



Black and Gold forward Briana Stanton looks for an open teammate in the Lady Braves' game against North Georgia. Stanton had a career-high 30 points in the 88-85 overtime victory.

Photo by Gabrielle Lover

Lady Braves blow past Saints in overtime

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

A last-second game-tying 3-pointer by North Georgia's Meredith Montgomery wasn't enough for the Saints to overcome the Lady Braves on Feb. 22, as the UNCP women's basketball team defeated North Georgia 88-85 in overtime.

Montgomery's trey tied the game at 71 apiece as time expired off the clock, but the Black and Gold used a 30-point outburst by junior forward Briana Stanton to outscore the Saints by three in the extra period.

"There are no easy wins in the Peach Belt season," UNCP head coach John Haskins said. "The team had some good moments and individually Briana [Stanton] had a good game and Illya [Hunt] was also a key player for us tonight - Illya's 3-pointers were

huge. We all felt fortunate to get that win."

Despite having a 7-point lead with just less than three minutes remaining in the game, UNCP was unable to hold onto the lead as North Georgia went on a 12-5 run to close out the first half.

Lady Braves comeback

But, even with Montgomery's miracle 3-pointer, UNCP stormed back ahead early in the overtime period, taking a three points lead after a layup by Hunt.

The Lady Braves led 78-75 with 3:42 remaining before a basket by North Georgia's Janyce Ealey cut the Lady Braves' lead back down to one.

UNCP would relinquish the lead almost a minute later, when Kari McCann converted a fast-break layup for the Saints to take an 81-80 advantage. The Saints would go

up by as many as three points after an Ealey layup, but the Lady Braves knotted the score back up as Stanton converted a 3-point play.

Cotten closes

A steal and two free throws from guard DeDe Cotten closed the game for the Black and Gold, as the team picked up its seventh conference win of the season.

Stanton finished the game 13-of-19 from the field while grabbing four rebounds and tallying two assists.

Three other Lady Braves' players posted doubles figures on the night, with Hunt, Cotten and junior forward JaToya Kemp adding 15, 13 and 11 points respectively.

The Lady Braves shot over 50 percent from the floor, with a 42 percent clip from behind the arc.

The Lady Braves will next take on Amrstrong Atlantic Feb. 24.

Lady Braves downed 74-65

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Junior forward JaToya Kemp's 18 points and nine rebounds couldn't propel the Lady Braves' basketball team to a win in Aiken, S.C., on Feb. 17, as the women's team fell 74-65 on the road.

Kemp's 6-for-12 effort on the floor couldn't help the struggling Black and Gold offense, who coughed up the ball 16 times in the losing effort.

The Lady Braves opened the first half on a torrential pace, as Kemp scored the first two points for the team as they went on a 12-6 run to open the game. The Lady Braves took a comfortable 14-6 lead to open the contest and would hold the lead for most of the half until a 3-pointer by USC Aiken's

Brittany Brown cut UNCP's lead down to 30-29 with 2:15 left in the half.

But the Lady Braves responded with a 3-pointer of their own 20 seconds later, as junior guard Talena Faison responded with a 3-pointer to take the Lady Braves' lead back to four. Another basket by Kemp and a free throw by junior forward Briana Stanton closed a late five-point run by UNCP to give the Black and Gold at 38-31 advantage at the half.

Early lead

With an early lead to start off the second half, the Lady Braves would see their advantage disappear in the second period, as the Pacers scored nine straight points to cut the lead to 41-40 in favor of UNCP. A trey and a layup

by Pacer's junior guard Nakia Pinkney fueled the run, but the Lady Braves again responded later in the half.

With 11:53 left to play in the final period, the Lady Braves again took an eight point advantage on a Kemp free throw. The eight point lead would be the team's last rallying cry though, as USC Aiken went on a 12-0 scoring run to retake the lead 57-54.

Back and forth

The two teams would continue battling back and forth for the remainder of the contest, but USC Aiken had just enough left in the tank to outlast the Lady Braves in the game's final minutes.

The Pacers would score the game's final eight points on the way to the victory, aided by a

layup by Pinkney and clutch free throw shooting by senior Kendra Chandler. The Lady Braves missed their last seven shots from the floor in the game and had two turnovers leading to Pacers' free throws.

Poor shooting

For the game, the Lady Braves shot just over 28 percent from the field, with a 9-for-28 mark from behind the arc.

Stanton led the Black and Gold with four assists and two blocks to add to her nine points.

Faison finished with Kemp in double-digit scoring with 10 points.

With the loss, the Lady Braves now fall to 6-9 in the Peach Belt Conference and 12-12 overall.



UNCP's JaToya Kemp prepares to shoot a free throw.

Photos by Gabrielle Lover

Lady Braves down Augusta State 74-61



Black and Gold forward Briana Stanton drains a jumper over the Augusta State defense.

Photo by Gabrielle Lover

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The UNCP women's basketball team picked up their sixth conference win of the season Feb. 8, overtaking Augusta State 74-61 in front of a home crowd at the English E. Jones Center.

The Lady Braves strung together an 11-0 run to open up the game, eventually edging out the Jaguars by 13 points to earn the win.

"I thought our girls responded well after the loss on Saturday [against Flagler]," UNCP head coach John Haskins said. "I thought we played really well defensively in the first half and we had nice offensive spurts throughout the game. We didn't turn it over a lot and we got the ball in the middle of the zone, so I thought we did some nice things."

The Lady Braves opened the game with an 11-0 spurt, fueled by two

3-pointers by junior guard Talena Faison. UNCP junior forward Briana Stanton assisted Faison on both buckets, as juniors Kristen Hobbs and JaToya Kemp added buckets of their own on the run.

The Lady Braves would continue their dominance over the visiting Jaguars, extending the lead to 13 with 8:14 left in the first half. A fastbreak jumper by UNCP senior guard Marquena Delk put UNCP's lead at 22-9, and the Lady Braves would go up by as much as 15 after another 3-point basket by Hobbs.

Kemp would close the half out with two free throws for the Black and Gold, as UNCP took a 37-23 lead into halftime.

After the break, UNCP's offense continued to roll, reclaiming a 15-point lead on another Hobb's 3-pointer with 16 minutes left in the game.

Augusta State would periodically chip into the

Lady Braves' lead, but the Black and Gold led by at least eight points the remainder of the game.

UNCP's largest lead came with 6:38 left in the half, as Kemp nailed the free throw on an one-and-one attempt to put the Lady Braves up 62-46.

The Black and Gold would earn their final basket with 27 second left in the half, as a layup by junior forward Sa'da Ray ended the scoring for the Lady Braves.

Kemp led the Black and Gold with 23 points and eight rebounds, picking up three boards on the offensive glass. Faison chipped in with 12 points of her own and junior point guard Illya Hunt led the team with four assists.

The Lady Braves finished the game shooting 44 percent from the floor and finished with an impressive 9-for-21 performance from 3-point land, shooting almost 43 percent for the night.