

Braves' wrestlers handle Anderson 29-9

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The UNCP wrestling team picked up their 14th win this season Feb. 5, taking down Anderson University 29-9 in Anderson, S.C., to give the Trojans their eighth straight loss on the season.

The Braves picked up eight individual wins in the contest, including a pin and two major deci-

sion in the annual, "Battle for the Belt," competition.

The Black and Gold took control of the match early, as junior Russell Weakley took home a win in the opening 125-pound class battle. Weakley pinned Anderson's Dequan Warner in 2:49 to give the team the opening victory.

Thurston wins

In the 133-pound weight class, freshman

Timdarius Thurston continued the team's winning ways, taking a 12-3 major decision over Cory Monteforte to give the Braves a quick 10-0 lead over the Trojans.

The Black and Gold would face their first set back in the 141-pound weight class, as sophomore Wes Whitman was pinned by Chris Francis at the 4:50 mark to cut the Braves' lead to just 10-6. But, UNCP responded,

rattling off four straight wins in the 149-pound, 157-pound, 165-pound and 174-pound weight class matchups to retake command of the contest.

Senior Brandon Bradley, redshirt freshman Mike Williams and senior Rashaad Saunders all picked up decisions in the 149-pound, 157-pound and 165-pound classes, respectively, before Black and Gold All-American J.J. Davis

picked up a 22-7 major decision over Trevor Sanford.

Closing out

The Black and Gold would finish out the contest with two straight wins in the 197-pound and 185-pound weight class matches, with sophomore Shane Nolan and senior Erik Stancil picking up 7-2 and 6-0 wins, respectively.

With their 14 wins, the

Braves are now just one shy of a school record 15 victories set during the 2002-2003 season. The Black and Gold now move to 17-7 all-time against Anderson and have won six of the last seven contests in the series.

The team will close out their regular season Feb. 12 when the Braves travel to Limestone to close out their dual season.

Braves blow away Knights while five seniors honored

By Nick Phillips
Asst. Sports Editor

In their second-to-last match at home in their collegiate career, UNCP's five senior wrestlers all posted wins on the mat, as the Braves pounded St. Andrews 47-4 on Jan. 29 inside the English E. Jones Center.

Overall, nine Braves recorded wins on the night, starting off with pins by junior Russell Weakley and freshman Timdarius Thurston to

open the night.

Freshman Mike Williams scored five near-falls in the first period of his 157-pound matchup on the way to a 16-0 technical fall victory.

Senior Lead

As for the seniors, Brandon Bradley recorded a 23-7 technical fall victory in his 149-pound matchup, followed up by Rashaad Saunders' 14-4 major decision win.

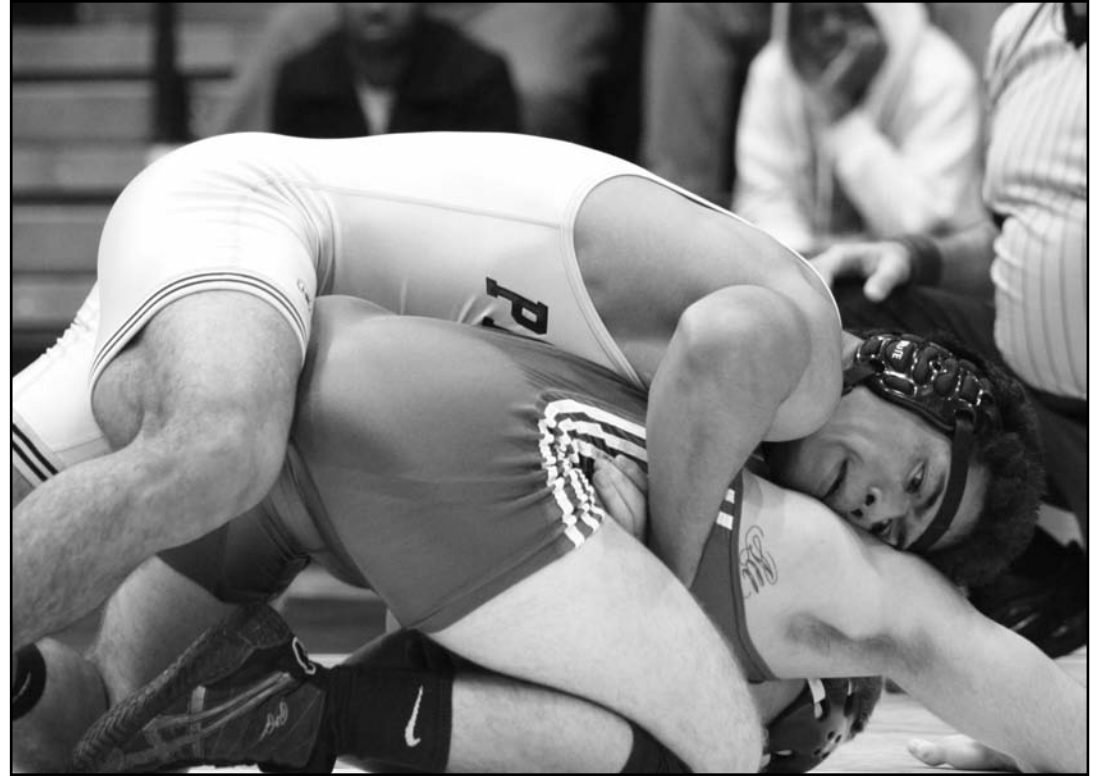
Derving Rios earned a hard fought 12-10 come-

back victory before J.J. Davis and Erik Stancil pinned their opponents in their respective weight classes.

Winning ways

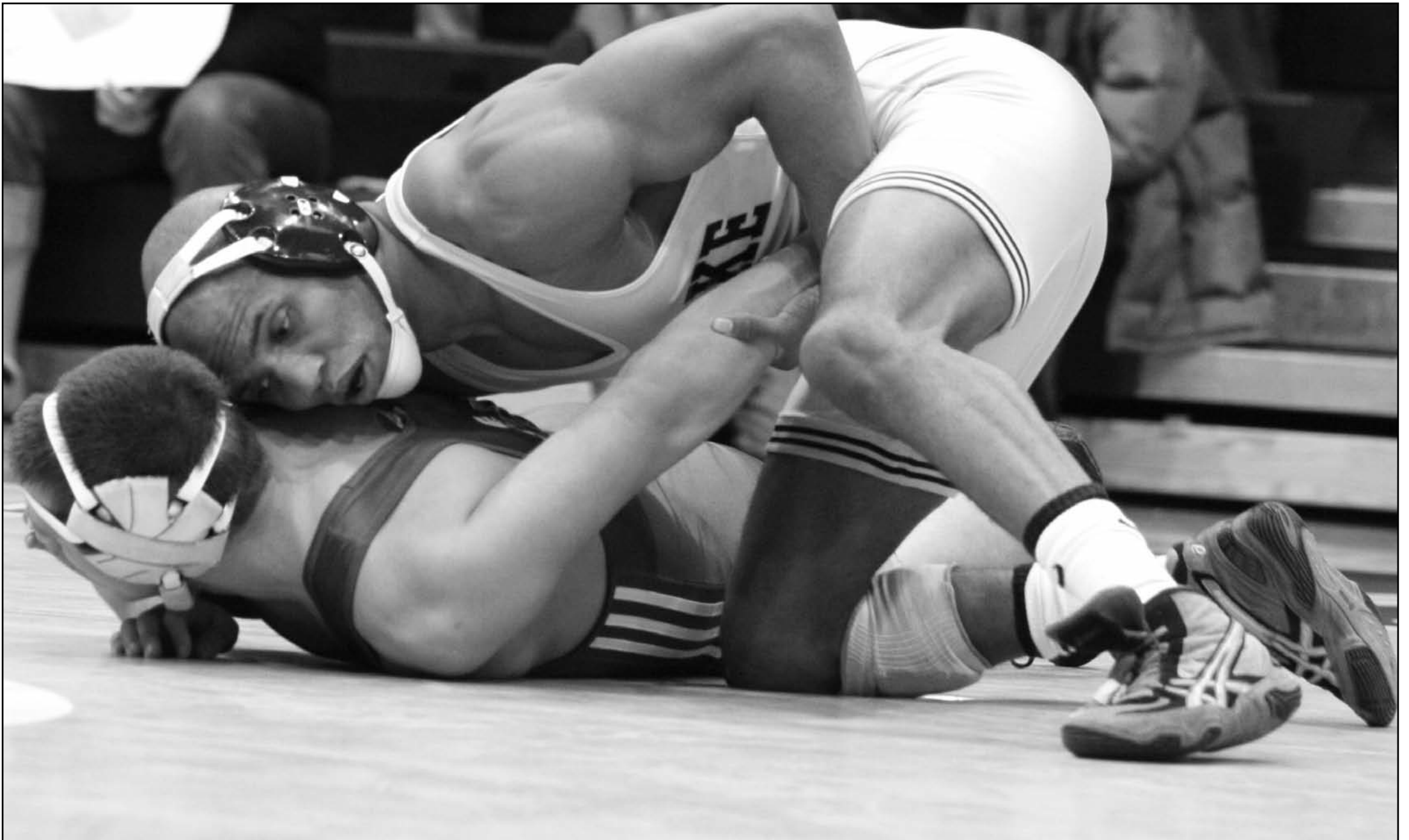
UNCP earned its fourth straight series win over St. Andrews, tallying wins in 38 of the 40 individual matches over those four matches.

The win was the Braves' 13th win of the season, the most since the team's school-record 15 victories in 2002-2003.



UNCP senior grappler Derving Rios wraps up Davin Morris in the team's matchup against St. Andrews. Rios came away with a 12-10 decision.

Photo by Gabrielle Lovier



Black and Gold senior Brandon Bradley takes down his St. Andrews opponent. Bradley was one of the Braves' seniors honored on senior day.

Photo by Gabrielle Lovier

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