The Black and Gold baseball team fell 1-2 in a three game series against the Armstrong Atlantic Pirates, picking up a 5-4 win before falling 5-8 and 6-10 March 29-30 at Sammy Cus Field.

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Pembroke opened the game with a 3-run first inning, as the Braves used a sacrifice fly, a bases loaded walk and a wild pitch to take early control of the game.

The Pirates would bring in another run in the fourth, but the Pirates slowly chipped into the Black and Gold’s lead by putting runs on the board in the third, fourth, sixth and seventh inning.

With the score knotted at four, Whitman stepped to the plate and delivered his game winning shot.

Matt McGovern started off the five-run first inning with a 2-RBI double, and senior Edmund Mangum and Josh Haley contributed with a third hit.

The duo of Kivett and Locklear teamed up to produce six hits, drive in eight RBIs, and score five runs for the Braves in the upset.

Kivett’s day ended with a 3-for-5 performance at the plate, including his team-leading ninth and 10th homers of the season, to go along with his six runs driven in.

Locklear also went 3-for-5 from the dish, with one homer. Senior Kevin Dietrich extended his multi-hit game streak to six with his 2-for-4 day. Dietrich also scored three times for the Braves.

Freshman Jake Dudley went five innings in the start, allowing eight hits and six runs before sophomore Brynn Porricelli pitched three solid innings, giving up just four hits and one run during that time.

Both Locklear and Kivett connected on two home runs to put the Braves in front with a 4-0 lead before Lenoi Rhyne answered with a five-run fifth inning.

Dietrich tied the game in the bottom of the fifth with his RBI groundout.

A Lenoi Rhyne wild pitch plated another Braves’ run in the sixth, before a Bears’ RBI double tied the game again in the bottom of the sixth.

A fielding error by Lenoi Rhyne in the seventh inning led to UNCP having two baserunners on for Kivett’s second homer of the afternoon, a three-run blast to left field.

A Lenoi Rhyne solo homer in the eighth inning was all the Bears could muster for a comeback.

Collins’ three innings of relief work earned him the win with senior Ryan Kirkman pitching a scoreless ninth inning.

Batters take down No. 21 ranked Lenoi Rhyne

The Braves baseball team hosted nationally ranked Lenoi Rhyne April 1 at Cox Field.

Lenoi Rhyne was ranked second in the NCAA regional power rankings heading into the game, before UNCP defeated the 21st ranked Bears 11-7 behind the strong hitting performances of junior Seth Kivett and senior Edmund Locklear.

The Black and Gold used timely hitting and a strong pitching effort to come away with a 8-5 victory.

Kivett opened the game with a big 3-run first inning, as the Braves used a sacrifice fly, a bases loaded walk and a wild pitch to take early control of the game.

After running along with a comfortable 3-run lead in the most of the game, the Braves suddenly found themselves in a steep hole as Armstrong Atlantic used a nine hit fifth inning to steal momentum from the Black and Gold.

Armstrong Atlantic used homestars Drew Carnes, Drew Walker and a grand slam from Alex Wyche to bury the Braves.

The Black and Gold started the inning with the early run, as the Pirates cut the lead to 5-2 after two.

The Pirates used a 5-run seventh inning to come away with a 8-5 victory.

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