

Men's Basketball falls by 35 to Northern Iowa

By Nick Phillips
Asst. Sports Editor

Before the UNCP men's basketball team left for its Iowa trip, head coach Ben Miller said the team wanted to be able to play against high-level competition as a way to improve themselves before Peach Belt Conference play.

Playing their second game against a Division I opponent in less than 24 hours, the Braves fell to Northern Iowa 79-44 on Nov. 7, in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Before the game, Northern Iowa celebrated Eldon and Dee Miller Day. Eldon Miller, the father of UNCP head coach Ben, led Northern Iowa from 1987-1998, compiling a career record of 568-419. His coaching career included stops at his alma mater Wittenberg University, Western Michigan University, Ohio State University, and Northern Iowa.

"Coach Miller made the McLeod Center dream a reality," Northern Iowa head coach Ben Jacobson said.

"This is an exciting week for all of us as we honor Eldon and Dee for their accomplishments and commitment to the University of Northern Iowa," he said.



Northern Iowa senior center Jordan Eglseider asks for the ball down low in the post. Eglseider had 15 points in the win over the Braves.

Photo courtesy of Northern Iowa

Senior Brandon Thomas had a game-high 17 points for the Braves, while freshman George Blakeney scored nine points of his own. The problem for UNCP was that no other Brave scored more than three points in the contest. Thomas and

Blakeney each collected five rebounds, and Thomas poked free a team-high three steals.

Northern Iowa got a team-high 15 points from Jordan Eglseider.

Teammates Ali Farokhmanesh and Adam Rodenberg each added 10

points to the Panthers' total.

Northern Iowa shot 57.1 percent from the field, making 32-of-56 field goals.

At the half, UNCP trailed by only seven points, helped by Northern Iowa's nine

turnovers. Northern Iowa shot 12-of-27 in the first half, while the Braves made 9-of-25 shooting.

The second half saw Northern Iowa go on several runs to stretch their lead. A 13-1 run to start the second half and 16-4 mark with just over ten

minutes to go in the game provided the scoring margin.

Northern Iowa was on fire from the floor in the second half, converting 13-of-14 attempts to shoot 69 percent. In comparison, UNCP shot 35.7 percent for the game.



Dunn dribbles through Queen's defense.

Dunn honored for academics

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Black and Gold women's soccer midfielder Samantha Dunn was honored for her success in the classroom Nov. 2, as the junior was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America academic all-district three first team roster.

Dunn, a native of Swansboro, N.C., is the first UNCP student-athlete since the 2005-2006 academic year to be named to the academic all-district team.

"I'm happy that I got the award and that I'm being recognized for my academics," Dunn said.

"I get more excited about the accomplishments of the team than I do for my own personal accomplishments, but I am glad that I'm being recognized for all the hard work I've put into my school work. I'm also glad because it makes my parents proud," she said.

This was one of Dunn's many academic honors off the field in her time at UNCP, as she was also named to the 2008 Peach Belt Conference all-academic first team, and is a two-time gold level PBC Presidential Honor roll selection.

In 2009, Dunn has recorded seven total points on two goals and three assists. Against Queens on Sept. 15, Dunn scored the game winning goal to help the Lady Braves top the Royals 8-1.

Dunn is also a member of the UNCP Alpha Chi chapter, an academic honor organization that selects the top 10 percent of the senior class and top 5 percent of the University's junior class.

With the CoSIDA all-district first team selection, Dunn will be eligible to advance on to the national ballot, where she will have the opportunity to be nominated for ESPN the Magazine's Academic All-American team.

Cross-Country has strong showing at regional meet

By Nick Phillips
Asst. Sports Editor

The UNCP men's and women's cross country teams traveled to Wingate University on Saturday, Nov. 7, and fared well. On the men's side, freshman Pardon Ndhlovu qualified for the national race, which will be held on Nov. 21.

The men's team sent seven runners to the meet, as all seven finished in the top 100 runners. The team

finished fifth overall, the highest team finish since their third place showing at the 1990 Regional.

Ndhlovu leads

Ndhlovu paced the Braves, as he has all season, and was again at the top of the pack. His time of 32:14 earned him fifth place, which earned him his spot in the national race.

Freshman Daniel Yeakley was the second Brave to finish, crossing

the finish line 33rd overall. Sophomore Zachary Bayless rounded out UNCP's top three with a 40th place finish.

Ndhlovu will travel to Evansville, Indiana for the 2009 Division II Cross Country National Championship Nov. 21, hosted by Southern Indiana University.

The women's team took six of its own runners to the meet. As a team, they finished 13th out of 23 teams that ran. Five

Lady Braves finished in the top 100 overall.

Lady Braves' runners

The Lady Braves were led by freshman Annette Sem, who crossed the finish line 34th overall with a time of 25:34. Senior Bonnie MacDonald was the second Lady Brave to finish, with a 48th place showing, and junior Catherine Shoemaker finished in 76th place to round out UNCP's top three.



Black and Gold freshman Pardon Ndhlovu ran a time of 32:14 at the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championships. With his time, Ndhlovu qualified for the NCAA Division II Nationals.

Photo by Tony Lewis