Braves falter in PBC home opener

By Jonathan Bym
Sports Writer

The UNCP men’s soccer team fell to Peach Belt Conference Flagler College 2-0 as the visitors scored two second half goals at Varsity Grounds on Sept. 23.

Flagler grabs its third-straight win in the series between the Braves, who now sit at 2-0-0 overall with both losses coming in PBC play.

The first half was a fairly evenly matched despite the Braves having to survive a barrage of scoring opportunities from Flagler early in the game.

The Black and Gold looked to get a goal on the board in the 29th minute when Brett Luccia attempted a penalty kick that was stopped by Flagler goalkeeper Camp Bissell.

UNCP also came close to putting the ball in the net in the late stages of the half as Sam Miles, Braxton Perkins and Luccia all had great scoring chances as miles’ shot was saved by Bissell, Perkins’ and Luccia’s shots just missed the goal.

After going into the half with the score knotted at zero, both teams came out attacking in the second half.

It only took less than 10 minutes of second half action for the stalemate to be broken as Flagler’s Zach Shanahan rebounded a blocked shot and put the eventual game-winner past Braves goalkeeper Ryan Hanson in the 54th minute.

Six minutes later, Paul Berenguer gave Flagler a two-goal advantage when he scored in the upper left corner past Hanson off a teammate Will Cameron.

The Braves showed resilience as they continued to fight as Martin Tonter’s shot in the 61st minute was stopped by Bissell, who recorded three saves in the game.

Miles also attempted two shots in the 66th and 80th minutes but both stayed high of the goal.

Despite giving up the two goals, Hanson had a strong showing between the posts as he had four saves in the match.

UNCP tallied 12 shots compared to Flagler’s 19, while both teams had six corner kick opportunities and both goalkeepers made four saves.

Flagler finished with 17 total fouls and one yellow card, while the Braves had 12 fouls and one yellow card in the matchup.

UNCP now has eight days off before hosting Georgia Southern at home on Oct. 1.

Men’s soccer falls in PBC road opener

By Heath Nunn
Sports Writer

The UNCP men’s soccer team took the field on Sept. 17 against Peach Belt Conference North Georgia in the opening conference game of the season for both sides, as the Braves suffered their first loss of the season 1-0, despite out shooting the Saints.

The score came in the 33rd minute as the Braves took a corner kick off of a Young Harris yellow card.

Sam Miles was the initial target of the corner kick pass, but his shot bounced off the crossbar and right to Davis, who headed the ball into the back of the net for his second goal in as many days.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the guys in the game,” UNCP head coach Phil Hindson said after the match.

“They played with heart and determination which showed in the end result and we are all satisfied with the victory,” Hindson added.

Miles led the UNCP offense with four shots while Alex Antonescu added three shots of his own.

Sophomore goalkeeper Ryan Hanson collected seven saves in net for his first shutout of the game.

The game was a physical one, as there were seven total yellow cards — three to – UNCP as the Braves tallied 28 total fouls and Young Harris notched 20 fouls in the contest.

Despite the win, the Braves were out shot 14-9 in the contest and Young Harris saw seven total kicks compared to the Black and Gold’s three.

UNCP’s Adam Smith dribbles against Mount Oline. Smith scored the assist on Michael Davis’ winning goal on Sept. 16.

Braves’ cruise past Brevard for fifth win in a row

By By Heath Nunn
Sports Writer

The UNCP men’s soccer team defeated Brevard College 4-0 in Rock Hill, S.C. at Eagle Field on Sept. 13 for their fifth straight win to open the season.

This is the first time in seven years that the Black and Gold started a season with five consecutive wins.

The Braves were led by freshman Sam Miles who scored two goals, one in the 34th and another in the 75th minute.

Miles is now the leading goal scorer in the Peach Belt Conference, with seven goals this season.

Sophomore Alex Antonescu and Brett Luccia also had a goal apiece for the Black and Gold.

Miles’ first goal came after teammate Stuart Rodgers’ shot attempt bounced off of a Brevard defender and right to Miles as he finished the attack and sent the ball into the goal.

Six minutes later, Antonescu scored from the right side off of an assist from Paul Freeman to give the Braves a 2-0 halftime lead.

At the 47:18 mark, Martin Tonter sent a pass to a wide open Miles, who scored the top corner of the goal to continue the scoring.

The final goal of the night, Miles’ second, came off of a pair of assists from Adam Smith and Jeff MacDonald.

UNCP outshot Brevard 19-5 and had only 12 fouls compared to their opponents 14.

Miles and Tonter both had a team-high three shots apiece.

Both UNCP goalkeeper collaborations to pitch a clean sheet. Sophomore goalkeeper Ryan Hanson spent the first 45 minutes in goal and collected a save.

Despite the win, the Saints posted their third goal of the season for both sides, as the Braves suffered their first loss of the season 1-0, despite out shooting the Saints.

The Saints battled back and talled two goals within six minutes, first from Jaime Gleeson from just outside the box at the 26:55 mark before Zachary Samp’s scored a deflected goal in the 32 minute mark to give North Georgia a 2-1 lead at halftime.

In the second half, the Saints posted their third goal of the season as senior Brett Luccia tallied a goal kick into the back of the net to bring the Black and Gold within one goal late, but it would not be enough.

Sophomore goalkeeper Ryan Hanson spent all 90 minutes in goal while total three saves for UNCP.

While Rade Tanaskovic had three saves for North Georgia.

Sam Miles led the Braves with four shots while Shaun Horvath, Matt Modougall, and Braxton Perkins posted two shots each in the defeat.

The Braves outshot the Saints 15-10, while both teams each had three corner kicks in the game.

Davis’ goal leads Braves to 1-0 road shutout

By Nick Phillips
Sports Writer

The UNCP men’s soccer team rebounded from its first loss of the season by grabbing a 1-0 victory over Young Harris College 4-0 in Rock Hill, S.C. at Eagle Field on Sept. 13.

Senior Michael Davis scored the only goal of the game.

The score came in the 33rd minute as the Braves took a corner kick off of a Young Harris yellow card.

Sam Miles was the initial target of the corner kick pass, but his shot bounced off the crossbar and right to Davis, who headed the ball into the back of the net for his second goal in as many days.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the guys in the game,” UNCP head coach Phil Hindson said after the match.

“They played with heart and determination which showed in the end result and we are all satisfied with the victory,” Hindson added.

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UNCP’s Adam Smith dribbles against Mount Oline. Smith scored the assist on Michael Davis’ winning goal on Sept. 16.