

Sports

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's Basketball
Recruiting

Gardner-Webb University head men's basketball coach Rick Scruggs announced Wednesday that Jeffersonville (Ind.) High star Matt Pait had signed a National Letter of Intent to play for the Runnin' Bulldogs.

Pait, a 6-foot-2, 190-pound guard, is one of the highest rated prep recruits to sign with the Gardner-Webb men's program since the Runnin' Bulldogs moved to the NCAA Division I level three years ago. Pait is the son of former Gardner-Webb point guard John Pait, who was a standout under Coach Eddie Holbrook from 1974-78 in Boiling Springs. During the elder Pait's playing career, the Runnin' Bulldogs posted an amazing 107-13 overall record and were ranked No. 1 nationally in the NAIA poll at some point during all four seasons.

Pait, considered the top prospect in Southern Indiana this season, was a first-team All-State selection following a senior year that saw him average 18.8 points, 4.1 assists, 3.0 steals and 6.3 rebounds per game.

—Sports Info

Women's Basketball
Recruiting

Gardner-Webb's women's basketball team signed its final three recruits, Head Coach Barry Street announced Thursday. Coupled with those who signed in the early signing period, GWU will bring in six freshmen next season.

Brittany Harmon, Latoya Carter and Candyse Kelly are the newest recruits to join the Gardner-Webb fold.

Harmon, a 6-0 forward/center from Virginia Beach, Va., averaged a double-double in 2003, scoring 11.9 points per game and hauling in 12.4 rebounds per contest. Harmon helped lead Princess Anne to the Beach District championship in 2003 as a senior and to a perfect 29-0 record and the 2002 3A state title as a junior.

Carter, a 6-0 forward/center from Lawrenceville, Ga., also averaged a double-double her senior year, scoring 12 points and grabbing 10 rebounds per contest in 2003. Carter led the county in rebounding, and was a member of Central Gwinnett High School's 2001 and 2002 region champion teams. Carter also helped Central Gwinnett win the 2001 5A state title.

Kelly, a 5-9 point guard from Mableton, Ga., averaged 23 points, 6.8 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game her senior year. As a senior, Kelly was named her team's Player of the Year and was a Second Team All-State selection for South Cobb High School in 2003.

—Sports Info

GWU 4, UCF 3

Baseball tied for fifth in A-Sun

John Olson
Pilot staff

Gardner-Webb's baseball team finished out a three game series with the University of Central Florida on Monday with a 4-3 win at home. Gardner-Webb earned two victories in the three game series. The Diamond Dogs (20-19, 14-13 A-Sun) are tied for fifth in the Atlantic Sun with Jacksonville (14-13) and Jacksonville State (14-13).

UCF took control of game one against the Dogs on Sunday at Keeter Stadium in Shelby with a 6-0 win. GWU came back in game two and tied the series following a 2-1 win. Joey Siak (7-4) took the loss for Gardner-Webb in game one following seven innings at the mound. In game two Zach Ward (3-0) picked up the win after pitching the complete seven innings for GWU.

Clint Abernathy's solo home run over the left field fence in the ninth gave the Dogs their key win on Monday at Varsity field against UCF. Abernathy went 3-for-4 including two runs and two RBI.

"It's good to play good ball again. We had a dry spell and things are turning out," said Abernathy. "The big win against Central Florida put us in contingency for conference because if we lost we would have been ninth. Since we won we are in fifth and the top six go to conference."

Abe Gonzalez pitched 7.1 innings for Gardner-Webb. Senior Jeff Rinehart finished out the game for GWU.

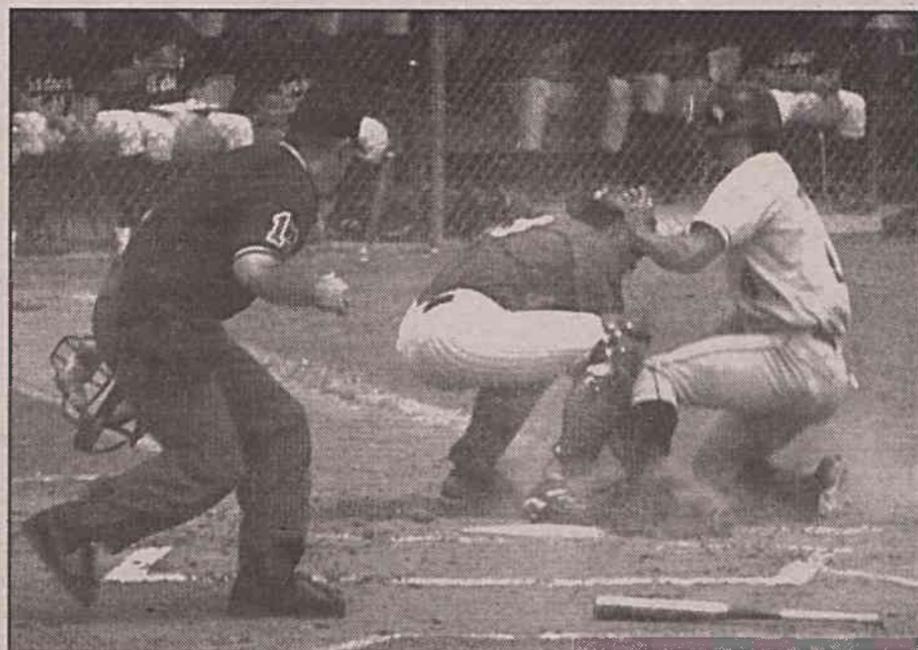


Photo by Stephanie Alexander

A Gardner-Webb player slides into home plate at Monday's game against Central Florida.

"I am very proud of the effort our players have given during the past few weeks, said first year head coach Rusty Stroupe. "We have played extremely well and have had to call upon a number of players to come in off the bench."

Gardner-Webb left conference action on April 24 to take on High Point. GWU left George S. Erath field with a 5-1 win. Josh Martin struck out eight in eight innings of work for Gardner-Webb.

Ryan Quirello and J.D. Milford led Gardner-Webb at the plate with two hits each against High Point. Abernathy, Jay Bennett and Jim Glueckert singled for GWU.

GWU recorded a season high 17 hits after the 9-8 win against Appalachian State on April 23 in

Boone. The victory against the Mountaineers broke a 21-year-old losing streak against the Southern Conference member. The Dogs finalized the score, 9-8 in the eighth following a Sam Bradford homerun over the left field fence.

Gardner-Webb continues conference action on May 9 at Campbell. The series concludes on May 10. On May 15-16 GWU concludes the regular season against Belmont in a three game series. The 2003 A-Sun Conference Championships starts on May 21 in Deland, Fla. and will conclude on May 24.

Gardner-Webb is graduating six seniors this season. The seniors are Jeff Rinehart, Chip Watts, TJ Taylor, Eric Boyd, Kevin Wellmon and Jay Bennett.

GWU 2, ASU 4

Softball loses close one

Mike Shade
Pilot sports editor

Gardner-Webb lost to Appalachian State, 4-2, in its last game of its season on Tuesday. Juniors Lani Shaffer and Stephanie Shrum both had two hits to lead the Bulldogs at the plate.

The Bulldogs and Mountaineers were locked in a pitchers' duel until the fifth inning, when Appalachian State finally scored off starting pitcher Stephanie Taylor. ASU scored two runs off a wild pitch and an RBI sin-

gle from Jennifer Welborn, who was 3-for-3 on the afternoon.

Gardner-Webb came back with a two out rally in the bottom half of the fifth, and tied things up with four hits in the inning. Freshman Jess Wilke slapped a single through the left side to open things up. Two outs later, Shrum singled to right field, moving Wilke into scoring position. Shaffer then dropped a single in shallow right that brought home Wilke and advanced Shrum to third. Rachael Riopel kept the inning alive with a line drive to right that scored Shrum.

Yet, in the top of the sixth, ASU

would score again. After two costly errors put runners in scoring position, Jennifer Hurley's infield single drove in Lauren Barrow to score. Hurley was 2-for-2 at the plate with one RBI.

ASU added another run in the top of the seventh for the final margin.

Gardner-Webb finished out its 2003 season with a 13-36 overall record and went 3-19 in its inaugural season in the Atlantic Sun Conference. Tuesday's game was the final career contest for GWU seniors Carla Poskas, Susan Frank and White.