Braves’ athletics shine in 2008-2009

Roundup stories by Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Football
Final Record: 9-1

Coming into their second season under head football coach Pete Shinnick, the UNCP football team finished a resounding 9-1 on the year, and just seven points shy of finishing with a perfect season. The Black and Gold picked up impressive wins over Division I teams, such as the Gold and players were named to the D2Football.com All-Independent teams, and sophomore safety Caylon Harn was named to the third team all-American list by Don Hansen’s Football Gazette.

The Braves will bring back 21 of 22 starters next season as they try to garner their first NCAA Football Division II playoff appearance.

Volleyball
Final Record: 13-19, 2-8 PBC

After coming off a 2007 season where the Braves went 21-17, the Black and Gold revamped in 2008, as freshman Allie Schneider helped lead the team to a 13-19 record overall, with a 2-8 record in Peach Belt Conference play.

The Braves, whose season depended on the growing pains of young players, put together their most impressive showing Oct. 3-4 at the Fairfield Inn Invitational, going 3-0 in the event with wins over Fayetteville State, Queens and St. Andrews.

The Braves picked up 3-0 sweeps against their three opponents to finish with the undefeated record. The Black and Gold also performed well in other tournament style settings, mainly at the Sept. 12-13 Wingate Open, where the team went 2-1.

At the Wingate Open, the Braves picked up two straight wins over Queens and Limestone before falling to host Wingate 3-0.

Schneider led the team with 322 kills, while junior Rachel Young led offense with a .268 hitting percentage.

Sophomore Whitney Hanlin led the team with 634 assists and junior Andrea Laza added to her school dig record with 535 on the season.

Laza, Young and Hanlin were named to the PBC All-Academic team, while Schneider was named the PBC Freshman of the Year for her efforts on the year.

Men’s Soccer
Final Record: 9-9-1, 2-4 PBC

The men’s soccer team’s season was defined by great highs and even lower lows. The Braves finished the year with a 9-9-1 record, the first time in three years that the team finished with a .500 mark or better, but a mid-season five-game losing streak cost the team a truly special season. The Black and Gold ended the regular season with a four-game win streak, but bowed out to North Georgia in the first round of the Peach Belt Conference tournament.

The team’s most impressive win came in a 2-1 out of conference win against No. 10 Lees-McRae. Erik Hayworth and Moses Dimmock came off the bench to score goals in the Braves’ victory.

Senior forward Miguel Ferrer led the team with 22 points and four assists. The Braves scored 34 goals this season, 10 more than they allowed their opponents.

In the goal, Horatio Bynes and Tom Courtney lead the Black and Gold to four wins apiece. Bynes led the team with a .750 save percentage.

The team sent three players to the All-Southeast Regional squad, as Ferrer, Cipriano and freshman defender Michael Davis received the honor.

Women’s Soccer
Final Record: 19-3-1, 6-2-1 PBC

Black and Gold women’s soccer team saw their hard work come to fruition in 2008, as the team ended the year with their most successful campaign to date.

The Lady Braves finished 16 games over .500 with a 19-1-1 record to tie the school’s win record and finished second in the conference behind Columbus State.

The Black and Gold earned their first trip to the NCAA Tournament, falling to No. 18 Carson-Newman 1-0 in the opening round.

Senior Melanie Cobb broke multiple school records, taking the school’s top spot in goals (91), points (48) and shots (120).

The Lady Braves’ goalkeeper Whitney Beverly started all 23 games for the Black and Gold this season. Beverly finished the year with 19 wins in the net for the Lady Braves.

She also had 74 saves to go along with her .851 save percentage. Beverly also broke the UNCP shutout record with 14.

The Lady Braves sent five players to the All-Southeast Regional team, and freshman Britney Joiner took home PBC Freshman of the Year honors after totaling 26 points on 11 goals and four assists.

The Head Coach, Lars Anderson had already inked five of the state’s top women’s soccer prospects as he continued to turn the Lady Braves into a conference power.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

Whitney Beverly stops a goal.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

The Black and Gold offensive line.

Photo by Matt Smith

The Black and Gold women’s soccer prospects as they tried to garner their first NCAA Football Division II playoff appearance.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

Miguel Ferrer takes a shot.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

Allie Schneider goes in for a kill.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information