By Nick Phillips

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The UNCP men’s basketball team continued its strong start to the 2010-2011 season with a convincing 94-72 win over regional rival Wingate on Nov. 30 for the Braves fifth consecu- tive win. The Braves’ were led by a pair of sophomores, as guard Shahnell Brackett and big man George Blak- eney combined for 44 of UNCP’s 94 points overall.

As a team, UNCP fired out of the gates from the opening tip, opening the game on a 22-2 run over the game’s first four minutes of action.

The Braves finished the first half shooting 65 percent from the floor, including knocking down eight of their nine three-point attempts, as they held a 53-34 halftime advantage. UNCP finished the game with a 58.9 shooting percentage from the floor as a team, while winning the rebound battle 37-34. The Braves also committed 20 turnovers on the night, but were equaled in that category by Wingate.

Brackett finished with 24 points to lead all Braves in scoring, connect- ing on nine of his 16 shot attempts while putting down four rebounds, passing out five assists and adding a steal in the game. Blakeney tallied 22 points on a 6-of-11 shooting night while grabbing six rebounds and blocking two shots, as junior Cody Hargrove came off the bench to add 18 points to the Braves’ tally.

Sophomore K.J. Cooper was the fourth and final member of the Braves’ double-digit scorers on the night, finishing with 14 points as he also grabbed four rebounds, passed out seven assists and collected four steals in the game.

Men’s basketball outlasts PBC foe Clayton State

By Nick Phillips

The UNCP men’s basketball team shot just 31.7 percent from the floor on Dec. 4 against Clayton State but remained in the game before falling by a 60-57 score inside the English E. Jones Center at Peach Belt Conference action.

Despite finishing with their season low shooting percentage, the Braves defense held Clayton State to just 36.5 percent shooting in the contest as the game ticked down to the final minutes. Clayton State length- ened its lead to nine points with three minutes to go before UNCP began a furious comeback, cutting the lead to one point with 16 sec- onds remaining.

The visitors extended their lead when Timothy Downs stepped to the free throw line and knocked down two shots to up the margin to three.

Sophomore Cody Hargrove’s attempted tie the game clanked off the rim and Clayton State held on for the win.

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Braves ease past visiting Allen at home

By Nick Phillips

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Braves pull away from Anderson in second half

The UNCP men’s basketball team turned up the defensive pressure in the second half against visiting Anderson on Dec. 18 as the Braves came away with a 84-69 win in their final contest of the 2010 portion of their schedule.

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UNCP’s Nate Priest (white jersey) goes for a rebound against Lander. Priest led the Braves with 14 points and a team-high eight rebounds as he finished the game with a 36-23 win to close out the victory.

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Braves win in Wingate for fifth straight victory

By Nick Phillips

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