

# Volleyball starts season 2-2 at invitational

By Matt Smith  
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold volleyball team opened the 2009 season with an impressive 3-0 shutout of Coker College Aug. 28, and finished the weekend with a 2-2 record at the Lenoir-Rhyne Invitational to open the year.

After their opening win, the Braves dropped games to Catawba and host Lenoir-Rhyne before closing out the weekend with a .500 record with a win against Belmont Abbey.

In the team's first game against Coker, the Braves easily handled the Cobras in straight sets with a 25-11, 25-17 and 25-21 victory.

## Hartley leads

The Braves were led offensively by senior middle hitter Jessica Hartley who picked up a team-high seven kills and six blocks in the matchup.

Sophomore Tiara Anderson also tallied six kills in the contest.

Freshman Morgan Ridge led the team with 14 assists in her first college game and senior Whitney Hanlin added 11 assists of her own to give the Braves 25 total assists on the night.

With the win, Pembroke now holds a 24-2 lifetime record against Coker and has won the last four meetings against the Cobras.

## Sandwiched losses

After opening with a win, the Braves dropped their next two games both 1-3 against Catawba and



UNCP volleyball player Jessica Hartley picked up 15 blocks in the Braves' loss to Catawba at the Lenoir-Rhyne Invitational.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

Lenoir-Rhyne.

In their late game against Catawba Aug. 28, the Braves fell 18-25, 27-25, 20-25 and 26-28 in four sets to the Indians.

Last season's Peach Belt Conference freshman of the year Allie Schneider, along with senior right side hitter Lizzie O'Connor amassed 11

kills apiece to leave the Braves, while Hartley against have an impressive offensive showing with 10 kills of her own.

Hanlin and Ridge again combined to lead the Braves with 19 and 18 assists respectively.

Defensively, junior Caitlin Haworth totaled

17 digs on the night and Hartley tallied an imposing 15 blocks as the team out-blocked Catawba 19.5-8.

But even with the high offensive and defensive outputs, the Braves were haunted by errors, as the team could not overcome 29 attack errors and 10 service errors in the loss.

After posting a 1-1 record in the first day of the event, the Black and Gold met with host Lenoir-Rhyne and fell 1-2 (23-25, 18-25, 25-18, 19-25) in four sets.

## Host too strong

The Braves closed out the Invitational with a 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 25-17)

straight set victory over the Belmont Abbey Crusaders.

Game information for both contests was not available at press time.

The win over the Crusaders was the Braves' fifth straight over Belmont Abbey.

With the final win, the Braves finished 2-2.



UNCP volleyball player Allie Schneider was named to the PBC preseason All-Conference team.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

## Schneider earns volleyball award

By Matt Smith  
Sports Editor

Black and Gold sophomore volleyball player Allie Schneider was honored by the conference Aug. 21, as the Braves leading hitter was named to the nine member Peach Belt Conference Preseason team.

Schneider, a Cincinnati, Ohio, native and the 2008 PBC Freshman of the Year honoree, led the Black and Gold with 322 kills last season as a first year player.

Schneider finished third in the conference in kills and finished ranked in the top-10 with 304 digs.

The sophomore fin-

ished the year with a .220 hitting percentage and had a 3.22 kills per set average in 200 sets played for the Black and Gold last season.

## Ace leader

Schneider also led the Braves with 36 service aces in her first season while directing a young Braves' squad to a 13-19 overall record.

The sophomore was the only Brave player to be named to the preseason voted on by the conference's head coaches, and in the Black and Gold's first tournament of 2009 on Aug. 28-29, Schneider helped lead the Braves to two road wins in the Lenoir-Rhyne Invitational.

# Dammann earns Peach Belt academic honors

By Matt Smith  
Sports Editor

Sophomore women's golfer Katja Dammann picked up one of the nation's top academic honors July 1, earning a spot on the National Golf Coaches Association's Division II All-American Scholar team.

Dammann joined 409 other Division I, II and III women's collegiate golfers who were also recognized with the prominent honor.

Dammann led the Lady Braves' golf team with five top-5 finishes and posted a team love 1521 strokes in 10 events for the Black and Gold in 2008-2009.

In two seasons, Dammann has an 81.7 stroke-per-round average and posted a career-low 76 in two tournaments last season.

## Top finish

Dammann's best finish came at the Oct. 7 Myrtle Beach Intercollegiate last year

where the sophomore shot a two-round 155 to finish second overall.

To be named to the All-American Scholar team in Division II athletics, a student athlete must participate in 66 percent of their team's rounds and maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

The Lady Braves' golf team will open the season Sept. 7 at the Battle at Bayonet in Raeford, N.C.

The team will compete in four fall tournaments before the spring season begins.



UNCP women's golfer Katja Dammann makes the grade on the field and in the classroom.

Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information