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**2011-2012 BRAVES WINTER SPORTS**

**#17 Wrestling** After the first two months of the season, the Braves have been a force on the mats. Currently, the squad ranks 17th in the Basford NCAA D-II College Wrestling Rankings. Three individuals rank in the Top 10 nationally at this point in the season. All-American Mike Williams (165lbs Class) ranks 3rd, Brendon Parker-Risk (157lbs Class) ranks 8th, and Shane Nolan (197lbs Class) ranks 9th. The Braves will wrestle on their home floor January 25, and host the NCAA Super Region I Tournament in late February. For more information on the 2011-2012 squad [CLICK HERE](#).

**Men's Basketball (10-5:4-1)** The Braves entered 2012 on a three game winning streak. A 4-1 record in the Peach Belt Conference places the team in 2nd place of the East Division. The road will not get easier as the Braves begin the bulk of their conference schedule. The team has been led by the scoring of juniors Shahmel Brackett and George Blakeney and senior Marcus Heath. Senior Nathan Priest has been the defensive force through his rebounding and shot blocking. With a strong January, the Braves will be in good position for the conference tournament. For more information on the 2011-2012 team [CLICK HERE](#).

**Women's Basketball (5-8:2-3)** The women dropped two narrow losses by a combined 3 points to end 2011. The team will be eager to improve as the calendar flips to 2012. The Braves currently check in at 6th place in the East Division of the PBC. Junior Courtney Bolton is leading the Braves in the scoring column, and senior Domonique Washington has been a play maker leading the team in assists, steals, and rebounds per game. With a full slate of conference match-ups this month, the women can easily climb up the standings and improve their seeding for the conference tournament. For more information on the 2011-2012 team [CLICK HERE](#).



**The Black and Gold Report**  
 Official UNCP Athletic Highlight Show



Every Saturday at 12:30 P.M. on WFXB FOX TV



**Want to make a gift to the Braves Club or UNCP Athletic Program??**  
 Download the membership brochure by clicking [HERE](#), and you can direct your gift to the Braves Club, a specific sport, or a sport's scholarship. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Brian Russo at (910) 775-4339 or email [bravesclub@uncp.edu](mailto:bravesclub@uncp.edu)

**Got a question about the Braves Club??**  
 Find the answer on the Frequently Asked Questions page by clicking [HERE](#) or send an email to [bravesclub@uncp.edu](mailto:bravesclub@uncp.edu)

**Did you miss an issue of The Braves Report??**  
 Find an issue archive of *The Braves Report* by clicking [HERE](#). Every issue of your newsletter is always available on the Braves Club web page.

**DO NOT FORGET TO MAKE THE BRAVES ONLINE VIDEO SOURCES A PART OF YOUR FAVORITE WEBPAGES!!**



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**BRAVES WINTER SPORT RESULTS - DECEMBER**

[UNCPBRAVES.COM - SCHEDULES, SCORES, AND NEWS 24/7](#)

*\*DENOTES PEACH BELT CONFERENCE OPPONENT*

**Men's Basketball (9-4: 3-0)**

Dec. 01 - W, 95-54 vs. Morris College  
 Dec. 03 - W, 79-75 vs. Lander University\*  
 Dec. 12 - L, 68-69 vs. Mount Olive  
 Dec. 17 - W, 66-64 vs. Flagler College\*  
 Dec. 19 - W, 96-88 vs. Armstrong Atlantic\*  
 Dec. 30 - W, 80-65 vs. Shawnee State

**Wrestling (Duals: 2-2)**

Nov 30 - W, 47-6 vs. Belmont Abbey  
 Dec 10 - L, 13-26 vs. Findlay  
 Dec 10 - W, 25-15 vs. Lake Erie  
 Dec 10 - L, 18-23 vs. Chadron State  
 Dec 19 - 10th of 25 - Midwest Classic  
 Dec 30 - 6th of 17 - Citrus Classic

**Women's Basketball (4-7: 1-2)**

Dec. 01 - W, 61-41 vs. Morris College  
 Dec. 03 - L, 52-65 vs. Lander University\*  
 Dec. 14 - L, 68-77 vs. Chowan University  
 Dec. 17 - W, 64-57 vs. Flagler College\*  
 Dec. 19 - L, 52-54 vs. Armstrong Atlantic\*  
 Dec. 30 - L, 61-62 vs. Limestone  
 Dec. 31 - L, 56-64 vs. Tusculum College



**For Complete Results and Schedules visit UNCPBRAVES.com**

**Got a question or comment on The Braves Club??**  
**Need information on season ticket sales or an upcoming event??**  
**Reach The Braves Club by email - [bravesclub@uncp.edu](mailto:bravesclub@uncp.edu)**  
 The club is as close as your SEND button!

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**BRAVES WINTER SPORT HOME SCHEDULES - JANUARY**

[UNCPBRAVES.COM - SCHEDULES, SCORES, AND NEWS 24/7](#)

*\*DENOTES PEACH BELT CONFERENCE OPPONENT*

**Men's Basketball**

Jan. 05 vs. Clayton State\* 7:30 P.M.  
 Jan. 07 vs. Montevallo\* 3:30 P.M.  
 Jan. 18 vs. USC Aiken\* 7:30 P.M.  
 Jan. 22 vs. Georgia College\* 3:30 P.M.

**Women's Basketball**

Jan. 05 vs. Clayton State\* 5:30 P.M.  
 Jan. 07 vs. Montevallo\* 1:30 P.M.  
 Jan. 18 vs. USC Aiken\* 5:30 P.M.  
 Jan. 22 vs. Georgia College\* 1:30 P.M.

**Wrestling**

Jan. 25 vs. Saint Andrews\* 7:00 P.M.

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**BRAVES HIGHLIGHT REEL: GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETES**



**Sherayn Shipman - Spirit Squads**  
 Cheerleading  
 Hometown: Maxton, North Carolina  
 Senior - Mass Communications/Broadcasting



**Randy Hardie - Spirit Squads**  
 Cheerleading  
 Hometown: Bolivia, North Carolina  
 Senior - Sports Management

**Favorite Food:** Seafood  
**Favorite T.V Show:** Jersey Shore  
**Best Way to Relax After Practice:** Listen to music and sing  
**Best Moment as a Brave:** My best moment as a Brave is being able to cheer for the UNCP Braves.  
**UNCP and Community Involvement:** I am a student ambassador for UNCP. Through the program, I give tours of the campus and greet prospective students and their parents.

**Favorite Food:** Potatoes  
**Favorite T.V Show:** SportsCenter  
**Best Way to Relax After Practice:** Hang-out with friends and sleep.  
**Best Moment as a Brave:** My best moment as a Brave was getting accepted to UNCP.  
**UNCP and Community Involvement:** I have joined various organizations and have done several community projects like Chevy to the Levy, help cook and serve Thanksgiving dinner at the Odom Home, and roadside clean-up with the NAACP.

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**GAME PLANNING: MEET THE BRAVES COACHES**



**Rebecca Cooper - Cheerleading & Dance Team Head Coach**

Rebecca Cooper has been the head coach of the cheer and dance squads for six years at UNCP. Coach Cooper has been successful as the leader of the squads. In 2010, the squads finished in 2nd place at the annual Peach Belt Conference Cheer Competition and 3rd place at the College Nationals in Daytona, FL. Also, the squads have received bids to the National Tournament in Daytona, FL in 2006-2009, 2011. Coach Cooper is a graduate of UNCP with a Bachelor's in Exercise and Sports Science and a Masters in Physical Education. Prior to head coaching the squads at UNCP, Cooper coached gymnastics at the Lumberton Gymnastics Academy in Lumberton, NC for five years. The UNCP Cheerleading squad is governed by the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators.

**What role do you view as the top priority for your squads at UNCP athletic events?** Crowd involvement and leadership, encouraging each team that they are cheering for, and promoting good sportsmanship. Also, Athletic events are a time for the squads to show off their talents, as well as, getting the crowd involved in the game.

**What types of training and preparation are involved in order to challenge the athletes on your squads to perform at their potential?** There is a lot of training and preparation to challenge the athletes on the cheer and dance teams to perform at their potential. The skills that are shown at games are not the full potential of either team. The cheerleaders are governed by AACCA which sets restrictions for what they are allowed to perform during football and basketball games. Dance team is confined by what the band plays. In the Spring, each team competes in the Peach Belt Conference Spirit Competition. Also, the cheerleaders compete at Nationals at CANAM in Myrtle Beach. These are the driving forces for challenging each team. Each squad practices 3 days a week with 2 workouts per week. The practices include game day material, competition routine material, and skill maintenance and progression. Finally, they practice and perform year round.

**What are the coaching challenges associated with your squads?** Some of the challenges associated with coaching my squads include being solely responsible for 40+ student-athletes. Also, I find it hard during game day to give equal attention to both teams. My experience normally has to be with the cheerleaders based on AACC rules. I find it challenging to get more interest in cheer and dance because neither teams receive scholarships. Overall, I am blessed with wonderful student-athletes who work hard and enjoy what they do.

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**BRAVES CLUB EVENTS - JANUARY**

**Coming in April....the 2nd Annual Braves Club Car Cash Bash!! More information will be available in the next few weeks. Make sure to check The Braves Club page of the Official UNCP Athletic Website for more details!!**

**Givens Performing Arts Center and Campus Events**  
 Do not forget to visit the Givens Performing Arts Center web page for a listing of the 2011-2012 shows and performances. Also, check the University calendar to see what exciting campus events are open to UNCP alumni, friends, and the local community.

**GPAC EVENTS**  
**UNIVERSITY CALENDER**