



BRAVES CLUB

# THE BRAVES REPORT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRAVES CLUB

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Robeson County Hall of Fame announced their 2011 inductees, and the UNC Pembroke family has reason to celebrate. Three UNC Pembroke graduates and sports stars are included in the 2011 inductees - Pat Willoughby '76 (Basketball), Kelvin Sampson '78 (Baseball & Basketball), and Lenwood Graham '78 (Track and Field & Basketball). In addition to our alumni, two of the University's contributors and community leaders were chosen for the honor - Dick Taylor and Jim Thomas. Each of these five individuals has made countless contributions to the University through leadership, time, and resources. Congratulations to all of them on this recognition, and thank you for all you do for UNC Pembroke!

## ON DECK CIRCLE: WHAT'S COMING UP?

### Braves Spring Sports In Full Swing

March will be a very busy month for Braves Athletics. With Softball, Tennis, Baseball, Golf, and Track and Field all in mid-season form, Braves Club members have no shortage of ways to watch college sports at their finest.

Braves baseball is off to their best start since 1993, and the pollsters have taken notice by ranking the Braves as high as 11th in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association poll. Few things can beat a spring day baseball game, especially when the Braves are playing so well. The softball team has been holding their own against strong competition early in the season. As the Peach Belt Conference begins play, the Braves will look to improve on their 9-7 record. The golf teams are off to excellent starts with the women finishing in the Top 3 in all but one tournament. The women's team has captured two teams championships so far this season. The men have competed well and finished in the Top 3 in four tournaments. Early in the Track and Field season, the men and women have consistently sent Braves to the medal stands. The Braves tennis squad will head to Hilton Head Island this month for a grueling seven day trip. Of the six matches the squad will play during the week, four are nationally ranked this year.

We invite all of the Braves Club members to come out and cheer on the Braves at all of our venues: Sammy Cox Field, Lumberton Radiological Associates Field, the Varsity Tennis Courts, and Dick and Lenore Taylor Track. Each is a great place to see college athletes competing for the love of the game.

**Go Braves!!** Score and schedules are available 24/7 at [www.uncpbraves.com](http://www.uncpbraves.com)

## BRAVES HIGHLIGHT REEL: GET TO KNOW YOUR ATHLETES

**Favorite Food:** Grilled Chicken

**Favorite Movie:** The Rookie

**Favorite TV Show:** Baseball Tonight

**Major:** Physical Education

**Words to live by:** "Success isn't easy." - Jack Leggett

**Best Braves Moment:** My favorite Braves moment came during our opening game this season on February 5th. I got my first college hit that game, and I had my first RBI in the same game.

**University and Community Involvement:** I try to give back to the community/campus as much as possible by cheering on other Braves teams and volunteering to work at campus events.

**Tyler Potter**

Baseball  
Infielder

Freshman  
Kinston, NC



**Favorite Food:** Grilled Chicken

**Favorite Movie:** Dirty Dancing

**Favorite TV Show:**  
The Ellen DeGeneres Show

**Major:** Exercise and Sport Science

**Words to live by:** "In everything that you do give it your all and leave no regrets."

**Best Braves Moment:** My favorite Braves moment took place this year against Chowan. I hit my first grand slam during the first inning, and we went on to win 8-7.

**University and Community Involvement:** I try to give back to the university by attending other Braves games, and supporting events held on campus by student organizations.

**Lynn Grantham**

Softball  
1st Base

Senior  
Goldsboro, NC





BRAVES CLUB

# THE ACTION CAM



## BRAVES HOME SCHEDULE

### Baseball

03/10 2:00 p.m. - Clarion (Doubleheader)  
03/12 1:00 p.m. - Flagler College\* (Doubleheader)  
03/13 1:00 p.m. - Flagler College\*  
03/16 2:00 p.m. - Mars Hill  
03/19 1:00 p.m. - USC Aiken\* (Doubleheader)  
03/20 1:00 p.m. - USC Aiken\*  
03/30 6:30 p.m. - Pfeiffer

\*Denotes Peach Belt Conference Opponent  
Full Season Schedules Available Online -  
[www.uncpbraves.com](http://www.uncpbraves.com)

### Women's Tennis

03/16 2:00 p.m. - Montevallo\*  
03/20 10:00 a.m. - Clayton State\*  
04/02 2:30 p.m. - USC Aiken\*

### Softball

03/16 2:00 p.m. - Mars Hill (Doubleheader)  
03/20 1:00 p.m. - Georgia College\* (Doubleheader)  
04/02 1:00 p.m. - Augusta State\* (Doubleheader)

**GO BRAVES!!**

## MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

03/14 8:00 p.m. - *Spring Awakening\**: Special Event  
- Givens Performing Arts Center  
- \*Due to mature themes, please visit  
[www.uncp.edu/gpac/special/](http://www.uncp.edu/gpac/special/)  
for more details on event content  
03/17 5:30 p.m. - UNCP Honor Choir  
- Givens Performing Arts Center  
03/26 8:00 a.m. - UNCP Honor Band  
- Givens Performing Arts Center

## IN-GAME ADJUSTMENTS: MEET THE BRAVES COACHES



### Lacinda Norman-Melanson - Softball Head Coach

Coach Melanson enters her third season as the head coach of Braves softball. She has improved the team from 18-30 record in year one to a 29-19 record in year two. Melanson joined the UNCP coaching staff following four years on the staff of the University of Louisiana-Monroe as graduate assistant and assistant coach. Coach Melanson received her Masters Degree in Kinesiology during her time at Louisiana-Monroe, and she is a 2004 graduate of the University of Tampa with a degree in Exercise Science. Additionally, she was a stand-out softball player for the Spartans, being named "Major of the Year" and "Outstanding Education Graduate" with a 3.57 GPA. Coach Melanson is supported by Assistant Coach Amanda Thomas.

**What are your goals and expectations for the team within the Peach Belt Conference this season?** Our team has discussed our team goals on a consistent basis and would like to finish in the top of the conference and earn a spot in

the NCAA Regional tournament. I believe we have what it takes, we just need to keep ourselves focused and working hard.

**How will the addition of assistant coach Amanda Thomas impact the team?** Coach Thomas has been a good addition and works primarily with our pitchers. She is familiar with the Division II atmosphere and has been doing a good job helping me prepare the girls to be as successful as possible.

**What has been your favorite moment as a Braves coach?** There have been many great moments with the Braves. One would think that it is the wins that I most remember, and there are a few memorable wins and great games. I did enjoy having the opportunity to coach against my father, the St. Thomas University head coach, the past two years. However, the moments I have had with the girls themselves from day to day, and the relationships I have been fortunate to develop have been the most memorable moments for me. I consider it an honor to work with such a great group of talented young women.

### Coming in April

#### 2011 Braves Club Car Cash Bash

Check the Braves Club web page for the latest details and ticket information.

[www.uncpbraves.com/athletics/Braves\\_Club](http://www.uncpbraves.com/athletics/Braves_Club)

### BOX SCORES: RECENT BRAVES RESULTS

#### Men's Basketball (16-10: 9-9)

2/12 L, 70-72 vs. North Georgia\*  
2/16 L, 65-69 vs. USC Aiken\*  
2/23 W, 89-65 vs. Armstrong Atlantic\*  
2/26 W, 77-55 vs. Flagler College\*

#### Women's Basketball (12-14: 8-10)

2/12 W, 77-68 vs. North Georgia\*  
2/16 L, 52-58 vs. USC Aiken\*  
2/23 W, 83-58 vs. Armstrong Atlantic\*  
2/26 W, 71-51 vs. Flagler College\*

#### Softball (12-8: 2-2)

2/13 L, 3-6; W, 5-3 vs. Catawba College  
2/27 W, 1-0; W, 5-3 vs. USC Aiken\*

#### Baseball (14-1: 2-1)

2/19-20 W, 8-1; W, 6-0; W, 17-5 vs. Bloomfield  
2/26-27 L, 5-6; W, 8-2; W, 6-3 vs. North Georgia\*

#### Tennis (2-4: 0-3)

2/08 W, 9-0 vs. Fayetteville State  
2/26 W, 8-1 vs. Chowan University

#### Wrestling (13-5) [Dual Meet Record]

NCAA Super Region I Tournament - Erie, PA  
2/25-26 T5th out of 13  
Mike Williams, Russell Weakley, Timdarius Thurston, and Brendon Parker-Risk advance to NCAA D-II Wrestling Championship March 11-13 in Kearney, NE.

#### Golf

02/14-15 Newberry College Invitational Hilton, Head, SC  
Team Standings: 1st out of 12  
Individual Standings: 1st, 6th, T8th, T10th, 15th