Braves pick up first conference win

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Eighteen turnovers fueled a high-powered Clayton State offense, as the Braves fell 74-48 on the road to the Lakers on Jan. 31 in Morrow, Ga. The 21 turnovers accounted for 24 Laker points, shot just 32 percent for the game while allowing Clayton State to shoot 61 percent in the second half.

In a close first half, the Lakers took a 32-21 lead, but the Black and Gold rallied back to cut the lead to five heading into halftime. In the second half the Braves would again battle back on a Jason Smith 3-pointer to take a 33-32 lead, but it would be the last time the Braves would be ahead for the game.

Heath also dished out six assists for the Braves, but committed 10 turnovers against the Clayton State defense that limited the Hurricanes to 39 percent shooting, including 0-7 shooting, from behind the 3-point arc.

From behind the 3-point line, the Black and Gold went 7-19 in the second half, while allowing Clayton State to shoot 61 percent for the game. Defensively, the Braves held Clayton State to 32 percent from the floor in the first half and held the Hurricanes to 40 percent shooting, including 6-7 from behind the 3-point arc.

The Braves closed out the first period of action at a 13-9 run, taking a 30-31 lead into the intermission.

In the second half, the Braves continued to dominate on both the offensive and defensive end, as the Black and Gold shot 48 percent from the floor in the half and held the Hurricanes to 40 percent shooting, including 6-7 from behind the 3-point arc.

The Braves held a 13-point lead in the second half, but had to fend off a furious final run by the Hurricanes when Georgia Southwestern went on a 7-2 run starting at the 3:52 mark to cut the lead to just 71-67 in favor of the Braves.

Late free throws by the Braves also kept the Hurricanes to 39 percent and limited the Hurricanes to just 10 assists on 24 shots made.

Before the game, the Braves held a 4-6 record in conference play.

The conference win was the first for the team since a 71-69 win over Columbus State last March.

This was the longest winning drought for the Braves since the 2006-2007 season when the team went 0-3 to start off conference play.

The Braves are now 3-9, and sit in last place in the Peach Belt conference standings.

The Black and Gold men's basketball team huddles together to get the next play in their game at GSWU. PHOTO BY JESSICA Knapton

Braves crushed by Clayton State offense

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2008-2009 Black and Gold Men's Basketball Statistics

Individual Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable to Achieve</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoring Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demarcus Lyday</td>
<td>14.2 ppg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon Thomas</td>
<td>12.6 ppg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cortez Brown</td>
<td>9.8 ppg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assists</td>
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<td>Team Statistics</td>
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<td>Field Goal Percentage</td>
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<td>Rebounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assists</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Team Statistics

Individual Statistics

Scoring Leaders
- Demarcus Lyday: 14.2 ppg
- Brandon Thomas: 12.6 ppg
- Cortez Brown: 9.8 ppg

Rebound Leaders
- Brandon Thomas: 7.4 rpg
- David Moore: 7.4 rpg
- Demarcus Lyday: 3.3 rpg

Steal Leaders
- Brandon Thomas: 18 steals
- Cortez Brown: 18 steals
- Nate Priest: 18 steals

Team Statistics

Scoring: 68.7 ppg
Field Goal Percentage: .418
Rebounds: 35.7 ppg
Assists: 12.3 apg

Record

Home: 3-5
Away: 2-5
Neutral: 0-3
Overall: 5-13
Conference: 2-9

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