

Sports

Lady Bulldogs get revenge on UNC-A

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports editor

The Gardner-Webb women's basketball team overcame an icy start Monday to defeat fellow Bulldogs, those from UNC Asheville. When the teams met earlier in the season, UNC-A won 67-59.

Margaret Roundtree collected her 500th career rebound in the 74-61 victory. Laura Povilonyte had a double-double and the point guards had a field day against Asheville.

"We didn't start off very well, but as the game went along we got better," said Head Coach Rick Reeves.

"The kids are playing really hard and they're getting better all the time. If our point guards play well, we play well."

Coming off of a school record 11-assist-and-eight-turnover effort on Saturday against High Point, Dominique Hudson had eight assists and two turnovers against Asheville.

Meranda Burnett also had a 3/1 assists-to-turnover ratio.

Hudson had three steals and Burnett had two as the duo ran the team very effectively.

Although it took until the 15:44 mark for Gardner-Webb to get on the board, once GWU fired up its offense it outscored Asheville 33-23 for the rest of the first half to take a 33-28 lead into the half.

Though the score was tied six times and the lead changed three times in the first half, a layup by Roundtree with 1:28 left

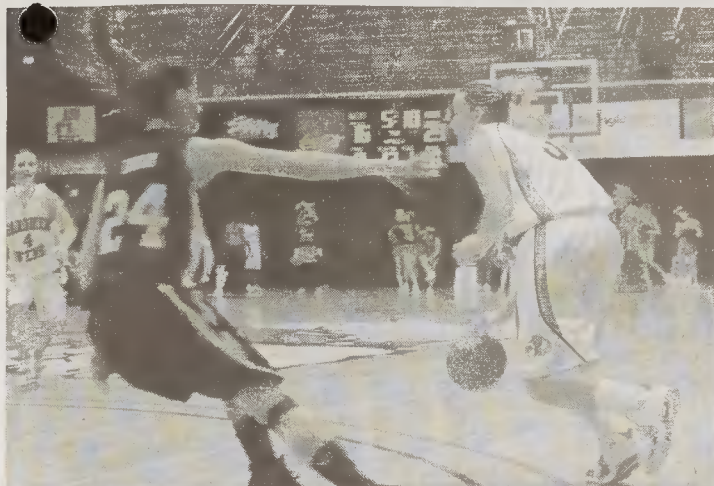
in the first half gave Gardner-Webb a lead it would not relinquish.

Reeves achieved his 70th career Big South conference win as Gardner-Webb moved to 14-11 on the year.

It was also Gardner-Webb's 11th home win which established a new school record, with one home game left to play March 5 against Coastal Carolina.

It was accomplished with a good inside-outside combination as GWU dominated Asheville in points in the paint 30-24. This came with a 51-36 rebounding advantage and 14-7 edge on second chance points.

This was despite UNC-A forward Lindsey Montgomery, a Shelby native, scoring 28 points



Pilot staff photo

GWU player Laura Povilonyte goes around High Point player Amy Dodd Saturday in Paul Porter Arena. The Bulldogs won 63-60.

and grabbing 11 boards on 10 of 15 shooting in just 30 minutes of play.

Roundtree led Gardner-Webb with 19 points on 9-10 shooting, as Hudson put up 17, and Povilonyte scored 15.

Povilonyte grabbed 11 rebounds and Roundtree brought in 9 as her first of the night was her 500th of

the career.

Hudson, Sherika Montgomery and LaTroya Pope each also garnered seven boards.

Courtney Epps led the Bulldogs with two blocks, while Teonika Webb put up to steals.

The Bulldogs leave friendly confines next and travel to Presbyterian on

the start of a three-game road trip.

GWU is now 6-6 in conference play and tied for sixth place with UNC Asheville, but it is only one game out of second place.

With one more win Gardner-Webb would tie for the most wins in the program's D1 history.

Lanny's Logic

Carolina-Duke game was a snapshot of the ACC

Temperamental artist and Pilot sports editor Lanny Newton requested that his former column title, "Newton Knows," become "Lanny's Logic."

The Duke vs. North Carolina game Feb. 11 didn't disappoint for the 20 minutes that Duke actually kept the game extremely competitive, having the lead at the half. UNC's superior talent and depth prevailed in the end, though, in one of the more anti-climactic games in the rivalry.

It also provided a picture of what the ACC looks like this season. UNC has arguably one of the most talented teams in the program's history.

The rest of the ACC has several very good teams that could compete with almost any in the nation, night in and night out.

With the graduation of or going to the NBA of such players as Derek Rose, Michael Beasley, O.J. Mayo and Greg Oden, college basketball overall is down this year.

Despite the ACC not being as good as in past seasons, it is still in the top three, if not the top conference, in the NCAA.

This can be seen as the latest version of Bracketology on ESPN.com. It shows the ACC with eight bids and the Big East with

seven tournament bids.

This has been seen in such upsets as Miami over Wake Forest or Boston College over Duke.

While UNC is almost unquestionably the best team in college basketball, the question remains: Can it consistently sustain the level of play it is capable of?

Or will it go cold as it did against Georgetown two years ago, or just not show up to play as in the inglorious exit from last year's NAAs?

The rest of the ACC also has consistency issues, such as Harvard upsetting Boston College, and Virginia upsetting Clemson.

However, through quality wins such as Boston College over UNC and Clemson over Duke have proven that they can play with almost anyone.

As my final comment, I would like to mention a GWU team that has not had consistency issues: The women's swim team will go for its fifth conference title in six years starting Thursday in Athens, Ga.

The meet will go through Saturday and hopefully result in the team's first Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association title after moving into the conference last year.

The team recently got its 100th win since moving to Division I in 2000.

Women's tennis off to good start with trio of winning competitions

By Blake DuDonis
Pilot Editor in Chief

After facing ACC powerhouse's Wake Forest and North Carolina, the Gardner-Webb women's tennis team pulled off three wins in four matches before falling to Winthrop on Monday.

The Lady Bulldogs had won two matches in a row before the loss. The first of the consecutive wins came at Wofford, while the other came at home against Erskine.

In the Wofford match, the Lady Dawgs swept the doubles matches but it took some work to do it. Laura Kreitt and Rita Gouveia took the maximum amount of games to win, edging out the Terrifiers team 8-7(8-6).

The other two tandems for GWU, Kasey Ellis/Amy Beavers and

Tavener Black/Jenny Gomez, won 8-5.

In the singles matches, only Kreitt and Beavers were unable to find a victory, as GWU cruised to a 5-2 win.

Just a day later, GWU hosted Erskine and continued its winning ways. After winning the doubles point with victories by the duos of Black/Gomez and Ellis/Beavers, the Lady Bulldogs notched 5 points in singles in route to a 6-1 victory.

The Erskine win brought the ladies to 3-3 on the season, but are now 3-4 after the unfortunate stumble against Big South preseason number one Winthrop.

The ladies will return to action Saturday as the team travels to Myrtle Beach to take on conference foe Coastal Carolina.

Swimmers excel in classroom and pool

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports editor

One week after finding out that the men had the top GPA among men's swim teams in the nation, and the women had the second best GPA in the nation, the GWU men also dominated in the pool.

They topped VMI 109-65, while the women beat Campbell 104-79. Both the men and women took Swimmer of the Week awards for the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association conference.

Cory Hughey took women's honors while Patrick Elerding received it for the men.

"It's kind of a fun format. It's not the normal format that we do, it's different events and for once they get to do different distances," said Head Coach Mike Simpson about the VMI/Campbell meet.

The men finished with a combined 3.33 GPA, just edging out Georgetown University. The women finished second behind Marshall University by just .02 GPA points at 3.64. The combined teams finished with a 3.475 GPA for the fall 2008 semester.

"I'm really proud of them, the guys went from last year barely in the top 40 to this year being first in the nation. [In spring of 2005] the girl's team finished first in the nation, but this team had a better GPA."

Both also had over a 3.0 in the fall semester to contribute to a swim team that finished combined to first in the nation in academics.

Hughey and Elerding each won three races, as Hughey took the 50 butterfly, 50 backstroke and swam the anchor position in the 200 medley relay, while Elerding won the 50 breast, 100 IM and the 50 butterfly.

GWU domination started early

The men finished with a combined 3.33 GPA, just edging out Georgetown University. The women finished second behind Marshall University by just .02 GPA points at 3.64.

as the first event Sarah Steadman, Hillary Leonard, Stepheni Stadnik and Hughey won, and were closely followed by Victoria Bryant, Veronica Case, Rachel Warkentin and Elizabeth Ketterer in the 200 medley relay.

Lyndsey Roka followed it up with a victory in the 400 fly. In the 50 free Kelly Gueltig, Ketterer and Leonard went 2-3-4.

Stadnik posted in new Gardner-Webb record in the 50 butterfly in the process of winning in 30.75.

Bryant and Steadman took first and second in the 400 back. Warkentin set a new Gardner-Webb record in the 100 IM while Steadman took second in both the race and tying in the record books with Taylor Simpson.

Hughey's time in the 50 butterfly established a new record as Warkentin took second in the event and Gardner-Webb history. In the 400 breast, Kiah Bellows, Mallory Baxton and Sarah Stokes took second through fourth.

With Hughey's third win in the 50 back, Bryant came in second but as with many GWU scores on the day her time didn't count so as to keep the score closer.

The men also opened up with the win as Samuel Woods, Travis Gibson, Saxon Simpson and Clayton Vickers took first in the 200 medley relay.

Wrestlers come up short, finish 2-2 in regional duels

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports editor

The wrestling team traveled to Duquesne Feb. 7 to finish off regular-season conference play at the East Regional duels in Pittsburgh.

Gardner-Webb took down Delaware State and Wagner College but was felled by Duquesne and Millersville. They finished conference play with a 2-4 record.

"I was really proud of the way we wrestled. We had three backups in the lineup, and had a forfeit," said Head Coach Scott Shipman.

"Our injury report is about two pages long, no college wrestler gets to

February and is 100 percent, but all the starters should be as close to 100 percent as they've been all year by the time we get to regionals."

Rob Tate and Dustin Porter once again headlined, going 4-0 on the day while Jonathon Velazquez went 3-0 and Matthew Featherston picked up his first collegiate victory.

Velazquez has been injured for most of his first two years of college, and is recovering from a knee injury and a broken finger.

The Bulldogs started out the day with a 20-19 victory over Delaware State. Courtney Roberts and David Pelsang picked up major decisions, while

Velazquez and Porter took decisions. Tate won by forfeit at the 141 weight class.

In their next match up, GWU came up short, falling 25-21 to Millersville. Roberts, Austin Reece and Velazquez achieved decisions over their opponents as Tate pinned his opponent. Porter won by forfeit in the heavyweight division.

Gardner-Webb dominated their next opponent winning 40-13 against Wagner. The grapplers put on a show as Tate, Justin Guthrie, Pelsang, Dave Sweeney and Porter pinned their opponents. Reese took a 15-3 major decision while Roberts picked up a forfeit win.

In their final match the Bulldogs competed with Duquesne but were unable to overcome home match advantage losing 22-21. Featherston won 8-4 at the 133 weight class for his milestone victory.

Velazquez and Sweeney also picked up decisions as Tate pinned his opponent again. Porter also picked up another forfeit victory.

Gardner-Webb travels to Carson Newman Thursday and The Citadel Tuesday before returning home for the East Regional Championships.

The championships will be March 7 in Boiling Springs to determine births for the NCAA tournament.

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at gwupilot.com