

# Wrestlers place at Pembroke Classic

By Nick Phillips  
Sports Editor

A trio of UNCP wrestlers finished in the top-five in the 30th annual Pembroke Classic on Nov. 20 inside the English E. Jones Center.

In-state teams N.C. State, UNC Greensboro and UNC Chapel Hill, as well as Appalachian State and Campbell, were some of the 12 different teams that had wrestlers in the brackets.

A pair of redshirt-juniors, Shiheem Bryant and Dennis Fix, each finished in fourth place in their respective weight classes, while freshman Seth Stewart took home fifth place honors.

In the 174-pound bracket, Fix won his opening two matches of the day before being knocked to the consolation bracket after a loss to Old Dominion's Tristan Warner. Fix battled back for a win over Newberry College's T.J. Cayruth in the consolation semifinals to move into the third place match. Fix dropped a 9-4 decision to Limestone's Bryce Sopko to finish fourth overall.

Similar to Fix, Bryant won his opening match of the tournament before falling to UNC Greensboro's Tony Gardener to move to the consolation bracket. Bryant rolled off three consecutive wins to set up a third place bout with USC's Ben Brummel for a fourth place finish.

Stewart won his opening matchup as well before falling to Newberry's Matt Wade to go into the consolation bracket. Two wins, over UMBC's John Lapoint

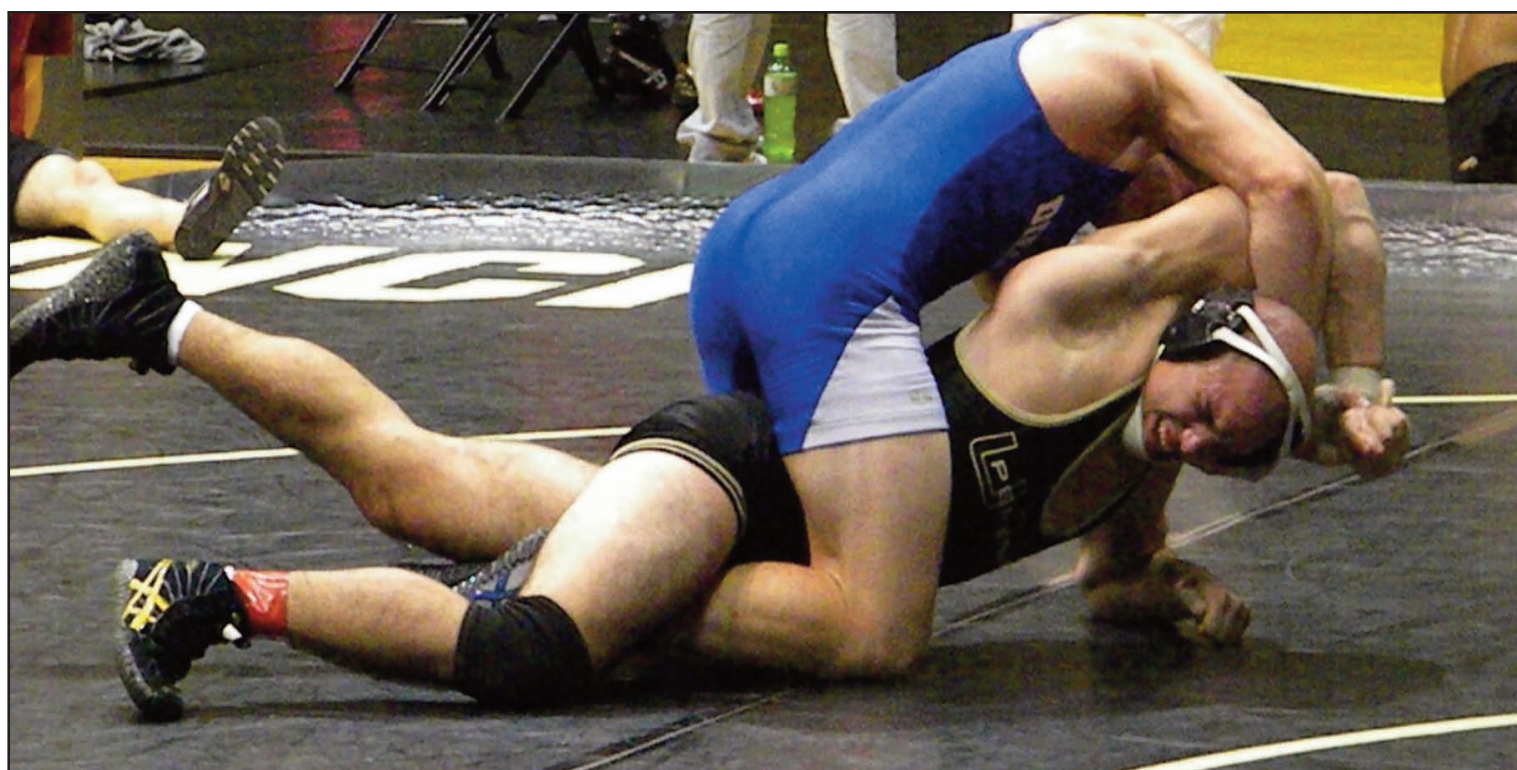
and UNC Greensboro's James Payne, put Stewart two more victories away from a third place finish, but Newberry's Corey Anderson defeated Stewart 7-4 to give the Braves' grappler a fifth place finish.

Other UNCP wrestlers included Joey Farnsworth in the 125-pound bracket, who finished 2-2, Ryan Blackwell at 133 pounds (1-2), Luis Camacho (3-1) and Joe Figueroa (1-2) in the 141-pound bracket, John Vann (0-2) at 149 pounds, Tommy Neil (1-2), Jake McKay (2-2) and Chris Foy (1-2) all in the 157-pound bracket, Jake Ferguson (2-2) and Kenny Lindsay (2-2) at 165 pounds, Timmy Dunn (0-2), Jordan Ford (1-2) and Fix in the 174-pound bracket, Bryant at 184 pounds, Chris Giddens (2-2), James De La Riva (1-2) and Stewart in the 285-pound bracket.



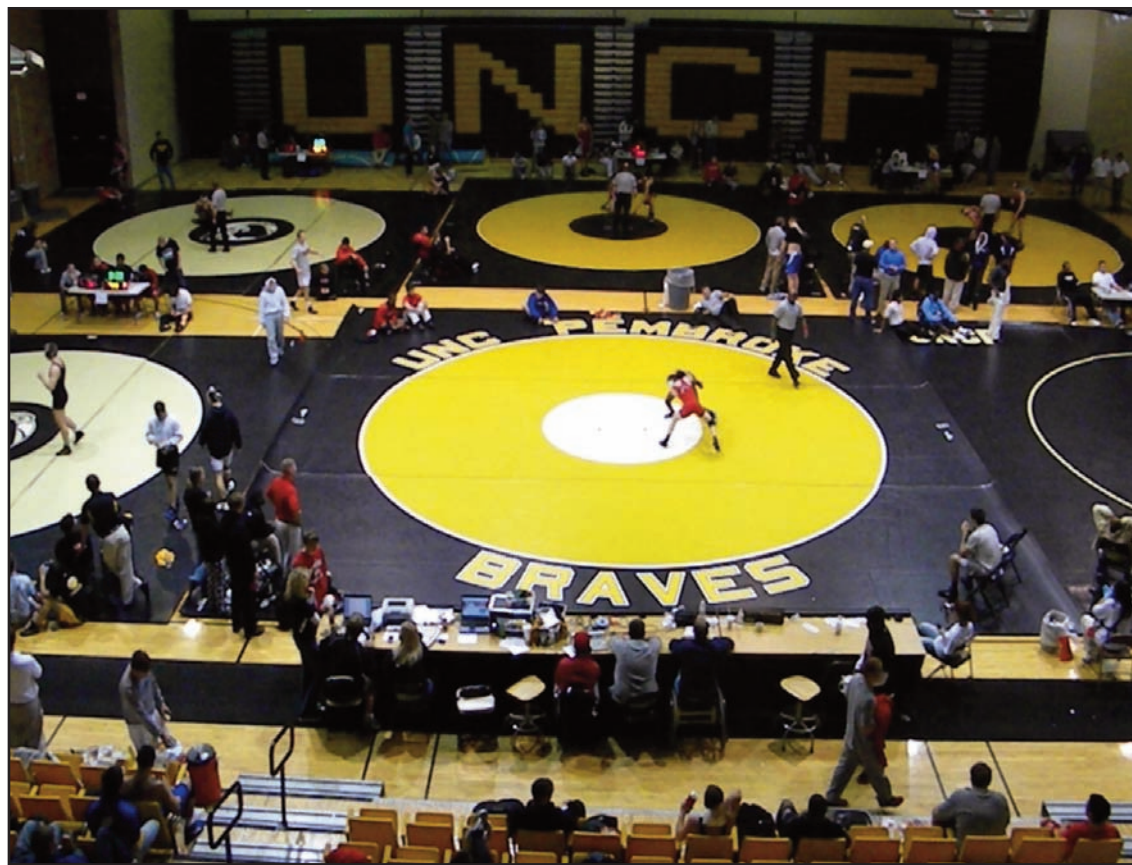
Braves' wrestler Shiheem Bryant wrestles a match as UNCP head coach Jamie Gibbs watches in the background. Bryant finished his day with a fourth place finish in the 165-pound weight class.

Photo by Nick Phillips



UNCP's Jake Ferguson gets stretched out during one of his matches at the 30th annual Pembroke Classic. Ferguson finished the tournament with a 2-2 record in the 157-pound tournament bracket.

Photo by Nick Phillips



Action takes place on six different mats inside the English E. Jones Center during the 30th annual Pembroke Classic. Twelve different schools competed in the tournament, including several NCAA Division I teams.

Photo by Nick Phillips



UNCP heavyweight wrestler Seth Stewart grapples with an opponent in the Pembroke Classic. Stewart finished fifth in his weight class.

Photo by Nick Phillips

## Braves rally for comeback win over Belmont Abbey



UNCP's Luis Camacho hits a move during the Pembroke Classic. Camacho lost his match against Belmont Abbey before the Braves came back for a 19-16 win.

Photo by Nick Phillips

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The UNCP wrestling team overcame a strong start by Belmont Abbey to take the match 19-16 on Nov. 17, winning the final four matches for the comeback win.

UNCP bounced back from a 6-4 deficit to win the matchup as Dennis Fix, Shiheem Bryant, Shane Nolan and James De La Riva rolled off consecutive victories to bring the Braves to the win.

Fix won his 174-pound match by a close, 3-2 decision before Bryant won his 184-pound contest 6-3.

Nolan, ranked 7th regionally in his weight class, won his 197-pound matchup by a 10-5 score before De La Riva won the 285-pound heavyweight match by a 5-2 decision to secure the win.

This four-match comeback movement racked up a total of 24 points for the Braves, twice as many as Belmont Abbey in the same period.

The Braves got off to a shaky start as

Belmont Abbey's Shane Summerlin pinned Joey Farnsworth in the opening 125-pound matchup, pinning Farnsworth at the 2:39 mark.

UNCP senior Russell Weakley earned a 12-4 major decision victory and freshman Tyquan Easton earned a 5-2 decision victory to pull the team ahead in their 133-pound and 141-pound matchups, respectively.

Belmont Abbey answered by downing UNCP's Luis Camacho at 149-pounds, Chris Foy at 157-pounds and Jake Ferguson at 165-pounds to take a 16-7 lead heading into the final four matchups.

In those three matches, the Crusaders' David Saley, Appolon Jean-Paul and Jake Verilek outscored UNCP 23-10.

The Braves moved to 1-0 with the win, while the Crusaders dropped to 1-3.

UNCP hosts Anderson on Dec. 2 before competing in the Davidson Open, the Newberry Duals and the Midwest Classic throughout the rest of December.

In January, the Braves compete in two more tournaments before hosting the NCAA Division II Super Region I Duals on