

Lander outlasts Lady Braves in final game

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

The UNCP women's basketball team saw its season come to a close March 2, as the Lady Braves fell 89-70 to No. 9 Lander in the first round of the Peach Belt Conference tournament.

The Lady Braves turned the ball over 22 times and the Black and Gold defense allowed the Bearcats to shoot over 48 percent from the field in the loss.

With the road defeat, the Lady Braves finished the season with a 14-14 record with an 8-11 showing in the Peach Belt.

Lander takes control

Lander opened the game with a jumper by Shannon McKeever and never looked back in the contest, going up by as much as nine points with 11 minutes left in the first half. The Lady Braves would battle back to cut Lander's lead to five with seven minutes left in the first half, but the Bearcats responded, going on a 10-3 run to take the lead at 33-21 with 3:54 left in the first period.

Lander closed the half

with another jumper by McKeever to take a 42-28 lead into the break.

Coming out of half-time, the Black and Gold again cut the Bearcats' lead to single digits with two baskets and a made free throw by junior forward JaToya Kemp. Kemp helped to cut the Bearcats lead to 46-38, giving the Lady Braves a chance to gain momentum and steal the lead.

Momentum slowed

Unfortunately for UNCP, the Lady Braves' momentum stopped there, as Lander surged their lead to 18 with 11:10 left in the second half. The Bearcats had a comfortable margin throughout the second half, leading by as much as 24 on five separate occasions in the second period.

A basket by freshman Jasmine Hairston and a 3-pointer by sophomore guard DeDe Cotten closed out the contest, but Lander's lead held on as the Bearcats took the 19-point victory.

Kemp led the Lady Braves with 22 points and 10 rebounds for her fourth double-double of the season. Cotten finished the



The UNCP women's basketball team huddles around head coach John Haskins during a time out. The Lady Braves lost their final game to Lander 89-70 in the opening round of the Peach Belt Conference tournament.

game with 16 points to join Kemp in double figures.

Junior guard Illya Hunt led the Black and Gold with four assists and freshman Anya Knower

had two blocks in the contest.

Lander advances

McKeever led the Bearcats with 22 points.

Lander, the Peach Belt

regular season champions, moved to 25-2 on the season, with an almost perfect 18-1 mark in Peach Belt Conference play.

With the win, the Bearcats moved onto the

second round of the conference tournament, squaring off against Clayton State in the semifinals of the Peach Belt Conference tournament.



Lady Braves' point guard Illya Hunt scans the floor for an open teammate.

Photo by Glory Attaochu

Lady Braves send seniors out on top

By Spenser Wakefield
Staff Writer

The Lady Braves took the court against a struggling Flagler team on Feb. 27, defeating the Saints 73-48 at the English Jones Center.

This was senior night for the Lady Braves and the UNCP seniors Porcha Locklear, Jodi Zimmerman and Casey Siddens had a night to remember in their home finale.

The Lady Braves had 11 players put points on the board. UNCP was led by JaToya Kemp, who scored 19 points and yanked down 12 boards for her third double-double of the season and ninth career.

As for the seniors, Locklear scored nine points and had a pair of rebounds, Zimmerman

had four points and Siddens dropped two.

Flagler was led by Adrienne Donelson and Charlea Owen who had 12 and 10 points, respectively. Donelson also rebounded the ball six times and had a pair of steals while Owen found two rebounds and an assist.

"I thought it was a team win," UNCP head coach John Haskins said. "JaToya and Talena both had good games and all our seniors had great games - notably, Porcha. She played great and it's always nice for a senior to end her regular season on that high note. This game was a good win for us, and I am just very happy for our girls."

Coming out of half-time, the Lady Braves continued applying pressure and playing great

defense against the Saints, getting points from Kemp and Locklear to go up by 15 in the first four minutes of the second half leading 42-27.

The Lady Braves' defense would continue, which resulted in a lead by as much as 25 by UNCP to seal up a victory in the last regular game season competition.

Flagler's Charlea Owens scored the first points of the game, for the Saints, which resulted in a Saints' lead for the first nine minutes of the first half—largely due to a Jalisa Foster jumper with 15:32 mark putting them up 7-2.

Freshman forward Anya Knower put the Lady Braves back on track with a jumper to switch the lead to one in favor of the Black and Gold.

Kemp's 41 not enough for UNCP

By Jared Leblanc
Asst. Sports Editor

Playing their second overtime game in a row, the Lady Braves basketball team came up just short against the Pirates of Armstrong Atlantic 83-80 Feb. 24 in Savannah.

The loss pushes the Black and Gold's record to 13-13 overall and 7-10 in the Peach Belt Conference. The win moves AASU's record to 9-16 overall and 6-11 in the PBC.

The Braves were led by junior forward JaToya Kemp who scored a career high 41 points and ripped down eight rebounds. Kemp's 41 broke AASU's

record of points by an opposing player, previously held by Joanna Cuprys of KSU who had 38 points in 1997. Kemp went 15-22 from the field and went 11-11 from the free throw line. The other major contributors were Briana Stanton who had 14 points and DeDe Cotten who threw in 11.

Portia Jones led the Pirates by recording a double-double with 24 points and 10 boards. AASU's also had three others in double figures Lauren Hall with 18 points, Dartayvia Thomas with 14 points and Arpine Amirkhanyan with 11. The Pirates also put away a school record by shoot-

ing 13 3-pointers.

Despite shooting 50 percent from the floor, the Lady Braves were unable to capitalize on their offensive explosion. UNCP turned the ball over 18 times in the contest. Armstrong Atlantic took 10 more shots than the Lady Braves, despite shooting just 38 percent.

The Braves started the game off with a Kemp layup and only lost the lead once in the first half and that was only for 20 seconds. After that the Black and Gold rolled in the first half going on a 19-4 run with two minutes left in the half. The Braves were up 18, but the Pirates closed the gap

to 9 making the score 37-28 as the teams went into the locker room.

Chevoya Jackson made the first points of the second half as the Braves went up by 11. However, the Pirates looked to change that as they went on a 19-11 run to come within 1 point of the lead. AASU continued to battle and tied the score at 69-69 at the end of regulation.

Cotten looked to start the overtime period off well as she hit a three to open play. Despite starting the overtime well, the Braves couldn't string enough points together, and came up short losing 83-80.



Junior forward JaToya Kemp flies past the defense for a basket. She finished with a career-high 41 points against Armstrong Atlantic.

Photo by Gabrielle Lover