Braves swept in final game of the season

By Matt Smith

SPORTS

The UNCP volleyball team wrapped up its season in a sweep campaign at the English E. John Center Nov. 15 with a 0-3 sweep by the No. 2 seeded Francis Marion University.

The sixth seeded Braves, who cut down the match in the day up the No. 3 seeded Lander Bears, fell 23-25, 17-25, 24-26 to the Patriots in the second round of the Peach Belt Conference Tournament.

The men’s team also started the match slowly, as they did against Lander in the first round to start into seven kills to only 11 kills for a .086 average. Even with the poor Pembroke start, the Braves finally started to battle back in the final set, out-hitting the Patriots .073 to .067.

The Braves went on a 3-5 run to give themselves an 18-13 lead, but the Bears came back with two straight to go up to a 20-18 lead. The Braves came back from their slow start.

In the second set, the Braves were able to win 25-18 and the match over when PBC Rookie of the Year Jessica Hartley led the way with a game winning service ace from the right side as she led the way to a 2-1 edge over the Patriots.

The Bears early 7-1 lead was broken away 25-23 after a UNCP service error and back-to-back hitting errors. The Patriots only hit for .100 average in the first set, but played smart enough to keep themselves in striking distance in the final set.

The Patriots only hit for .198 average in the first set, but played smart enough to keep themselves in striking distance of the Patriots. The Braves again hit for a poor .100 average while watching the Patriots blast 12 kills against their defense. Francis Marion hit only two errors in the second set while posting a .386 hitting average.

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The Braves’ volleyball team finished the 2008 season with an overall record of 13-19. Allie Schneider led the team in kills and earn the Peach Belt Conference’s honor for Freshman of the Year.

Schneider started 29 of 30 matches this season for the Braves.

Volleyball freshman honored

By Matt Smith

SPORTS

UNC Pembroke freshman Allie Schneider was honored as the 2008 Peach Belt Conference Freshman of the Year by the 2008 PBC Volleyball Championship Awards Banquet hosted by UNCP Sports Information.

The Braves would hit for a 0.100 average, with 10 kills and six hitting errors. The Bearcats grabbed the match 25-14 to take the 2-1 edge over the Braves.

In the fourth set, the tide shifted in Pembroke’s favor as the team was able to smash 17 kills for a .256 average. The Pirates managed to hang on through four ties and take two lead changes during the 25-23 to even up back the match with Lander.

In the fifth and final set, it was Pembroke as the Braves hit for a .562 average with 11 kills. With the set tied at 2-2, Schneider helped the Braves score 10 straight points to put the set out of reach.

Schneider had four kills during the 10-0 run, including two service aces. The Braves and Bearcats would trade points throughout the final set, but the early lead created too big of a hole for Lander to climb out of as the earn the Braves a decisive 15-7 victory.

Schneider led the Braves with 28 kills and 24 digs and junior Whitney Hanlin led the Braves with two blocks.

“I thought Hanlin had a very solid performance and her setting location was very good,” head coach Jeff Billington said.

“The upset win over Lander was the highlight of our season,” head coach Jeff Billington said.

“We played with a lot of energy and passion, especially the last two games,” head coach Billington said.

“We are excited to appoint Gary as head XC Coach. Gary will also serve as assistant track and field coach for UNCP.”

“Larry Rodgers has done a good job for us as the new and young cross country and track and field for both the men and women. The addition of Gary will allow Coach Rodgers to focus on the track and field program and give us the help with the distance runners,” head coach Jeff Billington said.

As the Braves earned a conference title, the former Pembroke graduate served as the head coach for St. Andrews Presbyterian College located in Laurinburg, N.C.

As for the St. Andrews’ women’s team, Aycock coached 16 conference runners of the week while taking the team to their first Southeast Regional ranking.

Aycock’s women’s teams won two races in the year and had seven All-Conference honors during his tenure.

Aycock also coached the women’s cross country and track and field team during the 2005-2006 season and navitaged the team to the 2006 Southeast Regional crown.

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