



SPORTS

Pre Season Peek: The New Vikings

Practice Makes Perfect

by Zelene Bunch

It's 96 degrees. It's the first day of equipment practice.

A middle-aged fan leans on his car watching the players run sprints.

"The first few days of practice, the boys are a little stiff. They need to get the kinks out. They'll be okay once they do that."

An ineligible player looks on as the others run, remembering his own sweltering practices. Waterboys lug cartons of paper cups and squeeze water-bottles. A player has to run laps as payment for some infraction. Others do extra push-ups or leg lifts.

With a sharp blast of a whistle, a surge toward the center of the practice field, and a team chant, the session ends. The coaches remain in a tight knot poring over clipboards.

This is the first year as head coach for Thurlis "Moose" Little, who sees a winning season coming.

"We're farther along in practice than at this time last year or than I expected to be this year. Experience is in our favor. We have most of last year's veterans back.

The freshmen play smart. That means that we don't have to spend as much time on basics. We can get down to team play and not have to take time with every individual player."

When asked about last season's bitter start, he was philosophical. "Playing all the opening games in front of — let's call them unfriendly — crowds takes its toll. We got into a hole. The first game that we had any real number of home fans was the Fish Bowl. By that game, we had lost four."

He reflected on the 1982 Bowl loss. "There was no single factor in the loss. The score showed how well we did play. We just made a couple of mistakes at crucial times."

The change of defensive tackle Howard Oglesby to the offensive line has caused much speculation among Viking followers. "The defense won't suffer too much," Little comments. "I'm not belittling Oglesby by saying that. We need his ability on offense.

"I'm also trying to look at the young man's future as a possible professional player. He looks good on the offensive line."

Coach Little hopes that with football being played on campus for the first time in over 15 years, that the spirit of newness will last. "This group of players is starting a new tradition. I want the students and community to help regain the winning spirit."

Viking Spotlight: DARRYL BROWN

by

Algie H. Mabry, Jr.

Behind every football there is a player. Often times news reporters tend to overlook the ones who do all the dirty and messy work and go straight to the coaches. This year, it is the intention of the COMPASS to bring to you what the players have to say and how they feel on issues that concern them.

This season our team is faced with several new different aspects. Among the many are a new head football coach and a long-awaited stadium.

This first Athletic Spotlight features Darryl Brown, a senior Criminal Justice Major. Very active both on and off the field, Darryl is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated and presently holds the title as "Mr. Senior 1983-84."

In a brief interview, Darryl congratulates those responsible for the selection of the new head football coach.

"Coach Little was an excellent choice. He will maintain respect from the players because of the technique in which he stresses discipline."

Brown, being positive about the selection of Coach Little, is also saddened by the vacancy left by Coach Kelly. At the same time he is elated over the presence of three student coaches.

"The new stadium is a great advancement for ECSU." Anxious about the first home game which is September 10, 1983 that is scheduled to be in the new stadium, Brown commented that the location should draw more fans around the Albemarle area.

In closing remarks, Brown encourages all to exemplify more support and morale than last year. "The team and myself are expecting 110% from everyone."

The next Athletic Spotlight will feature the "Big O"



Invasion Will Conquer All

by
Algie H. Mabry, Jr.

On Tuesday, August 16, 1983, new and returning members of the Marching Viking Band gathered to hear words of welcome from Mr. Henry A. Duncombe, Director of University Bands. Mr. Duncombe stressed that with discipline and unity the year for the band will be a successful one.

Wednesday morning, August 17th, proved to be a morning of hard work and pain. Exercising, running, and more exercising, the Viking Band began practicing

for the upcoming football season. Daily, new and returning bandmen straggled in taking their positions among others who intend to step high with Viking pride.

At the helm of this year's Viking Invasion are Donald Clark, a junior from Baltimore, Maryland, and Vincent Preister, a returning student from Norfolk, Virginia. These two will be replacing Timothy Rodgers, former drum major of the band.

Diligently they, along with the assistance of Mr. Duncombe and a few students, have been preparing drills,

music, and routines to kick the year off right.

Yes, the ECSU Marching Viking Band is guaranteed to bring many fans to their feet and leave many speechless. As in the past, they will captivate, dazzle, and enchant those who partake of any of their performances.

As far as the new uniforms are concerned, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!!!!

