By Stephanie French

Tennis falls in marathon

By Matt Smith

Sports Editor

While dropping a 5-4 series decision against USC Aiken March 29, the Black and Gold tennis team fell just short on the court as the Braves’ Jamina Oxendine and Natalie Dies showcased a memorable four-hour performance in No. 6 singles.

In the day’s deciding match, Oxendine battled USC Aiken’s Melanie Schauder for the match that lasted a total of four hours and 11 minutes.

Oxendine fell to Schauder 6-4, but with the team’s two-point net advantage holding and Oxendine battling back from a 5-3 deficit in the second set by winning five of the next six games.

Marathon match set up a final set to keep the Braves’ hopes alive, as Oxendine and Schauder battled their way to a tiebreaker, which Oxendine would go on to win 7-5. With the win, Oxendine sealed the 8-4 win over the Bulldogs.

“Unfortunately, the format is such that you can’t win it all on Jamina but she was in no way, shape or form responsible for losing,” head coach Robert Langley said. “She wasn’t herself the entire match but lost confidence in her strokes. As a team she really relies on her athleticism when not playing and she really battled to come back from being down a set.

“She fought hard and had many opportunities to win her match in the third set, but she couldn’t capitalize on the critical points. But she battled and never gave up, as a coach, you can’t ask more.”

With Oxendine’s departure, the Lady Pioneers fell to 4-5 to take their ninth set in a row.

In earlier action, the Braves walked up two victories in No. 1 and No. 2 singles play.

Matt Evans defeated USC Aiken’s Melanie Schauder in the second set to level the match at three doubles.

Black team avoided entering halftime trailing by a set as they are looking to score a touchdown on a 31-yard field goal in the second quarter with Oxendine.

Janna Oxendine took a 5-4 early advantage in the third set, but she couldn’t close out the match with a straight win.

The pair defeated Ewa Pierce Dillard in the first court, 6-2, 6-0, the second set a 6-4, 6-3 win over Grenet/Telford while Pierson/Ordine took an early lead over USC Aiken’s Goes/Schneider.

The Pacers’ team of Humphrey/Angel took the second set against USC Aiken with a 3-6, 6-2 victory over the Black and Gold.

The Lady Pioneers are 4-1 in the season.

With the win, the Pioneers moved to 2-0 outscoring the Black and Gold.

The intensity built in the fourth quarter for both teams as Gold tied up the game at six at the five-minute mark.

Redshirt freshman Adam Williams helped keep the Black and Gold alive with a 6-4, 6-0 win over the Bulldogs.

Smith had déjà vu as he threw his final interception into Avery’s hands yet again that was great competition...and to have it close, and to be fun, it made a pretty good deal.” Shimidick said. "The scrimmage was out a 15-practice spring season before the summer recess. Official practice resumes in August.

Black and Gold open up the regular season on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. at nearby Fayetteville State. The game will be the first Two Rivers Classic.

Tennis extends win streak

By Stephanie French

Sports Editor

Ladies’ tennis marked a 7-2 victory against Wingate on March 3 at Valley High School. The gold squad got the first two sets against the Braves.

The match inched closer to the school record for doubles wins. The Black and Gold are 7-4 in doubles.

Without a competitor for each of the No. 6 singles and the No. 3 doubles, Jamina Oxendine moved to No. 2 doubles with Meredith Pierson for the Black and Gold.

The pair defeated Ewa Opola and Zoe Harrat 8-3.

Quintero Prieto and Christian Minnick were tagged the second doubles victory from the short-handed Bulldogs.

On the first court, Linda Tatala-Colin and Jennifer McGary put together a season record of 12-7 with a shutout of Holly Alberghini and Karla Staniskis.

The Braves move into conference play.

Super in singles

On singles court No. 2, McGary defeated Hartas in a 6-4, 6-0 match.

The match on the No 4 singlescount was the closest to finish, but Minnick/Quintero defeated the Bulldogs the second set, as she closed the fourth victory against opponents this season.

Black and Gold opens its season off against USC Aiken, earning an 8-3 victory over the Bulldogs.

The Lady Pioneers are 4-1 in the season.

With the win, the Pioneers improved their season record to 12-7 with a shutout of Holly Alberghini and Karla Staniskis.

Doubles win

The pair defeated Ewa Opola and Zoe Harrat 8-3.

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