

NSU Fried at Fish Bowl

Vikings Shut Out Spartans 15-0 in 36th Annual Grid Classic

by Z.M. Bunch

Three Marching Viking buses left Elizabeth City at 8:30 a.m. Two buses transporting the gridders left at 11:00. Six buses of tense, excited and determined students left at noon. Hardly a student was left on the entire campus. Revenge was on all minds. Last year's defeat at the biggest football event next to Homecoming had been humiliating.

The visitors' bleachers filled during the pre-game ceremonies. On the field, Vikings stretched, practiced blocking, passing, and kicking on the unfamiliar Astro-turf.

Captains Steve Pope, Bobby Futrell, and Kenneth Rogers won the toss, and elected to receive. The 1983 Fish Bowl was on.

Some fans said that the Viking offense came of age in Forman Field. None of the "Southern Hogs" was surprised, however. Said new lineman Oglesby, "All the hard work we did in practice this week, hitting sleds and strategy planning paid off."

Two underclassmen shone in the backfield. Sophomore quarterback Eddie Morris was 10 for 19 in the air for 181 yards, including one touchdown. Sophomore Reginald Langhorne grabbed eight passes for 171 yards and scored the only six-pointer. He also won the Golden Helmet Most Valuable Player Award for the game.

Morris' aerial show was not the only game in town. Anthony Creecy led a column of six running backs, including Greg Watford and Bruce Butler who tallied 172 yards on the ground.

The "Brotherhood of Destruction" Viking defense, led by linebacker Tim Cofield, rendered the Spartan offense helpless, annulling drive after drive.

Many fans groaned, "Not again," as punter Jerome Ingram's first kick only made it to the ECSU 35 yard line. The defense held on, however, forcing NSU to try a field goal which was wide.

Taking over at their own 30, the Vikes racked up 55 yards with the running of Watford and the receiving of Langhorne. Touchdown unsuccessful, Ingram booted a 30-yard field goal.

The "Brotherhood" played spoilers in the second quarter. Horace Pendergrass kidnapped an NSU pass and spirited it to the Spartan 16. Again the Vikes were unable to get six points. They settled for Ingram's 40-yarder, which made the score 6-0. The half ended with this tally.

Blue-and-white fans smelled blood when the defense halted a fourth-and-two early in the third quarter, but sagged as Morris' pass was intercepted by an NSU cornerback. Again, the Spartans were unable to take advantage of the opportunity.

Not to be outdone, the "Brotherhood" scored in the fourth quarter. Lloyd Jackson startled the NSU quarterback in the end zone, making the score 15-0.

The next series brought screaming Viking and Spartan fans to their feet. Morris floated a pass to Langhorne in the play of the game and the only touchdown; a 67-yard explosion. The win was halfway home.

Humiliation wore green and gold as ECSU fans sang "I'm So Glad" to the the band's accompaniment.

See you next year, Spartans!

Tuba player Felix Ward "blows his horn" in the 90 degree heat at the Virginia State game in Petersburg.

The Vikings won 36-6.



Viking Spotlight:



Johnnie B. Walton, ECSU's Hometown Hero

by Lawrence Wright

Much has been written about Johnnie B. Walton and literally hundreds of photographs have been taken of him.

— For the past year or so, Johnnie Walton has continued his career as the starting quarterback and offensive leader of the Boston Breakers of the United States Football League.

As quarterback, Walton ranked sixth in the League in passing with an impressive 58% completion ratio. Combine that with 13 touchdowns, and it is no wonder Walton was the talk of the USFL. Walton was a graduate of P.W. Moore High School, class of '65 in Elizabeth City NC. He also attended college at Elizabeth City State University from 1965-69.

Upon graduation he was signed as a free agent with the Los Angeles Rams from 1969 from 1969-72. His career continued from 1973-75 with San Antonio (WFL) and from 1976-79 with the Philadelphia Eagles. Walton taught and coached at his own Alma Mater, ECSU, from 1980-82, and he continues with the USFL Boston Breakers.

Question—"How did you feel going to Boston, after leaving Elizabeth City?"

Answer—"I felt it was rewarding. It was a challenge I had to meet, and when it came, I met it."

Q—"Do you miss coaching at ECSU. Would you like to coach again in the future?"

A—"Yes, I miss coaching at ECSU, but I'm trying to explore a career with more security. Coaching will always be there."

Q—"How long do you expect to play in the USFL and what are your plans afterwards?"

A—"I plan to play until I can get a 2-3 year contract with the Breakers and afterwards I have been offered a coaching staff position."

Q—"Do you plan to live here in Elizabeth City, or move to Boston, Mass?"

A—"Wherever there is work, and later on in the future back to Elizabeth City, NC because there's no place like home."

Q—"Which team did you get most of your publicity from?"

A—"I received most of my publicity from the Boston Breakers."

Q—"When will the season start again?"

A—"Our first practice will start the first weekend in February, and our first game will be the first weekend in March."

Q—"Are you married; if so, how many children do you have?"

A—"Yes I'm married; I have two daughters and two sons."

Q—"How were you drafted to play football?"

A—"As a free agent with the Los Angeles Rams."

Q—"Do you feel you can give ECSU players some tips and advice on how to become a good ball player?"

A—"Yes, every evening at 4:00 on the practice field, I help coach Little during practice to explore new moves, plays, and keep the players with a positive attitude toward ball. This year as we predicted, we have had a very good team. With your support we can be Number One."