Women’s soccer takes first loss to CSU

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The UNCP women’s soccer won’t be facing a familiar thorn in their side Sept. 12, as the Lady Braves fell to the Cougars, 9-6, in their first loss of the season.

Last year a team of the same parley defeated the Lady Braves with a 3-0 final score. That loss in the 2008 season highlighted the program’s improvement and was one of the few losses the Lady Braves suffered.

As most of the other recent games against Georgia teams have been won, the Lady Braves looked even more eagerly at the game this time around.

But at the 26-minute mark, Columbus State’s Gina Gutforth scored her first goal of the season to give the Cougars the 1-0 lead and knock the breath out of the Black and Gold. UNCP head coach Lars Andersson said that the early Columbus State goal negatively affected his team’s attitude, and said in the second half he expected more composed play from the Lady Braves.

“I talked a lot about pride,” Andersson said. “We didn’t come down here to just survive, we came to win.”

Even with the motivational speech, the Black and Gold could not find the back of the net in the second half, though the team did outshoot the Cougars 9-6 in the second period.

Freshman forward Anna Svensson put the Lady Braves on the scoreboard in the 75th minute when she scored the only goal of the second half. The Black and Gold took 25 second-half shots against the Cougars 9-6 in the second half.

“The Black and Gold fought valiantly today, but the Lady Braves were out shot 15-12 on the road. The loss to Columbus State was UNCP’s sixth straight since 2005.”

The team will regroup for a busy week as the Black and Gold take on Queens College, Erskin and Flagler at home in a weekend stretch.

Svensson honored by PBC

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

UNCP women’s soccer player Anna Svensson was honored by the Peach Belt Conference Sept. 1 as the Lady Braves’ forward was named the PBC’s offensive player of the week. The freshman from Norrkoping, Sweden, led the Lady Braves with two goals in consecutive wins against Mount Olive and Lenior-Rhyne to open the season.

Svensson’s two goals in the game against the Lenior-Rhyne Bears led the Black and Gold to victory as Svensson’s game-winning overtime goal at the 93rd minute mark brought the team back from an early 0-1 deficit for a 2-1-1 win. Svensson is currently tied for third in the conference with four goals, each in the last three matches.

By Jared Leblanc
Staff Writer

The Lady Braves scored early and often in their home opener Sept. 9 at Varsity Grounds. The first goal came just before the 10-minute mark when Britney Joiner broke away and put the ball in the back of the net.

That goal was just the beginning of the 9-6 victory over St. Andrews. Joiner led the Lady Braves with three goals.

Sophomore Alexa DesJarlais, Rebecca Womack, Ashley Ancil and Fanny Fornham scored two goals each.

This domination allowed the Lady Braves to take control of the game and even with the offensive explosion from the Lady Braves, their defense might have been even more impressive.

They allowed only one shot by the visiting Knights. The Braves also dominated in the possession game, controlling the ball all game long.

“I feel that our team is much more balanced this year,” UNCP head coach Laura Joiner said. “This team can be really good.”

That time of possession advantage also translated to a school record 49 shots for the Lady Braves, 24 more shots than they have had in their two previous matches combined.

The Black and Gold took 25 second-half shots in the contests as St. Andrews couldn’t get off a shot in the second half.

Possession domination

This domination allowed a lot of the Lady Braves who don’t get a lot of playing time to get out and show their skills to the crowd.

All this extra playing time equated to some first goals of the season for these players, including goals by Emily DeSjarlais, Rebecca Womack, Ashley Ancil and Fanny Fornham.

The Lady Braves will be back at Varsity Grounds Sept. 15 as the team takes on Queens College.

The Lady Braves win big in season’s home opener

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

After shooting a first round 77 at the par-72, Bayoumet Golf Club at the Battle At Bayonet, UNCP junior Katja Damann took home top honors with an even-par second round for her first collegiate tournament title on Sept. 9.

Damann’s two-day total of 149 led all competitors at the 5,841-yard event in Raeford, N.C.

Damann’s first place finish marked the second time in UNCP women’s golf history that a Lady Brave won a tournament title.

“I was very happy for Katja earning her first collegiate win,” women’s golf head coach David Syman said. “She puts a lot of time working on all aspects of her game.”

The Braves’ first title came in 2007 when Christina Cruvetti picked up first place honors at the Peach Belt Shootout.

The Black and Gold also had two other competitors in the event’s top-5, as Cruvetti and freshman Shauna Walker carded a two-round total of 169 to tie for fifth.

Sophomore Alexa Mooney (169), freshmen Abby Shipley (170) and Jennifer Crowell (171) and senior Kaufin Payton (187) finished 14th, 15th, 18th and 23rd respectively.

Team competition

As a team, the No. 24 ranked Braves picked up a second place finish overall.

“The Black and Gold finished with a two-round team score of 637 to finish seven back of South Carolina Brevard.”

As a team we played like a team and showed grit and determination,” Syman said. “Finishing second is never a bad thing in college golf, a good way to start the season.”

The Braves will next be in action on Sept. 28 when the team travels to Tusculum Fall Classic.

Damanns takes top spot in Black and Gold’s order

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

After shooting a first round 77 at the par-72, Bayoumet Golf Club at the Battle At Bayonet, UNCP junior Faye Damann took home top honors with an even-par second round for her first collegiate tournament title on Sept. 9.

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