

# Black and Gold Player Spotlight

The Pine Needle sits down with UNCP softball player Jelena Shaw as the 2010 season starts.

By Matt Smith  
Sports Editor

## What are your expectations for the team as you start out the season?

We always aim big. We want to dominate the conference and the region. To do that we know we must do the little things well. I expect us to continue what we're doing and keeping each other motivated and working hard so that we can achieve these goals.

## Describe your experience as a UNCP student-athlete.

It has been a wonderful experience. It is a very tough job balancing schoolwork, practices and games, but I would not change it for anything. Other students acknowledge our lifestyles and come out to games to support and go around our schedules when we have study groups to help us with class work. I just feel like the student community works well together, and I enjoy being here as a student and athlete.

## What is your most exciting softball moment?

My most exciting softball moment was defeating North Georgia my sophomore year to clinch the conference title for sure. That was a great year for us, but I want us to make it better this year.

## Talk a bit about what goes on in the locker room before a game.

Coaches come in and gets us pumped up, letting us know that today is different day and that we have to focus on today's work, not the day before or the next day. Sometimes she [Coach Melanson] may tell us about our opponent's weapons so we prepare for them and shut them down. She says a quote that relates to us for the day, and we pray.

## Who are your softball inspirations?

I watch the Olympic team, the pros and other colleges, but my best inspiration comes from my best friend, Sophia. We played high school ball together and she was an all-American at NCCU. She has had a verbal offer to play overseas and I am extremely proud of her, but I often tell her that my goal is to be better than her.

## What do you do personally before a game?

I focus on the task at hand. I like to be sure to get my cuts in. This is the time to get in the zone.

## What was the last movie you watched?

*Law Abiding Citizen*



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

## Bio of the week Jelena Shaw

### 2009 Season

In 2009, Shaw was the Braves' offensive leader, leading the Braves with a .381 batting average. Shaw posted six home-runs and 22 RBIs, while scoring 37 runs for the Black and Gold.

Shaw started and played in all 48 games for the Braves in 2009.

## Lady Braves' golf finishes 12th in tourney

By Matt Smith  
Sports Editor

After posting a 14th place finish on day one of the 2010 Tusculum/Kiawah Island Women's Golf Intercollegiate on Feb. 6, the Lady Braves golf team stormed to a 12th place finish on the second day.

The Lady Braves combined to shoot a second-round total of 335 to finish 12th at the par-72, 5,876-yard Cougar Point Golf Club.

Combined with their first day total of 348, the Black and Gold posted a two day total of 683 for the two-round event.

"The weather and big

numbers hurt us," UNCP head coach David Synan said. "We need to cut back on big numbers when we find ourselves in difficult situations. We have at least five more events in the spring and we will stay positive."

The Lady Braves had three players improve on their first day stroke totals, with freshman Shauna Walor, senior Christina Crovetti and freshman Jenn Crow leading the way.

Walor (87-82) and Crovetti (85-84) both posted a 169 at the event to finish in a tie for 48th.

Sophomore Alexa Mooney (86-86) posted an 86 in both of her

rounds to finish with a 172 for 53rd place, while Crow (92-83) posted a 59th place finish and freshman Abby Shipley (90-93) posted a 193 for a 74th place finish.

Dayton State took home first place in the event with a two-round total of 602. It was Dayton State's inaugural debut in the Kiawah Intercollegiate.

Rollins University (608), Florida Southern (609) and Belmont Abbey (616) rounded out the top-four.

Belmont Abbey's Melissa Siviter took home top individual honors at the event with a one-over par 145 for the weekend.



UNCP senior J.J. Davis earned a sudden death win against Limestone in the Braves' 19-17 loss. Photo by Nick Phillips

## UNCP set for annual Rumba on the Lumber

By Kayloni Wyatt  
Managing Editor

The annual Rumba on the Lumber will be held March 5-6. UNCP plans on participating in the Rumba with the Robeson Road Runners. The Rumba is an annual festival held in downtown Lumberton. Art, music, and food will be attractions at the festival.

Since UNCP is partnered with the event, a limited number of free entries for the LRA 5k will be available. Students, faculty and staff can visit the University

and Community Relations office in Lumbree Hall to receive the entry information. The free entries are limited to a first come first serve basis.

The 5k race begins in central downtown Lumberton. Runners will pass by historic homes, crowded streets and the Lumbee River. The winner of the race will receive a cash prize. All participants of the race will receive a piece of artwork as a token of completion.

The Road Runners are a group of cyclists, runners, walkers, tri-athletes and motivated individuals

who promote physical awareness in the community.

On March 5 a pasta party will be held from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Bill Sapp Center. Live music will be provided by Jim Quick and the Coastline Band. The band Goldrush will be the live entertainment for the Chili Cook-off on March 6.

The family fun mile, the LRA 5k, Lumbee River Kids zone, and the Arts & Crafts show will also be held on March 6. The family fun mile run is free to all participants.

## Wrestlers win final match

By Nick Phillips  
Asst. Sports Editor

The Braves wrestling team finished off its team portion of the 2009-2010 season on Feb. 12, as they traveled to Limestone.

The Braves, ranked number 11 nationally, lost a close 19-17 match.

Limestone totaled five individual wins for the upset of the Braves.

Junior Russell Weakley started the night off, tallying a 17-6 major decision victory to put the Braves on the scoreboard first before Limestone rolled off two straight

wins of their own.

Senior Brandon Bradley would notch a 9-3 decision win in his 149-pound matchup, followed by redshirt freshman Mike Williams' 12-3 major decision win to give UNCP a slim, 10-9 lead.

### Davis wins

In the match of the night, UNCP senior J.J. Davis booked a sudden-death takedown to upset his regional rival Casey Bradley in overtime.

Limestone would take the next two matches, however, to put them in the driver's seat.

UNCP senior Erik Stancil could have given the Braves a tie with a technical fall victory, but was unable to tally the needed points. Stancil did earn a 9-3 victory, though, in the contest's final match.

UNCP finishes the team portion of the schedule with a record of 14-8, just one victory shy of the school record of 15 set by the 2002-2003 team. The 14 wins were the highest dual meet win totals under head coach Jamie Gibbs, and the Braves first regular season winning campaign in five years.