

Braves' baseball takes series 2-1 over Anderson

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The UNCP baseball team dropped their first game of the season Feb. 6 at Anderson 16-15, but the Braves recovered with 10-9 and 10-3 victories over the Trojans to take their first series of the season 2-1 in Anderson, S.C.

In the Braves first game, the Black and Gold used five different pitchers, but none could slow the hot bats of Anderson as the home team registered 17 hits in the game for 15 runs.

Anderson broke open the game in the second inning, scoring seven runs to take a 7-1 lead. Anderson would post two runs in the fourth, three runs in the seventh, two runs in the eighth and the game winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

With the score tied at 15, Anderson's Thomas Padro was hit by UNCP pitcher Brian Willis. A single in the next at-bat sent Padro to second, who later scored on the game-

winning single by Ryan Kirkland.

At the plate, the Braves were led by first baseman Seth Kivett who went 4-for-6 with three runs scored. Short stop Aaron Parnell and third baseman Tom Poricelli also picked up three hits in the loss.

Senior pitcher Rudy Brown picked up the loss in relief after giving up two hits in the ninth.

Despite the day one loss, the Braves came back on day two to take both games from Anderson, with an exciting win in the 11th inning of the double header's first game.

The Braves posted a 10-9 win in game one of the double header and took a 10-3 decision in the second game.

In the first contest, UNCP All-American Matt McGovern scattered eight hits and gave up three runs, but a rough outing for reliever Billy Dudding let Anderson back in the game. Sitting with an 8-3 lead, Dudding gave up four hits in a third of an

inning, and Anderson added one more run to tie the game at 8-8.

Both the Braves and Anderson would add a run in the 10th inning, but the Braves' pulled away in the 11th thanks to three hits by the Black and Gold. UNCP junior Joe Magnum led the attack with a double down the rightfield line. Kyle Mastroianni pinch ran for Mangum, and Mastroianni scored on the next at-bat as Parnell tripled to right center.

The Black and Gold shut Anderson out in the next inning for the win.

In the day's second game, UNCP's bats remained too hot for the Trojans, as the team posted four runs in two different innings to take the 10-3 win.

The Braves' entire lineup went to the plate in the third inning as the team posted four runs in the third, registering four runs off of two hits.

The Black and Gold would again post four runs in the seventh inning in the win.



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information
Black and Gold designated hitter Keith Whitman swings at a pitch. Whitman had a pinch hit in the Braves second game against Anderson.

Braves add 16 to football roster on signing day

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

With college football's National Signing Day coming to a close Feb. 3, the UNCP football team welcomed 16 new prospects to the program as the players signed their national letters of intent.

The Black and Gold welcomed 15 newcomers, as well as a spring transfer who enrolled early at UNCP this January.

The Braves' 16 new players will help fill the void of the team's nine seniors who depart the program this year.

"Our assistant coaches did a fantastic job of putting this thing together," UNCP head coach Pete Shinnick said. "They work their tails off every year to find the best fits for our program. We are excited about these 16 guys who fit our program. We knew this would be one of our smaller classes because we only lost nine seniors. We already have

more than 100 guys on the roster, so we were very selective as to who we offered scholarships to. We are really excited about the quality of person, student and athlete that we are adding with these guys."

With their signing day additions, the Braves added recruits at six different positions, with the offensive line and the wide receiving corps leading the way with three new additions apiece.

The Black and Gold will also add two players apiece to the running back groups, the defensive line, their group of linebackers and will take in two players to the defensive backfield.

"We actually hit our numbers that we were trying to accomplish," Shinnick said. "We got a couple more than we thought because the scholarship process worked out that way. We wanted an inside defensive lineman and an out-

side defensive lineman. We wanted an outside linebacker and we ended up getting [Cadareus] Mason as an inside guy because we liked the way he worked out for us. We wanted to get two safeties and we got that. We wanted to get two offensive linemen and we actually got three, so that worked out well.

"We wanted to get two running backs – we got two running backs," Shinnick added. "We wanted to get two wide receivers and, with Joe Burnett already being here, that kind of fit what we were trying to do. In a guy like William Brown and a guy like Dwayne Williams, we feel like we got two very good athletes that can help us at a couple of positions."

UNCP will return 18 starters in 2010 from last season's team that finished 9-2 and made their first trip to the NCAA Division II College Football playoffs.

Basketball to host 'Joe Gallagher Night'

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The UNCP athletic department announced Jan. 24 that the school would honor former student-athlete and former UNCP men's basketball coach Joe Gallagher as part of "Joe Gallagher Night" held at the English E. Jones Center on Feb. 13.

The ceremony will be held between the women's and men's basketball games against North Georgia, with the women's game starting at 1:30 p.m.

Gallagher, who has more than 30 years of coaching experience, graduated from Pembroke State University in 1968. As a member of the men's basketball team, Gallagher posted four-

year averages of 20.1 points and 13.3 rebounds per game. Gallagher's mark of 2,161 points still holds the school's career mark for total points scored.

Along with his scoring records, Gallagher was twice named to the NAIA all-American team, and was inducted into the UNCP athletic Hall of Fame in 1980. Gallagher's No. 24 jersey was retired by the school in 1970.

After his time at Pembroke State, Gallagher was drafted by the Kentucky Colonels, part of the American Basketball Association, in 1968.

Gallagher would later become head coach at three different universities, including Methodist College, Pembroke State

and Belmont Abbey.

While at Methodist, Gallagher was named the Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1975. He was also named the NAIA District Coach of the Year during the same season for his work with Methodist.

Along with his head coaching stints, Gallagher additionally served time as an assistant coach at Richmond, Boston College, UNCG and Campbell.

While at Richmond, Gallagher helped to guide the Spiders to two NCAA Tournament berths, including a 1986 win over an Auburn team which featured two future National Basketball Association stars in Charles Barkley and Chuck Person.

Black and Gold football finishes 2009 in top 25

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold football team registered another "first" to complete its 2009 season, as the Braves were ranked No. 24 in the final D2Football.com Top 25 media poll released by the online publication Jan. 26.

The Braves joined five other Super Region 2 members in the final poll, as Carson-Newman (3rd), North Alabama (5th), Arkansas Tech (14th), West Alabama (19th) and Tuskegee (21st) all found their way on the final rankings list to close out the 2009 campaign.

UNCP finished the regular season 9-2, with their second loss coming in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs to Arkansas Tech. The appearance was the team's first invite to the NCAA Tournament.

Northwest Missouri

State, who finished the season 14-1, finished atop the poll after defeating Grand Valley State 30-23 in the Division II National Title Game.

The Black and Gold look to continue the momentum for their last two nine win seasons into 2010, as the team returns 18 out of 22 starters, including 10 starters on the defensive side of the ball.

All-Region honors

Along with finishing the year in the top-25, six UNCP football players were honored as they earned spots on the Don Hansen's Football Gazette NCAA Division II All-Super Region Two Squad.

The Black and Gold had two selections to the publication's All-Super Region First Team, as offensive guard Hivera Green and punter Justin Hinson landed on the top of the list for the Braves.

In 2009, Hinson averaged 43 yards a punt, with his longest of 57 yards. Hinson blasted nine punts over 50 yards, and had 11 kicks downed inside the 20-yard line.

Hinson was named the team's special teams MVP at the UNCP Football Award Banquet Jan. 31.

On the second team squad, center Keith Broderick was the Black and Gold's only selection, with Quarterback Cory Smith, running back Travis Daniels and return specialist Jamal Williams joining their teammates on the third team list.

Smith started all 11 games for the Braves under center, with a quarterback efficiency rating of 139.8. Smith completed 169 passes out of 261 attempts for 1,784 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Daniels recognized

Daniels, who started



Photo by Nick Faulkner
Black and Gold quarterback Cory Smith throws a pass in the Braves' homecoming game. Smith was one of six players honored with All-Region honors.

eight games for the Black and Gold at the running back position, was the Braves' leading rusher with 1,042 rushing yards in 2009. Daniels finished the season with 11 touchdowns and a 7.1 yards-

per-rush average.

Along with his second team selection, Daniels was named the team MVP for his efforts in 2009 at the team's banquet.

Williams returned 16 punts in 2009 for 203

yards, with a 12.7 yard-per-return average. Williams also started nine games for the Braves at wide receiver, and had a team-high 56 receptions for 654 yards and four touchdowns.