Volleyball, men's soccer rally to key wins

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

HIGH POINT — High Point University bounced back from a first-set loss to beat Winthrop 22-25, 25-21, 25-17, 25-15 in a key Big South Conference volleyball matchup Saturday in the Millis Center.

The teams tied for the regular-season title last year and met in the previous two tournament finals.

Talia Lardner had 13 kills and eight blocks for the Panthers (11-5 overall, 5-0 conference). Gabby Hill followed with 12 kills, while Elodie Lalonde had 10 kills, eight digs, four blocks and an ace.

Maya Bukovcan added nine blocks. Remy Catojo had 40 assists, eight digs and an ace, and Kea Whillock had 16 digs and three assists.

High Point also topped Gardner-Webb 18-25, 25-14, 25-10, 25-13 on Friday. Lalonde had 15 kills and three blocks, while Bukovcan had 12 kills, six blocks and two aces and Hill had 10 kills.

Catojo had 36 assists and 10 digs, and Whillock

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MICHAEL LINDSAY | HPE

High Point University's Sabba Haghgoo, right, fights for the ball during Saturday's match against USC Upstate at Vert Stadium.



MICHAEL LINDSAY | HPE

High Point University's Elodie Lalonde spikes the ball during Saturday's match against Winthrop in the Millis Center.

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had 19 digs and six assists.

MEN'S SOCCER

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — High Point University scored twice in the final eight minutes — including the game-winner with three seconds left — to rally past USC Upstate 2-1 in Big South men's soccer Friday at Upstate.

Daniel Lugo scored in the 83rd minute to even the score after the Spartans scored in the 16th minute. Lucas Kelly scored in the 90th minute to give High Point (8-3-1 overall, 4-0-0 conference) the lead.

Noah Behrmann had two assists, while Nick Sarantakos had one.

Josh Caron made three saves in goal as the Panthers totaled a 14-10 advantage in shots, including 6-4 on goal.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

HIGH POINT — High Point University lost 1-0 on a late goal against USC Upstate in Big South women's soccer Saturday at Vert Stadium.

Upstate, which lost to the Panthers in last year's conference tournament final, finished with a 12-9 advantage in shots — including 6-5 on goal. It scored the lone goal of the match the 85th minute.

Nylah Mirshafiei made five saves in goal for High Point (3-8-1 overall, 2-2 conference).

WOMEN'S ROWING

JACKONSVILLE, Fla. — High Point University women's rowing opened its 2026 fall season strong Saturday at the First Coast Head Race, earning two first-place finishes and a runner-up finish in its three events in Jacksonville.

The Panthers' first varsity eight and second varsity eight each claimed first place in their respective events, while High Point's third boat finished second in the Women's NCAA Division I 8+ — 3rd+ Boats event.



MICHAEL LINDSAY | HPE

High Point University players celebrate a point during Saturday's match against Winthrop in the Millis Center.



MICHAEL LINDSAY | HPE

High Point University's Coryn McDonnell collides with USC Upstate's Jasmyn Mitchner on the ball during Saturday's match at Vert Stadium.



MICHAEL LINDSAY | HPE

High Point University's Remy Catojo tips the ball over the net during Saturday's match against Winthrop in the Millis Center.

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

BEHRMANN NAMED DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

HIGH POINT — High Point University's Noah Behrmann has been named the Week 8 College Soccer News Defensive Player of the Week.

Behrmann set up both goals in the HPU men's soccer 2-1 win at USC Upstate on Saturday night. It was his second career double-assist game to give him a team-high six assists, which is tied for 19th in the country.

The game-winning assist was a clutch buzzer beater to help the Panthers' extend their winning streak to six games. The senior defender now has career-highs 11 starts, six assists and six points.

SARANTAKOS EARNS THIRD BIG SOUTH FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

CHARLOTTE — High Point University's Nick Sarantakos has been named the Big South Conference Men's Soccer Freshman of the Week for the third time this season.

Sarantakos assisted Lucas Kelly's game-winning goal with three seconds remaining to lift High Point to a 2-1 road victory at USC Upstate. The assist was Sarantakos' fourth of the season and his second in as many games. He also put one shot on goal in 54 minutes of action.

VOLLEYBALL COLLECTS THREE BIG SOUTH WEEKLY AWARDS

CHARLOTTE — High Point University's Maya Bukovcan, Remy Catojo and Kea Whillock are this week's Big South Conference volleyball weekly award winners.

Bukovcan was the Player of the Week for the second week in a row. Catojo was the Setter of the Week, and Kea Whillock was as the Libero of the Week as the Panthers went 2-0 with wins over Gardner-Webb and Winthrop.

Bukovcan averaged 2.75 kills per set, 1.88 blocks per set for 3.94 points per set. She had 12 kills versus Gardner-Webb on a .360 hitting percentage and 10 kills versus Winthrop on a .600 hitting percentage. She had a weekend-high nine blocks versus the Eagles to add to her 15 total blocks. Bukovcan punched in two service aces versus the Runnin' Bulldogs and totaled five digs on the weekend.

This was Bukovcan's third Player of the Week award for the season.

Catojo dished out 76 total assists, averaging 9.50 assists per set. She handed out a weekend-high 40 assists versus Winthrop. She added 2.25 digs per set and picked up a double-double versus Gardner-Webb with 36 assists and 10 digs. She also added six kills on a .286 hitting percentage and a service ace. This was Catojo's third Setter of the Week award this season.

Whillock had 4.38 digs per set after posting 19 digs against Gardner-Webb and 16 digs against Winthrop. She collected a reception percentage of .925 on 40 attempts. She also eclipsed her 1000th career dig to join 20 of the best passers in program history. Whillock also contributed nine assists over the eight sets played in. This was Whillock's first Libero of the Week award this season.