

NCSU Sports . . .



ECU v.

EDITOR: SETH CAIN

A Feud Renewed

By Jason Ingram

Not too long ago, you could watch an entire week's worth of bowl games and never see an ACC team. With the recent emergence of N.C. State as a football power and the addition of Florida State to the conference, the ACC will be represented well in this year's postseason parties. Georgia Tech will face Stanford in the Aloha Bowl, Virginia will take on Oklahoma in the Gator Bowl, Clemson squares off against California in the Citrus Bowl, Florida State locks horns with Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, and State will battle East Carolina in the Peach Bowl.

That last matchup should prove to be very interesting. Interesting not because both sides are from North Carolina, or even because the schools are old football rivals, but because neither team was picked to make it this far. ECU lost its season opener to Illinois, then roared onto the bowl scene by winning its next ten games, finishing the season with a 10-1 record, good enough for 12th in the Associated Press poll. Along the way, ECU embarrassed Syracuse, Pitt, South Carolina, Southern Miss, and Virginia Tech. N.C. State also finished strong in the ACC, losing only to Virginia and Clemson, ending the season with a 9-2 record and a ranking of 21st in the AP poll.

These two teams met regularly during the season from 1969-1987. East Carolina won that final game 34-14 at Carter-Finley Stadium. After the victory, Pirates' fans stormed the field, injuring fans and players and damaging the stadium. The schools resolved their problems, but the series was not resumed. Anxious fans have bought out all 59,000 seats in Atlanta's Fulton-County Stadium, eagerly awaiting the rematch. The game marks State's sixth trip to the Peach Bowl, and ECU's first bowl appearance since the 1978 Independence Bowl.



Todd and Jonathan "discuss" which team is better.

Tumbling, Splits, and Flips

By Reishana Morrison

Gymnastics, a new addition to our sports field, was introduced by the coach, Diane Austin, one year ago. When we think of gymnastics we tend to think of flips, tumbling, and doing splits. Well that's only a fraction of what it's all about. In gymnastics, you develop strength and coordination. It's a competitive sport in which individuals perform acrobatic feats mostly on special apparatus in order to demonstrate strength balance and body control.

Gymnastic practices are held at the Stanly County Gymnastic building. The practices include running, tumbling, splits, and floor exer-

cises. Most of the meets are held in the building and in Winston-Salem. I asked Tracy Rabon, a member of the team, what she likes about being on the team, she quotes, "It's interesting and lots of fun." Emily Stonestreet and Mary Jo Austin feel that "This year's team is a lot stronger than last year's and with a little hard work we should place well at state competition."

The members of the gymnastic team are: Emily Stonestreet, Mary Jo Austin, Tracy Rabon, Mimi Austin, Candi Hathcock, Leslie Boyd, Laura Smith, Carmen Land, Charm Miller, Ella Lee, and Crystal Thompson.

Return of the AIT

By Seth Cain

Wrestling has played a big part in our school's history, especially in the last few years. Some say Albemarle has done a complete transformation with its wrestling in the number of wins and record set. This also aids in making the Albemarle Invitational Tournament (AIT) more prestigious. This tournament was held here on December 14. Beginning at 9:00AM, it was an all day affair. Sixteen teams competed for the overall win. Some of the teams who competed were Albemarle, North Brunswick, Ledford, South Stanly, Salisbury, Mt. Pleasant, Monroe, and North Wilkes.

The hard work in this tournament will help prepare the team for the grueling and very difficult tournament on December 21 in Raleigh. "A very tough match," says Coach Stuart, since the competition consists of Albemarle, Athens Drive, Carey, Deep Creek, East Gaston, Enloe, Rock Hill and Wilmington Laney. Albemarle is the only 2A high school in this tournament with the rest consisting of 4A high schools.

The wrestlers will continue to train over the holidays to be ready for their conference opponents in January.

Alumni Athlete: Mike Kendall

By Seth Cain

Mike Kendall is a freshman at UNC in Chapel Hill. He received a scholarship in wrestling that gives him a full four year ride. Mike says practice is tougher, lasts 2 1/2 hours, and is six days a week. Unlike high school, Chapel Hill has a more intense practice. Mike will be wrestling at 118, but he will be moved around and up to the 126 weight class.



Mike Kendall excelled at football and wrestling at AHS.

Mike enjoys the campus and campus life. He can't get over how much there is offered. With all the clubs, school, and wrestling, he is always busy. How are his classes? Very tough but he is doing well. Geography is his hardest and most frustrating class. Unbelievably he has classes as small as 20 but as large as 450.

Wrestling is why Mike is there and he is getting ready. There is a possibility he will be red-shirted. He will still wrestle some non-conference matches. Most of the matches this year are at home, but he will be traveling to Pennsylvania and Oklahoma. With his four state championships I wondered if there was any jealousy from another team member but he says there isn't. There is also a 118 lb. four time state champ with a 149-1 record.

Mike has one big goal and that is to wrestle in the 1996 Olympics. Mike misses Albemarle, unbelievably, and he really misses the teachers. He says that the teachers at Chapel Hill scare him because he respects them so much. I figured that because of all the time he put into wrestling at AHS, he would be ready to get out of Eidson's and Stewart's hair. Mike, however, misses them and frequently checks in with them. Work hard Mike, and make all your dreams come true.

New Tourney Format . . . Same Result?

By Courtney Brown

With Christmas approaching ever so quickly basketball enthusiasts are looking forward to the Christmas Tournament held annually at Pfeiffer College. Traditionally the format of the tournament has pitted the four Stanly County schools against the Cabarrus County teams and one guest school, not in either county. The three day tournament is packed with excitement, suspense, heartbreak for some, and sheer ecstasy for others. Last year our team was probably playing its best ball of the season and as a result brought home the title in a squeaker over rival North Stanly. In the past Pfeiffer's Tournament has generally served as a stepping stone for the champions going on to win bigger and better things.

The format of this year's tournament is different than in year's past because the defending champion will receive a bye in the first round. Some of the schools are all the Stanly County schools, Mt. Pleasant, and East Montgomery. Hopefully this year's squad can repeat as champions and keep the title in Stanly County.



Kevin, Corey, and Jason hope to add this year's trophy to the case.



Holiday tournaments provide excitement for wrestling fans.