By Nick Phillips
Editor

“Wow” was the first word to come out of UNCP head coach Pete Shinnick’s mouth in his postgame press conference following the Braves’ 58-38 win on Oct. 8 in the centerpiece to Homecoming 2011.

That word might be an understatement when looking at the Braves stats against Tusculum. The teams combined for nearly 1,200 total yards of offense, with UNCP tallying up 668 offensive yards by themselves.

“I’m happy for our guys. Our challenge now is to not be an up-and-down football team and to put two to three good weeks of football together,” Shinnick said.

Sophomore quarterback Luke Charles set the program’s record for most single-game passing yards, totaling 367 yards through the air to eclipse the previous high he set a week earlier against Catawba. Charles finished his afternoon completing 20 of his 32 pass attempts and a personal-best four touchdowns.

Senior running back Travis Daniels got in on the record-breaking as well, as he surpassed his own school record with 33 carries against Tusculum. His 33 rushing attempts against Tusculum give him the new program-record for single-season rushing attempts, as he breaks the record in only six games with five games still remaining on the schedule.

Daniels finished with 177 yards rushing and one touchdown, while backfield mate Elliott Powell also notched 100-plus yards rushing, as the sophomore finished with 105 yards on the ground and a 54-yard touchdown run.

Their third backfield mate, redshirt-sophomore Damonte Terry, finished off a pair of UNCP drives with a career-high two touchdown runs on 21 yards.

Junior Donald Britt and senior Joe Burnett were Charles’ favorite receivers on the afternoon, hauling in 89 yards and 88 yards, respectively. Britt and Burnett both also had one touchdown reception, while sophomore wide receiver Te’Vell Williams tallied two touchdowns and 63 yards.

“It makes it tough on a defense to say ‘they have the No. 1 rusher in the nation, but they are still throwing for 300 yards a game. On top of that, you can’t say ‘who does he like to throw to’ because we’ve got six or seven guys out there (playing wide receiver),” Charles said.

The Braves jumped out to a 20-0 lead after one quarter thanks to a touchdown run by Daniels and two touchdowns by Terry. Powell broke his long touchdown run in the second quarter and UNCP had a 34-17 halftime lead after a Taylor Baskett field goal just before the half.

Tusculum used three second half scores to pull the game closer, but the Braves received two long, highlight reel-caliber touchdown catches from Williams and Burnett.

UNCP will spend the rest of October on the road, beginning Oct. 15 when they travel to Charleston. After trips to Carson-Newman on Oct. 22 and Newberry on Oct. 29, the Braves will return back home on Nov. 5 when they clash with Winston-Salem State.

Homecoming football game photos - page 12B

Braves have historic day at Homecoming

By Nick Phillips
Editor

UNCP’s Joe Burnett leaps high over a Tusculum defender and pulls down a pass before racing in for a touchdown during the Braves’ 58-38 Homecoming win.

UNCP’s Joe Burnett leaps high over a Tusculum defender and pulls down a pass before racing in for a touchdown during the Braves’ 58-38 Homecoming win.

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