Lady Braves fall in PBC opening round to 11

By Nick Phillips

Having goals finding their way to the back of the net was a problem all season for the UNCP women’s soccer team, and Nov. 1 proved no exception as they fell 11-0 at Columbus State in the opening round of the Peach Belt Conference tournament.

The loss marked the third time in four years that Columbus State has ended the Lady Braves’ season. “Unfortunately the 2011 season will go down in the books as a 9-6-3 season,” UNCP head coach Lars Andersson said.

“It’s fair to say that our season fell short of the expectations we had going into it. Our program has set the standards very high with two trips to the second round of the national tournament over the last three years. We’ve been recognized as a regional and national power and we simply didn’t play well enough this year to meet that same standard. Of our six losses, five have been by one goal and one was by two goals and have three in between, so we’re not off,” he continued.

“We defend very well as a squad just like we did (Nov. 1). It is difficult to win when you don’t score goals, and that’s something that has plagued us throughout this season. It’s something we need to address in the offseason, during spring soccer and during our re-creating efforts with the 2012 recruiting class. We aim to get back to the standard we have set for ourselves next season,” Andersson finished.

The game’s only goal came in the 18th minute when Columbus State’s Stephanie Lowery, who chipped the ball over UNC/P goalkeeper Britney Bennett’s net, headed in the header. Bennett finished with 10 saves between the posts for the Lady Braves in the loss.

Junior Amalia Arvidsson tallied the only UNC/P shot on goal as she had two total shots, while junior Fanny Fornssom and sophomore Cat-E Querez each had one shot. Columbus State finished with nine corner kick opportunities compared to UNCP’s two, while the Lady Braves were called for seven fouls to Columbus State’s one.

Ardvidsson’s three-goal game leads to win

By Heath Nunn

The UNCP women’s soccer team took on visiting Lander in a pivotal match at Varisty Grounds on Oct. 29 and came out on top with a 6-1 victory thanks to a hat trick from freshman Amalia Arvidsson.

The four goals were more goals than the Lady Braves had scored in their previous six contests combined and the most goals in one game since they scored six on Oct. 1. Arvidsson started off the game with an early goal in the opening minute when a pass from Fanny Forsman went right through the Bearcats defense and ended up in the goal off the outside of Arvidsson’s foot.

Arvidsson added another goal when she scored in the 29th minute on a ball that deflected off the post and went right into the right side of the net. Arvidsson finished off her hat trick in the 79th minute with a pass went over the Bearcats back line to give the hat trick.

The Bearcats added their only goal in the 89th minute but was quickly answered less than a minute later with an unassisted goal by Alisia Gustafson.

Sophomore goalkeeper Britney Bennett recorded just five saves during the game to get the win for the Lady Braves.

Most stats were even for both teams, with Lander tallying 16 total shots to UNCP’s 15. Both teams had four corner kick opportunities and 21 fouls between them.

Lady Braves, Montevallo break even after 2OT

By Curtis Brooks

The Black and Gold women’s soccer team ended their Peach Belt Conference match against the Montevallo Falcons with a 1-1 draw in Montevallo, Ala., on Oct. 22.

In a defensive match that ended with two extra overtime periods, both teams struggled to score until late in regulation.

Montevallo scored first, in the 79th minute, when Falcon sophomore Christine Price scored her team-leading seventh goal of the season from fellow sophomore Taylor Kerr.

UNC/P freshman Amalia Arvidsson tied the game with her 35-yard unassisted goal in the 94th minute that eventually forced overtime.

The goal was Arvidsson’s fifth of the season.

Freshman Julia Haselton had an opportunity to seal the victory for the Lady Braves in the final 20 seconds of the overtime period, but she missed her shot wide right.

The Lady Braves were unable to take advantage of a 5-1 margin in shots on goal, settling for their second draw in as many conference games. Arvidsson led the squad with three shots on goal, while junior Fanny Forsman added two shots to the team’s chart on the shot sheet.

“We are very frustrated with our inability to score goals,” UNCP head coach Lars Andersson said.

“We had 18 shots and eight were on target. We allowed just one single shot on goal as we resulted in a goal and a game in which we had to come from behind. Our frustration as a team is evident, and we have gotten to the point where we are rushing things in the final third because we are aware of the fact we are not scoring. However, Peach Belt games are always hard to come by – especially on the road. We are going to try to fight, try and get the rest of the way because we are very solid defensively,” he added.

Lady Braves surrender match in overtime

By Curtis Brooks

The Lady Braves’ soccer team fell in overtime 1-0 after a game-winning goal was scored in the 93rd minute by regional foe Catawba on Oct. 25 at the Flock Athletic Complex in Salisbury, N.C.

Catawba sophomore Juliana Conte scored the goal after receiving an assist from fellow sophomore Athena Bloss, 12 yards outside the right post. Come had a team high three at- tempted shots, with two of those shots being on target.

The Lady Braves entered halftime outshooting the Lady Indians 6-4 as sophomore Kayla Colon and freshman Amalia Arvidsson each tallied two shots apiece.

Catawba outshot the Black and Gold 10-8 once the match was completed with five Lady Indians’ shots being on target compared to just three Lady Brave’s shots being on target.

In a physical matchup the Lady Indians combined for 21 fouls, 17 in the second half. UNC/P tallied 11 fouls, while Catawba tallied 19. The Lady Braves also tallied a 7-1 advantage in corner kick opportunities in the matchup as well.

Sophomore goalkeeper Britney Bennett finished the match with four saves for the Black and Gold. Colon attempted a team high three shots for the Lady Braves, two of them being on target.

Lady Indians grab win in overtime

The Lady Indians grabbed a 4-1 win over Lander in the final regular season game of 2011.

Freshman Amalia Arvidsson recorded a three-goal game on Oct. 29 as the Lady Braves grabbed a 4-1 win over Lander in the final regular season game of 2011.

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