After being down for three scores or more for most of the night, the UNCP football team’s fourth quarter comeback attempt fell short, and the Braves dropped another game that they fell behind in, this time to Catawba College on Oct. 1.

Luke Charles threw for a new program-high 362 yards passing as the visitors saw running back Travis Daniels have his fifth consecutive 100-yard rushing game to open 2011 as the UNCP offense totaled 535 yards of total offense.

The problem for the Braves was that they were whistled 14 times for 119 penalty yards in the game while turning the ball over three times over the course of the contest.

“We just had too many mistakes tonight,” UNCP head coach Pete Shinnick said.

“It’s unfortunate because I thought our guys fought really hard. We hurt ourselves early offensively and left too many points on the board. We also gave up a couple big plays on defense that came back to haunt us. I really like how our guys continued to fight and scratch until the final whistle blew,” he added.

Charles became the third quarterback in UNCP history to tally 300 or more passing yards, as he finished 21-for-33 on the night and connected for a career-high four touchdowns.

Daniels did not score a touchdown with his legs in the contest, although the senior did grab his first career touchdown reception as he finished with four catches for 98 yards receiving in addition to his ground game.

Daniels led a UNCP rushing attack that gained the most yards on the ground that Catawba, who came into the matchup with the nation’s No. 1 rushing defense, has allowed this season.

Catawba used an early fourth quarter score to extend their lead all the way out to 35-9, but the Braves fought back to put up 22 points in just over three minutes of game time but could not get close enough.

Ironically, the Braves scored the night’s first points, grabbing a field goal in the opening minutes to take the 3-0 lead. However, UNCP would be stuck with those three points on the scoreboard until late in the third quarter, during which time they saw Catawba use two passing touchdowns, a rushing touchdown and a blocked punt returned for a score to take a 28-3 lead.

The Braves’ first touchdown of the night came with 5:59 remaining in the third quarter when Charles connected with Daniels for a 60-yard scoring pass, only to see Catawba come right back down the field and add to their lead with another touchdown.

Charles connected with Joe Burnett for a 44-yard touchdown pass with 8:54 to go in the fourth quarter before the UNCP two-point try failed to cut the margin to 35-17.

Catawba again answered with a score, this time on one play, as they broke a 64-yard touchdown run to put the game effectively out of reach.

At the 5:00 mark of the fourth quarter, Charles again found Burnett, this time for a 16-yard touchdown reception before Jason Perry caught a six-yard touchdown pass from Charles with 2:22 to go to provide the final, nine-point margin.

Records fly as Braves grab Homecoming win

By Nick Phillips
Editor

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UNCP quarterback Luke Charles (No. 13) hands the ball off to running back Travis Daniels against Wingate earlier this season. Against Catawba, Charles threw for 362 yards and Daniels had his fifth 100-yard rushing game.

Running back Elliott Powell stiff-arms a Tusculum defender as he tries to get into the end zone on Oct. 8. Powell finished with 105 yards rushing and a touchdown.

UNCP’s DeVonte Bush gets held up by a Tusculum defender as he tries to sack the quarterback on Oct. 8. Bush finished with one sack and three total tackles.

Early deficit too much for Braves to overcome