Black and Gold Scrimmage opens season

By Nick Phillips

Redshirt-freshmen Daniel Ow nbey and Chris Giddens each grabbed third place finishes in the UNCP wrestling team’s opening tournament of the season on Nov. 6 at The Citadel Open.

Both Ow nbey, 141-pounds, and Giddens, 285-pounds, fell into the consolation brackets of their respective weight classes before making perfect runs to their third place finishes. In all, seven of the eight Braves wrestlers recorded at least two wins.

In all, seven of the eight Braves wrestlers recorded at least two wins on the day, with Giddens leading the way with six total victories, including four during his run through the consolation bracket. Ow nbey and Curt Jones, at 149-pounds, each recorded four wins, while Shon Topper won three matches in his collegiate debut in the 133-pound weight class. Jake Ferguson and Chris Foy, both in the 174-pound bracket, and 157-pound Jake McKay each finished the tournament at 2-2 overall.

Giddens opened the tournament with an 8-1 win over Georgia Southern’s Kevin Bruu before a 4-1 win over Limestone’s Deven Riles. After falling to Duke wrestler Brendan Walsh in the quarterfinals, Giddens answered with four-straight wins in the consolation bracket for third place.

Ow nbey won his opening match over Central Florida’s Matt Vaughan but fell into the consolation bracket after a loss to Limestone’s Michael Magaha. Ow nbey responded, first with a 5-3 victory over Darton’s Cole Clear and a major decision win over Limestone’s Taylor Wickett before besting teammate Nathaniel Torrence 13-6 in the third place match.

The Braves will be back in action on Nov. 13 when they head to Raleigh to compete in the N.C. State Wolfpack Open.

Two wrestlers place in opening tourny of 2011-2012 season