

## UNCW's Postseason History

**NCAA (2000, 2002, 2003, 2006)**

**NCAA Postseason Record: 1-4**

**NIT (1998, 2001)**

**NIT Postseason Record: 0-2**

**CIT (2015)**

**CIT Postseason Record: 0-1**

### **1998 NIT**

**Wake Forest 56, UNCW 52**

**March 12, 1998**

**Lawrence Joel Coliseum - Winston-Salem, N.C.**

UNCW capped off a wildly-successful cage season by appearing in the NIT in a memorable 1997-98 journey for Coach Jerry Wainwright's team.

The Seahawk, in claiming their second straight CAA regular season crown, fashioned a 20-11 record for the first 20-win season in the school's Division I history. Along the way, UNCW tackled numerous obstacles before establishing 24 team and 19 individual records.

With seniors Mark Byington and Keith Spencer Shouldering the load, the Seahawks faced an early schedule that featured 14 of the first 17 games on the road. The difficult slate included matchups against five nationally-ranked opponents and seven teams that would eventually play in the NCAA Tournament.

After entering conference play in early January with a 5-6 record, the Seahawks erased a 13-point deficit at George Mason behind a 31-point explosion by Stan Simmons, UNCW used the momentum from that contest to win 12 of its next 13 outings, including nine consecutive victories, to clinch the No. 1 seed in the CAA Tournament.

In CAA title game, however, the Seahawks ran into a hot-shooting Richmond club and fell, 79-64, to the Spiders at the Richmond Coliseum.

With hopes of an NCAA berth doused, the Seahawks received new life on the night of March 8, 1998, when NIT officials extended an invitation, giving UNCW its first postseason bid.

The Seahawks battled ACC member Wake Forest to the wire before dropping a 56-52 verdict to the Demon Deacons at Lawrence Joel Coliseum.

#### **Wake Forest 56, UNCW 52**

##### **UNCW Seahawks**

Donlon, 1-5, 0-0, 3; Simmons, 4-15, 2-2, 12; Kojenets, 1-3, 2-2, 4; Ebong, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Byington, 6-15, 1-2, 18; Gibbson, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Spencer, 3-7, 0-0, 6; Green, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Scott, 0-2, 0-0, 0; Pratt, 4-6, 0-0, 9; Totals, 19-54, 5-6, 52.

##### **Wake Forest Demon Deacons**

O'Kelley, 6-13, 3-4, 19; Rutland, 5-12, 6-6, 20; Vidauret, 1-3, 4-4, 6; Shoemaker, 1-2, 0-1, 2; Arinze, 1-3, 3-5, 5; Gootsby, 0-4, 2-2, 2; Woods, 0-2, 0-0, 0; Braswell, 1-2, 0-0, 2; Amonett, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Totals, 15-42, 18-22, 56.

Halftime Score – Wake 20, UNCW 20; 3-point goals – UNCW 9-21 (Byington, 5-10), Wake 8-19 (O'Kelley, 4-8); Rebounds – UNCW 23 (Simmons, 4), Wake 44 (Vidauret, 14); Assits – UNCW 12 (Donlon, 7), Wake 13 (O'Kelley, 4); Fouls – UNCW 22, Wake 10; Turnovers – UNCW 7, Wake 17; Attendance – 7,608

## **2000 NCAA**

**Cincinnati 64, UNCW 47**

**March 17, 2000**

**Gaylord Entertainment Center - Nashville, Tenn.**

Sparked by a veteran front line and a spectacular rookie, UNCW swept to its first CAA championship and inaugural NCAA Tournament appearance in 1999-00.

The Seahawks were picked to finish near the bottom of the CAA, but a gritty group of players and a determined coaching staff produced a remarkable success story.

The road to the NCAA Tournament began in late November with a difficult loss at Wisconsin-Green Bay, but the resilient Seahawks bounced back three days later to hand Butler a 56-54 setback at Trask Coliseum.

With Wainwright pulling the strings, UNCW jelled in January, winning four of its last five games in the month and picking up steam for the stretch run.

Rallying with a stingy defensive unit, the Seahawks frustrated several opponents in the final month of the campaign. On Feb. 7, 2000, UNCW held James Madison to school-record lows for points and field goal shooting in a 57-32 throttling. Twelve days later, the Seahawks turned up the heat again in a 59-53 decision over George Mason.

When March rolled around and the CAA Tournament arrived, UNCW took the Cinderella crown and ran with it. The Seahawks turned back VCU in the quarterfinals, upset GMU in the semifinals and limited Richmond to 18 second-half points to claim their first league title.

UNCW made its NCAA Tournament debut against Cincinnati in the South Regional in Nashville and fell, 64-47, as the Bearcats broke away late in the second period at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in the Music City.

### **Cincinnati 64, UNCW 47**

#### **UNCW Seahawks**

Thelmon, 0-5, 0-0, 0; Blizzard, 2-8, 0-0, 5; Ebong, 5-11, 2-6, 15; Perine, 2-11, 0-0, 4; Green, 2-3, 0-0, 4; Jarmond, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Scott, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Dahl, 0-0, 1-2, 1; Hare, 3-7, 2-2, 9; Lancaster, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Callahan, 0-3, 0-0, 0; Kojenets, 3-11, 3-4, 9; Totals, 17-59, 8-14, 47.

#### **Cincinnati Bearcats**

Satterfield, 5-9, 2-2, 12; Johnson, 6-15, 0-0, 13; Tate, 3-8, 2-4, 8; Mickael, 4-10, 6-10, 15; Fletcher, 5-7, 0-0, 10; Stokes, 1-1, 0-0, 2; Logan, 1-5, 2-3, 4; Grove, 0-3, 0-0, 0; Little, 0-2, 0-0; Totals, 25-60, 12-19, 64.

Halftime Score – UC 26, UNCW 14; 3-point goals – UNCW 5-18 (Ebong, 3-4), UC 2-15 (Johnson, 1-8); Rebounds – UNCW 43 (Ebong, 7), UC – 43 (Johnson, 7); Assists – UNCW 9 (Thelmon, 4), UC 13 (Satterfield, 8); Fouls – UNCW 17, UC 14; Turnovers – UNCW 12, UC 12; Attendance – 17,230

## 2001 NIT

**Dayton 68, UNCW 59**

**March 14, 2001**

**Dayton Arena - Dayton, Ohio**

An Impressive late-season run keyed UNCW's second straight appearance in the CAA championship game and a subsequent berth in the NIT in 2000-01.

The Seahawks played six of their first seven games away from home and opened the campaign with a 2-4 record. A big win in the seventh game over NCAA-bound Butler jumpstarted the team and Wainwright's club became one of the hottest teams in the country down the stretch.

On Dec. 16, 2000, UNCW traveled to Indianapolis, Ind., to face Butler at historic Hinkle Field House. In a classic matchup, the Seahawks snapped Butler's 18-game home winning streak, 53-48, behind the play of senior point man Barron Thelmon.

The Seahawks then blew out Mid-American Conference power Miami (OH) on the road, 59-44, and began CAA play with a 57-53 decision over George Mason in early January. The win broke GMU's 17-game home winning streak at the Patriot Center.

But it was a torrid streak in February that became the storyline for the 2000-2001 season. Wainwright's squad did not lose in the entire month, reeling off eight consecutive victories.

UNCW dispatched ODU in the CAA semifinals before dropping a 35-33 nail-biter to GMU in the championship game after a bucket by Ed Williams at the buzzer was nullified.

The Seahawks, who finished fourth nationally in scoring defense, lost to Dayton in the NIT after the Flyers drained 27-30 attempts at the free throw line.

### Dayton 68, UNCW 59

#### UNCW Seahawks

Thelmon, 2-9, 1-2, 5; Blizzard, 6-12, 1-1, 18; Green, 2-4, 0-0, 4; Williams, 4-12, 2-3, 10; Callahan, 2-5, 0-0, 4; Jarmond, 1-1, 1-1, 3; Justus, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Burnette, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Terrell, 2-3, 0-0, 4; Hare, 4-7, 1-2, 11; Totals, 23-54, 6-9, 59.

#### Dayton Flyers

Marshall, 3-6, 4-5, 11; Stanley, 4-12, 0-0, 11; Wales, 6-10, 7-7, 19; Green, 3-4, 3-4, 9; Smith, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Morris, 0-0, 6-6, 6; Holland, 1-5, 3-3, 5; Hall, 1-6, 4-5, 7; Finn, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Totals, 19-45, 27-30, 68.

Halftime Score – UD 31, UNCW 29; 3-point goals – UNCW 7-19 (Blizzard, 5-10), UD 5-10 (Stanley, 3-4); Rebounds – UNCW 27 (Hare, 6), UD 34 (Stanley, 6); Assists – UNCW 11 (Thelmon, 3), UD 13 (Marshall, 2); Fouls – UNCW 22, UD 8; Turnovers – UNCW 17, UD 16; Attendance – 9,638

## 2002 NCAA

**UNCW 93, Southern Cal 89, OT**

**March 14, 2002**

**Arco Arena - Sacramento, Calif.**

After leading wire-to-wire and winning their second CAA title, the 2001-02 Seahawks had only one thing left to prove: bring home a victory in the NCAA Tournament.

Coach Jerry Wainwright's team did just that, upsetting Pac-10 champion and fourth-seeded Southern Cal in the South Regional in Sacramento. On top of that, the Seahawks nearly advanced to their first Sweet Sixteen before falling to Final Four participant Indiana.

As usual, defense paved the way as the Seahawks led the CAA in defense for the eight consecutive season and held opponents to just 61.6 ppg.

The Seahawks, the preseason pick to win the CAA, didn't disappoint, coasting through the regular season with a 14-4 league ledger and cruising through the tournament at the Richmond Coliseum.

The night of March 14, 2002, became one of the biggest moments in Seahawk basketball history. With a crowd of 16,148 on hand at Arco Arena, UNCW posted the biggest upset of the 2002 NCAA Tournament by outlasting heavily favored USC and thrilling a sellout crowd.

All-time great Brett Blizzard became the first player in the history of the CAA to be named First-Team All-CAA his first three years in the conference and also collected CAA Player-of-the-Year, CAA Tournament MVP and Honorable Mention AP All-American honors.

### UNCW 93, Southern Cal 89, OT

#### Indiana 76, UNCW 67

##### UNCW Seahawks

Burnette, 3-8, 0-0, 6; Blizzard, 8-16, 9-10, 29; Callahan, 2-9, 1-2, 6; Terrell, 5-9, 2-4, 13; Williams, 4-10, 3-3, 11; Coombs, 0-0, 2-2, 2; Justus, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Chapman, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Clifford, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Hare, 0-2, 0-0, 0; Totals, 22-54, 17-21, 67.

##### Indiana Hoosiers

Hornsby, 4-9, 2-5, 12; Fife, 1-2, 0-0, 3; Coverdale, 1-4, 4-6, 7; Oglesby, 2-3, 0-0, 4; Jeffries, 8-15, 6-10, 22; Moye, 3-4, 4-4, 12; Perry, 2-3, 0-0, 5; Newton, 4-5, 3-5, 11; Totals, 25-45, 19-30, 76.

Halftime Score – IU 31, UNCW 25; 3-point goals – UNCW 6-17 (Blizzard, 4-9), IU 7-17 (Hornsby, 2-5); Rebounds – UNCW 35 (Callahan, 13), IU 28 (Jeffries, 7); Assists – UNCW 8 (Terrell, 3), IU 17 (Coverdale, 5); Fouls – UNCW 25, IU 20; Turnovers – UNCW 15, IU 15; Attendance – 16,144

## **2003 NCAA**

**Maryland 75, UNCW 73**

**March 21, 2003**

**Gaylord Entertainment Center – Nashville, Tenn.**

A pair of talented seniors combined with a young supporting cast to produce one of the most memorable seasons in Seahawk basketball history as the 2002-2003 club successfully defended its CAA championship and came within an eyelash of advancing to the NCAA's Round of 23 for the second consecutive year.

Seniors Brett Blizzard and Craig Callahan capped their storied careers in style. Blizzard, CAA Player-of-the-Year, set numerous records and became the first player in the league's history to be named First-Team All-Conference for consecutive seasons.

Coach Brad Brownell's team opened the season in Lubbock, Texas, where it faced legendary coach Bob Knight's Texas Tech squad. The Seahawks then proved dominant during the conference season, going 15-3 overall and carrying a six-game winning streak into the CAA Tournament.

Led by Blizzard, the reliable Callahan and unflappable freshman John Goldsberry, UNCW won 12 of its last 14 games in the regular season and swept through the CAA Tourney.

The Seahawks knocked off Hofstra, Delaware and Drexel to claim the CAA title and landed an 11<sup>th</sup> seed in the NCAA Tournament's South Regional in Nashville.

In the end, it took a desperation heave from Maryland's Drew Nicholas for the Terps to escape one of the biggest upsets in tournament history. Blizzard racked up 15 points, four rebounds and four assists in his final game as a Seahawk and Goldsberry set an NCAA Tournament record with eight straight 3-pointers to delight a packed house at the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

### **Maryland 75, UNCW 73**

#### **UNCW Seahawks**

Goldsberry, 8-9, 8-8, 26; Blizzard, 5-15, 1-2, 15; Callahan, 2-15, 6-7, 10; Justus, 1-7, 2-3, 5; Terrell, 1-3, 3-4, 5; Coombs, 0-0, 4-6, 4; Gunn, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Laue, 1-1, 0-0, 2; Wyrick, 2-5, 2-2, 6; Totals, 20-55, 20-26, 73.

#### **Maryland Terrapins**

Blake, 3-5, 0-0, 8; Nicholas, 7-15, 3-3, 22; Randle, 5-9, 5-6, 15; Holden, 3-8, 0-0, 7; Caner-Medley, 5-7, 1-2, 12; Smith, 1-2, 0-1, 2; Collins, 1-2, 0-0, 3; Garrison, 0-3, 0-0, 0; McCall, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Gilchrist, 2-2, 2-3, 6; Totals, 27-54, 11-15, 75.

Halftime Score – Maryland 46, UNCW 41; 3-point goals – UNCW 13-29 (Goldsberry, 8-8), Maryland 10-19 (Nicholas, 5-8); Rebounds – UNCW 29 (Blizzard, 4), Maryland 35 (Randle, 16); Assists – UNCW 16 (Blizzard, 4), Maryland 17 (Blake, 7); Fouls – UNCW 19, Maryland 20; Turnovers – UNCW 8, Maryland 13; Attendance - TBA

## **2006 NCAA**

**George Washington 88, UNCW 85, OT**

**March 10, 2006**

**Greensboro Coliseum – Greensboro, N.C.**

It started with an eye-opening run in the Black Coaches Association Invitational in remote Laramie, Wyoming, and ended with a thrilling overtime finish against George Washington in the NCAA Tournament. All told, the 2005-06 season was one of the most exciting ever for the Seahawks.

In what proved to be Brad Brownell's final season with the program, UNCW rallied behind four seniors and several emerging players to surprise CAA observers by tying for first place in the regular season and advancing to their fourth NCAA Tournament in seven years.

Led by senior playmaker John Goldsberry, the Seahawks opened the season by dispatching Butler, host Wyoming and Northwestern to win the BCA Invitational. UNCW kicked off its CAA slate with wins over William & Mary and VCU before the Christmas holiday and went into cruise control after the break, winning eight of nine games in a critical stretch and 10 of their last nine contests in the regular season.

Junior T.J. Carter then turned in a spectacular performance in the CAA Tournament to lead the Seahawks to their fourth CAA crown. He poured in 12 of his game-high 23 points in the final 2:51 of the championship game against Hofstra and added 13 rebounds en route to CAA Tournament MVP honors.

The Seahawks then collected a No. 9 seed in the NCAA Tournament and squared off against No. 8 George Washington at the Greensboro Coliseum. Brownell's club led by as many as 18 points, but couldn't hold on against the Colonials in a thrilling overtime clash.

### **George Washington 88, UNCW 85, OT**

#### **UNCW Seahawks**

Goldsberry, 5-7, 0-0, 14; Carter, 9-21, 4-7, 25; Wyrick, 5-9, 1-3, 13; Hendley, 4-4, 1-1, 10; Laure, 2-3, 2-5, 7; Fountain, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Lay, 0-0, 2-2, 2; Soyebó, 1-1, 0-0, 2; Grkovic, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Kuljanin, 6-8, 0-0, 12; Totals, 32-54, 16-22, 85.

#### **George Washington Colonials**

Pinnock, 4-9, 2-2, 11; Elliott, 4-13, 4-7, 15; Menshah, 4-8, 2-4, 10; Hall, 4-8, 3-3, 13; Williams, 6-11, 4-5, 18; Kirsev, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Roudijia, 1-2, 0-0, 3; Rice, 8-15, 1-1, 20; Totals, 31-66, 16-22, 88.

Halftime Score – GW 38, UNCW 36; 3-point goals – UNCW 11-22 (Goldsberry, 4-6), GW 10-22 (Elliott, 3-5); Rebounds – UNCW 33 (Wyrick, 6), GW 34 (Hall, 10); Assists – UNCW 20 (Goldsberry, 9), GW 16 (Pinnock, 3); Fouls – UNCW 22, GW 20; Turnovers – UNCW 15, GW 10; Attendance – TBA

## 2015 CollegenInsider.Com Postseason Tournament (CIT)

Sam Houston State 87, UNCW 71

March 18, 2015

Johnson Coliseum – Huntsville, Texas

The Seahawks returned to the postseason for the first time in nine years by taking on Southland Conference runnerup Sam Houston State in a first-round pairing of the CollegenInsider.com Postseason Tournament in Huntsville, Texas.

The appearance capped a turnaround season for the Seahawks in Kevin Keatts' first year with the program. UNCW tied for the 20<sup>th</sup> best turnaround in NCAA Division I play by going from worst (3-13) to first (12-6) in conference play.

The Bearkats raced out to a 46-25 lead at halftime behind reserve forward Aurimas Majauskas, who finished with a career-high 27 points, and cruised to an 87-71 decision. SHSU held UNCW to 25.7 percent shooting in the first meeting between the two teams.

Redshirt junior guard Craig Ponder had 17 points for the Seahawks, who concluded their first season under Keatts with an 18-14 record.

### Sam Houston State 87, UNCW 71

#### UNCW Seahawks

Ponder, 5-12, 4-6, 17; Talley, 4-11, 3-3, 12; Jackson, 7-16, 2-4, 16; Spruill, 3-10, 5-6, 11; Williams, 4-7, 0-0, 9; Ogbodo, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Pugh, 1-3, 1-3, 4; Sherwood, 1-2, 0-0, 2; Gettys, 0-2, 0-0, 0; Hickson, 0-0, 0-0, 0; totals 25-63, 15-22; 71.

#### Sam Houston State Bearkats

Peters, 2-4, 6-10, 11; Gatlin, 3-5, 0-0, 6; Ransom, 4-7, 0-0, 11; Baxter, 3-10, 4-4, 11; Holyfield, 3-9, 4-7, 10; McKinney, 0-1, 1-2, 1; Henderson, 4-11, 0-0, 9; Lopez, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Williams, 0-3, 0-0, 0; McCormick, 0-0, 0-0, 0; Burwell, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Majauskas, 9-11, 6-8, 27; McLeroy, 0-1, 0-0, 0; Goodwin, 0-0, 1-2, 1; Totals 28-64, 22-33, 87.

Halftime Score – SHSU 46, UNCW 25; 3-point goals – UNCW 6-17 (Ponder, 3-7), SHSU 9-19 (Ransom, 3-5); Rebounds – UNCW 35 (Spruill, 8), SHSU 50 (Holyfield, 11); Assists – UNCW 18 (Talley, 6), SHSU (Ransom, 5); Fouls – UNCW 21, SHSU 19; Turnovers – UNCW 7, SHSU 10; Attendance – 567