Lady Braves drop PBC doubleheader

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

The UNCP softball team dropped a pair of Peach Belt Conference road games at Georgia Southwestern on Feb. 20, with the Lady Braves falling in game one by a 7-1 score before coming up just short in a game two, 4-3 loss.

In the first game, the Lady Braves did not get on the scoreboard until the sixth inning and left 10 runners on base throughout the contest.

UNCP plated its only run in the top of the sixth inning while sophomore Hillary Jones drew a two-out walk before a single by fellow sophomore Kellie Van Dyke moved Jones to scoring position.

A single from UNCP freshman Schanique Barrett plated Jones.

The Lady Braves finished the first game with only seven hits, as Barrett was 2-for-4 and Jones was 1-for-1 with a walk to lead UNCP's hitting.

UNCP sophomore Starr Gilley was saddled with the loss inside the circle for the Lady Braves, as Gilley gave up four earned runs in just two innings of work.

In game two, the Lady Braves jumped on the scoreboard early, scoring all three runs in the first frame but being unable to capture a hit past that inning in a 4-3 loss.

The Lady Braves only managed two hits, both in the first inning, as Barrett singled before moving around the bases and scoring on a fielder's choice by senior Courtney Hill, who would reach base due to a throwing error.

Sophomore Holly Berry reached base via a walk before senior Loren Bartz singled down the line to drive home Hill. Berry would score during senior Jamie Burwell's at bat and the Lady Braves held a 3-0 lead.

The score remained the same until the fourth inning, when Georgia Southwestern scored two runners, before tying the game with a run in the bottom of the fifth.

In the sixth, Georgia Southwestern's Katie Wooten delivered a RBI-single that would eventually give the hosts the 4-3 win and doubleheader sweep.

Junior Jamie Burwell took the loss in game two for the Lady Braves after giving up two runs in 2-2/3 innings of work despite striking out four batters.

Photo by Gabrielle Lover
Lady Brave Starr Gilley delivers a pitch earlier this season. Gilley took the loss in UNCP's game one loss to Georgia Southwestern on Feb. 20.

Softball takes one of two from Barton

Photo by Nick Faulkner
UNCP's Courtney Hill swings at a pitch against Barton on Feb. 17. Hill had one of the Lady Braves' eight hits in UNCP's 2-1 loss.

By DJ McCray
Sports Writer

The UNCP Braves softball team split games in an exciting doubleheader against Barton College Feb. 17 in the Braves' very own backyard.

The Lady Braves couldn't pull out game one's nerve wracker as they fell short to the Bulldogs 2-1.

The Bulldogs broke the 1-1 tie open in the top of the 7th inning and the Braves never regained the lead.

UNCP, 6-5, was able to get eight hits against Barton starter Kendall Street but only scored one run.

Lady Braves freshman Schanique Barrett scored the Braves only run after reaching base with a single before stealing to second.

Barrett eventually scored off a hit by senior Morgan Patrick.

The Braves had one of the best opportunities of the game to open the score up when they loaded the bases only to have a disappointing end to the inning.

In the second game, Lady Braves pitcher Starr Gilley was aggressive at the mound as she lead UNCP to a 5-0 bounce back win.

With the scored tied at 0-0 in the bottom of the fourth, pinch runner Taylor Cloninger of the Lady Braves scored off two Bulldog errors.

Jamie Burwell tallied a RBI after advancing to second on another Bulldog error and a hit by Ashley Harrell.

The Lady Braves would add three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Senior Courtney Hill hit a RBI-single into left field scoring Barrett from second base.

Senior Loren Bartz hit a single allowing Hill to take third before sophomore Holly Berry hit a RBI single to bring Hill home to score.

Bartz scored the final run for UNCP when Burwell hit a single to center field.

UNCP's record moved to 7-5 after the two games, while Barton improved to 3-7 overall.

Lady Braves split doubleheader with Catawba

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

A Catawba College grand slam in game one of a doubleheader allowed the visitors all the runs they needed in the opener, while a UNCP homer in game two finished off the Lady Braves win and a split between the two teams on Feb. 13.

In the opener, Catawba jumped ahead 4-0 after Khourtni Hester's grand slam, but the Lady Braves answered right back in the bottom of the first.

Back-to-back doubles by seniors Morgan Patrick and Loren Bartz plated the first UNCP run of the day when Patrick scored. Lady Brave sophomore Holly Berry's single drove in Bartz to cut the Catawba lead to 4-2.

After the visitors added another run in the top of the second inning, UNCP clawed back after sophomore Ashley Harrell drew a bases loaded walk to bring home senior Courtney Hill.

Catawba put the final nail in the board in the top of the fourth inning when they added their final run of the first game.

Berry was a perfect 3-for-3 in the opener, including her RBI-single, while Patrick added two hits and freshman Schanique Barrett tallied two hits of her own.

Black and Gold freshman Natalie Klemann took the game one loss after giving up the four runs in the first inning.

In game two, junior Jamie Burwell struck out 10 Catawba batters in seven innings of work inside the circle to pick up the win for the Lady Braves.

UNCP used a three hit second inning, combined with two Catawba errors, to tally three runs in the frame.

Berry picked up an RBI-single when she drove home Patrick in the bottom of the fifth inning to up the Lady Braves' lead before senior Lynn Grantham delivered a sixth inning solo home run to finish off the UNCP win in the second game.

Sophomore Kellie Van Dyke had two hits and an RBI in the second game, while Berry turned in her second 3-for-3 performance of the afternoon.

Photo by Nick Faulkner
Lady Brave Loren Bartz swings at a pitch earlier this season. Against Catawba, Bartz scored UNCP's first run in game one of their series against Catawba on Feb. 13.

Photo by Nick Faulkner
Lady Braves freshman Natalie Klemann delivers a pitch in earlier action this season. Klemann took the loss in game one of UNCP's doubleheader against Catawba.