BY NIC PHILLIPS

Senior Rebecca Morgan led the way for the UNCP volleyball team in a convincing Peach Belt Conference win in straight sets 3-0 over Lander on the road inside Horne Arena on Oct. 29.

Morgan tallied 16 kills, four service aces and nine digs in the Black and Gold’s winning effort.

The Lady Braves also had a strong net presence throughout the contest totaling 16 block assists over the three sets.

The Lady Braves had a strong showing in the first set as they ran out to an early 8-1 lead and never let up.

Lander battled back but was unable to draw close as the lead never got below five points as UNCP cruised to a 25-14 first set win.

The second set, which featured nine ties, was very close until late when UNCP took control.

Lander grabbed a 19-18 lead late, but the Lady Braves closed out the set on a 7-2 run that was fueled by two kills from Morgan, one kill by Tiara Anderson along with multiple Lander errors to take the set 25-21.

Both teams fought hard throughout the third set as Lander captured a lead midway through the set at 12-10.

The Black and Gold showed resiliency as a 10-3 run by the visitors gave UNCP a 20-15 lead. During the run Morgan tallied four kills, Marissa Baker and Heather Bolwerk each had one kill apiece.

Errors by Lander and big kills down the stretch gave UNCP the 25-21 dominant win.

Anderson had a strong showing for the Lady Braves with 10 kills, two service aces, and 18 digs.

Baker led the team with a game-high 29 digs, while setter Ashlyn Rebok recorded 38 of the team’s 39 assists and also added on 11 digs in the match.

Tricia Varno led the way with five block assists, while Morgan added four and Shay Peterson and Rebok tallied three apiece in the win.

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The UNCP volleyball team ran into a buzzsaw on Oct. 28 at USC-Aiken, falling 3-0 to the hosts in Peach Belt Conference action.

USC Aiken used a .314 hitting percentage in the first set before grabbing the second and third sets in close fashion, while the Lady Braves had trouble putting together a good hitting set, with their best percentage coming in the final set when they registered a .113 hitting percentage.

The hosts took set one 25-15 before winning both set two and three by two points, at 26-24 and 25-23, respectively.

Overall, there were 15 tied scores and eight lead changes in the contest.

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