

Seahawks fall to NWBL in midseason exhibition game

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In a midseason exhibition game against the NWBL Entertainers on Sunday, Jan. 7, UNC Wilmington's women's basketball team did not look like the same ball club that won the Sheraton Four Points Beach Blast Tournament and that holds a 7-4 win-loss record. The Seahawks played a sloppy game from the tip-off, unable to accumulate more than a six-point lead, and ultimately threw the game away, losing with a final score of 65-61.

Neither team played a solid game, as the Entertainers shot 37.7 percent from the field, and the Seahawks converted only on a third of their field goal attempts, and a paltry 24.1 percent in the second half. The low field goal percentages cannot be attributed to good defense on either side.

"We're going to have to have a better defensive effort," UNCW head coach Ann Hancock commented. "And [a better] effort on the boards." A small team, UNCW did not match up against the Entertainers in the paint, and got very few second-chance baskets. "We're not very tall," Hancock

continued. "So we have to put a body on somebody." Red-shirt freshman Tracy Morgan, a 6-foot forward, was the only Seahawk to dominate the boards, grabbing 13 rebounds.

During the early stages of the first half, the score remained close. Neither team ran with the ball, so the score stayed low. The Seahawks stood still on offense, running down the shot clock to single-figures and then forcing bad shots.

With UNCW leading 11-7 at the 14:17 mark, the Entertainers mounted a 9-0 run in the next three minutes, hitting two wide-open three-pointers. Senior Krissy Riggs stole the ball for the Seahawks, leading to a basket by Morgan, followed by a quick three-pointer by Rachel Friesen-Norwood, to tie the score at 16. Neither team dominated until Friesen-Norwood hit a wide-open three-pointer to spark an 8-2 UNCW run, closing out the first half.

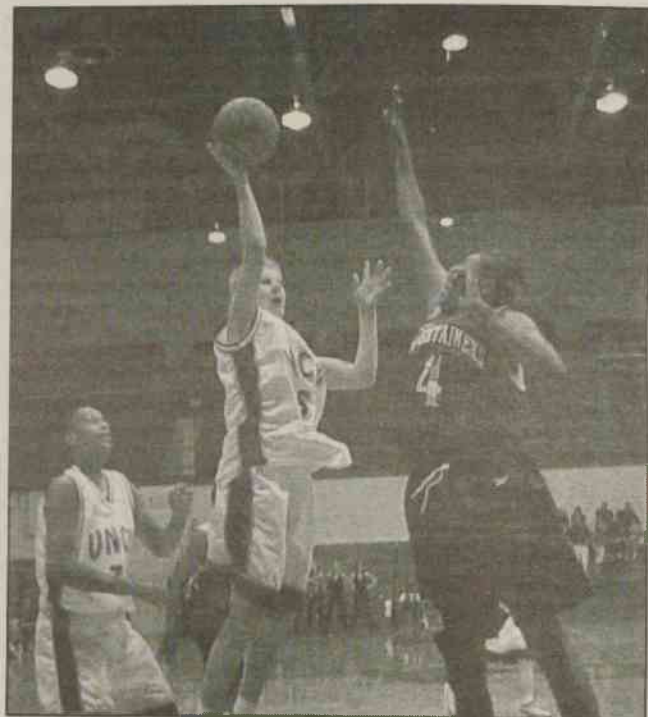
The second half was a different story from the first, as the NWBL Entertainers went on a 9-0 run from the 18:26 mark to the 11:36 mark, recording their first lead of the half. The Entertainers' 40-39 lead triggered a series of seven lead changes over the next five minutes, before they took a

50-48 lead, and never allowed the Seahawks to lead again.

The Entertainers converted on all of their free throws in the final minute, and walked away with the four-point win.

The exhibition loss was disappointing for the Seahawks, as they dive headfirst into the conference season with six straight conference games during the month of January. Their current conference record stands at 0-1, with a loss to Old Do-

minion, a team that won every CAA Championship since joining the conference in 1991.



Senior Krissy Riggs skies over NWBL Krystal Carpenter in Sunday's exhibition game. Riggs, a native of Jacksonville, N.C. finished with four points for UNCW.

UNCW will look for their first conference win of the season as the team travels to George Mason on January 11.

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coach in UNCW men's basketball history to reach the 100-win mark. It took former coach Mel Gibson (1973-86) eight seasons to carry out the feat. The program's first coach, Bill Brooks (1952-72) needed nine.

Wainwright is not letting his coaching success go to his head. In fact, he is more appreciative for the past than swollen with pride from it. "I think the thing I am happiest about is [that the school has] given me seven years. I count my blessings here."

"My milestone to me is that I've



James Flint/The Seahawk

This season marks Wainwright's seventh campaign leading UNCW.

had a great six and a half years here. I'm thankful for every win, but I really have enjoyed my time here, I've enjoyed the [players], and I've enjoyed the students."

Wainwright will keep focus on future milestones for the rest of the season. The team's chances to repeat as CAA Champions and back-to-back appearances in the NCAA tourney are at the top of the list.

UNCW is thankful that Wainwright decided five months ago to add to Seahawk record books and not San Antonio.



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