

# Preseason game in Fayetteville a treat for students

By Nick Phillips  
Sports Editor

On Oct. 6, the Charlotte Bobcats continued their annual tradition of playing preseason games throughout North and South Carolina by taking over the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville as they took on the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Many UNCP students made the trip up Interstate 95 to check out the matchup, taking advantage

of the opportunity to watch a professional game within an hour drive from campus.

The game itself featured Bobcats stars, such as Gerald Wallace and Stephen Jackson, while the Thunder countered with Kevin Durant and hometown favorite Eric Maynor.

Durant, barely 22 years old, is regarded as one of the best players in the NBA along with the likes of Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade. He was a

member of the 2010 USA Basketball team that won the gold medal at the FIBA World Championships this summer.

Maynor graduated from Fayetteville's Westover High School and is the Thunder's backup point guard behind Russell Westbrook, who was also a member of the FIBA World Championship team this summer.

The 7,491 people who filed into the Crown Coli-

seum had many different options to cheer for.

"I'm thrilled we were able to come here and play. It's neat playing in North Carolina in places other than Charlotte," Bobcats head coach Larry Brown said.

While some sided with the "home team" from Charlotte, many were taking advantage of the opportunity to see NBA talent such as Durant's in the local area.

More fans showed up to watch Maynor, while the biggest cheers of the night were directed at the Bobcats' owner and CEO Michael Jordan.

After Jordan settled into his courtside seat beside Fred Whitfield, the Bobcats' President and Chief Operating Officer, and Rod Hig-

gins, the Bobcats' general manager, cameras and flashbulbs moved from the action on the court towards Jordan.

While this was the first NBA preseason game in Fayetteville since 2002, the Crown Coliseum is the home of two other professional teams on a regular basis.

The Fayetteville Fireantz hockey team competes in the Southern Professional Hockey League, one of the many minor leagues under the NHL, and their season runs from October through March.

The Fayetteville Guard arena football team is a member of the American Indoor Football Association and its season runs from March through June each season.



Charlotte Bobcats guard Stephen Jackson throws a pass towards a teammate after driving towards the basket against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Fayetteville Oct. 6.



Charlotte Bobcats shooting guard Gerald Wallace shoots a free throw during the second half of their preseason game in Fayetteville.



Charlotte Bobcats General Manager Rod Higgins, left, and team owner and CEO Micheal Jordan look over players' stats during second half action.



The Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Wallace, left, defends against Oklahoma City Thunder player Kevin Durant in first half action.

## University players perform at Fright Train

By Allyson Betot  
Proofreader

The University Players at UNCP have been asked to provide the entertainment this year for Parkton's annual Halloween Fright Train.

The event is to take place Oct. 29-31 from sunset to 11 p.m., with a special

midnight run on Oct. 31 at Parkton's Train Depot.

Last year more than 1,000 people came out for the Fright Train, despite Parkton's small population of 428 people.

The train will have five stops along the track that the train goes through twice where frightening, and sometimes gruesome,

scenes will be performed. Sacrificial virgins, werewolves and a guillotine are just some of the scenes passengers can expect.

University Players is going to be a more active organization this year, senior Amy Cox said.

"We have group rehearsals once a week for this event and everything

looks very promising," she said.

"I think it's a good way to stretch our acting muscles at the beginning of the year ... It's also going to be a change in style for us, as there aren't many choices for theater actors in the horror genre," said sophomore Andrew Aaron, vice president of University Players.

In 2004 the railroad was bought by Red Springs & Northern Foundation with the hopes of revitalizing the railroad and starting a dinner theater.

The Halloween Fright Train events are a fundraiser to raise the \$1.3 million needed for their plans.