



the Seahawk

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UNCW sweeps East Carolina

BRAD HUTCHENS
STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE — Saturday night, the UNC Wilmington men's basketball team made the two-hour trip to Greenville to challenge East Carolina for the final time as a conference foe. With emotions running high in ECU's Minges Coliseum, as it was Senior Night, the Seahawks spoiled the celebration, winning the game, 78-69.

As the game began, a ruckus Pirate crowd supported their team as they jumped out to an early 16-8 lead. UNCW struggled to find a weakness in ECU's game early on.

After tightening up their defense, UNCW called on a couple of freshmen to and a sophomore standout to pull them back into the game and take a lead. Freshman, Tim Burnette drilled several essential shots along with sophomore Brett Blizzard. Joel Justus, another UNCW freshmen added a solid eight-point first half performance, including a transition lay up with 7:17 remaining in the half that gave the Seahawks the lead and forced an ECU timeout.

"I was real relaxed," Justus said. "I was excited that I had a chance to play in such a big game...I just went in looking to contribute."

The Pirates cut the lead to two points before the Seahawks finished with a stellar 10-2 run to close out the half at a score of 37-29.

Second half play began with a slight scare for UNCW, as both Ed Williams and Marcus Green contended with foul trouble. ECU

fought hard on the heels of junior guard Fred Primus. Primus hit several key shots, as well as produced some great defensive plays that caused UNCW to lose their halftime lead.

After ECU led by one with about 16:00 left to play, another unexpected Seahawk hero stepped from behind the curtain. Sophomore Craig Cahalan drilled a three-pointer followed by two difficult three-point plays that began to push UNCW away from the Pirates.

Burnette also dropped 10 points in the second half to open the gap between the two teams. With 4:01 to play, Green fouled out



Freshman guard Tim Burnette dishes the ball inside, setting up a UNCW basket. Burnette added 18 points in UNCW's rout over ECU in Greenville last Saturday.

for UNCW, forcing the rest of the team to make up for his loss. UNCW acted accordingly, Led by Blizzard creating some big tum-

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Campus police facing personnel shortage

THOMAS M. RUYLE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The resignations of three UNCW police officers last week are leaving the department perilously short-staffed. Officers Chris Anderson, Tracy Rackley and Keith Petrocik left the department to be-

come New Hanover County Sheriff's deputies.

UNCW Police Captain David Donaldson said his department is having a hard time retaining officers primarily due to low salaries and the nature of the department's responsibilities as opposed to more mainstream law enforcement agencies.

"Other (law enforcement agencies) have starting salaries considerably higher than ours," he said. "To say that we have a (staffing) crisis is not an exaggeration. You can't fault any individual for wanting a higher salary."

Several officers have resigned in recent months to pursue higher-paying jobs elsewhere. Donaldson said that since October, two other officers joined the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department and one joined the Wilmington Police Department.

None of the five patrol squads at UNCW are fully staffed. According to Donaldson, each squad should have one sergeant and three officers; three squads have only one officer and a sergeant.

"We're in a very tight spot," Donaldson said.

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Recent resignations have left the UNCW Police Department short-staffed. The department has been forced to contract with other local law enforcement agencies to assist with event security and other duties.