

THE COMPASS

"Together we will find the right direction"

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Vikings no. 1 In NCAA Southern Division



By Gary Savage
Sports Writer

The Vikings have gone strong into this season thus far, as they have accumulated an overall record of seven wins and one loss. In conference, the current record is 4-1. This year's team is definitely heading in the direction of the CIAA championships.

Head Coach Johnnie Walton made comments about the team's only loss against Norfolk State: "I can't blame any of the ball players for the defeat because I mostly blame myself. I have high confidence in this ball club. For the remaining season, we shall determine, in the next five weeks, how we'll do in the conference."

The team has maintained a good defensive line this year. Congratulations should be awarded to the defensive coaches and players. Together, they have worked very hard to keep the defense in the right direction. Defensive coordinator, Alvin Kelley, feels that "we have an outstanding defensive line. We like to put a lot of pressure on the opposing team's offense to force turnovers. With the size of our defensive linemen, we like to control the line of scrimmage. Our defensive front is led by James "Sugar Bear"

Hamilton, a Genial Pro Prospect."

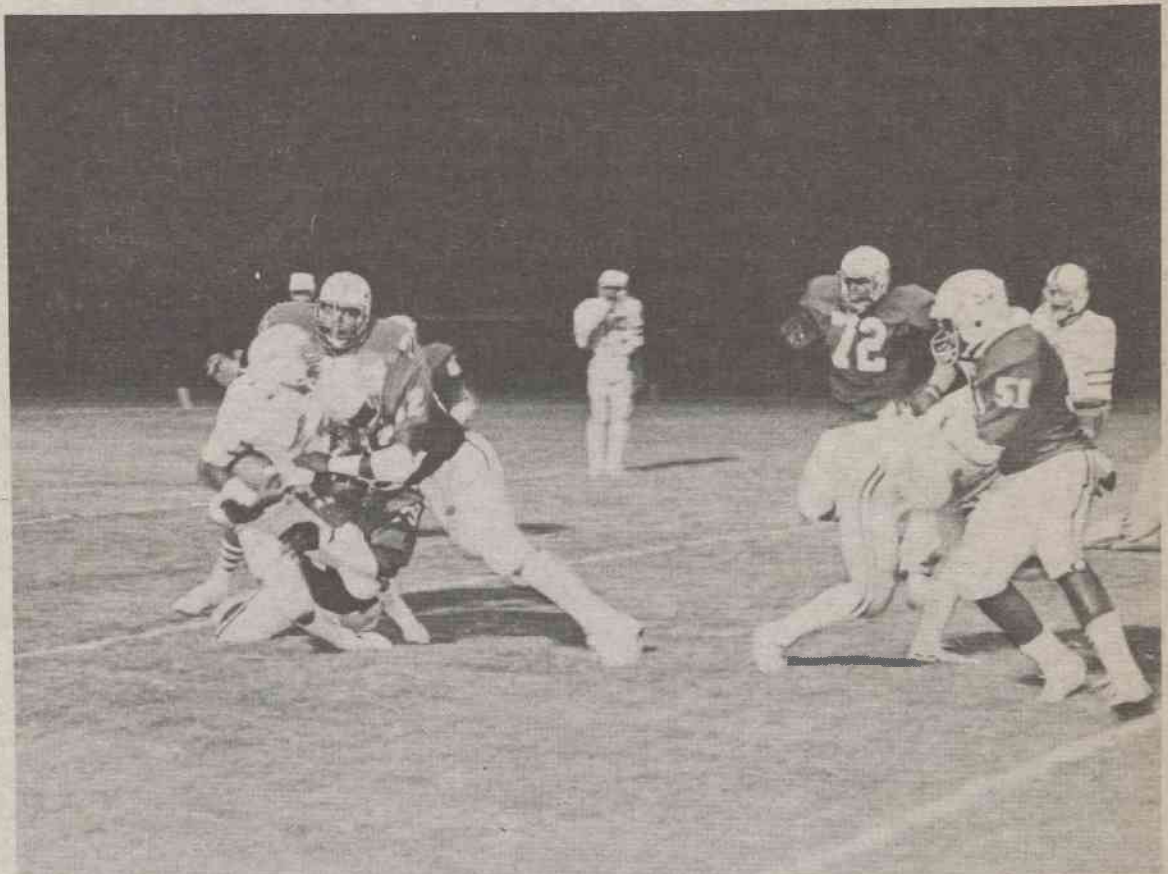
Kelley feels that ECSU has the best cornerbacks in the CIAA. Currently, the Vikings are leading in pass interceptions thanks to Dwight Taylor and Bobby Futrell. Together, they have done an outstanding job on the field.

Juan Austin, kicker for the team, has also done a good job. He hopes to do even better as the season progresses, and is very enthused about the team's performance.

The coaching staff is very excited about their defensive tackle, Howard Oglesby, a 6'8," 320 pounder from Washington, D.C. Howard feels that the coaches have done an outstanding job in preparing the team for each game.

Coach Walton feels that the team MVP thus far should be given to Bobby Futrell. He has intercepted 7 passes and returned 11 punts thus far. His average in returns is 15.6 yards. Bobby knows that he is an important factor on the team. "I like defensive back better than offense, mostly because I'd rather hit somebody than be hit. I'll stick to both and do my very best."

The Vikings have maintained a good game average thus far, and feel it's too late to stop now. They would like all of their fans to know that they "never fall, they just stumble."



The Viking defense is overpowering the Hampton offensive line.



Pictured above is Dwight Taylor (#42) blocking a punt against Hampton Institute.