Assistant baseball coach Ryan McCleney now can pencil in ‘head coach’ on his resume. The UNCP assistant has been named as the 2012 field manager for the Wilmington Sharks, members of the Coastal Plain League, a summer collegiate league.

The announcement was made at a press conference on Sept. 29 in Wilmington at the Sharks’ Buck Hudson Field.

McCleney, who was an assistant for the Sharks in 2011, takes over the reins on a Wilmington team that is coming off its first appearance in the CPL’s playoffs since 2003.

“Being a head coach in the Coastal Plain League at this point in my career is more than I could ever ask for,” McCleney said. “When creating the UNCP baseball version, UNCP has experience to fall back on. Head men’s coach Ben Miller has previous stops on his coaching resume at Kansas and Missouri State, both of whom have their unique events. Thompson is adding in tidbits from his time at Virginia Tech and Saint Leo University. Women’s head coach John Hawkins can draw from last season when the Lady Braves had a similar, lower-key event to open their season.

“We just wanted to take bits and pieces from where everyone has been a part of and incorporate that here,” Thompson said.

The UNCP men’s basketball player K.J. Cooper gets full extension as he readies to slam home a dunk in preparation for the first Moonlight Madness event that will tip-off the men’s and women’s 2011-2012 seasons.