



The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University



Thursday, February 27, 2003

www.gwupilot.com

Volume 6 No. 9

BASEBALL

Off to a swinging start

Conference play to begin this weekend

By Emily Killian and John Olson
Pilot staff

Right now, the so-called Gardner-Webb 'Diamond Dogs' are worth their weight in gold.

After winning their last three home games, the Dogs are looking forward to eight more games on the road in 10 days.

On Feb. 25, the Dogs added another win to their record, defeating East Tennessee State University, 9-0, extending their winning streak to five games, three of which are at home.

"We're in a groove right now," said Joey Siak, who pitched in game two against N.C. A&T Sunday. "We're playing with level heads. We have the talent, and if we go out there and really play, we'll be able to hang in with them [other Division I teams]."

The Dogs, ranked last in both A-Sun coaches and media polls, have exceeded preseason expectations.

"We look at it as an opportunity to make a name for ourselves," said outfielder Sammy Styers, "We're just going out there to play."

The team's confident attitude is built on last season's success and this season's wins.

"Our attitude is expecting to win and compete with these other teams," said Siak.

Other teams competing against the Dogs include Florida Atlantic, ranked 24 in Baseball America's preseason Top 25 poll; Stetson, ranked 18; South Carolina, ranked 14 and unranked University of Florida.

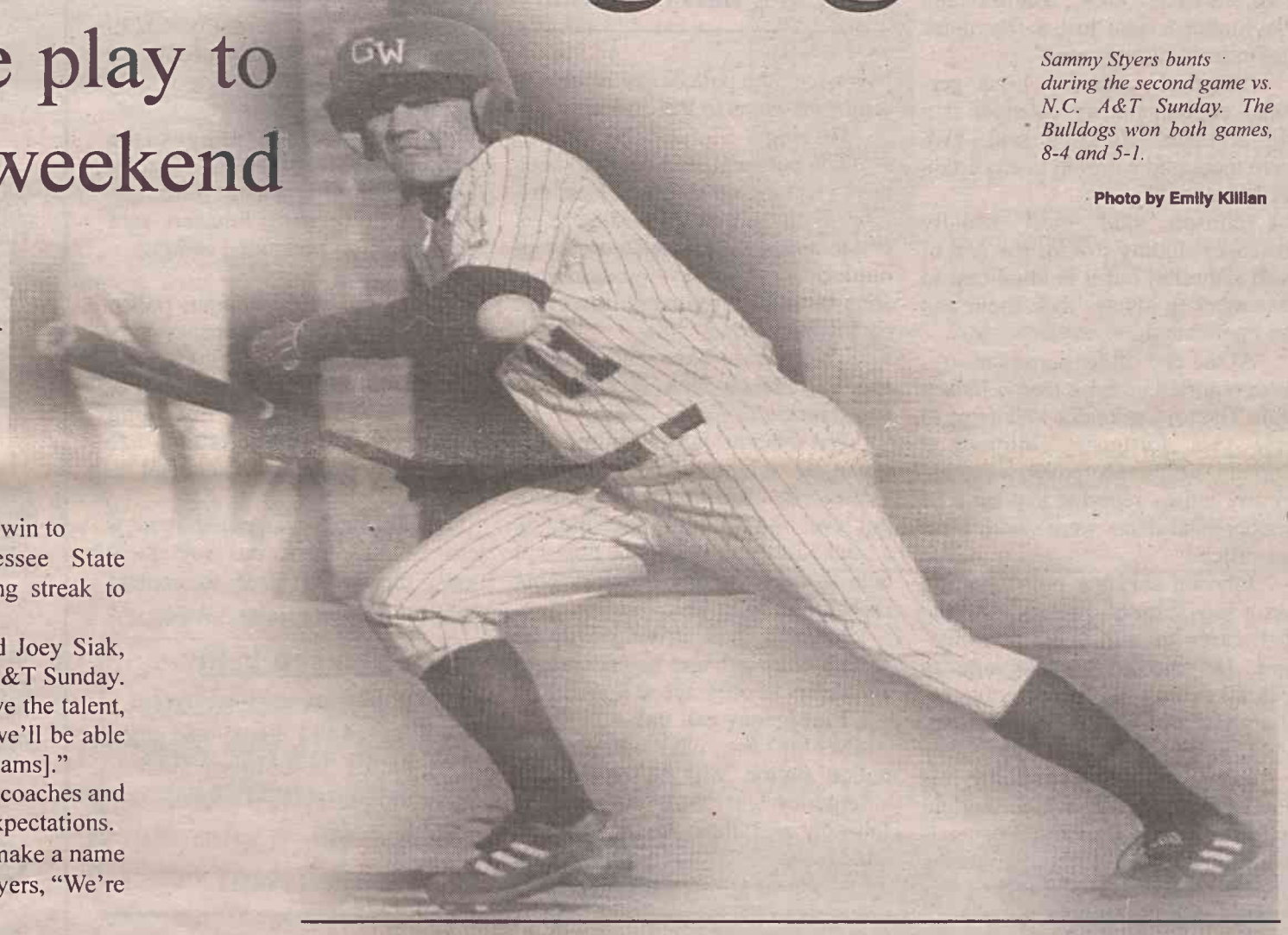
The Dogs (7-2) will face 26 Division I schools this season as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Conference play begins Feb. 28 against Florida Atlantic University in a three-game series. Although Florida Atlantic is 9-4 this season, the GWU players are enthusiastic about the upcoming game.

"We treat every team the same," said Abe Gonzalez, a pitcher for the Dogs. "All teams are on the same level [for us]."

Styers believes that the team has "really meshed together" and stressed the team's chemistry this season.

see Baseball page 8



Sammy Styers bunts during the second game vs. N.C. A&T Sunday. The Bulldogs won both games, 8-4 and 5-1.

Photo by Emily Killian

On the Inside

Campus police investigating series of thefts....

page 2

Professor nominated for poetry award....

page 3

Guys strike out on pick-up lines

pages 6

"Daredevil" hits theaters; gets rave reviews.....

page 7

Swimmers finish season on strong note.....

page 8

News.... page 2-3

Features... page 4,5

Op/Ed.... page 6

A&E.... page 7

Sports..... page 8