know each," said senior Cory Evans. "[Last year] we were all young and had to learn each others' styles."

The team also had to learn to play in Division I

competition. Evans, who has been with the team for four years, said he enjoyed Division I over Division II because the teams were better and the players had more talent.

For each game, the team goes by the motto of "balls out."

"We go as hard as we can," said Bennett. "We never give less than 110 percent."

## 2002 Baseball schedule

3/28/2002	3:00	Limestone College
3/29/2002	1:00	West Virginia State
3/30/2002	noon	West Virginia State
4/4/2002	3:00	Augusta State
4/7/2002	1:00	Lander Univ.
4/9/2002	3:00	Brevard College
4/16/2002	3:00	Charleston Southern
4/24/2002	3:00	Morris Brown
4/30/2002	3:00	UNC Asheville
5/5/2002	2:00	Presbyterian College