

Black and Gold Player Spotlight:**Basketball's Hughes ready for big season**

By Nick Phillips
Editor

What are your expectations for yourself and the team as you start the new season?

My expectations for myself would be to really contribute on the defensive end with guarding and rebounding. Team wise, we want to get better everyday so we can put ourselves in a position to get as far as we possibly can.

Describe your experience as a UNCP student athlete.

My experience here at UNCP as a student athlete has been a great one over the past year and a half. It's a great environment to really grow in the classroom as well as on the court.

What is your most exciting basketball moment?

Most exciting moment had to be hearing the news last season that we made it to the national tournament for the first time in school history.

Who/what are your biggest inspirations, in basketball and life?

My family really inspires me on and off the court. Not too many in my family have gone the college route so when I got this opportunity to play basketball and get an education it was really a great blessing. Just knowing that they are behind me 100 percent and always have been. It really makes me feel like I can take on anything.

Talk a bit about what goes on in the locker room before a game.

For every guy it's different. Some listen to music to get their minds ready for the game, and some stay loose and joke around. But we all do whatever it takes to get ready to go out there and handle business.

What do you do personally before a game?

Before each game, I usually listen to some music to relax myself, and I am almost always eating some type of candy.

What is the last movie you watched?

The last movie I watched was "Limitless."

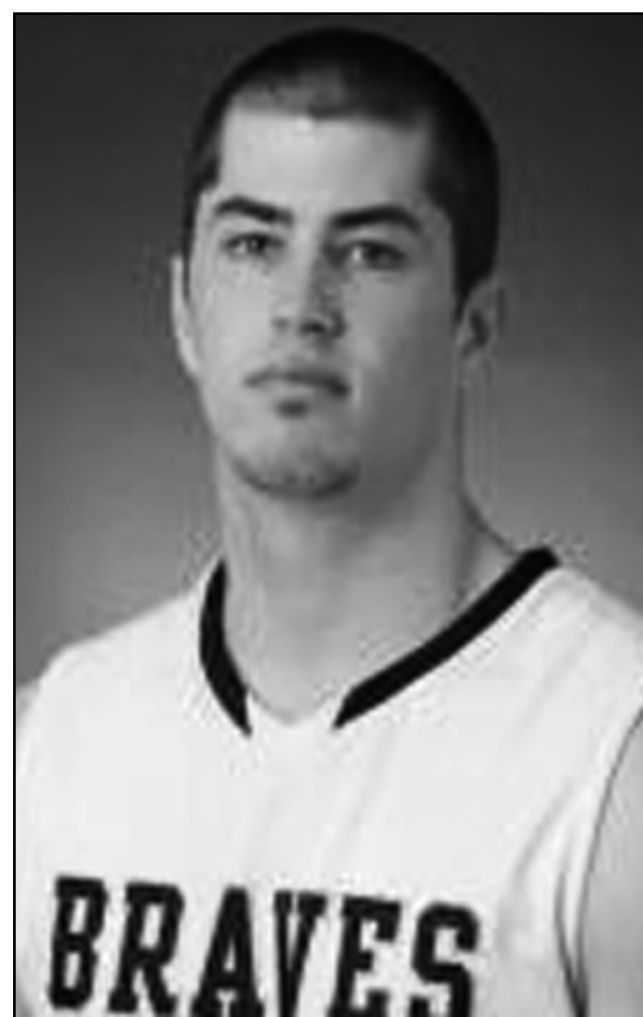


Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

**Bio of the week
Cody Hughes**

Year - Senior

Sport - Basketball

Position - Guard/Forward

Hometown- Rockledge, Fla.

Major - Criminal Justice

2010-2011 Stats

30 games - averaged 22.8 minutes, 6.7 points, 4.0 rebounds per game

Outside the Lines:**Gallentine ready for first season as Brave**

By Nick Phillips
Editor

Taylor Gallentine was a two-sport player at Highland Community College, ready to decide where to continue her education and career.

The volleyball and basketball player decided to challenge herself, choosing UNCP, the farthest school from home and the only Division II school to offer her a basketball scholarship.

"My JUCO was only an hour away from home. I lived on my own, but could go home anytime I wanted," Gallentine, a native of Prophetstown, Ill., said.

"My family was at every single one of my home games, and my mom traveled to all of my away games because the farthest ones were usually in Chicago, which was at most three or four hours. I just felt like I needed to get away and be on my own for a while," she added.

The Lady Braves surely will like her decision. Ready to begin the new season, UNCP welcomes Gallentine as one of its seven new players.

Gallentine's statistical numbers will be welcomed as well.

At Highland, she averaged 15.4 points, 4.3 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 1.1 steals per game last season.

The Lady Braves are looking for players to step up and score. Gallentine does that.

Her Highland teammate, Haley Magee, also made the trip south to UNCP.

Magee averaged 16.0 points, 8.0 rebounds and 1.5 assists per game last season as the duo created a deadly combination.

Does Gallentine think their success will automatically translate into big numbers with the Lady Braves?

"Highland was way different than UNCP basketball," Gallentine said.

"The game plan at HCC was always give the best players the ball. So me and Haley never came off the floor and were always expected to put up big numbers. If we didn't, we most likely wouldn't win. UNCP is more of a team effort and I like that," she added.

In addition to being teammates on the court, Gallentine said she and Magee were 'lost' together when they first arrived at UNCP.

"It's always nice to know someone when you go to an unfamiliar place. We were both completely lost the first couple weeks we were here. We felt bad for our coaches trying to escort us everywhere we went because we had no idea where anything was," she said.

Gallentine said that the weather is definitely nicer down in Pembroke than in Illinois, adding that they have some "really rough winters" up there.

The word "ya'll" had to



Photo by Nick Phillips

Taylor Gallentine runs out onto the floor as she is introduced as part of Moonlight Madness on Oct. 20. The Illinois native is set to tip off her first season with the Lady Braves on Nov. 15.

be incorporated into her language, she had to get over her surprise of how nice complete strangers were, adding that she and Magee talk about people being "too nice."

Despite the fact that she wanted to get away, Gallentine still agrees it's hard being so far from home.

"It's really hard for me because my family is so close," Gallentine said.

She says she and her

four siblings were always together, and that she hates she's missing her sister's senior year in high school sports.

Her 9-year-old sister tells her she misses Gallentine every day and sends the older one stuffed animals in the mail.

"I guess it makes it that much better when I get to see them when I come home to visit," Gallentine said.

"I skype my friends and family almost everyday. But for the most part it gets easier everyday I'm here," she added.

The Lady Braves hope that Gallentine feels more at home on the court with each day she's here, because numbers like she has produced in the past will almost certainly be a help for the team.