

Tennis spends break in Hilton Head

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

With most students vacationing on Spring Break, the UNCP tennis team instead spent the week out of school in Hilton Head, S.C., where they played in six matches from March 4-11, finishing 2-4 in the contests.

The Lady Braves picked up wins over Tusculum and



Photo by Nick Faulkner
UNCP's Jenna McGary serves during a match earlier this year. The Lady Braves spent Spring Break playing in Hilton Head, S.C.

Clarion, while dropping matches against Mercyhurst, Indiana (Pa.), Armstrong Atlantic and Charleston (W.Va.) throughout the week.

Mercyhurst

In the opening match, Mercyhurst lost just seven games total, besting UNCP 7-2 on March 4.

Mercyhurst swept through doubles play before winning three singles matches in straight sets.

The Lady Braves picked up their only points in singles play in the No. 4 and No. 6 matches.

Senior Maricel Quintero picked up a 7-5, 6-3 win in the No. 4 match before fellow senior Christian Minnick tallied a 6-3, 705 triumph on court No. 6.

Tusculum

On March 7, the Lady Braves eased into a 6-3 win over Tusculum, with UNCP winning four singles matchups in straight sets.

In singles play, Minnick opened the scoring with her 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) win in the No. 6 matchup before No. 1 Jenna McGary finished her match quickly, with set wins of 6-0 and 6-2.

Freshman Madeline DiNunzio won 6-3, 6-3 in her No. 5 singles matchup and sophomore Mia Winterbot-

tom bested Tusculum in the No. 2 match by 6-4 and 7-5 scores.

In doubles play, the duo of McGary and freshman Hannah Herlocker took the No. 1 matchup, while Winterbottom and DiNunzio rallied back to win their No. 2 doubles matchup.

Indiana (Pa.)

Indiana (Pa.), ranked seventh in the latest Atlantic Region rankings by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, had no problem with UNCP on March 8, defeating the Lady Braves 8-1.

Minnick picked up the only UNCP point in her No. 6 singles matchup, rallying back from a first set, 6-7 loss before winning 6-0 and then winning a 10-3 super set to get the win.

Armstrong Atlantic

Hours after falling to Indiana (Pa.), the Lady Braves made the short ride over to face Peach Belt Conference foe Armstrong Atlantic on March 8.

Armstrong Atlantic, the nation's top team and three-time defending national champion, swept UNCP 9-0 while winning all singles matches in straight sets.

Featuring three of the country's top-ranked singles players and the NCAA Division II's top-ranked dou-



Photo by Nick Faulkner
UNCP's Mia Winterbottom returns a shot earlier this season. Winterbottom and the Lady Braves went 2-4 playing games in Hilton Head, S.C. over Spring Break.

bles team.

Armstrong Atlantic had no problem winning their 57th consecutive match, a streak dating back to March 2009.

Charleston (W.Va.)

The Lady Braves were right back on the court on March 9, when they debuted a shuffled lineup that gave 34th-ranked Charleston (W.Va.) a run for its money before falling 6-3.

UNCP picked up wins in each of the top three singles matches, with McGary picking up an upset victory in the No. 1 match, while Winterbottom had little

trouble in the No. 2 matchup and Herlocker rallied back for a three-set win in the No. 3 singles matchup.

Clarion

UNCP wrapped up their trip on a positive note, blasting Clarion 9-0 on March 11 in their final match.

The highlight of the match came from freshman and Pembroke native Kelsey Hunt, who picked up a win in her first collegiate match in the No. 6 singles position.

UNCP now heads back into PBC play, with their record standing at 4-8 after the trip.

Lady Braves drop close match on the road



Photo by Nick Faulkner
UNCP's Jenna McGary returns a shot against Chowan Feb. 26. McGary won her No. 1 singles matchup 6-2, 6-3.

Lady Braves have no issue dismissing visiting Chowan

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

It didn't take long for the UNCP women's tennis team to find something that has been hard to come by – a win – against Chowan University on Feb. 26, as the Lady Braves picked up an easy 8-1 victory.

The win was the Lady Braves first since their season-opening win over Fayetteville State after losing their last four contests.

Overall, UNCP lost just eight total games in singles play while also tallying two easy wins in doubles action.

In doubles play, UNCP's No. 3 team of seniors Maricel Quintero and

Christian Minnick didn't take long to dispose of their No. 3 opponents in a 8-0 win, while the Lady Braves' No. 2 doubles team didn't find much of a matchup either. Sophomore Mia Winterbottom and freshman Madeline DiNunzio yielded only two points in their 8-2 win.

The No. 1 doubles matchup provided the most excitement, as UNCP senior Jenna McGary and sophomore Beverly Vause fell behind in the first five games before winning five of the next six games to pull close before falling 8-6 in what proved to be Chowan's only point of the afternoon.

In the singles matchups,

UNCP found little trouble. McGary found the biggest challenge against Inesa Asatryan in the No. 1 singles matchup, winning 6-2, 6-3.

In the No.2 matchup, Winterbottom had no trouble with Tata Lunney, blanking her in straight sets 6-0, 6-0, while Quintero also shut out Jennifer Mitchell 6-0, 6-0 in the No. 3 singles match.

DiNunzio's 6-1, 6-0 win over Brittney Moser in the No. 4 singles match officially clinched the team victory for the Lady Braves, Minnick and Vause finished it off with their identical 6-1, 6-0 wins in the Nos. 5 and 6 matchups.

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The UNCP tennis team dropped a close, 5-4 matchup against Peach Belt Conference foe Georgia Southwestern on March 13.

In doubles play, the duo of freshman Hannah Herlocker and senior Christian Minnick wrapped up a 8-3 win in the No. 2 doubles matchup to give the Lady Braves an early advantage.

The match would soon be knotted up following the hosts' 8-6 win over the UNCP No. 1 team of senior Jenna McGary and sophomore Mia Winterbottom.

UNCP appeared ready to hold an advantage going into singles play, but Georgia Southwestern rallied back from a 5-2 deficit in

the No. 3 match against Lady Braves senior Maricel Quintero and freshman Madeline DiNunzio.

Winterbottom tied the score again with her 6-0, 6-2 win in the No. 2 singles matchup, but the Lady Braves saw Georgia Southwestern again go ahead after Quintero and DiNunzio fell by identical 6-1, 6-3 scores in the No. 4 and No. 5 singles matchups.

Herlocker tallied a 6-0, 7-5 win in her No. 3 singles matchup to pull UNCP closer before Minnick added a 6-3, 6-3 victory in the No. 6 contest.

In the deciding match, McGary lost the final two sets 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) after winning the opening set 7-5, giving Georgia Southwestern the win.

Columbus State rolls past visiting Lady Braves

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

The UNCP tennis team found themselves in a tough situation against nationally-ranked Peach Belt Conference foe Columbus State on March 12.

Ninth-ranked Columbus State had little trouble with its 8-1 win.

Columbus State jumped ahead from the start, with their No. 1 doubles team rolling through the UNCP duo of senior Jenna McGary and sophomore Mia Winterbottom 8-0.

Another 8-0 match quickly followed in the No. 3 matchup, with Lady Braves senior Maricel Quintero and freshman Madeline DiNunzio taking the loss.

Freshman Hannah Herlocker and senior Christian

Minnick finished off the doubles sweep, falling 8-2 in the No. 2 matchup.

In singles play, McGary was outed in the No. 1 matchup 6-4, 7-5, while No. 2 player Winterbottom fell 7-6 (7-0), 6-3.

Herlocker and Quintero were both dismissed in their No. 3 and No. 4 singles matches by scores of 6-0, 6-0.

The most interesting matchup came in the No. 5 singles contest, where DiNunzio fell in the first set 6-1 before answering with a 6-0 win in the second set. However, Columbus State rallied for a 13-11 super set win.

The Lady Braves gathered their only point from a default win by Minnick at the No. 6 singles position.