By Nick Phillips

Sports Editor

The UNCP men’s basketball team had six players finish with double-double stats as the Braves took an 88-79 victory over the Apprentice School on Nov. 28 at the English E. Jones Center as the Braves improved to 5-1 to start the season.

Although they turned the ball over a season-high 28 times in the contest, the Braves pulled down 42 rebounds as a team and shot 53.6 percent from the floor en route to the win over the Builders.

Sophomore K.J. Cooper led the UNCP offensive attack, finishing with 18 points, nine of which came from beyond the three-point stripe. Cooper also grabbed six rebounds and passed out eight assists in the contest.

Junior Nate Priest followed Cooper’s performance by adding 15 points of his own, as he also tallied six rebounds and two steals on his stat line.

Sophomore duo George Blakeney and Shahmel Brackett each put in 11 points for UNCP, with Blakeney snatching five rebounds and Brackett grabbing four balls off the glass.

Junior Cody Hughes also scored 11 points and pulled down five rebounds, as he added two three-point baskets in the game.

Fellow junior Mike Robinson finished the Braves’ double digit scorers, as he put in 10 points on 4-of-7 shooting and finished with a team-high seven rebounds.

“I was really impressed with the Apprentice School,” UNCP head coach Ben Miller said. “We feel really good about this win. They’re a good basketball team,” Miller added.

Fellow UNCP assistant coach K.J. Cooper led the Builders, scoring a game-high 23 points. Fellow Builder Tevin Andrews added 16 in the loss for the visitors, as the Apprentice School dropped to 3-2 with the loss.

No time for rest

With fall semester exams and the winter break, the Braves play only four games in December, all at home, with Clayton State on Dec. 4 the only PBC matchup.

Following the Clayton State game, UNCP gets a short break before hosting Allen on Dec. 15 and Anderson on Dec. 18 to wrap up their non-conference schedule.

But what December lacks is made up for in January, when the Braves will be met with PBC matchups throughout the remainder of the season.

UNCP opens January with a home game against Francis Marion, before traveling to USC Aiken on Jan. 5. USC Aiken is currently ranked 14th in the NCAA Division II Coaches Poll.

The Braves return home on Jan. 12 to host Lander, who they defeated 71-65 on Nov. 23.

Two back-to-back road contests await UNCP on Jan. 15 and 16 as they travel to play Columbus State and Georgia Southwestern before hosting Augusta State on Jan. 20.

A date at Armstrong Atlantic awaits the Braves on Jan. 22 before UNCP finishes January with home games against Montevallo on Jan. 28 and Georgia College on Jan. 30.

Home stretch

The final month of the season has the Braves equally balanced with home and away contests, as UNCP begins February at Francis Marion on Feb. 2 before hosting Flagler on Feb. 5.

UNCP hits the road for games at Augusta State on Feb. 7 and North Georgia on Feb. 12, before returning home to play USC Aiken on Feb. 16.

Armstrong Atlantic comes to town on Feb. 23 before the Braves finish the regular season at Flagler on Feb. 26.

Women’s basketball, 3B. Season wrap-ups, 6B-7B.

Wrestling, 8B.

SPORTS

SECTION B

The Pine Needle

December 2, 2010

UNC-P's Nate Priest flicks off a dunk in the Braves' win over the Apprentice School on Nov. 28. Priest scored 15 points as the Braves improved to 5-1 to start the season with the win.

Braves knock down Builders

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