No. 15 USC Aiken outlasts Lady Braves

By Atlee Deacon
Sports Writer

USC Aiken, ranked 15th in the nation, edged past the UNCP Lady Braves with a 58-52 victory on Feb. 16 in the English E. Jones Center despite the Lady Braves holding close until the game’s final minutes.

UNCP senior JaToya Kemp led the game in three-point shot and four free game at 44-44 with 1:36 remaining in the game.

Senior Briana Stanton led UNCP’s offense with her game high 19 points and seven rebounds; Stanton was 6-of-11 from the field and 7-10 from the line. Talena Faison added 11 points of her own and three rebounds but the Lady Braves’ arsenial wasn’t enough to influence a win.

The Lady Braves made changes to their game from the prior matchup against the Pacers (22-4, 14-2) - a 68-38 loss in Aiken, S.C., on Jan. 5 - but committed two more turnovers and were out-rebounded by five.

The Lady Braves managed to shoot better from the field (37.8 percent) than the Pacers, who shot just more than 35 percent.

In addition to that, the Lady Braves made 12 points off of fast breaks – 10 more than USC Aiken – and registered 22 points in the paint.

However, USC Aiken collected 18 second-chance points compared to the Lady Braves’ 10 points.

Stanton opened the game for the Lady Braves with an easy lay-up on a fast break, but the game eventually would be tied three times with five lead changes and the largest lead of the game held by USC Aiken with eight points in the first half at the 7-11 minute mark.

For the Pacers, Daniele Tarallo and Kayla Harris both tallied double digits, scoring 16 and 15 points respectively.

USC Aiken finished with 22 points off of fast breaks, scoring 16 and 15 points while passing out five assists in the UNCP win, while seniors Briana Stanton and Talena Faison rounded out the Lady Braves’ double-digit scorers.

To go with her 11 points, Stanton added two rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block, while Faison’s 10 points were joined a rebound and an assist on her stat line for the contest.

Senior Illya Hunt had a stat-stuffing performance as well, notching eight points while putting down four rebounds, passing out five assists and grabbing two steals in the USC Aiken win.

The Lady Braves improved to 10-13 overall and 6-9 in the PBC with the win, while the loss dropped North Georgia to 14-10 overall and 5-8 in the Peach Belt Conference.

Lady Braves upset in PBC road matchup

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

The UNCP women’s basketball team traveled down to Augusta State on Feb. 12, returning home with an upset loss thanks to a last scoring run by the home team for a 51-44 victory.

The win gave Augusta State its first Peach Belt Conference win in 13 tries this season, and its first PBC win overall in two years, to snap a 41-game losing streak in conference play.

Lady Braves junior Domenique Washington tied the game at 44-44 with 1:36 remaining before Augusta State tallied a three-point shot and four free throws to seal the game.

UNCP senior JaToya Kemp led the Lady Braves with 15 points while also grabbing eight rebounds in the contest.

Seniors DeDe Cotten and Briana Stanton each tallied identical stat lines in the game, each finishing with eight points and four rebounds, for the Lady Braves.

The Lady Braves shot just 36.2 percent from the field, but the Lady Braves managed to shoot better from the floor, the Lady Braves’ 10 points.

Stanton and Talena Faison rounded out the Lady Braves with 15 points and six assists.

North Georgia totaled double the points in the game shooting under UNCP’s mark, as the home team shot 31.4 percent from the floor, but the difference came at the free throw line, where Augusta State picked up 14 points throughout the game.

On the glass, UNCP grabbed 36 rebounds, but the Lady Braves turned the ball over 19 times.

Cotten's career high leads Lady Braves to Peach Belt road win

By Nick Phillips
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UNCP junior DeDe Cotten tallied a career-high 22 points off the bench to lead the Lady Braves to a 77-68 Peach Belt Conference win at North Georgia on Feb. 12.

Cotten added four rebounds, a block and two steals in her action off the bench, as the Lady Braves finished with 31 total points from the reserves.

Overall, UNCP shot 44.7 percent from the field, finishing with 6-of-18 three-point shots.

The Lady Braves were out-rebounded inside, 40-31, and North Georgia totaled double the points in the paint as UNCP, at 24-12.

Junior Domenique Washington finished with 12 points and six assists while passing out five assists in the UNCP win, while seniors Briana Stanton and Talena Faison rounded out the Lady Braves’ double-digit scorers.

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Seniors DeDe Cotten and Briana Stanton each tallied identical stat lines in the game, each finishing with eight points and four rebounds, for the Lady Braves.

The Lady Braves shot just 36.2 percent from the field, only making seven free throw attempts in the contest.

Augusta State actually finished the game shooting under UNCP’s mark, as the home team shot 31.4 percent from the floor, but the difference came at the free throw line, where Augusta State picked up 14 points throughout the game.

On the glass, UNCP grabbed 36 rebounds, but the Lady Braves turned the ball over 19 times.