Volleyball makes quick work in visit to Elizabeth City

By Nick Phillips

The UNCP volleyball team traveled to and from Elizabeth City State on Sept. 6 lasted almost seven hours more than the time it took for the Lady Braves to sweep the match 3-0.

The Lady Braves finished with a .248 hitting percentage in all three matches against Erskine, Newberry and Belmont Abbey. Morgan registered a team-best 17 kills and 19 digs while Chelsea Phillips and Tricia Verno posted 11 and 10 kills, respectively. Marissa Baker collected 30 digs and Rebok tallied 51 assists in the four-set win.

Belmont Abbey

In the last game for the Lady Braves in the FMU Invitational, the Black and Gold fell to Belmont Abbey in straight sets on Sept. 3 by scores of 25-23, 25-19 and 15-18.

UNC P senior Rebecca Morgan went for a kill in the Lady Braves’ season-opening action in the FMU Invitational. Morgan was named to the preseason All-PBC team in August.

In their second match of the night on Sept. 2, the Lady Braves struggled against Erskine, losing their first match of the season in straight sets. Erskine took sets one and three by 25-18 margins, while UNCP fell in the second set by a slim, 25-23 score.

Erskine

Morgan led the team with six kills while freshman Hannah Hall added five kills of her own. Sophomore Marissa Baker gathered a team-high 13 digs while Ashley Rebok dished out 16 assists and recorded three aces. Phillips and Megan Gullimore each had three block assists to lead the UNCP defensive front in the loss.

Newberry

After going 1-1 on the tournament’s first day, the Lady Braves responded with a 3-1 victory over Newberry College on Sept. 3 to open their second day of action as a Lady Brave, in her first weekend of action as a Lady Brave, senior Heather Bower, in her first weekend of action as a Lady Brave.

Junior transfer Sarah Bower, in her first weekend of action as a Lady Brave, led the Black and Gold with eight kills and three aces in the loss.

Volleyball squad opened its 2011 season by splitting four games in the Francis Marion University Invitational in Florence, S.C., on Sept. 2 and 3. The Lady Braves picked up two wins against Carson-Newman and Newberry, but those were offset with two losses to Erskine and Belmont Abbey.

Carson-Newman

In their first game of the season and tournament on Sept. 2, the Black and Gold got their first victory of the year with a five-set win over Carson-Newman.

In her first collegiate match, freshman Chelsea Phillips led the way in the victory, registering a team-best 13 kills and five solo blocks. Senior Rebecca Morgan chipped into the effort by collecting 10 kills and 17 digs as well.

After taking the first two sets by 25-17 and 25-12 scores, respectively, the Lady Braves couldn’t close out the win in sets three and four, falling by identical 25-20 margins.

The Lady Braves fell behind 4-3 to begin the fifth and final set, but managed to rally to a 15-8 victory to secure the win.

Asst. Sports Editor

By Curtis Brooks

UNCP senior Tiara Anderson connects with a shot against Erskine in the FMU Invitational. Anderson tallied nine kills, four digs and two block assists in the Lady Braves’ win over Elizabeth City State on Sept. 6.

The UNCP volleyball team scored a 3-1 victory over Newberry College on Sept. 3 to open their second day of action as a Lady Brave, in her first weekend of action as a Lady Brave.

Junior transfer Sarah Bower, in her first weekend of action as a Lady Brave, led the Black and Gold with eight kills and three aces in the loss.