No. 4 Lander too much for Lady Braves
By Nick Phillips

Just 17 total first half points and a 15.2 shooting percentage in the opening period were too much for the UNCP women’s basketball team to overcome, falling 80-53 to fourth-ranked Lander in the opening round of the 2011 Peach Belt Conference tournament on March 2.

“We came out tentative, not aggressive, not strongly attacking the basket which set the tone for the game and we never recovered once we were down,” UNCP head coach John Haskins said.

After the horrible start, the Lady Braves bounced back to find some form of offense but it was not enough to stop Lander’s 45.2 percent shooting and four players in double-figures.

UNCRC finished the game shooting 24.6 percent, in lowest mark of the season, while Lander finished shooting 45.2 percent from the field.

The shooting mark allowed the Lady Braves to out-rebound Lander 42-40, one of the few stats UNCP held an advantage in.

Junior DeQi Cotten led the Lady Braves with a team-high 13 points, while JaToya Kemp grabbed a game-high nine rebounds in her final collegiate game.

Fellow senior Talena Faison scored nine points in her final appearance in the Black and Gold, while sophomore Anya Knowser matched Faison with nine points of her own.

In the opening half, UNCP managed seven of its 17 points from the free-throw line and saw Lander’s Jasmine Judge nearly outscore them by herself after Judge tallied 15 points in the opening half.

Faison scored nine points in the opening half, while senior Talena Faison and Briana Stanton also contributed eight points apiece.

Lander, however, was able to play just two minutes while still nursing an injured ankle.

Iliya Hunt (knee) and Briana Stanton (concussion) were both forced to watch their final games in street clothes for the Lady Braves.

“We are losing six seniors before we can build upon this season,” Haskins added.

Six seniors grab win in final home contest
By Nick Phillips

Six UNCP women’s basketball players took the court inside the English E. Jones Center for the final time on Feb. 23, with the Lady Braves coming away victorious by a 82-53 score over Armstrong Atlantic on Senior Night.

As a team, the Lady Braves shot 51.6 percent from the floor as four players tallied double-digit scoring efforts in the blowout win that secured UNCP’s trip to the Peach Belt Conference Tournament.

Junior DeQi Cotten finished the night with team-highs in points and rebounds, with 17 and eight, respectively, while fellow junior Dominique Washington scored 10 points and had six assists.

The night would belong to the seniors, however, with UNCP head coach John Haskins starting four of the six in the group.

JaToya Kemp tallied 15 points, while Briana Stanton picked up 14 points, as each grabbed seven rebounds, to lead the senior group in scoring.

Lander played 12 different players in the contest, rotating substitutions in with groups of five, and saw 11 players score in the game, including four play- ers in double figures.

Final goodbye
UNCRC said goodbye to six seniors following the contest.
In addition to her nine rebounds, Kemp also scored six points and had three blocks in her final game, while Faison added three assists, three rebounds and three steals to her nine-point night.

DayDay Ray grabbed two rebounds, while Kristen Hobbs was able to play just two minutes while still nursing an injured ankle.

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“We are losing six seniors before we can build upon this season,” Haskins added.

Lady Braves dominate regular season finale
By Curtis Brooks

UNCP edged out Flagler on the glass with seven rebounds, while Faison dominated on the boards.

Washington also had five assists, while Faison filled her stat line in the closing minutes.

Both hampered by injuries, were able to get into the game one final time while dodging the Black and Gold in the closing minutes.

Hobbs, bothered by an ankle injury which has limited her, missed her only shot attempt in her minute of playing time, while Hunt, who suffered a knee injury in the Lady Braves’ game on Feb. 16, was able to experience her senior moment, full leg brace and all, as she checked in and stood near the bench as UNCP brought the ball up court, where Hobbs called a timeout and Hunt left to an ovation.

UNCRC finished with 47 rebounds, passing out four assists and coming up with two steals.

DayDay Ray finished with two points and three rebounds, and the big lead allowed Haskins to put in the final two seniors.

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