

Braves blow past Fairmont State 38-7

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

A stout defense and a controlling running game helped drive the No. 25 Braves to a 38-7 road victory on Oct. 10 over the Fairmont State Falcons in Fairmont, W.Va.

The Black and Gold used 282 yards on the ground to control the game's time of possession, as the team held onto the ball for more than 41 minutes in the contest.

"I was really excited for our running game," said head coach Pete Shinnick. "I give a lot of credit to our offensive line, however, because they were able to open some things up against a very big defensive line today. It was good to see our guys get going."

The Braves controlled nearly every facet of the game, beginning with quarterback play.

The Black and Gold made their first offensive strike four and a half minutes into the game when UNCP quarterback Cory Smith hit tight end Cody Harrington with a 1-yard pass to cap off a 21-yard scoring drive to open the game.

The short drive was set up by a Fairmont State fumble on the 6-yard line which the Braves recovered.

The Black and Gold were then flagged for a personal foul, resulting in a 15-yard penalty which backed them up to the Fairmont State 21-yard

line.

The Black and Gold would follow up their first touchdown with a score in the final minute of the first half. Smith again connected with one of his receivers, this time wide receiver Jamal Williams, for a 14-yard touchdown with 27 seconds left on the clock.

The scoring drive took only a little over two minutes to score, as the Braves marched down 42 yards to take the 14-0 halftime lead.

But even with their dominating performance, UNCP found themselves with just a seven point lead when the Falcon's opened the third quarter with a defensive touchdown on UNCP's first drive.

Black and Gold running back Travis Daniels fumbled the ball on the UNCP 35-yard line, allowing Fairmont State's Dewey McDonald to recover the loose ball and return it for the touchdown. Fairmont State's Alex Ashley converted the kick to halve the Braves' lead at 14-7.

Seemingly awoken after the offensive miscue, the Braves' offense posted the next 24 points in the rout.

With 8:20 left in the third quarter, the Black and Gold's run game found the end zone when Daniels put a 10-yard run in for a touchdown for a 21-7 lead to close of the Braves' scoring for the third quarter.



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

UNCP defensive back Troy Russell registered four tackles and a forced fumble in the Braves' win against Fairmont State.

In the fourth quarter, the Braves put a pair of touchdowns and a field goal on the scoreboard when Smith found senior wide receiver L.J. Johnson for a 23-yard strike down the field. The touchdown was Johnson's fifth of the season.

Johnson's touchdown was the final play of an almost nine-minute drive that started at the UNCP 4-yard line.

With the 21 points

win, the Braves have now posted 20 points in five of their seven games this season.

The Braves finished with 25 first downs to Fairmont State's 10, and out rushed the Falcons by 199 yards on the ground.

Daniels finished the day with 129 yards on 20 carriers and a touchdown, while running backs Rashon Kennedy and Keith Gore picked up 66 and 47 yards, respectively.

Smith finished the day 19-for-26 with 155 yards and three scores.

Williams led the way receiving with six catches and Johnson's 65 yard receiving was tops for the Braves through the air.

The Black and Gold defense held Fairmont State to just 194 yards of total offense and forced two fumbles.

Linebackers Adam Deese and Jamaral Rease led the Braves with five

tackles apiece.

"Our defense was fantastic today," Shinnick said. "The great thing about them today was that we had two goal line stands, causing a turnover on one and taking the ball over on downs. We really did a great job of manning up once they got close to scoring."

The Black and Gold will take a week off before they play their first of their last three games.

Men's soccer takes double overtime contest

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

A goal in the 109th minute by freshman Eirik Torgerson led the Braves to a 2-1 double overtime victory over Georgia Southwestern Oct. 10 at Varsity Grounds.

Georgia Southwestern's goal in the last three minutes of regulation neutralized a Black and Gold 1-0 lead before Torgerson's golden goal in the game's final minute of play.

"We didn't have any edge in our play today. That's probably the best that can be said about it," said UNCP men's soccer head coach Mike Schaeffer. "We were horrible over the last 30 minutes of the second half. Thankfully, I thought that we regrouped in overtime and had more control of what was going on."

"We were able to create some opportunities and kept them under pressure," Schaeffer said. "Finally, one of them paid off. Eirik was able to get a hold of one off of a corner and send us home winners."

With a close, defensive struggle to open the game, the Braves saw their first surge of offensive firepower come in the 36th minute, when Black and Gold leading scorer

Andy Pullin beat his defender and found himself open for a shot, bouncing a ball beneath Georgia Southwestern goalkeeper David Porley for the team's only goal in regulation.

Junior midfielder Chicho Abreu assisted on the goal.

But, the Braves saw their 51-minute lead evaporate at the 87-minute mark, as Georgia Southwestern forward Jamie Kiep went one-on-one with UNCP goalie Horatio Bynes. Kiep beat Bynes to tie the score with just three minutes left in the game.

With the score still tied after the first overtime period, the Braves prepared themselves for another overtime period, as neither team managed to find the net in the first extra period.

Redemption

UNCP would find redemption for their late defensive miscue in the game's 109th minute, as a free ball off a corner kick by UNCP found the foot of Torgerson for the game-winning goal.

Senior forward Rondell Honora and sophomore midfielder Dragan Lipovac assisted on the game winning goal.

The Braves were able to outshoot the Hurricanes



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

UNCP forward Rondell Honora dribbles past two Georgia Southwestern defenders.

10-8 in the game, including a 2-0 edge in the two overtime periods. Bynes tallied two saves in

the contest.

The Black and Gold have now played five double overtime games this

season, with a combined record of 3-1-1 in the matchups.

With the win, the

Braves move to 3-2 in the Peach Belt and will next play at home Oct. 17 against Lander.