By Nick Phillips

Braves running back Travis Daniels had a banner day, but the UNCP football team had to fight off a second-half change from visiting Chowan on Sept. 10 to improve to 2-0 in 2011 with their 49-38 win.

UNCP is now a perfect 5-0 in home-openers in their five-year program history.

Daniels broke his own school record with 247 rushing yards on the night, including a 28-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter. Then, they added on three second-quarter touchdowns to gather the huge lead.

For Chowan, quarterback Cameron Stover passed for 371 yards and four touchdowns as he attempted to lead the visitors to the mighty comeback.

Receiver Robert Holland hooked up with Stover for three of those touchdown passes, as Holland finished with 150 yards receiving. Kevin Hodrick also added a touchdown reception with 138 receiving yards.

Daniels added, “It’s going to be an exciting year. We have a strong core of players coming back and some intriguing newcomers, and as long as we stay together and don’t get complacent we should have a very good year.”

The Braves open the regular season on Nov. 11 against the English E. Jones Center against regional road No. Andrews as part of the Braves-hosted Holiday Classic on Nov. 11 and UNCP Classic.

The Braves are coming off an 18-12 overall record last season that saw them advance to their first-ever PBC Tournament Championship appearance and also their first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Daniels broke his own single-game rushing mark with 247 yards and also became only the second player in program history to eclipse 2,000 yards in his career. The Braves beat Chowan 49-38.

Daniels said, “I’ve been working since I got here. I’m just trying to lead by example, Daniels added. Overall, the Braves offense broke a two-year-old school record with 561 yards of total offense – tallying over 300 of those yards in the first half en route to a 35-9 halftime lead. Chowan totaled 465 yards on the night, including 312 yards in the second half as they dug away at the UNCP lead before the Braves made a pair of late defensive stops to preserve the win.

“When you have a young team, like we do, you’re going to have some lapses in focus and concentration and you’re not always going to be on point all the time,” head coach Pete Shimnick said. “They started picking away at us and found some things that we weren’t covering well...we just gave up too many easy opportunities,” Shimnick added.

Braves quarterback Luke Charles threw three touchdown passes and finished with 257 yards passing on a 17-for-35 as he found 10 different Black and Gold receivers in the game.

Donald Britt led the receiving corps with 55 yards on three catches, while Jamelle Banks finished with three catches for 50 yards, including a 28-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter. T.J. Johnson and Ben Decelle also added a touchdown reception each in the win.

Banks hauled in his 28-yard touchdown, Daniels broke his 71-yard touchdown run, and Charles found a wide-open Decelle for a 25-yard touchdown pass, all in the second quarter.

Daniels’ second touchdown run early in the third quarter.

Tar Heels, Spartans highlight basketball schedule

By Nick Phillips

The UNCP men’s basketball team released its 2011-2012 schedule on Sept. 9, as the Braves will play 28 regular season games and a pair of exhibition contests.

The Braves are coming off a 18-12 overall record last season that saw them advance to their first-ever PBC Tournament Championship appearance and also their first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Highlights of the schedule include an Oct. 28 exhibition contest at UNC-Chapel Hill inside the Dean Smith Center and a regular season contest against UNCGreensboro at the Greensboro Coliseum on Nov. 2.

“We are all looking forward to a challenging schedule for 2011-12,” head coach Ben Miller said. “The Peach Belt Conference is so competitive every year, and we tried to put together a non-conference schedule that would prepare our team. Our fans will obviously be excited about the exhibition game against the Tar Heels, and the rest of our non-conference schedule is full of tough opponents and region rivals,” Miller finished.

UNC Chapel Hill head coach Roy Williams added, “It’s going to be an exciting year. We have a strong core of players coming back and some intriguing newcomers, and as long as we stay together and don’t get complacent we should have a very good year.”

The Braves open the regular season on Nov. 11 against the English E. Jones Center against regional road No. Andrews as part of the Braves-hosted Holiday Classic on Nov. 11 and UNCP Classic.

The Braves have 18 PBC games on the schedule, split evenly with nine home dates and nine road contests, beginning on Dec. 3 when the Braves welcome Lander to town.

The first of two meetings against Augusta State comes on the road Jan. 25, before playing at home on Feb. 8. Augusta State knocked off the Braves in both the PBC Tournament Championship and the first round of the NCAA Tournament last spring.