

# PSU SCOREBOARD "Braves" of Pembroke State

courtesy of  
Gary Spittler  
Sports Information Director at PSU

## PSU Softball Team Ready To Open 1979 Season

Pembroke State University's softball team, after claiming the North Carolina Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (NCAI)W State Division II championship last season, returns the entire squad for 1979.

The Lady Braves posted a 17-6 record last year in only the second year of the PSU softball program. "We return a team with experience," says Coach Gloria Canonizado, women's softball coach at Pembroke State. "We will not have to work as much on fundamentals this year, but rather we will try to improve our hitting."

"We have the talent to do very well," continued Miss Canonizado. "We could possibly be stronger than our team last year."

Leading the returnees is senior Kathy Little of Raeford. The pitcher for the Lady Braves has been all-state, all-Carolinas Conference, and "Most Valuable Player" previously in softball. Little is a superb athlete also competing in basketball and volleyball at PSU.

Other returnees include sophomore Vanessa Shaw of Supply, sophomore Chrissa Jane Dial of Pembroke, junior Linda Huntley of Wadesboro, sophomore Vicki McCuiston of Greensboro, junior Mel Hinton of Hope Mills, and senior Betty Jean Coe of Winston-Salem.

Also back is junior Brenda Huntley of Wadesboro, sophomore Beverly Baker of Jacksonville, and Gin Carver of Fayetteville.

Newcomers to the squad include freshman Kim Ray of Fayetteville, junior Rosalind Gore of Supply, freshman Mary Wright of Little Rock, S.C., and junior Debra McMillan of Lumberton.

Last year Coach Canonizado was named "Women's Softball Coach of the Year" in the Carolinas Conference. Her team won both the Carolinas Conference and state AIAW Division II championships.

The Lady Braves finished 4-4 in Carolinas Conference action in 1978. As a team, they batted .566 through 23 games. They hit 62 doubles, 23 triples, and 20 home runs.

Individually, Shaw led all batters with a .621 batting average. She was followed by Carver's .617, Dial's .610, and Little's .604. Little led the team in doubles slugging 10 for the year. She also led in triples with six while Dial was the home run leader with five.

1979 could be another exciting season for Pembroke State softball fans.

## PSU Ends Cage Season

PEMBROKE—Pembroke State University's 1978-79 men's basketball season ended in the Carolinas Conference Tournament, but it was quite an exciting year with a fast-paced offense and defense the trademarks of the Braves.

"It was an exciting year, but we used this season as a learning experience," stated Coach Billy Lee, as first-year head coach at Pembroke State. "We have hit the recruiting trails now and will be trying to build the program for next year."

The Braves finished the regular season third in the Carolinas Conference, their highest finish ever. After posting a 13-15 overall record, the Braves found their problem to be playing on the road. The cagers were 9-3 at home but 4-12 on the road.

The season started off with the Braves participating in the High Point Thanksgiving Tourney where they opened the season against national power Gardner-Webb. The Braves fell 89-75 but downed Wingate, 87-64 in the consolation game to take third.

## Baseball Team Now 7-0 and Will Host Delaware State Friday

by Gary Spittler  
PSU Sports Information

PEMBROKE—Entering Wednesday afternoon's baseball game with the University of Virginia, the Braves of Pembroke State were holding an unblemished 7-0 record. The Braves downed UVA 6-2 Tuesday to pick up their first home victory of the young season.

Starting on the mound for the Braves Friday will be Jon Danilack and Kenny Hedgpath. The doubleheader will begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday afternoon against Delaware State.

Robert Poole slammed a home run and Mike Leonard scored a homer of his own Tuesday to give the Braves their seventh win. Once again, good relief pitching is what was able to give the Braves another victory.

PSU started off the season with a 13-inning contest at Francis Marion en route to Florida where the Braves came back 6-0. The Braves won the game 10-9. Freshman George Mattonelli provided a homerun for the PSU diamonders in the opening game of the season.

After downing Morris College in South Carolina twice 6-2 and 3-1, the Braves swept a doubleheader from Armstrong State in Georgia 3-2 and 4-3. After having two games rained out, the Braves dumped Florida Institute of Technology 8-5 behind the power-hitting of the designated hitter, John Goetke. He hit two home runs and had a triple.

It has been an entire team effort for the Braves. David McAllister leads the team in hitting with a .423 batting average while George Mattonelli is hitting .370 and John Goetke .357.

Pitching is also strong for the Braves.

Jon Danilack holds a 0.00 ERA and a 1-0 record; Dan Fitzpatrick has two saves and a 0.00 ERA; Mike Coleman has a 1-0 record and a 1.50 ERA; Mike Baldwin has a 1.80 ERA, leads in strikeouts with 13 and has a 1-0 record; Kenny Hedgpath has a 1-0 record and a 2.61 ERA, and relief pitcher Rod Ramsey holds a 2-0 slate.

"I'm happy with the efforts of our pitching staff," stated Head Coach Harold Ellen. "Ramsey and Fitzpatrick have been doing a good job in relief."

Ellen continued, "I'm pleased with our season thus far. The entire team has gone into each game and played hard and if our hitting and pitching continues to improve, we'll be all right."

The Braves after hosting Delaware State Friday will host the University of Virginia again on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

Standing 1-1, the cagers hosted Methodist and probably played one of their best games of the year as the Braves smashed the Monarchs 76-47. After dropping a 96-84 tough decision to Coastal Carolina, the Braves won their next two squeaking past Catawba 72-71 and downing St. Andrews 57-50.

Before the Christmas break, the PSU squad travelled to Lenoir-Rhyne where they lost 72-70 to post their record 4-3 at the break.

But the excitement started being generated after the break. General Lee's Army won three straight games to boost their record to 7-3 and picked up two important conference wins over Elon 90-86 and High Point 85-72.

The other win was a 58-56 overtime victory over Wingate.

After dropping two to the league-leading Pfeiffer Falcons 74-51 and NCAA Division I power UNC-Wilmington 80-63, the Braves broke a PSU record in a 109-88 triumph over Guilford. That record was for the largest combined score which was 193 but was reset with the 196 total.

Then everything which had been breaking for the Braves began to break for the opponents resulting in the PSU cagers dropping their next eight in a row. The Braves were not playing any different during that time but the act that the tallest starter on the team was a mere 6' 4" finally paid its toll.

The basketball team then turned things around with a 70-59 win over Lenoir-Rhyne. From that

point on the PSU cagers won five of their last seven games.

Probably one of the most exciting points in the season was the 23-21 double overtime win for the Braves at Fayetteville State. That win for PSU broke two school records and tied one NAIA national record for fewest shots taken in one half by both teams. Only four shots were taken during the first half. PSU missed two and PSU made two to post the 4-0 halftime score.

The regulation game ended 6-6, the first overtime 13-13, and PSU won the deep-freeze contest 23-21 after two overtimes. The team got national attention from the unusual game.

On a team which only returned one starter, the Braves were able to perform the impossible at times. "When I took the job at Pembroke State, the administration told me they didn't expect us to win but about five games," recalled Lee.

But team did indeed win 13 games and "the best thing about it is all the starters will be back next year," Lee said. "After we add some height, we'll be tough."

Leading the pack of returnees will be 1979 All-Carolinas Conference performer Melvin Reid, a six-foot guard from Salisbury. Reid led the team in scoring with a 17.3 average having a season high of 29 points against Guilford.

Other returning next year will be starters Leslie Lilly, a 6-3 forward from Mt. Gilead, George Drawhome, a 6-4 center from

Princeton, Ralph Fletcher, a 6-2 guard from Dumont, Pa., and Mike Rotolo, a 6-3 forward from Silver Springs, Md.

Lilly proved he was a tremendous leaper pulling down 17 rebounds for a season high. He was the leading rebounder in 12 games during the season. Drawhome also helped in the rebounding department where he was the leading rebounder in 14 games having a high 16 against St. Andrews.

Fletcher and Rotolo led the team in assists both having a season high of 12 assists in a single game. Fletcher was also the third leading scorer on the team averaging 12.6. Lilly averaged 12.8 points per game.

Gary Britt and Elmer Brown are the only two seniors on the squad who will be lost to graduation. Both provided leadership to the team's co-captains during 1978-79.

After adding some height to an experienced team returning next season for the Braves of Pembroke State, basketball fans may see Pembroke State basketball more exciting than ever in 1979-80.

Louie Hunter of Marion, Mark Schultz, a transfer from George Mason, and Roger Carr, a transfer from East Carolina have already joined the squad for next year.

## Pembroke State University Sports Schedule-March 15-30

Golf at Pinehurst Tourney	13-15
Baseball hosts Virginia (3 p.m.)	13
Baseball hosts Virginia (3 p.m.)	14
Men's Tennis hosts Methodist	14
Track at Columbia University	14
Women's Softball hosts Shaw Univ.	15
Women's Tennis hosts St. Andrews	15
Men's Tennis hosts St. Andrews	15
Baseball hosts Delaware State (1:30 p.m.)	16
Men's Tennis hosts Pfeiffer	16
Baseball hosts Univ. of Virginia (1:30 p.m.)	17
Golf at UNC-Wilmington	19
Baseball hosts St. Andrews (1:30 p.m.)	19
Women's Softball hosts East Carolina Univ.	20
Men's Tennis hosts Francis Marion	20
Women's Tennis at Catawba	20
Baseball at Elon	21
Men's Tennis hosts Guilford	21
Women's Softball at Pfeiffer	22
Baseball hosts Campbell (1:30 p.m.)	23
Track hosts St. Augustine's College	24
Women's Tennis hosts High Point	24
Baseball hosts Atlantic Christian (1:30 p.m.)	25
Baseball hosts Francis Marion (3 p.m.)	26
Men's Tennis hosts Fayetteville State	26
Baseball at Wingate	27
Women's Softball hosts Methodist	27
Men's Tennis at UNC-Wilmington	28
Women's Tennis at Guilford	28
Women's Softball at N.C. A&T	29
Baseball at Pfeiffer	30
Track at Atlantic Coastal Relays in Raleigh	31
Baseball at Catawba	31
Men's Tennis at Catawba	31

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