



UNCC SPORTS

49ers closer to playoffs

By Jim Dedmon

The Lady 49er spikers posted some big wins this past week especially against division leading Methodist College which tied the two teams for the division race. As of this writing both teams posted only one loss in their division and these losses were from the other team. The weekend preceding the Methodist win saw the UNCC women placing second in the Columbus College Invitational beating Valdosta, Wesleyan, N. Florida Jr. College, which took them to second place in their pool, one of three composed of five teams each. They then took a win against Berry College which put them into the quarterfinals and put a good Jacksonville State team out of competition. They then received their second and final loss to Jacksonville which put them in the number two position at the end of the tournament.

During last week they defeated N.C. A&T, Gardner Webb and the Methodist win which was played on Methodist's home court. The big win of the week would undoubtedly be against Methodist who are the defending state champions.

"Things are really going great right now, the tournaments have paid off because the girls have played some good competition and it is really helping us for experience in future games." Upcoming games will be against some tough Division II teams such as Pembroke and Belmont Abbey. With only one more division game left and some tougher teams ahead Coach Newie Wilhite is looking forward to the last games depending on them to get the 49ers ready for the upcoming state tourney.

"Against Methodist College the girls did not play their best and still won the game. I think that says something about our team," Wilhite commented. The state tournament will pit the top four teams from each district to determine the champion for this year. The tournament has yet to be announced but the dates for the event will be Nov. 10-11.

When asked her opinion on the tournament, Wilhite speculated, "I would say it will be us and Methodist. Neither of us have any losses in our districts and the games are usually close."

Last home game a winner

By Bill Whittaker

The UNCC soccer team did not waste any time last Wednesday in establishing their superiority over Winthrop College of Rock Hill, S.C., as early in the contest two goals were scored within a minute and a half. The first score came at 37:33 on a fine shot by senior Jim Dekemper. Only 1:23 later, Dekemper, after having dribbled the ball down the right sideline, sent a pass across the face of the Winthrop goal where it was picked up by David Dunn. The Eagle keeper did not have a chance as Dunn placed the ball in the right hand corner of the net.

The action during the remainder of the half was brisk with both teams mounting attacks that were thwarted by fine defensive play or excellent goaltending. Still, the 49er offense was clearly superior to that of the visitors, both in passing and shot selection. The UNCC front line consistently got behind the Eagle defense to take long passes from their teammates. The defensive



(photo by Robin Colby)

The game against Winthrop was a grand finale for the UNCC soccer team's last home game this season.

play of the 49ers was good at times, erratic at others. This latter situation can in part be explained by the sometimes sloppy play of the Winthrop team.

The only score the Eagles obtained came at 29:10 of the half when an obstruction penalty gave Frankie Griffin an indirect kick. The ball somehow worked its way into the net after appearing to have been blocked.

The second half started much like the first, with a goal by Fer-

nando Sosa after only four minutes. Scarcely four minutes later Quy Pham took a long lead pass and produced a breakaway goal for the 49ers last score. This play disturbed greatly Jim Casada, the Eagle head coach, who thought Pham was offside on the play. The referee however, said after the game the UNCC player was definitely onside.

The rest of the game was a copy of the first half, as the home team offense continually plagued the Winthrop

keeper. The defense, too, played well as Coach Ike Gardner used most of his bench in the last 20 minutes.

The victory gave the 49ers a 10-7-1 record overall and ended their home schedule at 8-3-0. The regular season record is the soccer team's best ever. The 49ers have two more regular season games left. On Oct. 24 they play Catawba and on Oct. 27 the team travels to Davidson. The soccer season ends with the conference tournament in Jacksonville, Fla. (moved from Atlanta) on Nov. 3-5.

One factor that may improve the team's chances in the tournament is the return of goalie Lee Kiser. He says his hand is still a little weak, but he hopes to be able to play in the Catawba or Davidson game. If Kiser does not return, the 49ers will go with Dave Higgins in goal. In the Winthrop game he made eight saves.

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