Braves basketball drops to No. 24 Georgia College

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Three players scored in double figures for the Black and Gold men’s basketball team, but the double-digit outputs weren’t enough as the Bobcats fell 91-20 to No. 24 Georgia College in Milledgeville, Ga., Feb. 3. Senior Demarcus Lyday scored a team-high 20 points in the losing effort and Brandon Thomas and Marcus Heath added 14 and 11 points respectively.

The Braves,ounded by turnovers, coughed up the ball 24 times in the contest, leading to 26 points for the Bobcats.

The Braves seemed in control of the game early, outshooting the Bobcats while outrebounding Georgia College by 12, but 33 UNCP fouls led to 45 free throws by the Bobcats.

Georgia College converted on 35 of their free throws, adding to the score discrepancy with the turnovers.

Both teams traded baskets in the first half, with the Braves leading for most of the first period until the last 12 seconds of the half.

The Bobcats took a 24-22 lead into halftime after the Bobcats’ Maurice Thorpe threw two free throws to close out the half.

After the break, the Braves again tied the game up after a Lyday basket, but Georgia College retook the lead for good on a 3-pointer by Justin Brown at the 18:06 mark.

The Bobcats outscored the Braves 60-40 to finish the game, even though UNCP shot an astounding 56 percent in the second half.

Lyday also led the Braves with eight rebounds and guard Justin Smith led the team with three assists.

Thomas had three blocks for the Braves defensively and also had a team-high two steals.

Shawn Kratesen had a game-high 25 points for Georgia College and the Bobcats had four other players to score in double figures along with Keaten.

In double figures for the Blue and Gold were Brandon Smith led the team with 10 rebounds and guard Justin Smith led the team with three assists.

Despite the full-court press, Georgia College was able to make a comeback in the second half.

Braylon Davis had 13 points and 14 rebounds as both teams continued to trade baskets throughout the game.

In the end, the Lady Braves outscored the Lady Saints 60-40 to win the game.

The Lady Braves basketball team, led by Ebony Fields’ game-high 23 points for the game, followed in the second half.

The Lady Saints had four other players to score double figures along with Fields.

Fields added 14 points of her own for the Lady Patriots.

Even with the offensive outburst, Francis Marion was held to 16 points per game average.

Despite the full-court pressure put on by Francis Marion, the Lady Braves were able to stay close at the half, down 12. But, the Lady Patriots exploded for a lead that grew to 21 at its highest.

After UNCP cut the lead to 11 with less than five minutes to go, Francis Marion went on a final 10-0 run to pull away.

Staff Writer
By Nick Phillips

Senior Natalie Ray and sophomore Ja'Toya Kemp both recorded double-doubles for the Lady Braves against Francis Marion on Feb. 11 in the APSU-Jones Center, but UNCP was unable to conquer the full-court press of the Patriots on route to the 75-58 loss in Peach Belt Conference action.

Points from the game went toward the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund, as players from both teams wore commemorative t-shirts during warm-ups. Most players also wore pink stockings and some also added pink armbands.

Guard Ari Hendrix added 10 points to go along with Kemp’s 14 points/rebounds and Ray’s 11-point/11-rebound performances.

But, as a team, the Lady Braves shot only 33.9 percent from the field, compared to Francis Marion’s 51.5 percent.

Francis Marion was led by Ebony Fields’ game-high 23 points and Shannon Singletore-Bates added 14 points of her own for the Lady Patriots.

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Justay Kemp 15, under two baskets with 25 seconds remaining to give the Lady Braves a one-point advantage against USC Aiken.

Clock decision costs Lady Braves road win

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

With seconds left in the game, sophomore forward Ja’Toya Kemp dinked a basket to give the Lady Braves a one-point lead, but a controversial clock decision came back to haunt the Black and Gold as the team fell 53-52 on the road to North Georgia on Feb. 14.

With half a second remaining on the clock, after Kemp’s shot, the game officials huddled together and decided to add four and a half seconds of play back on the clock.

In that four and a half second span, North Georgia set up and nailed the game winner that sent the Lady Braves home with a conference loss of the season.

“I felt like the game was over and we had won it, but the officials decided to put more time on the clock,” head coach John Haskins said. “Instead of a half second, there were five seconds put back on the clock and that gave them enough time to put a game together that won the game. I thought that we did enough down the stretch to win the game but, obviously, that wasn’t the case.”

In the first half of action the Black and Gold’s offense sailed as the Lady Braves went up by as much as five early in the half.

While down, the Lady Saints responded, scoring seven unanswered points as both teams continued to trade baskets throughout the half.

The Lady Braves recaptured the lead before halftime, going into the break up 1-23.

More team defense followed in the second half as neither team managed to gain more than a four point lead during the period.

With 25 seconds left, Kemp scored two consecutive baskets to give the Lady Braves the one-point advantage before the timing changed.

With the four and a half second added, North Georgia’s Serapha Marble drove down the court and shot a short jumper over the Lady Braves’ defense that proved to be the final shot of the game.

Kemp led the Lady Braves with 13 points and eight rebounds and sophomore forward Briania Stantion added 10 points for the Black and Gold.

Marble had 18 points for the Lady Saints and North Georgia’s Alyssa Stokes had a game-high 19 points.

After the loss, the Lady Saints hold a 5-4 all-time lead over UNCP.

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2008-2009 Black and Gold
Men’s Basketball Statistics

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<th>Scoring Leaders</th>
<th>Rebounding Leaders</th>
<th>Team Statistics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Demarcus Lyday</td>
<td>Brandon Thomas</td>
<td>Demarcus Lyday</td>
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Rebounding Leaders

Brandon Thomas          | 7.7 ppg         |
David Moore             | 6.9 ppg         |
Demarcus Lyday          | 3.8 ppg         |

Steal Leaders

Brandon Thomas          | 1.2 ppg         |
David Moore             | 1.1 ppg         |
Jason Smith             | 1.1 ppg         |

Team Statistics

Scoring                | 68.3 ppg    |
Field Goal Percentage  | .418        |
Rebounds                | 35.0 ppg    |
Assists                 | 11.7 apg    |

Record

Home                   | 3-7          |
Away                    | 2-9          |
Neutral                 | 0-3          |
Overall                 | 5-19         |
Conference              | 2-15         |
Non-Conference          | 3-4          |