Braves power past Coker for sweep

By Kelly Phillips
Sports Editor

The UNCP baseball team won its first game of the 2011 season in a 6-5, 10-inning loss in the series opening game against Peach Belt Conference foe North Georgia, but rebounded for back-to-back wins on Feb. 26 and 27.

In the opener, 11th-ranked UNCP rallied back from a 4-0 deficit with three runs in the seventh and two more in the ninth inning before seventh-ranked North Georgia scored the go-ahead run on a two-out RBI single in the 10th inning to come away victorious.

Senior pitcher Brad Isom, junior Josh Haley and senior Jason Coker, Joe Magnum and Aaron Parnell each also tallied two hits in the contest.

Parnell also recorded two RBIs in the game.

UNCP managed just one hit over the first six innings, but scored three runs in the seventh highlighted by Brian Willis’s two-run double.

The Braves tied the game in the ninth on a sacrifice fly by senior Kenny Mickens and an RBI single by Parnell, only to see North Georgia rally for the win in the 10th.

Game two rebound

UNCP scored eight runs on 11 hits and was aided by five North Georgia errors in their 8-2 win in the second game of the series.

Parnell drove in two runs and tallied three hits, while the Braves also got two-hit performances from senior Jason Coker, junior Eitan Maoz and junior Josh Haley.

Senior pitcher Brad Isom earned his fourth victory of the season after allowing only six hits while striking out five batters.

UNCP jumped ahead early, scoring four runs in the first three innings before North Georgia cut it to a lead with a two-run double in the fourth inning.

The Braves finished off the game in the sixth, with four hits and three North Georgia errors to add four runs and put the game out of reach.

Finale win

In the series’ closing game, UNCP rallied from a deficit with the help of Coker’s three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning for the Braves’ 6-3 win.

Haley, Magnum and Whitman each turned in two-hit performances, but it was Coker’s only hit of the afternoon that proved the largest.

Senior Josh Bagley worked around six hits and three earned runs to strike out seven batters in seven innings of work to grab his third win of the season.

UNCP grabbed its first lead in the third inning with Haley’s one-out RBI single, before junior Alex Pearce and Haley both reached base in the fifth inning to set the stage for Coker’s blast.

The Braves grabbed in runs in the sixth inning, using a sacrifice fly from redshirt-sophomore Chase Grissom and an RBI single from Williams.

Braves take matchup of ranked PBC teams

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

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Braves escape with 10-inning road win

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

UNCP used a 10th inning RBI double from senior Joe Mangum to escape with an 8-7 comeback win over regional rival St. Andrews on Feb. 22.

St. Andrews held a comfortable 5-0 lead over the first six innings of work, but the Braves rallied back in the bottom of the sixth to tie the contest at 5-5 on an RBI single from Williams.

The Black and Gold received a boost in the third inning when Potter scored a run thanks to Potter’s double to right field. Haley scored next to bring the score to 3-2.

In the fourth inning, Parnell scored on Potter’s RBI sacrifice fly to center field before Haley scored UNCP’s second run of the game in the fifth inning when Jason Coker singled.

UNCP’s Jordan Sangrelli delivers a pitch against Coker on March 2. Lewis was one of five UNCP pitchers that pitched in the game.

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