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Office of University Communications October 13, 2016

Runnin' Bulldogs Team and Coaches Shave Heads During Fundraiser on Oct. 15

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University baseball program teamed up with a special charity for a "basebald" event Saturday, Oct. 15, to fund research for childhood cancer and offer support for Levine Children's Hospital (Charlotte, N.C.).

Members of the Runnin' Bulldogs 2016-17 team and coaching staff gathered at 5 p.m. at John Henry Moss Stadium to shave their heads in an effort to meet their fundraising goal of \$5,000 for Vs. Cancer Foundation, based in Raleigh, N.C.

"The Vs. Cancer Foundation has been a major force in the fight against childhood cancer and we are honored to partner with them in that battle," said GWU Head Coach Rusty Stroupe, who was among the group that surrendered their hair on Saturday. "Our hair will grow back, but for many children with cancer, they don't know if and when their hair will return. So it's the least we can do to show our support for these kids. Half of the proceeds benefit childhood cancer research, while the other half benefit Levine Children's Hospital.

"With the number of special guests in attendance and the intra-squad game that followed, it was a great day," Stroupe shared.

Stylists with Hair Razor (Boiling Springs, N.C.) donated their services for the fundraiser. Individuals interested in supporting the cause can visit <u>Gardner-Webb.edu/basebald</u> to learn more about the event, goals and how much money has been raised to date.

The Vs. Cancer Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Raleigh, N.C., dedicated to saving kids' lives by empowering athletes and communities to fund lifesaving childhood cancer efforts. Based on the Half-and-Half model, half of all proceeds are given to national childhood cancer research and half are given to local childhood cancer hospitals and other efforts. This keeps funds in the communities where doctors, nurses, and patients need it the most and produces significant contributions for the research world. Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).