Volleyball starts season 2-2 at invitational

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

UNCP women’s volleyball player Allie Schneider was named to the PBC preseason All-Conference team.

The Black and Gold volleyball team opened the 2009 season with an impressive 3-0 shutout of Coker College Aug. 28, and finished the weekend with a 2-2 record at the Lenoir-Rhyne Invitational to open the year.

After their opening win, the Braves dropped games to Catawba and lost Lenoir-Rhyne before closing out the weekend with a 3-0 record with a win against Belmont Abbey.

In the team’s first game against Coker, the Braves easily handled the Cobras in straight sets with a 25-11, 25-17 and 25-21 victory.

Schneider earns volleyball award

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Black and Gold sophomore volleyball player Allie Schneider was honored by the conference Aug. 21, as the Braves leading hitter was named to the nine-member Peach Belt Conference Preseason team.

Schneider, a Cincinnati, Ohio, native and the 2008 PBC Freshman of the Year honoree, led the Black and Gold with 322 kills last season as a first year player.

Schneider finished third in the conference in kills and finished ranked in the top-10 with 304 digs.

The sophomore finished the year with a .220 hitting percentage and had a .322 per set average in 209 sets played for the Black and Gold last season.

Ace leader

Schneider also led the Braves with 36 service aces in her first season while directing a young Braves’ squad to a 13-19 overall record.

The sophomore was the only Brave player to be named to the pre-season voting on by the conference’s head coaches, and in the Black and Gold’s first tournament of 2009 on Aug. 28-29, Schneider helped lead the Braves to two road wins in the Lenoir-Rhyne Invitational.

Dammann earns Peach Belt academic honors

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Sophomore women’s golfer Katja Dammann picked up one of the nation’s top academic honors July 1, earning a spot on the National Golf Coaches Association’s Division II All-American Scholar team.

Dammann joined 409 other Division I, II and II women’s collegiate golfers who were also recognized with the prominent honor.

Dammann led the Lady Braves’ golf team with five top-5 finishes and posted a team low 152 strokes in 18 events for the Black and Gold in 2008-2009.

In two seasons, Dammann has an 81.7 stroke-per-round average and posted a career-low 76 in two tournaments last season.

Top finish

Dammann’s best finish came at the Oct. 7 Myrtle Beach Intercollegiate last year where the sophomore shot a two-round 155 to finish second overall.

To be named to the All-American Scholar team in Division II athletics, a student athlete must participate in 66 percent of their team’s rounds and maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

The Lady Braves’ golf team will open the season Sept. 7 at the Battle at Bayneet in Raeford, N.C.

The team will compete in four fall tournaments before the spring season begins.

UNCP’s Katja Dammann, a sophomore at Lenoir-Rhyne University, earned her second-straight Peach Belt Academic Scholar honor last month.

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UNCP women’s golfer Katja Dammann makes the grade on the field and in the classroom.