

Sports



photo by Kaylin Bowers

Wrestlers preparing for regionals

Joanna Wallace
Staff Writer

The Gardner-Webb wrestling team fell to top teams University of North Carolina at Greensboro on Feb. 23, and The Citadel Feb. 22. The Citadel pulled out with 24-18 victory, while UNCG only clipped the 'Dogs by a 1-point lead, leaving the final score at 18-17.

Individual performances were strong however, with seniors Josh Pniewski pulling in one major deci-

sion and a 3:58 pin. Adam Glaser garnered one decision over The Citadel and one major decision over UNCG, and Daniel Elliott won a decision and a 1:50 pin.

Despite the losses, Head Coach, Richard Wince still looks optimistic.

"In the beginning of the season, we lost to UNCG 44-4," said Wince. "And now here we are almost beating them in the last week of the season. The only way you learn is to make mistakes."

UNCG and The Citadel got a tough

fight from the 'Dogs, despite having many nationally ranked wrestlers on their teams.

"Jordan Lowe had one of the best kids in the country and he gave it a game effort. That's what we want. We want them to fight for it," said Wince.

The Bulldogs wrapped up their season with a 12-13 overall, but will advance individually onto the East Regionals, which will be hosted on home turf in the Paul Porter Arena Saturday and Sunday.

GWU's Daniel Elliot pins down 100th win

Joanna Wallace
Pilot staff writer

"It was pretty cool. I honestly didn't think I could get it," said senior Daniel Elliot about notching his 100th career win during a recent match against The Citadel. "Last year we only had 34 matches, and I needed 35 wins to make 100."

A native of Fuquay-Varina, Elliot started out his freshman 2001-2002 career at Gardner-Webb with an impressive 20 wins, 65 take downs and 4 pin fall victories. In '02, Elliott was involved in a car accident that left him with a broken back. He was forced to red-shirt for the '02-'03 season, which was ultimately a blessing in disguise. Fitted with pins and wires along his spine, Elliott came back after a 9 month hiatus with a, "new intensity."

"At that point, I was more driven than ever," said Elliot.

He works out three times on the

average day, doing weights at 6 a.m. and running 2-3 miles, wrestling at practice in the afternoon, and then running again that night.

Elliott has been wrestling for roughly 17 years.

"My brother and I were really small kids, and our parents were worried about us doing other sports. But since wrestling has weight classes, they thought it would be a good idea."

With role models such as wrestler Cael Sanderson, who won a gold medal in the 2004 Olympics; Coach Harris, his high school mentor; and Lance Armstrong, cancer survivor and seven-time Tour de France winner, Elliott is dedicated to training right and training hard.

Now here he is, ranked 12th in the nation.

Elliot, who has a relaxed personality, does not let wrestling consume his life.

The proof is stuck to his fridge.

"I bowled a 232 once, that's really good if you didn't know. So I got a score printout."

A few more interesting facts are that he's colorblind ("My socks almost never match"); and is an avid fan of Yoo-Hoo and "MacGyver."

With graduation just around the corner, he plans on attending graduate school, getting a master's degree in teaching, and getting a graduate assistant job coaching. He still plans to wrestle independently in tournaments, despite leaving the 'Dogs behind.

"Oh yeah, I'm still going to wrestle. I don't think after 17 years I could just walk away from the mat for good."

With the East Regionals here in the Paul Porter Arena this weekend, and NCAA Division I Championships, he's optimistic about the outcome.

"We have a good chance to win. We have four guys and we have some things we need to let just fall away, but we'll be fine."

Three times is a charm for GWU

Sarajane Burroughs
Pilot staff writer

Gardner-Webb University's swim team just won its third straight Northeast Conference Championship.

Coach Simpson says that the team swam fantastically at the conference meet and gives credit to several factors, senior leadership, tough competition all season, enjoying the challenge, as well as honoring the Lord in all they do.

Not only have they won this championship the last three years, but also it is the first three years that they have competed.

"The NEC conference has allowed us as an outsider to come into their show, compete, and has not been anything but welcoming to our team.

They could easily treat us as the enemy since we have won the first three seasons, but they have not done that in anyway.

Part of that is a direct reflection of the women on this team, and how they represent GWU and Christ in all they do."

On top of winning the championship the team has had nine swimmers make the all-conference team: Seniors, Taylor Simpson, Sarah Mrazek, Kathryn Williams, Terra Wilson, sophomores, Whitney Hooley, Heather Roka, Grace Whiteside, Whitney Beachum, and freshman Kelly Guelting.

Terra Wilson was also named the conference swimmer of the year.

Seniors that will be leaving after this semester include, Lisa Fry, Taylor Simpson, Sarah Mrazek, Camille Palacio, Katie Peterson, Samantha Lehman, and April Savage.

"This group scored almost 200 points in the conference meet, has probably a combined GPA of 3.7-3.8, and will truly make a positive difference in our world over the next few years," said Simpson. "We have an outstanding senior class which will be hard to replace in the pool, but harder to replace for their character and leadership out of the pool."

Simpson says that it is only satisfying to win if everyone swims well and that is what the team did.

"They are a very close-knit group that truly loves and supports each other through good times and bad," Simpson said. "Coaching this team is a privilege, being around and working with them everyday is a blessing."



Photo by Rachel Lloyd

Gardner-Webb's baseball team took on Appalachian Feb. 21. The game halted undecided in the 12th inning.

Baseball team loses to Hofstra

Jacob Conley
Pilot Sports Editor

Gardner-Webb dropped its second game in a row at the 2006 Charleston Challenge Feb. 26, when Colonial Athletic Association member Hofstra outlasted GWU 8-6.

The Bulldogs (6-3) finished 1-2 at the event, dropping two games by a combined six runs.

GWU stuck first going up 2-0 in the top of the first, but Hofstra take the lead with three runs in the second off of starter, converted catcher, Nate MacDonald.

The Pride's lead would grow to 4-2 with a single run in the fourth, but GWU would tie the game with single runs of its own in the fifth and sixth innings.

Hofstra then took the lead for good, forcing MacDonald to leave the game by adding two more runs in the sixth for a 6-4 lead that it would not relinquish.

Blake Lalli (3-for-4, RBI) and Daniel Cooke (3-for-4, 2B, RBI) paced Gardner-Webb's offensive attack, with Joey Testa (2-for-4, two RBI) and Matt Maloney (2-for-5) also collecting multiple hits during the game.

MacDonald was saddled with his second loss in seven days, lasting a career-best six innings and allowing three earned runs on seven hits.

GWU Track squads post solid finishes

Jacob Conley
Pilot Sports Editor

Gardner-Webb saw both its men's and women's track and field squads post solid finishes on the weekend of Feb. 17 at the inaugural A-Sun Indoor Championships.

Both Bulldog teams took third out of eleven contenders in the team standings.

The GWU men were sitting in first place after the first day of competition, but saw host ETSU overtake the top spot to win the team event with 153 points.

GWU, which finished with 110 points, was just six points behind second-place Campbell when the final event was completed.

The GWU women, fourth after the opening day of events, rallied past Kennesaw State for third, compiling 63.33 points in second day events.

On the men's side, Matt Knippen garnered two individual titles in the meet.

In doing so he broke the school record in the weight throw with a toss of just over 48 feet to win 10 team points

for the Bulldogs.

Teammates Cody MacArthur and Michael Buckshaw also preformed well, finishing third and fourth respectively to account for 10 more team points between them.

Freshman Tim Israel posted a solid individual effort to win the mile on Saturday, giving GWU 10 team points with a time of 4:23.43.

Teammate Alex Nimmo took fifth for two team points. Kevin Prime took third in the 200m dash finals, to finish just behind the pace of the top two competitors in that event.

GWU challenged in the 800m run, with its talented freshmen group of runners in the finals.

Geoff Lesch-Wragge took third in the finals (six points) and classmate Erin Goodrum finished in fourth to take home four points.

Other point-scoring efforts for the men included freshman Dobson Collins' third-place effort in the 60m hurdles finales (8.62 seconds), Bryant Davis' fifth-place effort in the 400m dash finals (52.86 seconds) and a fifth-place finish by the 4x400m relay

team (two points) of Collins, Dekorda Jackson, Elliott Haynie and Kevin Prime.

On the women's side, another freshman keyed the run by GWU into third. Kelly Bridges won the pole vault by leading a deep group of Bulldogs in that event - winning with a height of to edge teammate Merissa Hawkins.

Victoria Argus tied for third and Lorelei Wagner finished fifth to give GWU an impressive 25 team points in that single competition - which vaulted GWU into second place after 23 events.

Argus continued a successful meet by finishing second in the triple jump and GWU got a school-record effort from senior Lindsey Sutherland in the weight throw as the Evans, Ga., veteran picked up a final distance of to account for six more team points.

GWU held onto second place still after 31 events.

The final points for Gardner-Webb's women came in the 800m run, as Carlene McClean took second with a time of 2:19.38 to account for eight team points.

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