By Matt Smith

Coming off a two-game losing skid to Pfeiffer, the Black and Gold baseball team came alive over the weekend scoring 47 runs in four victories over Millersville University.

The Braves played the Marauders in four games over Feb. 13 to 15, as the Black and Gold’s offensive firepower dominated the opposing team at Sammy Cox Field.

The wins were the Braves’ eighth of the season, as the team set record setting days, including a freshman no-hitter.

Friday action
The Braves started the season on a high note, Friday, Feb. 13, posting a 17-7 win over the visiting Marauders.

Senior Kevin Deitsch registered his first career multi-homer game, as the Braves pounded out two-run home runs in the fourth and seventh innings to finish with a 3-3 day at the plate.

Dietsch, a 2006 pre-season all-Peach Belt Conference selection, also finished the day with a walk and a four-RBI game.

Junior Jordan Pegram also showed his hitting prowess, posting a three home run out of the game, as the infielder scored three times on two singles and a triple.

The Braves ended the day with 15 total hits.

Senior Justin Willis took the mound of the Braves and allowed eight runs in 20 innings of work, giving the team a win by striking out 13 out of 11 batters.

The Braves posted runs in the first, third, fourth and sixth innings, posting seven runs in the first and eighth, giving themselves a comfortable lead throughout the rest of the game.

Deitsch says no-no
UNCP continued their winning ways as they defeated the Marauders Feb. 14, as the team took two games from Millersville including a 17-0 shutout win over junior Jake Dailey.

In the day’s first game, the Braves offense again got the team rolling as the Black and Gold picked up a 15-1 win.

Highlighting the Braves’ offense for the day was senior Jake Dailey who reached base safely in all of his appearances at the plate.

Dailey finished 4-4 with a run and two runs scored for the Black and Gold.

Sophomore Keith Whitman led the team-leading fourth batter of the season, as the Braves’ offense scored seven runs in the fifth inning to break open a tight game.

The Braves used a costly throwing error by Millersville to take an early 2-0 advantage in the second inning before opening it up in the fifth.

Sophomore Tyler Wood picked up the win for the Marauders, striking out five batters in a complete-game effort.

The win was Wood’s third of the season.

Even with the first game excitement, Dailey told the show in the second game with the Braves’ second no hitter in as many seasons with a 3-2 win over Millersville.

Dailey, who earned his first collegiate win in the decision, off four walks with a season-high four strikeouts.

Dailey pitched all seven innings for the Braves and gave up just two hits on 157 pitches.

The performance was the Braves’ first no hitter in 34 years, but last season sophomore Justin Willis and sophomore Jake Dailey combined for seven RBIs in the contest.

Coker had four hits on the day to tie a career high, while Whitman posted two hits in five plate appearances to post his sixth multi-hit game of the season.

The two helped to lead a 17-7 win over Millersville.

Closing out their final face-off in the series, the Braves’ bats again came alive as the Black and Gold put up double-digit runs to down the Marauders.

Whitman and sophomore Jason Coker helped lead the Braves on offense, as the two combined for seven RBIs in the contest.

Coker had four hits on the day to tie a career-high, eighth and ninth innings to gain valuable in game experience.

Baker was assisted by three relievers, as different Braves’ pitchers saw action in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings to gain valuable in game experience.

For the Marauders, Kyle Belanchik took the loss for the visitation.

The win was Wood’s third of the season.

The difference between the intramural and club level is that clubs travel to other schools to compete.

According to English, they also “do not have the pressure of the NCAA.”

As the first club team on campus and not being an externally popular sport, “the game is really confusing to new people because of the terminology and different rules so it’s hard to describe it to people. The best way is just to watch or play,” Ritter said.

“Markie” is the name for the first ‘real season’ the team had, involving battles against Duke, Guilford and UNCC-Greensboro.

Duke and Guilford both defeated the Braves this season and UNCC forfeited as well.

“In the next year or two, UNCC rugby will be the team in the state. We are just putting the pieces together now,” Ritter said.

English would like to see more club sports on campus but said it just requires students with the motivation to start the team.

“We’re just one team, 25 players who love to play rugby,” English said.

By Devin Patrick

The Black and Gold have now finished a 10- game home stand and will next take the field Feb. 17 to battle Barton in their first road test.

Braves honored
Before their weekend series against Millersville, three Braves were honored in the January edition of the “Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.”

Kirkman, a senior reliever on the Braves pitching staff, was named to the organization’s pre-season all-American team while Demon pitcher Matt McGovern were named to the players to watch list.

The Ottawa, Canada native struck out 51 batters in 88 innings of work.

Kirkman had previously earned second team all-region honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association and had a leading 2.88 earned run average last season.

Kirkman posted a school record 11 saves last season and struck out 46 batters.

Dietsch, a 2008 pre-season all-PBC selection, hit .333 last season after missing the last 44 games with a wrist injury.

McGovern went 13-0 with a 1.64 ERA at two seasons at Monroe Community College before transferring to UNCP this season.

The Ottawa, Canada native struck out 51 batters in 88 innings of work.

By Devin Patrick

The Braves were able to pick up four runs in the bottom of the third inning.

The Braves fell behind 12-6 after the top of the third inning and were unable to overcome the early deficit.

The Braves were able to pick up four runs in the bottom of the third inning.

Junior Seth Kivett and Jordan Pegram both went 3-5 in the unsuccessful try to get back on track when they play the Post University Eagles Feb. 27 at Sammy Cox Field.

The Black and Gold will try to get back on track when they play the Post University Eagles Feb. 27 at Sammy Cox Field.