

Sports

Dawgs overwhelmed by Wolfpack

by Blake DuDonis
Pilot Editor

The 53,000 plus in attendance in Raleigh saw Russell Wilson set a new NCAA record as the Wolfpack of NC State took down the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs 45-14 Saturday night.

The Wolfpack wasted no time, scoring twice on touchdown runs by Tony Baker in the first quarter.

GWU looked like it might hold on the next series when they held State to a 4th down but Wilson completed a pass that continued the drive until they found the end zone yet again. The Wolfpack tacked on a few more points to go up 31-0 at half.

"I went in (at halftime) and said that it's okay if you get beat, but it's not okay to help them beat ourselves," said Coach Steve Patton. "One of the linemen said, 'Coach, we don't want to hear it because we know it.' So I guess they were upset too, which is a good thing."

The Dawgs certainly showed that they were not going to lie down as they met the Wolfpack point-for-point in the second half as each team managed 14 points.

The first GWU score came from red-shirt sophomore Marquis Saunders on a well executed run from 18-yards out with 6:30 left in the third quarter, while quarterback Stan Doolittle snuck into the end zone in the waning minutes of the

game for the second score.

The highlight of the game came when State's Wilson set the new NCAA record for most consecutive pass attempts without an interception, a record formally held by Andre Woodson of Kentucky. The pass came in the 3rd quarter and the crowd rose to its feet as it acknowledged the young man's impressive mark.

"Russell certainly should be proud of the record," said NC State head coach Tom O'Brian. "I'm really happy about it and that is a record that should stand for quite a while."

The Bulldogs had several good things going for them during the game, including Doolittle's performance.

Doolittle completed 14-of-22 passes

for 112 yards and added the touchdown run in the 4th quarter. Doolittle also did not throw an interception; in fact, the Dawgs won the turnover battle by recovering a fumble late in the game by State.

Mario Brown led the defense yet again, dragging down Wolfpack ball carriers 10 times on the night, while Keron Phelps had seven tackles of his own. Marty Patterson and Darren Rodgers also found themselves in many plays, each recording six tackles.

The Dawgs also recorded four sacks on the night, lead by up-and-coming freshman Matt Goods who had 1.5.

Gardner-Webb will take a week off as they prepare for the Big South season opener at VMI on October 3.

Men's tennis looking strong



Photo by Bryan Cooper

Roman Piftor practicing with the rest of the GWU tennis team.

by Blake DuDonis
Pilot Editor

Although primarily a spring sport, Gardner-Webb's men's tennis team made plenty of racket September 11-13 in Greensboro.

The team traveled to the University of North Carolina-Greenville for the UNCG Fall Tournament where they took on players from Belmont, Longwood, Elon and several other schools.

Evgeny Slesarev showed once again why he is considered one of the best players in the Big South conference, and perhaps even the state, as he finished 3rd

in the Flight A-1 Singles draw.

Slesarev won three out of four matches, taking down Belmont's Renato Antun 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-2 in the third-place match.

Andrew Veeder of Bevard, North Carolina also impressed as he teamed up with newcomer Matthew Herrock in the Flight B Doubles consolation draw 8-2, defeating teammates William Kenney and Mathew Parker in the finals.

Rafael Altmayer earned a fourth place finish in the Flight A-2 Singles draw, while Parker made it to the finals of the Flight A-3 Singles draw before bowing out to UTC's Stephen Crawford.

Bulldogs compete in Big South preview

by Andrew Veeder
Sports Editor

The Gardner-Webb men's and women's cross country teams recently competed in the 2009 Big South Conference Preview hosted by High Point University. Head coach Brian Baker sent a team of seven women, and four men to compete.

The Lady Dawgs finished in fifth place, edging out Radford and Charleston Southern in the seven-team event. Liberty won the affair, followed by Virginia Military In-

stitute, High Point, and UNC Asheville.

Laura Scott was the first of the Gardner-Webb squad to cross the line in a blistering time of 19:51, and her time was good for 11th overall place. Following Scott was Long Island, New York native Diana Palka with the time of 20:06. A mere second later was freshman Ariel Zimmerman leaving her in the 20th place.

Competing in the 5k event, senior Abby Callahan ended in 31st place with a time of 20:39. Elizabeth Sawyer, Lia Hudak,

and Holly Scott rounded up the Gardner-Webb squad.

The men's team only had four runners compete in the 8k event, and was not able to score as a team. However, Colby Witt, a freshman, led the Bulldogs coming in 17th place with a respectable time of 27:54.

Josiah Stanton-Brooks, also a freshman, ran a 29:21 that placed him in 35th place. Jason Wenzel and Jacob Hoyle completed the Gardner-Webb team with times of 30:13 and 31:42, respectfully.

Volleyball entering conference on high note

by Blake DuDonis
Pilot Editor

After dropping two matches in a row to James Madison and Georgia Southern at the Winthrop Volleyball Classic, the Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb took down in-state-rival Davidson 3-2 to gain some momentum heading into conference play.

Before their victory against the Wildcats, GWU showed some heart against Georgia Southern as the young Bulldogs battled back from a 2-0 hole to send the match to a fifth set.

In that fifth set, those in attendance got their money's worth as the teams traded the lead five times along with 11 ties before the Lady Eagles edged out the Dawgs with three straight points to win the set 18-16.

Holly Rhyne, Laura Wilcox and Evan Moffitt all had over 10 kills in the match while senior Regina Feagin showed why she has been a staple for the Bulldogs all these years by dishing out 52 assists.

In the Davidson game, the Lady Bulldogs found themselves in yet another five-match battle.

The ladies took the first set 25-22,

then faltered in the second, falling by a score of 25-222. The teams then exchanged the next two sets as well, with the Dawgs winning the third 26-24 and the Wildcats winning the fourth 25-22, sending the match into a decisive fifth-set.

In the fifth, GWU took a 7-5 lead out of the gates, the largest lead that would be seen in the set.

From there, Davidson tied it up at 8-8, only to see the Lady Bulldogs retake the lead 10-8, forcing a Wildcat timeout.

Apparently inspired from the break, the Wildcats reeled off four straight points to take a 12-10 lead, leaving the outcome in doubt for the Dawgs.

GWU responded in a way many did not expect from the young squad, as the team tied things up at 14-14 before scoring two more points to win the set 16-14 and the match 3-2.

Freshman Rhyne stepped up again, recording a solid 16 kills with Wilcox adding 13 of her own. Feagin had 42 assists bringing her two-match assist total to an impressive 92.

Moffitt showed some hustle, picking up a team-high 15 digs while Melissa Richie chipped in four kills and 10 digs.

Dawgs run past Mountaineers

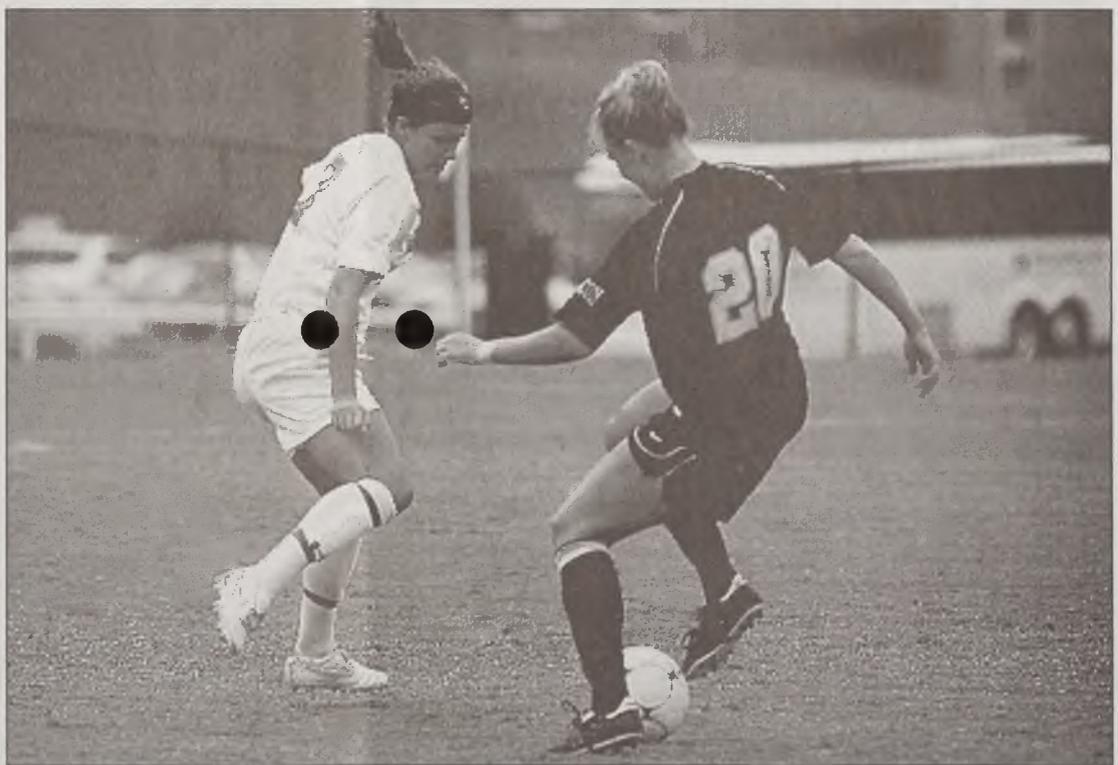


Photo by Bryan Cooper

Dawn Rollyson attempts to take back possession of the ball from ASU's Stephanie Balzano.

by Andrew Veeder
Sports Editor

Two goals by sophomore Megan Reimer help put Gardner-Webb past Appalachian State by a final score of 2-1 last Friday.

The win proved to be a difficult one, as the Dawgs found themselves down by a goal early in the first half. In the 28th min-

ute, Appalachian State found the back of the net. However, the goal would be their last one.

Returning to the pitch after the first half, Reimer took advantage of a long-range shot in the 39th minute. Close to 25 yards outside the box, Reimer blasted one past the ASU's goalkeeper.

Reimer, again, was able to capitalize

on the opportunity after a blocked shot of a teammate. With the goal, Reimer has the most goals (seven) of any Big South Conference player.

The Lady Dawgs will be competing again on Friday in Dayton Ohio, when they take on the Raiders of Wright State. Their next home again will be Wednesday, Sept. 30 against Francis Marion.

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