Braves open season with sweep

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

The UNCP baseball team opened its 2011 sea- son on Feb. 5 and 6 when they hosted Anderson at Sammy Cox Field with a three-game sweep. The Braves were origi- nally scheduled to begin play with a doubleheader on Saturday and play the series finale on Sunday, but rain in the area flipped the sched- ule and provided a Sunday doubleheader.

In the Saturday opener, the Braves collected 12 hits over the three-game weekend series against Anderson.

UNCP pitcher Brad Isom picked up his first career victory in the Braves’ 8-3 game two win in their series against Anderson.

Braves senior Keith Whitman knocked two doubles and two singles over the three-game weekend series against Anderson.

Braves junior Nate Priest goes up for a shot in a game earlier this season.

Braves junior Joe Mangum records first base after a hit in the weekend series against Anderson. Mangum tab- let a RBI and scored a run in UNCP’s three-game series sweep.

By Heyley Burgess
Managing Editor

For most students, jug- gling school and a job is dif- ficult, but add in also playing a sport and most would have a hard time keeping up. That isn’t the case for Nathan Priest who is a student-athlete and works in the UNCP Book- store.

Priest, a junior from Tar Heel, N.C., who plays for- ward on the UNCP men’s basketball team, works as a sales associate in the Book- store and is a Chemistry major. He has had to learn how to use his time wisely when it comes to playing and his studies.

“Managing time with practice and my studies and with working 20 plus hours a week at the bookstore makes things difficult at times,” Priest said.

One of the difficulties he has had to work with is making up the class time he misses when he is on the road with the basketball team.

“Some teachers make it mandatory to come to dif- ferent class hours when I have to travel and some teachers aren’t as flexible,” Priest said.

“Sometimes I have to come by and spend time in their office or do online work,” he said.

Extra-curricular activities
As if working and being a student-athlete aren’t enough, Priest is also in- volved in Chemistry Club, Student Athletic Advisory Committee and goes to church whenever he can at home.

Priest said he tries to go home whenever he gets the chance to try and relax, even though he doesn’t have much time to relax.

“I don’t really have much time to relax, but I like to go home and spend time with my girlfriend and just chill out,” Priest said.

Priest said the people he looks up to the most are his parents because “the way they brought him up.”

“They brought me up understanding values and making me understand discipline is essential to being successful in life,” Priest said.

Priest’s dad, Charlie, ran track at UNCP, but that was not Priest’s reason for coming to Pembroke.

Priest said he came to UNCP and met Coach Ben Miller during Miller’s first day on the job and picked up two RBIs while going 2-for-4.

Whittman knocked a double as part of his 2-for-3 day and Bridgeman singled and doubled in five plate appearances.

UNCP sent eight batters to the plate in the bottom of the first and 10 Braves stepped to the plate in the fourth as all eight runs came in the two frames.

Finales
In the series’ finale, UNCP senior starting pitcher Josh Bagley faced 14 batters before giving up a hit in the fifth inning, as the Braves finished off An- derson with a 6-1 win.

Eight different Braves put five runs on the board in the final game, with sophomore Aaron Parnell blasting a three-run homer in the third inning.

Baseball player, coach take time together

By Heyley Burgess

“All the time,” he said. “I’ve been build- ing a great bond with team- mates I’ve had over the past years.”

Future
After he graduates, Priest is debating going to Pharmacy school or going overseas to continue his basketball career.

“I’m hoping to play for England, but honestly I’ll wherever I get offered the most,” he said.

Braves’ Priest more than a basketball player

UNCP junior Joe Mangum jaws at a pitch during the UNCP Baseball during a recent day.

By Nicholas Phillips
Sports Editor

凶

The UNCP baseball team opened its 2011 sea- son on Feb. 5 and 6 when they hosted Anderson at Sammy Cox Field with a three-game sweep. The Braves were origi- nally scheduled to begin play with a doubleheader on Saturday and play the series finale on Sunday, but rain in the area flipped the sched- ule and provided a Sunday doubleheader.

In the Saturday opener, the Braves opened season with sweep during a recent day.

Nate Priest re-chairs sweatshirts while working at the UNCP Bookstore during a recent day.