By Matt Smith

On Dec. 19, the Black and Gold men’s soccer team announced that former Virginia Tech star Chad Steuck would join the program as an assistant head coach under head coach Mike Schaeffer.

The move was observed the last two seasons as a graduate assistant with the Big and Gold, and men’s head coach Mike Schaeffer says Steuck will be a great asset because of his deep knowledge of the game.

“By my graduate assistant for the past two seasons, Chad has already deep knowledge of our program, our athletic department and the University,” Schaeffer told the Tab. "He has developed a strong relationship with our players both on the pitch and off the field. He has a leg up on the recruiting and has been heavily involved in our planning for the spring and for the 2009 season."

"I am grateful to Dan Kenney for allowing me to enroll at UNCP and select Chad Steuck from a pool of outstanding candidates," he said.

"Chad is the first men’s assistant head coach hired by the athletic department. Steuck officially began his coaching responsibilities Jan. 5."

"A good assistant will add stability to our staff, allow us to improve our recruiting outreach and allow us to more efficiently organize our program," Schaeffer said.

Tech, where the ball-hawking defenseman played in 82 games during his career, which included 80 starts.

"I look forward to having Chad on our staff and allowing him to be an important part of our defensive unit," Steuck said.

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Senior forward Natalie Ray had seven points of her own and Dell contributed 13 to have consecutive double-digit scoring games in the tournament.

The Lady Braves held Edinboro to 20 points for the first time all season, holding the Fighting Scots to just 34 percent shooting on the night.

The Black and Gold held an 11-point lead in the second half, but a scoring run by Edinboro cut the lead to five, early in the second half. The Lady Braves’ lead bloomed to double-digits with seven minutes left to play, and free throws by Pembroke closed out the match with an overall 1-1 record over the Fighting Scot.

"Their size hurt us. They battled the top-ranked and allowed me the loss coming back, posting a 1-1 mark over the winter break. As a senior, Steuck continued his scoring with a double-digit scoring game in the tournament.

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