

# Braves have a tale of two halves in win



UNCP's T.J. Johnson looks in a 42-yard touchdown catch between Chowan defenders in the first half of the Braves' win.

Continued from page 1B

quarter gave the Braves a 42-9 lead, but saw Chowan mount its furious comeback attempt.

Chowan connected on a 20-yard touchdown pass before returning an interception 38 yards for another score that cut the UNCP lead to 42-23.

The Braves moved the ball down the field before Elliott Powell scored from two yards out to extend the lead with less than four minutes to go in the third quarter.

Stover lead Chowan to two more scores as he found Hodrick and Holland for touchdown passes that cut the Braves' lead to 11, but the UNCP defense held off the late charge for the



Braves receiver Ben Decelle crosses the goal line for a 25-yard touchdown as Cody Harrington (background) celebrates.

win.

The Braves now get set to take on Wingate on Sept. 17 at 2 p.m.

Wingate leads the all-

time series 3-1, with UNCP's lone win coming at home in 2009.

Wingate comes into the contest at 0-2 in 2011.

## Braves score 33 on the way to Classic three-peat

By Nick Phillips  
Editor

The third time was still not the charm for Fayetteville State, as two late fourth quarter scores pushed the UNCP football team past the Broncos with a 33-27 win in the third annual Two Rivers Classic as both teams opened their 2011 seasons Sept. 3 in Fayetteville.

The Braves have now won the three games in three different ways. In 2009, UNCP fought to a double overtime win before winning last year's game by a 39-0 score as the defense shut down Fayetteville State.

This year's game was looking like it was heading for a repeat of the series opener, as the two teams traded scores before the UNCP defense shut down the hosts in the second half for the win.

Offensively, the Braves were the much better team, as they totaled 536 yards, but a pair of UNCP miscues handed the Broncos 13 free points.

The Braves 536 yards of total offense was one yard short of the school record for total yardage, a mark set back in 2009 in the first installment of the Two Rivers Classic.

UNCP senior running back Travis Daniels finished with a game-high 20

carries for 129 yards and a touchdown, matching a UNCP-record with his fourth career 100-yard rushing game. Sophomore back Elliott Powell finished just under the century mark with 96 yards on 13 carries for the Braves as well.

In his first college start, redshirt-sophomore Luke Charles was a very efficient 19-for-35 as he tallied 270 yards in the air and had two touchdown passes.

Charles spread the ball around to eight different receivers, with sophomore Donald Britt being his favorite target, as Britt finished the night with 99 receiving yards on six catches.

Te'vell Williams and Dom Whittington each had only two catches, but each had a touchdown catch for the Braves.

Darcus Elliott led the UNCP defensive front with eight tackles, seven of which were solo tackles. Dominique Bridges tallied seven tackles, all solo, while Fred Williams had six tackles, five solo, for the visitors.

Fayetteville State opened the scoring late in the first quarter on a 66-yard touchdown pass, but the point after attempt was no good.

The Braves answered early in the second half when Charles hooked up with Te'vell Williams for a

16-yard touchdown that capped off a 14 play, 78 yard drive.

After seeing the Broncos retake the lead with another long touchdown pass, this one 64 yards, the Braves took their second lead of the game when Darnonte Terry scored his first touchdown wearing the Black and Gold as he ran in from four yards out to cap a 80 yard drive. That gave UNCP a 13-12 lead after the point after attempt was blocked.

The first Braves miscue of the night came with just over two minutes to go in

half, when Britt mishandled a punt return and saw Fayetteville State fall on the ball in the endzone. The Broncos took a seven-point lead after their two-point conversion was good.

UNCP wasted no time tying the game again, running the two-minute offense to a five play, 54-yard drive that ended with a Charles fade pass to Whittington in the back corner of the endzone to send the game to halftime at 20-20.

The only scoring of the third quarter saw the Braves take the lead on a Taylor Baskett 25-yard field goal

as UNCP took a 23-20 lead.

Early in the fourth, Fayetteville State regained the lead on the second UNCP miscue of the night, this time a high snap on fourth down as the Broncos fell on their second free ball in the endzone of the game.

Daniels gave the Braves the lead for good at the 8:41 mark of the final quarter, breaking off a 15-yard touchdown run that completed an 80 yard drive.

Baskett added three insurance points with a 27-yard field goal with under two minutes left in the contest.



The UNCP offensive line gave quarterback Luke Charles (13) plenty of time to throw the ball against Fayetteville State, as Charles finished with 270 yards passing and two touchdowns in his first collegiate start.



Braves wide receiver Dom Whittington goes up and gets a touchdown pass just before halftime of the Two Rivers Classic on Sept. 3.



Braves defender Darcus Elliott jumps to try and knock down a Fayetteville State pass attempt in the Two Rivers Classic. Elliott finished with a UNCP-high eight tackles in the contest.