



Seahawk Sports

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Looking back at 2001 *Impressive start guides Seahawk victory*

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As a new year begins, it is commonplace for a writer to take a look back at the year that has passed. So, what was it that will be remembered about 2001? What events will mold sports history when we look back?

There were great stories and tragic events which seem to set 2001 apart from others. Although it was difficult to choose, I compiled the top five events of 2001 in sports.

5. Killed by the game

In late July, Minnesota Vikings lineman Kory Stringer died suddenly as a result of heat exhaustion during training camp of the upcoming season. As fans and teammates mourned, just days later in early August, Rashadi Wheeler, a safety at Northwestern University collapsed and died in a similar type of incident. These two deaths are cases pushed the NFL and NCAA to examine pre-season workouts and create more precautionary measures to avoid heat related illnesses.

4. "His Airness" returns

After months of speculation, the NBA's greatest player made his return to the game he loves. Michael Jordan gave up his front office position with the Washington Wizards, trading his business suit in for a pair of Nikes and a jersey. With questions about the aging Jordan's basketball ability, MJ made his return to the NBA at a training camp on the campus at UNC Wilmington. For a week, the Seahawk's home floor became the national spotlight, creating a media circus of reporters. Students at UNCW camped out for tickets to the Wizards' exhibition scrimmage in Trask Coliseum, in which Jordan played for the first time in front of a crowd as an NBA player since his retirement.

3. Bonds Crushes McGwire's Record

With little fan fare in comparison to the honor he gave three seasons prior, Barry Bonds passed Mark McGwire in the baseball record books for single season home runs with 73. Bonds never allowed the media to create the same atmosphere as McGwire and Sammy Sosa had endured, claiming that the most important aspect of the game was winning. The Giants' left-handed power hitter handled the situation with class and grace, although his team never reached the playoffs.

2. Tragedy Strikes at Daytona

All too early into 2001, the sporting world was forced to deal with another great loss. With just half a lap remaining in the Daytona 500, Dale Earnhardt struck the wall at 180 miles per hour, while blocking the way for cars driven by Dale

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JESSIE NUNERY

STAFF WRITER

Hempstead, NY— When the Hofstra Pride joined the Colonial Athletic Association this year, UNCW Head Coach Jerry Wainwright knew that the conference would benefit greatly. However, the Seahawks showed the Pride on Saturday just how tough conference play will be this year, handing Hofstra their first home loss of the year in a 69-58 victory.

The Seahawks jumped out to an early 12 point lead in the first four minutes of action and never looked back. On the heels of three-pointers by Ed Williams, Brett Blizzard and Lou Chapman, the Seahawks got off to a start quick enough to silence the Hofstra Arena crowd. Adding to the Seahawk start was the sloppy play of the Pride in the game's opening minutes, which saw them turn the ball over four times.

"When you get an early lead it takes the crowd out of it," Wainwright said.

While in control of the game from start to finish, the Seahawks didn't shoot particularly well. The Seahawks shot 41 percent from the floor for the game, partly because from

leading scorer Brett Blizzard sat out the final 13 minutes of the first half after committing two fouls. Picking up the scoring for the Seahawks was sophomore guard Tim Burnette, who calmly entered the game and scored 9 points. Burnette knocked in a three-pointer, drove for a layup and made a steal for another two points as the Seahawks found ways to score as the half came to a close.

Junior forward Craig Callahan played a season high 39 minutes and was the Seahawks' rock inside. The Cascade, Iowa native had 16 points and 14 rebounds giving the Seahawks the play they would need inside after sophomore forward Anthony Terrell left the game after being blocked in the eye.

"You work hard in practice and games are the time to show what you got," Callahan said of his strong performance.

The Seahawks improved to 8-5 overall and perhaps more importantly, 3-0 in the CAA. Hofstra, who lost 4 seniors from last year's team, fell to 6-8 overall and 1-2 in conference play.

"They remind me of us last year," Hofstra Head Coach Tom Pecora said of the Seahawks. "They wear you down and take advantage of the opponent's mistakes."

The Seahawks will next enjoy two home



Junior Craig Callahan played a pivotal role in Saturday's win over Hofstra

conference games beginning tonight against George Mason, which they lost to in the CAA Championship game last year. Their shot hometown will then end Jan. 12, against conference newcomer Delaware.

Lady Seahawks dive into CAA play

WES MELVILLE

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UNCW led off a feisty William & Mary team on Tuesday night, 67-51, to earn their second victory in conference play and extend their overall record to 8-4.

The Lady Seahawks overcame sloppy play



Jennifer Kapper led the Seahawks in scoring against William & Mary.

in the first half, bouncing back to a double-digit lead in the second. Although they struggled with the press and, at times, fell buried beneath the Tribe's 40 percent three-point shooting, UNCW's peppy defense was able to prevent any serious comeback.

"I think we won [the intensity] battle in the second half," said Coach Ann Hancock, who was disappointed in her team's effort in the game's opening half.

The Lady Seahawks came out of the locker room with a seven-point lead and quickly extended it to 11 in the first few minutes. The Tribe failed to get much closer than

that the rest of the way as UNCW continually pushed the pace and allowed little breathing room for their conference rivals.

"We needed to pick up our intensity level," said sophomore guard Jennifer Kapper about the team's first half play, adding that their ability to bring it up a notch in the second made the difference. Kapper led the Seahawks with 20 points, making it her fifth game this season with at least as many points and the ninth time she has led all UNCW scorers.

Junior forward Shameka Montgomery posted her fourth double-double and led the team in rebounds, finishing with 12 point and 14 boards.

Also, sophomore guard Jan Williams tied a school record by making a three-pointer in 10 straight games.

The Lady Seahawks are 2-1 in CAA play this season and, with Tuesday's win, have won five of their previous six. The hot streak could not have been timed better, as the

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