Rain washes away athletic teams’ schedules

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The saying goes that April showers bring May flowers, but the only thing this spring time rain is bringing are headaches to the UNCP athletic department.

Thanks to the rain, multiple Black and Gold athletic games have been cancelled or postponed due to the poor weather.

The weather effects have been felt across every program this spring.

Softball cancelled

On April 2, a rain shower cancelled a doubleheader between the Black and Gold softball team and Barton College. The game will not be made up.

Lady Braves returned to action April 6, against North Georgia.

UNCP’s baseball game and the Black and Gold softball game scheduled for that day were not cancelled.

Tennis affected

On March 31, rain washed out any hopes of a tennis match against the Braves and Wingate.

The game was rescheduled for April 3, which the Braves won 7-2.

A match between the Braves and No. 40 Lander was postponed due to rain and was moved to April 7 at 2 p.m.

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Dailey proving himself in freshman season

By Matt Smith

Lightning strikes over Grace P. Johnson Stadium. Thunder, lightning and rain have affected the Braves’ spring sports schedule the past few weeks, even causing the occasional cancellation.

The level of competition for student athletes is very good pitcher for us in the future,” O’Neil said.

Pitching coach Ken Shuey has some credit behind Dailey, who is one of the main reasons he was used in high school.

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He has a musical talent,

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and he often will strum a tune on his guitar and listen to music in his downtime. Hanging out with friends and spending time on the coast is just a few of his other non-sport hobbies.

As a baseball player, he does have his favorite major league team. The underdogs, Baltimore Orioles, have a spot in Dailey’s heart.

“They are usually underdogs and I like supporting teams who may not have as much success as us, let’s say, Boston or New York,” Dailey said.

High school vs. college

The level of competition in college sports is much higher than most high schools, and a lot of athletes are surprised at how different their college teams are from what they were used to in high school.

For Dailey, the biggest differences are the opponents’ bats and the amount of running.

“The mental approach on pitching in college is a lot different. You can’t just throw fastballs by everyone,” Dailey said.

The one thing that he does not enjoy about college ball is the long bus rides to away games.

No ‘I’ in team

The Braves’ baseball team is more of a family than a regular team.

Many of the players room with each other for a closer relationship.

Adapting to a new team can be sometimes difficult but at UNCP, Dailey’s teammates have been supportive of his efforts to be the best he can.

Haley looks forward to three more seasons with Dailey after this.

As an outfielder, Haley notices that the relationship between the 13 roster pitchers on the roster is very close, “no matter the age or talent level a person is.”

“Our pitching staff spends so much time together that everyone wants everyone else to be successful, and no one really finds about playing time,” Dailey said.

Future plans?

Dailey has a dream to play in the big leagues after his four years at college.

As far as his own personal goals for improving, he would like to stop walking batters and start striking more out. Dailey would also like to be able to pitch harder.

“He has been dominant this year, and there is only room for him to improve. He is somebody that you would want to keep your eye on,” Adair said.

So far this season with Dailey’s help, the Braves are 25-13 and hold a 7-10 record in Peach Belt Conference play.

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