By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold's hopes for an undefeated season came to a halt Sept. 19, as the Braves fell 35-22 to Carson-Newman at Grace P. Johnson Stadium. The Black and Gold's command of the first half left with over nine minutes remaining in the final quarter, one on a 4-yard Wakefield touchdown and another on a 15-yard run by Nate Hinson in the middle of the final quarter to effectively close out the Braves' hopes for a road win.

The Black and Gold scored a last second touchdown on a 16-yard pass from Smith to junior receiver Donald Britt set up by senior Travis Daniels who ran for a 48-yard pass from junior Cory Smith to Wakefield finished with 322 yards rushing, as Wakefield finished with 135 yards and touchdown downs on the night.

Williams led the way for the Braves' receivers with eight catches for 89 yards.

Defensive effort
Defensively, linebacker Matthew Forston responded with two touchdowns in the game's final quarter, one on a 4-yard Wakefield touchdown and another on a 15-yard run by Nate Hinson in the middle of the final quarter to effectively close out the Braves' hopes for a road win.

Against the Bulldogs, Hinson averaged 44.7 yards a punt to help lead the Black and Gold to their first win over Wingate in three contests. The Monroe, N.C., native pinned the Bulldogs behind their 20-yard line three times during the game and boomed a 57-yard punt to the Bulldogs' 21-yard line in the game's final quarter.

Hinson is currently leading the NCAA in punting yards through three games with a 46-yard-per-punt average on 15 punts for 699 yards.

The junior also holds the school record for the longest punt with a 69-yard kick in 2008 against Jacksonville.

By Latavia Riggins
Asst. Web Editor

Braves fall on road to Eagles for first loss

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold's hopes for an undefeated season came to a halt Sept. 19, as the Braves fell 35-22 to Carson-Newman on Oct. 3 in the school's Homecoming celebration. UNCP will take on Webber International at 2 p.m. at Grace P. Johnson Stadium.

The fourth quarter yielded 15 added points for the Braves including a pair of two-yard runs by sophomore Thomas Davis. Senior Matthew Fortson dominated for UNCP's defense for the third time this season. Fortson collected seven total tackles with a forced fumble and a pass break-up.

Sophomore Ben Kurti gained his career first interception to go along with one and a half sacks for the night. Kurti also secured five tackles for the Black and Gold.

The Black and Gold will complete the home portion of its 2009 season on Oct. 3 in the school's Homecoming celebration. UNCP will take on Webber International at 2 p.m. at Grace P. Johnson Stadium.

In the second half the Braves offense two drives later, as the team marched down the field into Eagles' territory to set themselves up for a first half touchdown. With UNCP now finding themselves in the red zone, the Black and Gold couldn't find the end zone, as the Eagles defense on their only scoring opportunity of the first half.

But, Carson-Newman responded with a 60-yard scoring drive of their own as quarterback Alex Good punched in a 2-yard run to give Carson-Newman a commanding 21-3 lead.

With UNCP now finding its groove, junior quarterback Cory Smith drove the Braves down field again to set up their score of the night. Junior Keith Gore found the end zone for the Braves on a 3-yard run with 1:15 left in the second half to put the score at 21-10 in favor of the Eagles.

The fourth quarter offense
With the game heading into the final quarter, the Black and Gold marched down the field to pull even closer to the Eagles in hope for a last-quarter comeback. 25-yard rush by Gore and a 48-yard pass from Smith to wide receiver Donald Britt set the Braves up at Carson-Newman's 1-yard line, and redshirt freshman Adrian Williams ran for a 1-yard score to pick up the Braves' second touchdown of the night.

One loss
“I told them (the team) that one loss doesn’t determine our season and that we still have aspirations to keep this thing going,” Shinnick said.

“One loss isn’t going to take us from our goals and that is to keep playing.”

“We have to make sure that we take care of business every week after this,” he said.

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Football punter honored

UNCP punter Justin Hinson was honored Sept. 18, as the junior was named the week’s D2Football.com NCAA Independents Special Teams Player of the Week after a 24-13 win over Wingate.

The Monroe, N.C., native pinned the Bulldogs behind their 20-yard line three times during the game and boomed a 57-yard punt to the Bulldogs' 21-yard line in the game's final quarter.

Hinson is currently leading the NCAA in punting yards through three games with a 46-yard-per-punt average on 15 punts for 699 yards.

The junior also holds the school record for the longest punt with a 69-yard kick in 2008 against Jacksonville.