Black and Gold Player Spotlight
The Pine Needle sits down with UNCP wrestler Erik Stancil to talk about the 2008-2009 wrestling season

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

What are your expectations for the team this season?
I expect all of us to have winning records individually and as a team. We work hard during the off and pre-season so much that the only direction we can go is up.

Describe your experience as a UNCP student athlete.
Being a UNCP wrestler takes its toll on you. It is nothing compared to high school athletics at all. The practices are tougher, the competition is faster and stronger and the conditioning is gut wrenching.

What is your most exciting wrestling moment?
My most exciting moment had to be during my sophomore year. We were competing against St. Andrews. Every won their bout before I went up. When my turn came up, I knew that I had to win to seal the shut out. I almost lost, but the feeling of my team supporting me through out the whole match encouraged me to get the last takedown taking the win 6-4.

Talk a bit about the locker room before a match.
Not too much really goes on in the locker room before a match. You usually see some of the light weights running in and out looking for layers of clothes to put on to cut that extra pound. But it's usually pretty quiet before a match. Maybe a joke or two, but most of the time they just tell me to be quiet because I'm always singing.

Who are your wrestling inspirations?
It would have to be my first wrestling coach from high school. Russell Duncan has been such an inspiration to me. I probably wouldn't be the competitor that I am today. He taught me the basics of wrestling and I just worked at it.

What do you do personally before a game?
I love gospel music. My favorite musician is Ricky Dillard.

What was the last movie you watched?
“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.” It kind of reminds me of Forrest Gump. It’s a very good story.

2008-2009 Black and Gold Men’s Basketball Statistics

Individual Statistics
Scoring Leaders
Demarcus Lyday 14.8 ppg
Brandon Thomas 13.3 ppg
Cortez Brown 10.1 ppg

Rebounding Leaders
Brandon Thomas 8.0 rpg
David Moore 7.7 rpg
Demarcus Lyday 3.3 rpg

Steal Leaders
David Moore 19 steals
Cortez Brown 19 steals
Jason Smith 18 steals

Team Statistics
Scoring 69.7 ppg
Field Goal Percentage .430
Rebounds 35.3 rpg
Assists 12.8 apg

Record
Home 3-3
Away 2-4
Neutral 0-3
Overall 5-10

Bio of the week
Erik Stancil

SENIOR SEASON
The 6-2, 286 senior has posted a 9-3 overall tournament record this season for the Braves. Stancil has a 4-2 record in dual meets this year, and has recorded two pins. Stancil boasts an overall record of 13-4 in his 17 matches this season. The Braves post an overall record of 201-197 and have recorded 47 team pinfalls, 11 technical falls and 23 major decisions on the season.

Stancil hails from Raleigh, N.C., and is majoring in Information Technology Management.

Braves romped by No. 10 Augusta State

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The No. 10 Augusta State Jaguars proved why they were a nationally ranked top-10 opponent, as the team completely dismantled the UNCP men’s basketball team in a 81-46 romp on Jan. 7.

The woeful Braves shot just 34 percent from the floor, including 14 percent from behind the 3-point arc while also committing 14 turnovers.

Offensively, the Jaguars continued to pound the Braves until the final score showed 81-46.

The Braves have lost 2 straight games at home and will not return back to the English E. Jones Center until a Jan. 19 conference matchup against Lander University.