

Braves' softball goes 2-1 at UNCP Invitational

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The Black and Gold softball picked up two wins at the UNCP Invitational held Feb. 6-7, as the team earned a 7-4 victory over St. Andrews on Feb. 6 and a 6-1 blow out of No. 14 Kutztown on Feb. 7 at LRA Field.

The Braves lost their first game of the invitational to Kutztown 2-1 to finish with the 2-1 overall record.

In the Braves' opening game against Kutztown, the Black and Gold looked to start the season off with a victory, but Kutztown's Katlin Arbogast allowed just one run in seven innings of work. Arbogast gave up just five hits in the contest, with no Braves picking up more than a single hit.



Photo by Nick Phillips
Black and Gold pitcher Jamie Burwell winds up for a pitch against St. Andrews. Burwell had four hits and picked up the victory in relief against the Knights.

Kutztown found the scoreboard first in the day's first game, as the Golden Bears posted one run off of one hit and an error in the first inning. Sophomore second baseman Nicole Colineri singled to second base, eventually scoring from third on a balk by Braves' pitcher Caroline Newman.

Kutztown would put one more run on the board in the top of the third inning, as Colineri again singled to reach base. Third baseman Michelle McGinty would triple two at-bats later, scoring Colineri for the Golden Bears' final run of the day.

The Braves' lone run came in the bottom of the third, as the team strung together two hits to push sophomore Jamie Burwell across the plate. Burwell doubled to right center, eventually scoring on a

sacrifice fly by catcher Loren Bartz.

Burwell led the Black and Gold at the plate, going 1-for-2 with a double and a walk.

On the mound, Newman went a complete seven innings, giving up seven hits and two walks while striking out four.

First win

Down, but not out, the Black and Gold came back in the day's second game, picking up a 7-4 victory over regional rival St. Andrews.

Burwell picked up the win on the mound in relief for UNCP, going three innings while giving up a run and two hits.

The Braves struck early and often, posting four runs in the game's first two innings.

UNCP posted runs in every inning except the first, exploding in the second inning with a three run outburst.

The Braves posted three runs in the third on two hits and two errors, with outfielder Morgan Patrick leading off the charge. Patrick reached first on a throwing error, which became a plague for St. Andrews as the Braves' next batter reached on an error as well. A double by Burwell would send Patrick home and a single by Courtney Hill scored the Braves' next two runs.

Just four Braves picked up hits in the contest, but the timely errors helped the team get the win. Burwell led the Black and Gold with three hits and Hill finished the day with two hits and three RBIs.

Braves' revenge

To close out the invitational, the Braves' sought revenge for their



Photo by Nick Phillips
UNCP All-conference honoree Jalena Shaw steps up to the plate in the Braves' game against St. Andrews.

first loss against Kutztown, as the team rallied to take a 6-1 victory over the Golden Bears and finished 2-1 at the event.

Newman posted an almost flawless game on the mound, going seven innings while allowing just one hit and one run while striking out seven batters.

Kutztown's lone run came in the top of the second inning, as Heather Hannum hit a solo-shot to

give Kutztown their only run of the game. Hannum's homerun would be the only chance the Golden Bears had to get on the scoreboard, as the Braves posted six runs in the fifth and sixth innings for the win.

After scoring two runs in the fifth inning, the Braves posted four in the sixth to seal the victory. The Braves scored the four runs on five hits, led by a single by junior

Carissa Dancer. Dancer would advance to second on a throwing error, eventually scoring on a two-run single by third baseman Jalena Shaw. Shaw scored on a double by H. Berry, who posted the Braves' fourth run after a single by Bartz later in the inning.

Hill and Newman were named to the 2010 UNCP Invitational All-Tournament team after the event.

Braves' baseball routs Coker 12-3

By Travis Anderson
Staff Writer

The UNCP baseball team started their season off on a high note with a 12-3 win over Coker College Feb. 1 at Tom J. Field in Hartsville, S.C.

The Braves scored eight runs in the first two innings of the contest, with outfielder Keith Whitman leading the way going 2-for-5 with two homeruns and five RBIs.

The Braves batted .365 as a team, scoring 12 of the 15 players that reached base. Joe Mangum was 3-for-4 at the plate, and Kenny Mickens went 3-for-6 finishing .500 at the plate while driving in two runs and three RBIs for the Black and Gold.

All American Matt McGovern recorded a quality start pitching six innings, allowing three hits, zero runs and one walk while recording five strike outs. Justin Yow came into the game in the seventh inning and picked up his first save of the year. Yow allowed four hits, two runs to score and recorded one strike out.

The Black and Gold broke open the game in the second inning after scoring two runs in the first.



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information
UNCP baseball player Tom Porricelli follows through on an at-bat. Porricelli finished with two hits against Coker in the team's 12-3 season opening win.

The Braves had five hits in the second inning, with a double from Mickens and two singles by first baseman Seth Kivett and second baseman Jason Coker.

The Braves' base runners were brought home by a two-run homer by

Whitman which began the six-run second inning.

Josh Daniels, from Coker, picked up the loss pitching four innings, allowing five earned runs and eight runs to score.

The bright spot in Coker's day came in the form of Terry Lynch, who

was 4-for-4 at the plate and drove in two of Coker's three runs.

The win extended the Braves winning streak to 10 games over Coker, with the Cobras picking up their last win against UNCP in 2002.

Lady Braves win in exciting fashion

By Jared LeBlanc
Asst. Sports Editor

The Black and Gold women's basketball team was able to pick up the 63-59 win Jan. 29 over Montevallo due to their lack of turnovers and solid free throw shooting down the stretch.

The win brought the Lady Braves' record to 11-8 overall and 5-5 in the Peach Belt Conference. The win was also their fourth in a row. The loss brought the Lady Falcons' record to 10-8 overall and 3-5 in Peach Belt play.

The Black and Gold were led in scoring by JaToya Kemp, who scored 21. The other big players for the Lady Braves were Briana Stanton, who registered a double-double, putting in 11 points and having a team-high 10 rebounds. To round out the double digit scorers for the Black and Gold, Cheyoya Jackson powered in 10 points to give the team three players in double-digits on the night.

"We had a good game tonight," UNCP head coach John Haskins said. "It was back and forth a lot, but we had some nice

plays down the stretch. The difference tonight, though, was that we only had eight turnovers. We are all very excited about this win."

Montevallo closes

The first half was a back and forth affair, with the lead changing hands multiple times. The Falcons looked as if they might break out to an early lead when they went on a 13-2 run. However, the Lady Braves went on a run of their own scoring the final 10 points of the period.

To no one's surprise, the second half looked almost identical to the first, with both sides taking the lead multiple times.

Montevallo looked to take the upper hand when they went on a 9-0 scoring run with 12 minutes remaining, but the Black and Gold copied the Falcons by going on a 9-0 run of their own with just two minutes left to play.

With Montevallo being behind, they were forced to foul and the Lady Braves were able to capitalize from the charity stripe and lock up the win.