Lady Braves drop heartbreaker to Pirates

By Latavia Riggins
Staff Writer

The Lady Braves traveled to Savannah, Ga., to face the Lady Bobcats of Armstrong Atlantic State University on Feb. 7.

The Bobcats captured the win in the final seconds of the game played at Armstrong Sports Center.

The game was the fourth consecutive win for Armstrong Atlantic in the series played between the two teams.

UNCP’s last win against AASU came in the 2006-07 season, when the Braves dominated 59-51.

For the first seven minutes of the contest, the scores remained close, until 11:4 ran by Armstrong Atlantic put the Pirates ahead 24-14.

After the last-minute surge, the Bobcats converted into 30 points, while finishing UNCP with just under eight minutes left in the game.

Sophomore JaToya Kemp was only one point away from recording her fourth double-double of the season.

Kemp led all Lady Braves in scoring, putting in 15 points, while grabbing eight rebounds and dishing out five assists for the Pirates.

The Braves shot 38 percent from the floor for the game, hitting on 22-58 shots while shooting 5-18 from the free-throw line in the final second of the game.

Armstrong Atlantic’s pre-season all-conference pick, Lacey Willis, as she tallied 20 points for the night.

Willis also registered 12 rebounds and five assists for the Pirates.

The Black and Gold forced 11 turnovers and made by senior Natalie Ray, a Laurinburg native, scored 10 points of her own in the win.

Lady Braves went for 60 percent shooting for 60.7 percent of the night to help propel Armstrong Atlantic to the win.

Lady Braves cruise to home victory

By Nick Phillips
Staff Writer

The UNCP Lady Braves pulled their record to 5-15 overall after easily defeating Augusta State on Feb. 4 by the score of 70-44 at the English E. Jones Center.

The win also ups the Lady Braves Peach Belt Conference record to 6-7 overall.

“I thought our defense was pretty solid all 40 minutes of the game,” head coach John Haskins said. “We were able to pull them away in the second half by shooting 40.7 percent and going on several runs, including a stretch where they missed Augusta State 17-5 to start the second half.

After the Lady Braves saw their lead cut to 12 with under seven minutes to play, they responded, going on an 18-8 run to finish the game.

Defensively, the Lady Braves forced Augusta State to turn the ball over 22 times while only giving up 16 of their own.

The win gives the Lady Braves two straight decisions over Augusta State and ends UNCP’s three game losing streak.

As the season enters its final month of regular season play, the Lady Braves have three remaining home contests on the regular season schedule – Feb. 11, 21 and 25, before beginning the conference tournament in hopes of a Peach Belt Conference title.

Unfortunately for the Black and Gold, the Bobcats offense found a spark in the second half, as Georgia College went on an eight minute 24-3 run after the Lady Braves tied the score up at 34-all on a jumper by Ray.

The Bobcats nailed four three-pointers during the run and shot an almost perfect 8-12 from the floor, while finishing the game with just eight minutes left in the game.

To add to the Lady Braves defensive woes, the Black and Gold’s offense turned the ball over 21 times in the second half, which the Bobcats converted into 30 points.

Georgia College went up by no more than six points in the final period, and the Lady Braves ended the half on a 5-0 run to close out the half which was started by a JaToya Kemp layup.

Along with her 12 points, Ray had a team-high six rebounds.

Forward Lavontay Johnson had seven points and four rebounds to along with Ray’s totals.

The Black and Gold shot 38 percent on the night and finished the game with nine assists on the night.

The loss was the Lady Braves’ fifth straight to the Bobcats after last picking up a win Feb. 8, 2006 over three seasons ago.

The team is 6-23 all-time against Georgia College.

Lady Braves defense falls short to Georgia College

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

A second-half barrage of 3-pointers by Georgia College sealed the fate of the Lady Braves, as the Black and Gold women’s basketball team fell 76-53 to the Bobcats Feb. 2 in the Centennial Center.

Senior forward Natalie Ray led the Lady Braves with 12 points, but in the second half the Bobcats shot 6-12 from the floor, outscoring the Lady Braves 19-9 from the floor for the game.

“This was the first game in a while where we really played poorly,” head coach Jim Hawkins said. “We had a real tough stretch in the second half handling their press. We did not take one of the ball or defend very well.”

The Lady Braves came out of halftime down just one basket at 22-20, while holding Georgia College to just nine baskets in the first half.

With a jump-shot made by senior Natalie Ray to tie the game at 34, the Bobcats won the opportunity by Armstrong Atlantic, the Braves went into the locker room one point down with a score of 28-27.

After the break, the Lady Braves managed to keep AASU from gaining a lead beyond six points in the contest.

Strong defense from both teams made the last three minutes the most exciting of the game.

A turnover from the Braves would give Armstrong Atlantic possession of the ball with 32 seconds remaining.

The costly mistake was made by the Black and Gold who would give AASU a five-point advantage.

DeKalb made a 3-pointer in the final second of the game to bring the score to 35-32 in favor of Armstrong Atlantic.

DeKalb would dominate the night for the Lady Braves, scoring 18 points and grabbing 12 rebounds from the field.

She attempted on all five attempts at the free-throw line against AASU.

Sophomore JaToya Kemp added 13 points, and senior Natalie Ray, a Laurinburg native, scored 10 points of her own in the win.

Ray and the rest of her teammates were able to continually establish themselves in the post, leading to easy buckets for the Lady Pirates.

For Augusta State, Nicole Mealing led the scoring with 10 points, and Jasmine Godwin added 12.

Augusta State turned the ball over 21 times to the Lady Braves, while shooting only 33 percent in both halves.

The loss drops Augusta State’s record to 5-15 overall.

After a close defensive first half, the Lady Braves took a 22-22 lead into the half while hoping to hold onto momentum.

They were able to pull away in the second half by shooting for 60.7 percent and going on several runs, including a stretch where they missed Augusta State 17-5 to start the second half.

After the Lady Braves saw their lead cut to 12 with under seven minutes to play, they responded, going on an 18-8 run to finish the game.

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Lady Braves’ guard Marquessa Delk scored 18 points in the Lady Braves’ loss to Armstrong Atlantic.

The loss also marks the Lady Braves 12th consecutive game with less than three minutes in the fourth quarter.

Sophomore JaToya Kemp added 13 points, and senior Natalie Ray, a Laurinburg native, scored 10 points of her own in the win.

The win also ups the Lady Braves Peach Belt Conference record to 6-7 overall.

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