

Freshmen lead the way at PBC Championships

By Nick Phillips
Asst. Sports Editor

The UNCP men's and women's cross country teams hosted the 2009 Peach Belt Conference Championships at Luther Britt Park in Lumberton on Oct. 24, with the men taking home a third place finish and the women earning seventh.

On the men's side, freshman Pardon Ndhlovu paced the Braves, finishing in second place while also earning the honor of PBC Freshman of the Year honors and a spot on the PBC all-conference team.

A trio of sophomores placed next for the Braves. Zach Bayless finished 12th overall, while Christian Wiscovitch and Kevin Clancy finished

18th and 19th, respectively, to round out the top-20.

For the fourth straight season, Columbus State took home the men's title with a total of 24 points, placing five of their seven runners in the top 10. Clayton State finished in second place with four runners in the top 20, totaling 49 points, before UNCP's third place finish with 72 points.

On the women's side, freshman Annette Sem finished 14th overall, 0.67 seconds ahead of 15th place finisher Karissa Ekstrom of Georgia College. Sem also earned a spot on the women's PBC all-conference team.

Second overall for the Lady Braves – and 26th overall – was senior Bonnie MacDonald, followed by junior Catherine

Shoemaker's 36th overall finish.

Columbus State took home the women's title for the fifth consecutive year, finishing with only 37 points and seven runners in the top 10. Georgia College finished in second place with five women in the top-25, and PBC newcomer Montevallo finished in third place.

The Lady Braves finished seventh with 163 points, 13 points behind sixth place North Georgia and 42 points ahead of eighth place USC Aiken.

Both the men's and women's teams now wait to see if they receive invites to the NCAA Southeastern Regional on Nov. 7, which will be hosted by Wingate University.



Photo by Tony Lewis

Black and Gold cross country runner Pardon Ndhlovu sprints to the finish line at the Peach Belt Conference Cross Country Championships. Ndhlovu finished second in the individual competition while the team finished third overall.

Lady Braves fall to Catawba

By Jared Leblanc
Staff Writer

The Lady Braves were the dominant team Oct. 13 at Frock Field, but they were unable to capitalize on any of their 14 shots which translated to a 1-0 loss to Catawba.

The lone goal came in the 12th minute of play when Catawba forward Stephanie Borland stole a pass from Alyssa Retundie then easily went by and put the ball in the back of the net.

This game snapped a four game unbeaten streak for the Black and Gold, their last loss coming against Wingate University on Sept. 22.

Joiner leads team

UNCP dominated the play throughout the game. Britney Joiner led the Lady Braves with two shots each of which hit the post, while freshman Anna Svensson also had a pair of shots, but was unable to get them by Catawba net minder Lindsay Webster.

"Obviously it's extremely frustrating to us

that we once again come away from a game where we statistically dominate the game and it wasn't for lack of creating goal scoring chances that we lost," UNCP head coach Lars Andersson said.

"Britney Joiner had an unbelievable game. She was clearly the best player on the pitch tonight. She had a couple balls that went wide, and two that nicked the post. It's very frustrating," Andersson said.

"We are creating opportunities left and right in the final third. The frustrating part is that we are not finishing those opportunities," Andersson said.

"There is certainly a sense of frustration in our locker room, but I want to take away from this game that we have the talent, we just need to get it done in the final third and that's something that we will continue to work on," he said. "I am absolutely convinced we will get it sorted out before conference tournament time."

The loss was the team's fourth of the year.



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

UNCP sophomore Britney Joiner prepares for a pass in the Lady Braves' one goal loss to Catawba.

PBC honors UNCP player

By Matt Smith
Sports Editor

Freshman forward Anna Svensson was honored by the Peach Belt Conference Oct. 13, as the women's soccer player was named the Conference Player of the Week for the second time in the Lady Braves' 2009 season.

Svensson proved to be an offensive dynamo in the Lady Braves' games against USC Aiken and Georgia Southwestern, scoring four of the team's five goals in the two game span.

"Anna has been a fantastic player so far and is clearly one of the candidates for PBC freshman of the year," UNCP women's soccer head coach Lars Andersson said. "Not only has she scored a lot of goals, she's scored a lot of important goals and game winning goals. She's adjusted very well to the American college game."

Heralded freshman

In the team's 2-1 win over USC Aiken, Svensson scored both of the Lady Braves' goals. Against Georgia Southwestern, Svensson again registered two goals in the 3-0 home shutout victory.

The freshman took a combined 17 shots during the week to out shoot both the Lady Braves' opponents.

Svensson is currently third in the conference in goals scored with 12 and is second in the Peach Belt in total points with 27.

Second honor

Svensson's first Player of the Week honor came on Sept. 1 after Svensson helped lead the the Lady Braves to a 2-0 record with wins over Mt. Olive and Lenoir-Rhyne.

Lady Braves fall on the road to Lander

By DJ McCray
Staff Writer

The UNCP women's soccer team fell to Lander Oct. 17 3-1 in a hard fought game.

The Lady Braves came into the Lander game after winning two consecutive Peach Belt Conference games. But, the Bearcats of Lander slowed the Lady Braves' momentum, controlling the first half with 13 shots to the Braves' six.

Joiner scores

Lander's Christina Barbour scored the first goal on a throw in deep into the first half of play. Kelley Maupin added another goal shortly after that with a header off a rebound. Just before half-time, Barbour scored again. That goal would

prove to be the last for Lander.

Adjustments were made at halftime and the Lady Braves marched into the second half creating several shots for themselves.

UNCP battled to get back in the game with a 8-0 shot advantage over Lander.

Britney Joiner finally got a goal for the Braves dropping a floater in. Joiner also led the Braves in shot attempts with five. Following her was Anna Svensson with four shots.

The Lady Braves finished the night outshooting Lander 14-13, but Lander goalkeeper Chelsea Beetch had four saves for the Bearcats.

Rea Segoviano also finished with four saves for the Black and Gold in the loss.



Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

Black and Gold sophomore Britney Joiner takes a shot in the Braves 3-1 loss to Lander Oct. 17.