



# UNCC SPORTS

## Heartbreak loss ends 49er winning streak

By Jim Dedmon

The UNCC 49ers lots a 66-63 tearjerker to the Sun Belt Conference regular season champion South Alabama squad. The game was predicted by all as a classic and the prediction rang true. The Jaguars, undefeated in the conference (9-0), came to the Charlotte Coliseum with aspirations of keeping their winning momentum going into the conference tournament.

In the first period, the cocky Jaguars relentlessly ripped away at the scoreboards,

breaking through the Mean Green's zone defense on too many occasions. The South Alabama (USA) squad giggled its way through calls by the refs until with about 10 minutes to go in the first period, the sleeping 49ers awoke and began to answer each Jaguar basket to whittle away a one-time 10-point lead to within two points. This hot streak sobered up the USA bunch and invited them into a ballgame.

Kevin King brought cheering Mean Green fans to their feet with

well-placed shots and an exciting two-point producing steal just after he sunk a free throw after a personal foul. George Devone added to his growing trend as an outside shooter with a pair of first period jumpers from 15 feet. The two teams went to their lockerrooms with UNCC having a one-point advantage over the Jaguars (35-34).

Unfortunately, the same, slow-start problem the 49ers had in the first period returned in the second half. UNCC looked like it did

earlier in the season with the beginning of the second period. Poor ball control and little passing brought long jumpers that never scored and the USA team answered empty 49er baskets with successful inside plays. Chad Kinch's earlier scoring was shut off by a combination of Scott Williams sticky defense and a box and one defense which hampered Kinch's usual driving lay-ups. Kinch later fouled out of the game with a team-high 23 points. However, the 49ers

came out of their slumber and once again began to hit the boards.

The saving 49er efforts came from Kevin King (continued on page 11)



(Photo by Debbie Miller)

Phil Ward handled the ball well but couldn't make the shots.

## Panthers easy game in second half

By Jim Dedmon

The first half of the UNCC-Georgia State game was surprising for both teams. Georgia State was surprised because they were keeping up with UNCC point-for-point and were playing some good basketball; something the Panthers have not done this season. This was also a surprise for

the 49ers because the Panthers were not having a hard time keeping up.

The Mean Green took the majority of their first half shots from downtown and fortunately hit enough of them to maintain a 37-34 lead at the half. A late first period surge at the end including a fast break by Kevin King

and an inside shot by George Devone helped bring the 49ers from a one point deficit to a three point lead. With three seconds left before the end of the first period, Chad Kinch added a little excitement to what might have been a boring game when he ran against the clock for a slam dunk. However the clock won, the basket did not count and the two teams headed off court.

In the second half, the 49ers and the Panthers seemed to have overcome the surprise of the first period and both teams reverted back to their old style. The

UNCC cagers played with offensive control and defensive solidarity while the Georgia State squad turned back to mediocre shooting and a poor defensive front. The fans got a chance to yell and scream after being lulled to sleep the first period and the 49ers started to hit the boards in force.

Leading the 49er baskets with 17, Chad Kinch to burn the net with 20-footers from virtually anywhere he wanted to take them.

The 49ers took home a final 85-60 victory as they upped their record to 6-3 in the Sun Belt and 13-9 overall.



(Photo by Debbie Miller)

Up, up and away is 49er George Devone.

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