

# Big game puts spotlight on Boiling Springs

By Jacob Conley  
jac1211@gardner-webb.edu

Many people view football as a game played with 22 sweaty men chasing a pigskin. But for many in the Gardner-Webb University family, Saturday's game versus the Mountaineers of Appalachian State University is more than just a game. It is an opportunity to bring renown to GWU.

"This is probably the most publicized athletic event on campus since we hosted the Olympic cycling trails in 1996," said GWU Sports Information Director Marc Rabb. "And I think it's because of ASU's prominence, regionally and nationally."

As a result of this prominence, a record crowd is expected to squeeze into Ernest W. Spangler Stadium Saturday. Although an exact number will not be known until after the game, Athletic Director Chuck Burch's estimation is higher than the current record for Spangler Stadium.

That record was set on Sept. 25, 2004, when

6,311 fans saw GWU come from behind to beat the No. 25 Western Carolina Catamounts, 26-20. One week earlier, 6,009 fans saw No. 4 Furman beat GWU, 38-6.

GWU added almost 3,500 seats during stadium renovations that were completed in September 2004. The current seating capacity is 7,500.

"I hesitate to give an exact number because there are so many variables, such as weather," said Burch. "But right now, we are planning for 9,500. Since ASU travels so well, we could have more than that, so we are looking into additional seating."

With such a large crowd at the stadium, and the opportunity for viewers on ESPN, ESPN's college sporting network, Burch hopes there will be a great college atmosphere in Boiling Springs for all to see.

"We did a very nice job with stadium renovations," said Burch. "This is the first Big South game broadcast on the ESPN family of networks. It's going to be exciting for GWU to be a part of that."

Not only will this game benefit GWU, it will also allow members of Cleveland County to come together.

"There is a large base of ASU graduates in this area," said Burch. "This game will also allow people who normally would not come to a game, but recognize the ASU name, to come and enjoy a college football game. These people will not be affiliated with either school. Hopefully, they will cheer for the Bulldogs."

Such a large ASU contingent worries Bulldogs Head Coach Steve Patton.

"We won't have a home field advantage," Patton said, during his weekly press conference. "ASU brings so many people that not everybody in the crowd will be cheering for us."

Even so, Patton also views this game as an opportunity.

"We have played well against top tier programs like App State," said Patton. "For example, we scored 31 points on a playoff team in Furman. If we compete, we will help ourselves, but if we don't, we will lose 900 to nothing."



Pilot photo by Ashley Carter

Michele Milner took first place in the women's 5K cross-country race in a recent meet.

## Milner takes top spot at Clemson

By Jack Naish  
jgn309@gardner-webb.edu

Two weeks ago, the Gardner-Webb cross-country team celebrated Michele Milner's performance at Clemson University.

Milner finished first place in the women's 5K cross-country race at the Clemson Invitational on Sept. 9.

"It was really exciting because I hadn't won any major meet since high school," said Milner.

She said she usually has a normal routine for mentally preparing for a race.

"Normally, I just relax," said Milner. "I try to have fun with my teammates and not to think about it. When I think about it, I get into trouble."

Whatever she's doing certainly works well. Milner finished the race with a time of 18:36.

A senior nursing major, Milner is considering a move to Charleston, S.C. after graduation, where she will pursue her master's degree at the University of South Carolina.

## A stadium divided

# Packed house during Saturday's game won't be all 'Dog

By Jacob Conley  
jac1211@gardner-webb.edu

Abraham Lincoln once said that, "A house divided against itself can not stand." Gardner-Webb's Ernest W. Spangler Stadium will be a testing ground for that piece of presidential wisdom on Saturday, as No. 2 Appalachian State University comes to town.

It is expected that thousands of ASU fans will follow.

The stands won't be the only place where loyalties will be split, however. This schism can also be found within the GWU family. Karissa Weir, director of student leadership and ac-

tivities, and an ASU graduate, is torn between the two schools.

"I'm enjoying this," said Weir of her unique situation. "I'm excited about seeing the defending national champions play, and I want both teams to win."

Along with having the ability to see her alma mater play GWU Saturday, Weir is also looking forward to the benefits such a high-profile game will bring to GWU.

"I think any competitive team has a measuring stick," said Weir. "And what better way to measure your ability than line up against the national



Pilot photo by Rachel Lloyd

Karissa Weir graduated from ASU and is now employed by GWU. She has not predicted a winner for the game on Saturday.

GWU program, it will, in Weir's opinion, bring the GWU family and the Boiling Springs commu-

nity closer.

"I think it is very ironic that this game falls on Family Weekend," she said. "Because if we win, it would not only mean a lot to GWU, but also Boiling Springs, Shelby and the surrounding area. In addition, we will be bringing in a lot of people for the game and a lot of them could be prospective students."

Weir also anticipates the large crowd, but whom does she predict to win?

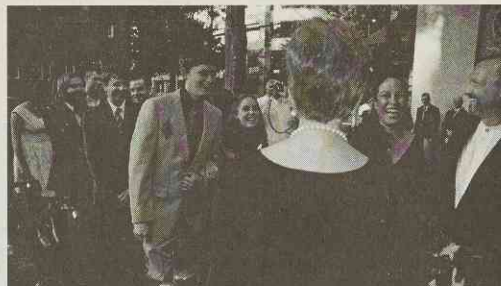
"Since both teams can't win, I'll say this," she said. "It only took David a few stones and a sling."

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Pilot photo by Haley Black

A group of students from the theater department walk down the red carpet at the MTA awards in Charlotte on Sunday. At right are professor Chris Keene and his wife, Mondai

## Disappointing night at MTAs

By Ali Cunningham  
acunning@gardner-webb.edu

Gardner-Webb University attended the Metrolina Theater Association Awards Sunday, on the strength of 17 award nominations in eight categories.

The MTA awards honor theater productions on the college/university, comedy, drama, musical, regional and special event levels of the greater Charlotte area.

Although GWU did not bring any awards back to Boiling Springs, the event was exciting for everyone that attended.

As the limos pulled up and nominees and guests filled out, there was a red carpet leading up to the McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square in Charlotte.

Once past the red carpet, there were refreshments and plenty of opportunities for mingling.

M'Issa Lawrence was nominated for her cameo role as a nurse in "Purging Mary."

"Yes, it is weird to be competing against others from GWU," said Lawrence. "I'm not a theater major. Someone like that deserves it."

Karl Mosbacher, who was nominated for his lead role in "Purging Mary," and for his cameo role in "Baby the Musical,"

"I'm not expecting to win," said Mosbacher. "I'm just happy to be here, but it would be neat to win Best Lead Actor."

Rachel Lambert performed a solo, "The Story Goes On," from

"Baby the Musical." She was also nominated for her lead role in the production.

"Not in the slightest," said Lambert, when asked if it was awkward to perform in front of peers from GWU. "I'm just happy to be a part. Everyone deserves an award because a lot of effort was put forth."

Scot Lahaie, assistant professor of theater, was nominated for most outstanding director for "Baby the Musical" and "Purging Mary."

"If my pride were a mountain, it would be Everest; if it were an ocean, it would be the Atlantic," said Lahaie. "I am extremely proud."

Cory Dykstra, a GWU make-up and lighting technician, was recognized as one of the MTA's Volunteers of the Year.

Winning a few awards would have made the night more memorable.

"All of the other plays in our category were musicals," said Chris Keene, an assistant professor of theater who serves as technical director. "You left the theater feeling happy and light. Our plays, even 'Baby,' were not those types of plays. Ours were more dramatic, and drama and comedy do not compete against each other, which is why they have separate categories."

The theater department's next production is "Waiting for Godot," which will be performed Oct. 3-7.

This year marks the centennial of playwright Samuel Beckett, and GWU is reviving one of his most notable productions in his honor.