

Two former Braves enter athletics Hall of Fame

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Willie Dye, a former standout wrestler and Cindy Allen-Thorndyke, an all-conference softball performer, will enter the UNCP Athletic Hall of Fame as the 70th and 71st members, the athletic department announced Feb. 10.

Dye was a two-time all-American for the Black and Gold in 1980, picking up NAIA and NCAA honors after racking up 126 career wins in his four seasons. Dye's win total still ranks second at UNCP for all-time wins.

"Willie Dye was a phenomenal wrestler for the Braves," UNCP athlet-

ic director Dan Kenney said. "He was an instrumental reason why UNC Pembroke dominated the Carolinas Conference during his tenure. I am excited to see Willie be selected to the UNCP Hall of Fame."

Along with his all-American selections, Dye was also a three-time all-conference selection and a four-time all-district nominee. Dye earned 35 or more wins during his sophomore and senior campaigns, racking up a career-high 37 wins during his sophomore campaign.

Dye graduated from UNCP in 1982. He earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and currently lives in Rock Hill, S.C.

Joining Dye in the 2010 class is Allen-Thorndyke. Allen-Thorndyke was a dominant pitcher for UNCP during the school's last four years at the NAIA.

Softball great honored

Allen-Thorndyke was a four-time all-conference and all-district award winner and was twice selected as the Conference Carolinas Player of the Year.

"Cindy Allen-Thorndyke was a pioneer for Braves' softball having played both slow pitch and being among the first to play fast pitch for UNCP," Kenney said. "She excelled in both and, like Willie Dye, helped UNCP be the dominant team in the Carolinas

Conference during her four year softball career."

Allen-Thorndyke still holds the school record with 44 RBIs in a season and also ranks in the top five with 32 career victories. She finished her career with a .762 win percentage and a .280 career earned run average.

Allen-Thorndyke graduated from UNCP in 1992 and currently lives in Lumberton.

The two former Braves will officially be honored Feb. 26 when they return to UNCP for the 2010 Alumni Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet.

Their likenesses will be displayed on UNCP's Wall of Honor located in the Jones Athletic Center.

Football boasts All-Americans

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

UNCP punter Justin Hinson led a trio of Braves named to the Don Hansen Football Gazette NCAA Division II All-American team Feb. 9, as the Black and Gold punter was named to the first-team list.

Offensive linemen Keith Broderick and Hivera Green joined Hinson with the distinct honor, as the two big men were named to the Gazette's honorable mention list.

"I am very excited for all three players," UNCP head coach Pete Shinnick said. "What an honor it is to have them recognized for their great season and the great season our team had. We have been very blessed in our three years of playing to have had four different players recognized as all-Americans. It's a tribute to our University, the coaching staff and this team."

Nation's best

Hinson led the Braves this year on special teams, punting 40 balls this year for a nation's-best 43.0 yards per punt. Hinson had nine punts that went for 50 or more yards and had 11 kicks down inside of the 20-yard line.

Hinson has already won a bevy of awards this season, posting all-American accolades,

earning a first-team spot from the Associated Press and an all-American honorable mention by D2Football.com. Hinson shared specialist of the year honors with Jerome Hewitt, a return-specialist for Southeastern Oklahoma.

Along with Hinson, Broderick and Green were named to the Gazette's all-American honorable mention list.

Offensive leaders

Green and Broderick were key members on the Braves offensive line that ranked seventh in the country in sacks allowed with an average of just .91 sacks-per-game. The Braves had their first 1,000-yard rusher in school history thanks to the two big linemen.

The Black and Gold finished 2009 with a 9-2 record and made their first postseason appearance, falling 41-13 to Arkansas Tech.

The Black and Gold will return 18 starters for the 2010 season.

With the 2009 awards, the Braves now have four all-Americans in their three year history of collegiate football.

Last year, UNCP safety Caylon Hann earned all-American status in 2008 from the Gazette and 2009 preseason all-American honors from Collegiate Draft Services.

Shaw honored by conference

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Black and Gold standout softball player Jalena Shaw was honored by the Peach Belt Conference Feb. 16, as the senior was named the conference's Player of the Week for her efforts in the Braves' four games Feb. 11-14.

UNCP went 3-1 in their four games against Pfeiffer and Georgia Southwestern, sweeping conference foe GSW and splitting a pair of games

against Pfeiffer.

Shaw finished 7-for-12 at the plate in the Braves' four games, posting a .585 batting average. Shaw posted nine RBIs in the four contests and scored seven runs of her own. The senior third baseman finished the two series with three home-runs and a .643 on base percentage.

Defensively, Shaw finished perfect from the field, recording two putouts and five assists.

Shaw scored the game

winning run on a three-run blast in the Braves' first game against the Falcons and had the game winning run in the first game against Georgia Southwestern.

In the Braves' most recent doubleheader against Chowan Feb. 20, Shaw had another fantastic day at the plate, going a combined 4-for-6, including a perfect 3-for-3 mark in the Braves' second game.

In game one, Shaw posted a 1-for-3 mark at-

bat while knocking in two RBIs in an 11-4 thumping over Chowan. In the second game, Shaw batted a perfect 3-for-3 while scoring three runs in a 15-2 victory.

The two out of conference wins propelled the Black and Gold's record to 8-3 in 2010.

The Black and Gold softball team will next be in action Feb. 26 as the Braves travel to Aiken, S.C., to take on USC Aiken in a Peach Belt Conference doubleheader.



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