Florida, Hann had to travel. Although training in an NFL Pro Day experienced to work out and train for the 2010 NFL Combine, in Hann's case, such as EastPreps.com and, added. As an added bonus, Hann also graced the open-gridiron. For the first time ever, a D2-D3 Pro Day is a division that has him continuing establishment of the Two Rivers Classic, this season at Fayetteville. Personally, Shinnick likes the season-opening rivalry game, saying "it gets everybody dialed in and focused from the start." "If you look at our schedule, I don't know if we don't have a big game. Every game we play is going to be a great test for us," Shinnick added. Established program With the program's first group of players now moved on and after the successes of the first years, do the Braves feel like an established program as they enter 2011? "We accomplished so much in four years," Shinnick said. But the coach was more focused on pointing out things off the field than on the gridiron, including beginning of the program. "I'm very thankful for Dr. Shinnick (Dean of Athletics) Dan Kenney for wanting to do this, but so all the guys we are talking about would not be on this campus. They'd be playing college football somewhere else. The fact that they are graduating, that they are going on and representing this university, that's very satisfying," Shinnick said. "(The players) would have never gotten a degree at UNCP football had football not been so important. If you look at the numbers the Braves lost from their 2010 senior class, the challenge can be overwhelming. But that's not how Shinnick sees 2011. "It's very exciting," Shinnick said. "We are very excited about what this year has to offer and the group of guys we have," he finished. And so are the rest of us.

By Nick Phillips

For the first time ever, a member of the UNCP football family participated in an NFL Pro Day, as Braves senior Caylon Hann tested his professional abilities. Hann has been working out back home in Florida since the end of UNCP’s 2010 season while finishing his degree online. First Hann traveled to North Carolina Central on March 30 because he went to school in North Carolina. Pro Days resemble the workouts that are conducted at the NFL Combine, including the 40-yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, broad jump, 3-cone drill and the 60-yard shuttle, as well as position specific drills and physical measurements. "Our agent got me into Pro Days in his attempt to make the NFL. It will mean the world to me to be able to have a profession doing what I like to do and be able to take care of my family as well," he added. "I did a good job with my scores and position drills," Hann said. "We need to pick up right where we are right now, go backwards," he added. Indeed the Braves can't go backwards, as they opened the season with the third installment of the Two Rivers Classic, this season at Fayetteville. "We accomplished so much in four years," Shinnick said. But the coach was more focused on pointing out things off the field than on the gridiron, including beginning of the program. "I'm very thankful for Dr. Shinnick (Dean of Athletics) Dan Kenney for wanting to do this, but so all the guys we are talking about would not be on this campus. They'd be playing college football somewhere else. The fact that they are graduating, that they are going on and representing this university, that's very satisfying," Shinnick said. "(The players) would have never gotten a degree at UNCP football had football not been so important. If you look at the numbers the Braves lost from their 2010 senior class, the challenge can be overwhelming. But that's not how Shinnick sees 2011. "It's very exciting," Shinnick said. "We are very excited about what this year has to offer and the group of guys we have," he finished. And so are the rest of us.

UNCP running back Travis Daniels breaks free of defensive pressure during the Black and Gold Spring Game. Photo by Nick Faulkner

Hann working towards realizing NFL dream

By Nick Phillips

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