SPORTS

LOCAL ROUNDUP

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

WOMEN'S SOCCER

HPU 3, RADFORD 0

HIGH POINT — Three second-half scores — including two by Brooke Potter — boosted High Point University past Radford 3-0 in Big South Conference women's soccer Saturday afternoon at Vert Stadium.

Potter, a fifth-year forward/midfielder in her first season at High Point following stints at James Madison and Wake Forest, scored on a shot from near the top of the penalty area in the 50th minute and a deflection following a header off a corner kick in the 62nd minute.

That followed the opening score in the 46th minute when the Panthers (3-7-1 overall, 2-1 conference) sent a ball in front that the Highlanders (3-7-1, 1-2) deflected into the net.

Sabba Haghgoo had two assists, while Morgan Wilcox had one for High Point, which upset top-seeded Radford in the semifinals of last year's conference tournament en route to winning the title as the No. 4 seed.

Nylah Mirshafiei made two saves in goal for the Panthers, who outshot the Highlanders 12-3 for the match.

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VOLLEYBALL

ASHEVILLE — High Point University swept UNC Asheville 25-19, 25-23, 25-14 in Big South Conference volleyball Saturday at Asheville. The Panthers also beat USC Upstate 25-13, 25-15, 25-13 on Friday at Upstate.

Maya Bukovcan had nine kills on 10 attempts — breaking the program record for hitting percentage — while also tallying eight blocks and an ace against Asheville. Aisha Keric and Elodie Lalonde each had eight kills.

Lalonde added two blocks and 10 digs, while Remy Catojo had 28 assists and five blocks. Kea Whillock chipped in 16 digs and two assists, and Sydney McKay had nine digs, three assists and an ace.

Lalonde had 14 kills, two blocks, two assists and an ace against Upstate. Bukovcan had 13 kills, four blocks and an ace, while Catojo had 32 assists and 10 digs and Whillock had 13 digs and four assists.

High Point improved to 9-4 overall and 3-0 in the conference.

CROSS-COUNTRY

RICHMOND, Va. — High Point University won the women's race and the men's team scores to highlight Friday's Richmond Invitational cross-country meet at Richmond.

Brianna Malone won the women's 6K race in 20:42.2, followed closely by teammate Danielle Jensen in second in 20:47.4. Ruth Metaferia (16th, 22:26.7) also finished in the top 25.

The Panthers totaled 104 points as a team, finishing fourth, on the women's side, and posted 55 points as a team — placing all seven runners in the top 20 — to finish first on the men's side.

Avery Crowell ran the men's 8K race in 24:38.3 to finish second. Bence Acsadi (eighth, 25:13.8), Blake Nicholson (12th, 25:22.1), Simon Treizenberg (16th, 25:31.2), Jimmy Mullarkey (17th, 25:32.4), Gitch Hayes (19th, 25:36.9) and Gavin Stevens (20th, 25:38.5) all finished in the top 20.

HPU men's soccer blanks Longwood

HIGH POINT — Turned away early, High Point University men's soccer finally broke through Saturday.

The Panthers scored a goal in each half and blanked the Lancers 2-0 in Big South Conference play at Vert Stadium while Josh Caron got the clean sheet in goal on a night in which he paid tribute to a Furman player who recently had one of his legs amputated after suffering a horrific injury.

"It was an impressive performance for us from start to finish," HPU head coach Zach Haines said. "Longwood is a good team. They've been impressive, particularly from an attacking standpoint so far this season. We knew we would have to be on it in every way. And we were. I'm super happy with the guys."

Prosper Adagani took a long pass from Nick Sarantakos in the 40th minute, dribbled and shot as Lancer keeper Nicolas Pucci came out to defend, notching his fifth goal of the year while getting HPU on the board.

Daniel Lugo, the Panthers' leading scorer, took a feed from Kieran Smith, split two defenders and drilled a shot inside the right post with 5:30 left in the Big South match. It was his ninth goal of the season.

"You get the first one on the back of a lot of chances," Haines said. "We had a lot of chances to go up 2-nil earlier but they made some plays and we lacked a little bit of final product. But we got the one that iced it in the end. The big takeaway is we probably could have put it to bed earlier but it wasn't for lack of quality play or making things happen. It was just that last touch or last decision. We're getting there."

HPU, which finished with a 5-3 advantage in shots on frame, improved to 7-3-1 overall and 3-0-0 in the Big South. Longwood dropped to 6-4-0 overall and 1-2-0 in the league despite a 17-15 edge in total shots.

Caron finished with three saves, one by knocking away a bullet of shot and another by smothering a shot off a well-placed cross. Pucci had two saves and the Lancers were given another as a team.

"We didn't give them a lot of clear-cut chances, a lot were from distance and some were on crosses from behind that we dealt with," Haines said. "They are a good attacking team and we limited them. That's a credit to all the guys who played on the backline and the whole defensive effort really.

Caron, a graduate student who usually wears jersey No. 1, donned No. 27 in honor of Paladin sophomore defender Luke Munson, who roomed with Caron while they played for Hickory (N.C.) FC, a USL2 team, during the summer of this year.

"We lived together for a couple of months and got pretty close," Caron said.

Munson suffered his traumatic injury in Furman's win against Duke in late August. Complications led to additional surgeries and amputation of his lower leg.

"It shows this is bigger than sports," Caron said of honoring Munson. "As a Division I athlete, a lot of times you just think about the competitive nature

of the game. When you do something like this, it shows we're people also and everyone needs support whether that's mental or something else. Regardless if you are on different teams, we're all humans and connecting with others and making friendships is important.

Caron said he did not know Munson before this summer and has not been able to connect with him since he suffered the injury.

"He's an awesome guy," Caron said. "He's super-rooted in his faith and a hard worker. He loves family and he loves soccer. He gave everything, everyday. He is also a good person no matter what happened on the pitch."

Haines said Caron honoring Munson is a continuation of a bond between the HPU and Furman programs resulting from the death of Furman player Greg Griffin in a car accident two decades ago and the passing for former HPU player Holdent Trent from a medical issue in 2024.

"The last few years, we've had a special time playing them in preseason and then coming together before and after those matches," Haines said, "Now they are going through something that you can't wrap your head around. It's tragic and incredibly sad. We're here for them. Josh wanted to honor Luke tonight but our whole program and university is behind Furman too because what that young man and program, friends, family, community and coaches is going through is unspeakable. We send them our love in a big way every single day."