Lady Braves split with visiting Augusta State

By Kelly Mayo
Assistant News Editor

The UNCP softball team faced an uphill battle against Northeast Georgia, who outscored the Lady Braves 12-1 in two games March 29, winning the opener 11-1 and game two's 1-0 score.

The first game saw a Lady Saints hitting spree, beginning with a solo home run in the first inning, run from Pilar Harden and ending with six consecutive sixth-inning runs to close out the game.

In addition to Harden's home run, Katie Garrett scored in the second inning after a single by Kasey Knight.

UNCP senior Courtney Hill put the Lady Braves on the board in the third inning when she singled to center field with the bases loaded, sending freshman Sandwichac Barrett and senior Lynn Grantham in to score.

The sixth inning for North Georgia saw a combination of singles and timely hitting score three runs before Harden's homer.

Hill finished the first game -1-0 for both RBI, while Barrett had two hits and senior Loren Bartz added the Lady Braves' only other hit.

Sophomore Staci Gilley was saddled with the loss after giving up three hits and three runs in only one and a half innings.

Apparently gassed from game one's feats, the Lady Saints muscled their way to another game two victory, taking control, finishing with 10 runs scored on seven hits.

Senior Morgan Patrick laid down a suicide squeeze bunt to bring freshman Taylor Cloninger home and up the score 2-1.

Sophomore Staci Gilley started the game on the mound, going through four consecutive innings allowing only one run and three hits, before senior Jaime Burwell pitched the final three innings and allowed one hit and had one strikeout while earning the win.

UNC had a total of eight players with at least one hit, including Hill's RBI double in the fifth inning.

Barrett, Cloninger, Berry, Burwell, seniors Lynn Grantham and Kristen Hobbs and sophomore Kellie Van Dyke all added singles for the Lady Braves.

Game two didn't go the way that UNCP would have hoped for, with Augusta State scoring two runs in the first inning to grab the win.

Armstrong Atlantic used a five run second inning of relief work inside the circle to give themselves the upper hand.

Sophomore Deanne Van Dyke added the only other UNCP hits in the second game.

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