

## Sports

## Chesty Puller Bulldog Challenge gives students taste of Corps

By Leanna Mobley  
Special to The Pilot

The football field is covered with people yelling, running and sweating. An ambulance waits in the parking lot in case of any injuries, and water bottles are rushed to teams with crucial promptness.

No, it's not football practice; it's the inaugural Chesty Puller Bulldog Challenge.

A total of 47 Gardner-Webb students came out to Spangler Stadium Saturday morning to show if they had what it takes to train like a Marine.

Participants were split into 12 teams of four with the exception of one team that

only had three. There were three male teams and nine female teams.

Teamwork, motivation and strength were all factors of the challenge. Everyone who participated put forth enormous effort and drive.

The challenge began at 9 a.m. and resembled a USMC boot camp that consisted of relay races combined with push-ups, sit-ups, and leg squats. But these weren't just ordinary relays.

Students had to run 25 yards while carrying each member of the team on their backs, one by one. After completing the dash, team members had to complete 25 leg squats, also with someone on their back.

These were followed by "buddy drags" that required each person of the team to drag the others across the distance, which was also followed by more squats, lifts and sit-ups.

"You will want to quit," said Creighton "Gunny" Scott, a representative of the Marine Corps who supervised the event. Scott stated that the challenge resembled the training methods they use in the Marines. But not completely.

"What we're doing is only half of the beginner's training," Scott said, which seemed like quite an understatement to many of the participants.

He said that the point of

this challenge was, "just to get through it," and to prove your ability to complete the challenge.

That's exactly what every team did.

"I am very pleased with the results from the challenge," said Brian Arnold, the Student Activities director and creator of the event. "It was really encouraging for me to see students helping each other out and encouraging one another to finish the challenge."

There were three teams that stood out among the rest.

The men's team first place winners were Thomas Knapp, Chas Franz, Courtney Roberts and Tommy Bennett.

The women's team first place winners were Ashley Falkner, Dominique Hudson, Monique Hudson and Margaret Roundtree.

The third team won the "warrior award" medal for having only three members and still completing the competition. Courtney Epps, Sherika Montgomery and Meranda Burnett were short one team member, so Epps had to go twice.

"It really takes a lot of guts and heart to complete this challenge once, much less complete the challenge twice in a matter of minutes," said Arnold. "I give Courtney and her teammates a lot of respect for not giving up."

Not only did they not give up, they still had the second best female time.

Even the teams that didn't place say they were still very glad they participated.

"We got to prove to ourselves and to others that we can do it and we can finish... no matter what sport you play or how strong or how fast you are," said Victoria Lee, a senior.

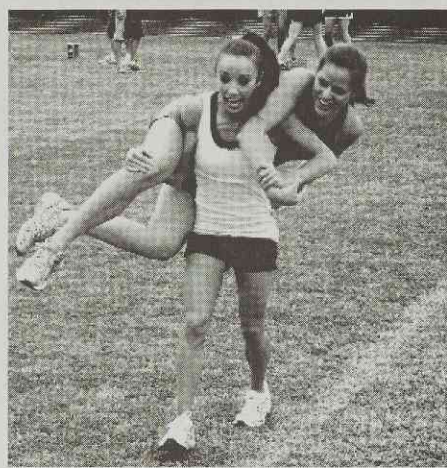


Photo courtesy of Brian Arnold

The author displays her strength as she totes Noelle Flauaus during the carry portion of the challenge Saturday at Spangler Stadium.

This is only the beginning of events like this on the Gardner-Webb campus. Arnold said he plans to do this challenge again in the fall and definitely next April.

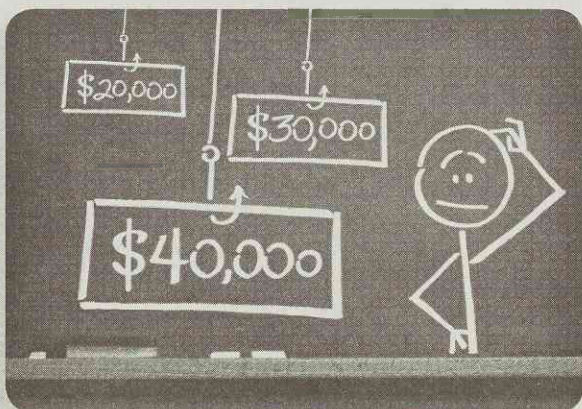
"I encourage other students who did not participate to look for this challenge in the future. So, check your intramural calendar because the Chesty Puller Bulldog Challenge will definitely be an intramural event for years to come."

off a close one, winning 3

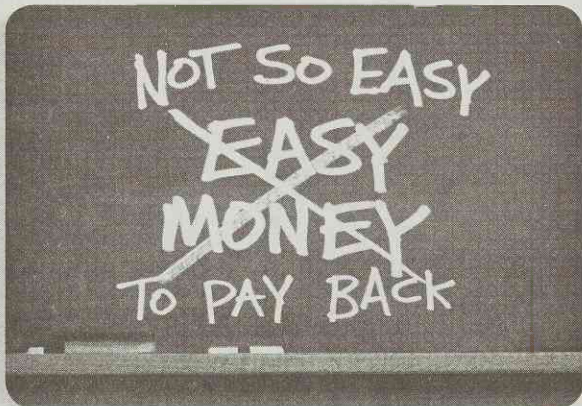
and 2. Andrew Rickard and Courtney Meyer got together and defeated their opponents 6 and 5.

The men's team will tee off again Monday at Kenesaw State for the Atlantic Sun Championship. The women's team is currently participating in the A-Sun championships.

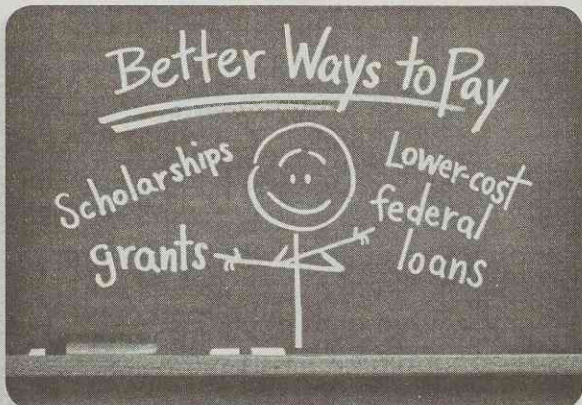
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## Golfers fare well in University Cup competition

By Blake DuDonis  
Pilot sports writer

Gardner-Webb's men and women's golf team came in first place last week in the University Cup, a mixed foursome match play competition against teams from Appalachian State.

The teams played eight

matches and picked up five wins in an impressive win for the school. Blake Palmer continued his great play as he defeated his opponent 2 and 1.

Geordie Hagerman and Mackenzie Renner won by the same score. Yayoi Garcia and Joshua Philbeck pulled

off a close one, winning 3

and 2. Andrew Rickard and Courtney Meyer got together and defeated their opponents 6 and 5.

The men's team will tee

## Bulldogs shut out by Stetson

By Lanny Newton  
Pilot sports writer

A day after putting up 11 runs in its doubleheader against Florida Gulf Coast University, the Gardner-Webb softball team played another home doubleheader against Stetson University.

This time however, it was pitching that would rule the day. After losing the first game 4-0, the Lady Bulldogs dropped a devastating 1-0 game in 12 innings.

"I was very happy with the way we played on Saturday. We started out a little bit rough in the first inning, but the rest of the day we played well," said Head Coach Tom Cole.

"We had extremely good pitching, good defense, and I give all the credit in the world to the Stetson pitcher. She did an outstanding job the whole day."

In the first game, Stetson pitcher Amanda Lindsey had a no-hitter going through 5.2 innings before giving up

a single in each of the last two innings. Stetson did almost nothing more as it put up four unearned runs in the first inning off a series of errors and fielding mistakes by the Bulldogs.

The Gardner-Webb defense settled down afterwards, helping Cindi Boomhower to shut Stetson out the rest of the way.

The second game would be the memorable one, though, as the two teams faced off in an epic pitchers' duel lasting well on into the evening. GWU pitchers Christine Murray and Taryn Beck faced off against Stetson's Lindsey again after Hatters' starter Erika Demers was pulled.

The Bulldog offense came alive in the top of the first as it loaded the bases with one out, but Lindsey came in and promptly got a double-play ball to end the threat.

Murray threw seven innings of shutout softball, giving up only two hits and four walks.

Starting in the eighth Beck came in and almost repeated the feat.

She gave up only one unearned run in the 12th inning as the tie-breaking player starting on second was able to come around and score on a passed ball and sacrifice fly.

Lindsey finished the day with 18.2 scoreless innings pitched, getting both wins while allowing only eight hits and six walks in that stretch.

"I felt like Christine Murray and Taryn Beck did an outstanding job on the mound. In fact, the only reason they scored was because we went to the tiebreaker and unfortunately we had several opportunities with runners in scoring position, but we didn't get the clutch hit that we needed," said Cole.

Those losses were made harder by the fact that it was Senior Day for Beck, Lindsay Cox, Kelly Linsley, Haley Scism and Jessie Williams.

## Baseball team climbing standings like simians

By Jacob Conley  
Pilot sports editor

The Jeffersons are moving up, but even they can't compete with what the Gardner-Webb baseball team is doing in the conference standings.

After taking two of three against East Tennessee State, GWU sits in the fourth position, a far cry from the early season when the team sat at the bottom of the 12-team league.

"Sometimes this time of year it gets exciting like a pennant race and you like to look and see what other teams are doing," said Assistant Coach Kent Cox. "But the biggest thing is for us to go out and win series and play every game like it is the most important game of the season."

The Diamond Dogs certainly demonstrated that attitude during the series opener as they pounded the Bucs 21-6.

"Their park has a short porch in right field and the wind was blowing out," said Cox. "It was tempting to try to lift the ball out of the park, but we were successful with a lot of singles and doubles."

One of the most exciting plays of Friday's game was anything but a single or double. It was Bubbie Spake's mammoth 450-foot blast to put GWU ahead for good in game one. "It was a sight to behold," said Cox, "and it really jump-started our offense."

That momentum carried over to game two as GWU posted a come-from-behind win 18-16. Trailing 9-6 going into the sixth GWU's nation-

ally ranked offense went to work tying the score and putting the game out of reach in the seventh by playing eight.

"Success breeds confidence," said Cox of his team's gaudy offensive stats and ranking in the top 10 nationally in hitting.

"We want the guys to feel that if they are behind late in the game that they can come back and be successful."

The Diamond Dogs came out victorious on Tuesday against Presbyterian College winning by a score of 6-1.

GWU can not dwell on its past success, as a dangerous Campbell team visits Boiling Springs this weekend.

"They are a scrappy team they will play small ball," said Cox. "We just need to keep scoring runs and play great defense, and we should be successful this weekend."