Of the five transfers, the most notable is former Virginia Tech Hokie Brandon Holland. Shinnick said that recruiting in Division-II has its advantages. Shinnick said he and his staff coincided their calendars with Meadors’ planner months in advance to not miss out on his appearances before recruits. According to UNCP Sports Information, signee Fred Overby was the Braves’ fastest commit, after being clocked at a 4.38 in the 40-yard dash. Shinnick said that recruiting in Division-II has its advantages. He offered that recruiting in Division-II has its advantages. "We are able to see our guys work out and run a little," Shinnick said. "Guys who come to our campus can perform for us, something you can’t do in Division I."

Chancellor’s help
Shinnick spoke volumes about Chancellor Allen C. Meadors, saying Meadors knows his football and was instrumental in helping UNCP sign its largest class ever. Shinnick said he and his staff coincided their calendars with Meadors’ planner months in advance to not miss out on his appearances before recruits.

"Our Chancellor spoke at three of four recruiting weekends," Shinnick said. "There’s not one place in America where the Chancellor cares more about football than UNCP. I can assure you that.”

The Braves finished 9-1 in their second season of action last year and are expected to bring back 21 of the team’s 22 starters in 2009.

Two Rivers Classic
Separated by just 47 miles, UNCP and Fayetteville State apparently have a score to settle on the gridiron. After butting heads during this year’s recruiting season, the Braves and Broncos will begin their inaugural football rivalry Aug. 29 in Fayetteville at Nick Jeralds Stadium. Athletic department officials from both schools announced the rivalry match up as the annual Two Rivers Classic Feb. 6 at Dock’s restaurant in Fayetteville.

During the press conference, the logo for the game was revealed as well as a few details on festivities leading up to kickoff. Two Rivers refers to the Cape Fear and Lumber rivers, just miles from each school’s campuses. The Braves will play the Broncos for the next four years and alternate a home-and-home series.

Last season the Braves went 9-1 in their second year under Shinnick and are hoping for even more success in the future. This season the Braves will return 21 of 22 starters and are hoping to contend for a playoff spot in the Division II playoff tournament and the team is still in the process of joining a conference.