

Lady Braves smothered by Pirates' defense

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold women's soccer team managed just six shots in their Peach Belt Conference tournament opener Nov. 3, falling 3-0 to Armstrong Atlantic in Savannah, Ga.

The Lady Braves, who had just come off two road wins against Barton and North Georgia, found a stiffer test against the No. 21 Pirates, as the team only had three players register a shot in the contest.

The Black and Gold hung tough with the Pirates until midway through the first period when a key substitution by Armstrong Atlantic sparked their rout of the Lady Braves. After just 11 minutes into the game, junior reserve Katie Jesser sent a cross to Pirates' leading scorer Kristin Burton for the go-ahead goal.

Burton took the pass and delivered a shot past UNCP goal keeper Rea Segoviano to take a 1-0 lead in the game's 38th minute.

"I was pleased to get back in the win column and get some positive things going late in the season, but I thought that our win against North Georgia last week would help carry into the conference tournament with a little more momentum," UNCP women's soccer head coach Lars Andersson said. "We did play a good first half, but unfortunately we let



Black and Gold junior Jenny Irvine throws the ball in to the Lady Braves' offense. The Lady Braves fell 3-0 to Armstrong Atlantic in their Peach Belt Conference tournament opener on Nov. 3.

Kristin Burton, who I believe is the best player in the league, slip in once behind us, and if you give Kristin Burton one opportunity, she is going to put it home. Armstrong Atlantic is a quality team and I give them a lot of credit. If you make a mistake they will step in and punish you and we made some unfortunate mistakes in the last part of our defensive third that cost

us." The goal would be the only score for either team at the half, as the Lady Braves went into the intermission with a 12-2 disadvantages in shots for the half.

In the second period of play, Burton found the back of the net for the second time on the day, putting in her 26th goal of the season at the 61-minute mark. Burton used a one-

touch shot off a pass from freshman Kristina Pascutti and sent a rocket to Segoviano. The Lady Braves' keeper initially made the stop, but the ball rolled out of her grasp and into the goal for the Pirates' second score.

Armstrong Atlantic would register their third and final goal 12 minutes later, as freshman Morgan Mitchell sent a ball high in the air that Segoviano

misjudged. The ball slipped through her hands and into the net to give the Pirates a 3-0 lead.

For the Black and Gold, freshman Anna Svensson and sophomore Rebecca Womack led the Lady Braves with two and three shots, respectively.

Freshman Fanny Forsman also tallied a shot to give UNCP six on the night.

For Armstrong

Atlantic, Burton finished the game with 11 shots, five of which were on goal.

Segoviano finished with nine saves for the Lady Braves.

With the loss, the UNCP women's soccer team ends the year with a 10-8-1 overall record. The Lady Braves finished the regular season in sixth place in the Peach Belt Conference.

Lady Braves come up big in season finale

By Jared Leblanc
Staff Writer

The Lady Braves came up big in the final regular season game against conference foe North Georgia winning 3-2 Oct. 31 in Dahlonega, Ga.

The Black and Gold hit the ground running and were able to score the first goal of the contest. Junior Faye Corbett passed the ball to sophomore Rebecca Womack who dribbled into the box and shot the ball past North Georgia keeper Kirsten Ross in just the sixth minute of play.

The second of the Lady Braves goals came late in the first half when Emily DesJarlais ripped a shot from the corner of the

box which made its way past two Saints defenders and into the back of the net.

The final goal for the Lady Braves came just 12 minutes into the second half when freshman Brittany Padilla converted a penalty kick to give the Black and Gold a 3-0 advantage.

However, the Saints would mount a late comeback. Two goals scored by Kelly Penston and Casey Smith came in the 61st and 77th minute looked to derail the Black and Gold. But in the late minutes of the match, they held strong and were able to keep the Saints at bay.

"Tonight was a total team effort. We have had a really up and down season and it was clear that

we were not happy with the number of wins that we had to our record. Coming into this game, we were hurting, but not dead," head coach Lars Anderson said.

"Tonight we had five starters, which for one reason or another were not able to play, and instead of making excuses, we found a solution," he said.

"We had 15 players on this trip that were able to compete, and every one of them stepped up to the challenge of this game. It was a total team effort and I could not be more proud of this team," he said.

The Lady Braves look to prepare for the Peach Belt Conference tournament in which they are currently ranked seventh.



UNCP sophomore Rebecca Womack registered a goal and an assist in the Lady Braves' win over North Georgia Oct. 31.



Black and Gold forward Faye Corbett tallied an assist against Barton in the Lady Braves 3-1 win Oct. 28.

Lady booters blow past Barton

By Jared Leblanc
Staff Writer

The Lady Braves scored early and often in their 3-1 win against Barton College on Oct. 28 in Wilson, N.C.

The Black and Gold dominated Barton from the opening whistle. It took freshman Anna Svensson only 11 minutes to score the opening goal for the Lady Braves.

However, that was just the tip of the iceberg for the Black and Gold.

Eleven minutes later, sophomore Britney Joiner scored the first of her two goals.

The first goal came from a long pass from Samantha Dunn which Joiner turned and shot from the top of the 18, and put the ball in the back of the net.

Joiner's second goal came 10 minutes into the second half after she dribbled by multiple defenders and put the ball between the pipes. That was the last of the goals of

the match for the Lady Braves.

The only goal for Barton came in the 48th minute when Azlynn Aycock was able to shoot the ball past the Braves net minder Rea Segoviano. However, that was the only goal the Bulldogs could muster against the stifling UNCP defense.

"I am excited leaving this game because we have got our forwards moving today, so we have got a good thing going on

up top," UNCP head coach Lars Anderson said.

"We still have some defensive glitches to work out and I would like to see us convert some more set pieces, but today it was as if this team was on emergency life support, and when we saw a glimmer of hope we were really able to capitalize on the opportunity," he said.

"We hope to take the positives from this game and turn that into a snowball effect," Andersson said.