Lady Braves succumb to No. 2 Lander

By Curtiss Brooks
Sports Writer

During the first game of the Jan. 12 doubleheader in the Jones E. English Center, the UNCP Lady Braves took a tough loss to the nationally ranked Lander Beaucats 66-51. The Lady Beaucats, still undefeated after the win, came into the contest ranked No. 2 nationally in the country.

Lander has reeled off 16 straight contests this season, with six of them being Peach Belt Conference games including their latest triumph over the Lady Braves.

The Lady Beaucats controlled the game on the strength of their tremendous rebounding and inside play.

The Lady Beaucats out rebounded the scrappy Lady Braves 42-35. Lander was led by seniors Shannon McKever and Tashenlee Butler, who each had 13 and eight rebounds respectively. The two Lady Beaucats seniors also combined for 24 of Lander’s total points.

Not only did Lander Beaucats’ stellar inside play hurt the Lady Braves, but good defense forced the Lady Braves to shoot a dismal 16-for-55 (29.1 percent) from the floor.

While UNCP struggled with their field goal percentage, the Lady Beaucats had a steady performance by shooting 42.3 percent from the field.

Despite the Lady Beaucats’ poor performance from the field, the Lady Beaucats combined to shoot 41-148 from the free throw stripe.

The Lady Beaucats were led senior JaToya Kemp by just missing a double-double in the contest, adding 14 points and nine rebounds against Lander in UNCP’s 66-51 loss.

Illya Hunt scored 12 points and added three assists against USC Aiken on Jan. 5.

Lady Brave Talena Faison dribbles between two Lander defenders earlier this season. Faison dished out three assists against USC Aiken on Jan. 5.

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Lady Braves DayDay Ray and Dominique Wash-

Women’s basketball finishes 0-for-2 during GCSU Classic tourney

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

As the 2010 portion of the season was coming to a close, the UNCP women’s basketball team was unable to send it out with a bang, falling to Wingate and Newberry at the Georgia College Classic Tournament on Dec. 29 and 30.

After almost two weeks since their last game, the Lady Braves took on Wingate and committed 24 turnovers in a 70-65 loss before shooting under 25 percent from the floor against Newberry in a 57-50 loss.

Against Wingate, senior JaToya Kemp tallied a double-double in the contest, finishing with a game-high 16 points and 11 rebounds for UNCP. A pair of fellow seniors also filled the stat sheet.

Illya Hunt scored 12 points and added three assists while Briona Stanton tallied eight points, six rebounds and three assists in the losing effort.

After trailing most of the first half, the Lady Braves used three three-point baskets by Hunt to take a two point lead into the half.

In the second half, Wingate tied the score in the opening minute and went from there, holding a 10 point lead with 10 minutes to go.

UNCP pulled back even to the game at the four minute mark but were unable to finish off the game as Wingate held on for the five point win.

Although the Lady Braves were led in the shooting and rebounding categories, their 24 turnovers led to their demise. UNCP pulled down 41 total rebounds compared to Wingate’s 37.

Day two

In the second game of the tournament, the Lady Braves squared off against Newberry and proceeded to shoot just 24.6 percent from the floor in the loss.

Senior DayDay Ray totaled a team-high 12 points for UNCP, while fellow senior Kristin Hobbs and junior DeDe Cotten each tallied eight points.

Sophomore Anya Knowler and Ray each pulled down nine rebounds while Cotten added eight rebounds of her own. Hunt finished with a UNCP-high five assists in the loss as well.

Newberry opened the game on an 11-4 run before the Lady Braves’ first bucket was made at the 14:19 mark. The Newberry lead at halftime was 22 points, which was immediately increased in the early second half.

From 25 points down, the Lady Braves fought back to within five points at the 1:20 mark but that would be all UNCP could muster.

The Lady Beaucats’ poor shooting percentage actually was an improvement from the first half, as UNCP shot only 17.4 percent after the first half of play.

Lady Braves fall to USC Aiken

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

The UNCP women’s basketball team had no answers for nationally-ranked USC Aiken on Jan. 5, falling by a 68-38 score on the road in Peach Belt Conference play.

The 38 point total was the lowest output in a game for the Lady Braves since the 2006-2007 season. USC Aiken sat ahead on the scoreboard from the beginning and used a 22-8 scoring run to have a 21-point halftime lead.

In the second half, the lead stretched even more, with the margin at 28 points or more in the game’s final 13 minutes, including a 35-point spread near the eight minute mark.

Lady Braves’ senior DayDay Ray was the only UNCP player to finish with a double digit scoring total, totaling 10 points, followed by fellow senior Illya Hunt’s nine points.

Hunt, junior Dominique Washington and senior Talena Faison all passed out three assists in the contest, as UNCP finished 3-for-18 from the free throw line.

With the loss to Lander, the Lady Braves record at the time fell to 5-8 overall and 1-4 in the Peach Belt Conference.

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