By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

A trio of UNCP wrestlers finished in the top-five in the 30th annual Pembroke Classic on Nov. 20 inside the English E. Jones Center.

In-state teams N.C. State, UNC Greensboro and UNC Chapel Hill, as well as Appalachian State and Campbell, were some of the 12 different teams that had wrestlers in the brackets.

A pair of redshirt-juniors, Shiheem Bryant and Dennis Fix, each finished in fourth place in their respective weight classes, while freshman Seth Stewart took home fifth place honors.

In the 174-pound bracket, Fix won his opening two matches of the day before being knocked to the consolation bracket after a loss to Old Dominion’s Tristan Warner. Fix battled back for a win over Newberry College’s T.J. Cayruth in the consolation semifinals to move into the third place match. Fix dropped a 9-4 decision to Limestone’s Bryce Sapko to finish fourth overall.

Similar to Fix, Bryant won his opening match of the tournament before falling to UNC Greensboro’s Tony Gardener in the consolation bracket. Bryant rolled off three consecutive wins to set up a third place bout with USC’s Ben Brummel. Bryant won the matchup as Dennis Fix, Shiheem Bryant and James De La Riva rolled off consecutive victories to bring the Braves to the win.

The UNCP wrestling team overcame a strong start by Belmont Abbey to take the match 19-16 on Nov. 17, winning the final four matches for the comeback win.

UNC bounced back from a 6-4 deficit to Old Dominion to win the final four matches for the comeback win. Belmont Abbey’s Shane Summerlin pinned Joey Farnsworth in the opening 125-pound matchup, pinning Farnsworth at the 2:39 mark.

UNC senior Russell Weakley earned a 12-4 major decision victory and freshman Tyquan Easton earned a 5-2 decision victory to pull the team ahead in their 133-pound and 141-pound matchups, respectively.

Belmont Abbey answered by downing UNCP’s Luis Camacho at 149-pounds, Chris Giddens at 165-pounds, Timmy Dunn at 174-pounds, Jordan Ford at 184-pounds, James De La Riva at 197-pounds and Stewart in the 285-pound bracket.

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