Braves basketball
loses tight battle to FMU

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Five Braves starters scored in double figures with senior guard Fred Thomas posting a career-high 24 points, but the Black and Gold men’s basketball team was unable to secure a win, falling 81-79 to North Georgia in overtime Feb. 14.

The Braves ended the second half on a 17-4 scoring run to negates an 11-point North Georgia advantage to send the game into an extra period.

“I feel bad for our players because they gave great effort today,” said UNCP head coach Ben Miller. “North Georgia made a couple of big plays down the stretch and we didn’t. It was a good effort by our players. We’re still improving. I get over the hump down the stretch.”

The Saints took a 37-34 lead into halftime before the Braves were finally able to even the score.

With 6:38 remaining in the second half, North Georgia seemingly had a comfortable 10-point advantage before the Braves cut into North Georgia’s lead.

A flurry of jump shots and layups, including a clutch 3-pointer by Cortez Brown to cut the Saints’ lead to four, rallied the Braves as the team shot 6-10 in the final minutes to tie the score.

The second half would have the same effect. Armstrong Atlantic began the game strong, gaining a five point advantage in less than a minute of play.

The Pirates would keep the lead for the entire first half of the game. In a match-up earlier in the season the Pirates, 6-2 in conference play, would have the same lead back from the halftime break.

But again it was Armstrong Atlantic that would have the advantage in less than a minute of play.

The Pirates were able to notch 28 of their total 33-of-55 field goals. The Braves shot 44 percent from the floor, but allowed Armstrong Atlantic 50 percent from 3-point range.

But it was Fred Bradford, who posted 10 points, that the Saints ran off the game’s final 10 points.

The Saints’ bench, including three consecutive game loser of the season, was led in scoring by Michael Moynihan, who had 38 points to help propel the team to the win.

The game played at Armstrong Atlantic was the 12th win of the season for the Saints, their 12th win of the season.

Senior Demarcus Lyday contributed 10 points to the Braves scoreless campaign play and the team has now lost seven straight games.

The Black and Gold have two home games left on the season, against Georgia Southern and Armstrong Atlantic on Feb. 21 and 25 inside the East Center.

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