

UNCP volleyball 'digs' into worthy cause

By Nick Phillips
Asst. Sports Editor

As part of their Oct. 21 home match against Elizabeth City State University, the Lady Braves volleyball team hosted their second annual Dig Pink game. UNCP players swapped their traditional jersey colors for pink ones, while coaches, officials and fans all wore pink ribbons.

The idea for a Dig Pink game and fundraiser came from senior setter Whitney Hanlin, who created the event as her senior project for her management/marketing major. The first event last year was designed to raise awareness, while this year the team's focus was to raise money.

"My aunt had breast cancer, so it is connected to me that way. I am also a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, and breast cancer is our philanthropy," Hanlin said.

Dig Pink is an event created by the Side-Out Foundation and is a month-long Breast Cancer Awareness Rally held throughout the month of October. As of Oct. 23 there were a total of 877 teams nationwide participating, including 320 colleges and 540 high schools, and a total of \$207,531.84 has been



Black and Gold freshman Shay Peterson (6) and Sam Smith (4) block a shot in the Braves 3-1 win over Elizabeth City State. Senior volleyball player Whitney Hanlin helped to organize the "Dig Pink" match for her senior project.

Photo by Nick Phillips

raised to date.

"We are more than willing to do our part to raise as much money as we can for Breast Cancer Awareness," UNCP head coach Jeff Billington said.

"If you watch any sport, everyone's got something going on: the NFL, Major League Baseball... I think it's awesome that the girls wanted to get involved in this," Billington said.

The volleyball team set up a table in the University Center outside the cafeteria from Oct. 19 through Oct. 21 to raise money from students and faculty.

During the game on Oct. 21, the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha manned the table, collecting money and selling t-shirts and other items.

The game would be

the first 'Dig Pink' game of the week for the Lady Braves, as they traveled to Greenwood, S.C. to take part in Lander University's Dig It Extravaganza on Oct. 23.



Photos by Nick Phillips

The Zeta's Dig Pink booth (top) allowed students to donate money and purchase breast cancer awareness memorabilia.

Zeta members (left) Heather Reed, Savanna McEwan, Katy Locklear, Heather Roslinski, Suzi Burgess, Whitney Hanlin, Julianna Foley and Heather Blue collect donations at the volleyball game.

Braves' softball to host clinic for local players

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold softball program plans to hold a skills clinic Oct. 31 at the LRA Softball Field on the UNCP campus.

The clinic, open to players ages 7-18, will feature a 9 a.m. inter-squad scrimmage with the clinic following from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Our team will be playing an inter-squad game against each other prior to the clinic," UNCP softball head coach Lacina Melanson said.

"This allows families and young girls who want to come early to be able to see our team in action and experience a little bit of a 'game day' atmosphere," she said.

"Once we wrap up our

scrimmage Coach [Adrian] Tuttle and I will meet with the campers and parents to answer any questions they might have about our program at UNCP or the recruiting process in general," Melanson said. "There will also be a small amount of time for the girls to meet our team and get autographs if they would like."

The clinic will cover hitting basics, defensive fundamentals and pitching techniques.

The Braves' softball staff and players will act as instructors for those attending the clinic, with head softball coach Melanson and Tuttle leading discussions with parents about the college recruiting process and student-athlete life.

"We will place the girls in groups according to their ages and they will rotate in stations," Melanson said. "We will cover all aspects of the game and will even have a pitching and catching station if we have girls interested. Each station will last about 20 minutes long."

"The UNCP softball players will be doing majority of the instruction at each station," she said. "Coach Tuttle and I will be walking around monitoring the clinic and adding instruction where needed."

High school, middle school and travel teams from across the area are welcome to attend.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per individual person and \$20 per person for



Photo by Matt Smith

The Black and Gold softball team will host a clinic for local softball players on Oct. 31. The clinic will cover pitching, batting and fielding basics.

groups of eight or more. All participants must have a parent or guardian sign a consent form in order to participate.

The registration deadline is Oct. 27 for all participants.

Camp brochures can be found online at the

UNCP athletic site, www.uncpbraves.com. For more information, contact Coach Tuttle at 910-521-6348.