

# SPORTS

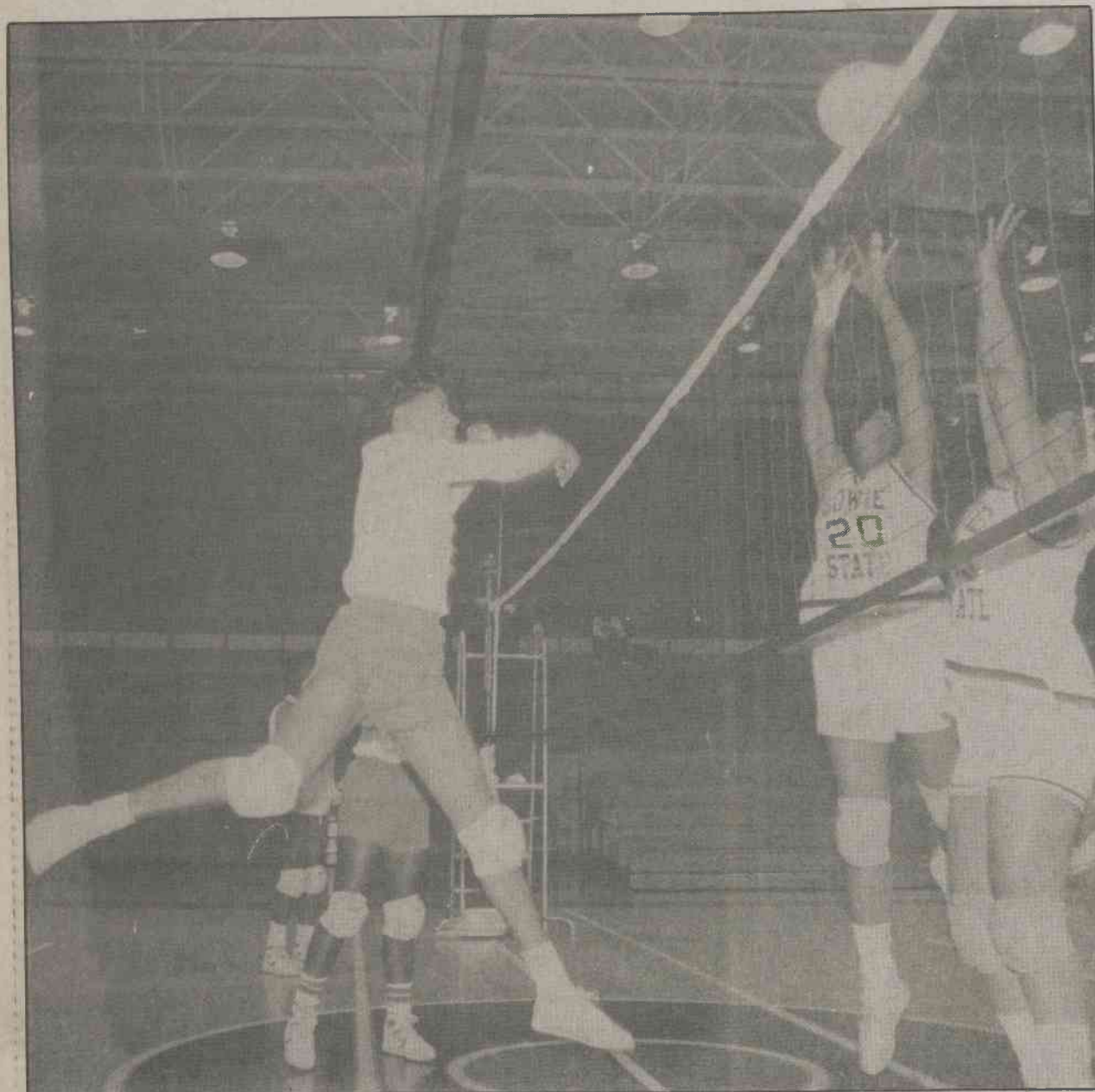


Photo by David Joyner

Lady Viking Karen Pope seems confident that her shot against Bowie State Contenders would push Elizabeth City ahead, and it did. ECSU's volleyball team won their October 8th match 15-13, 15-7.

## ECSU Lady Volleyballers set to host '88 CIAA Tourney

By Mike Stone

With just two weeks remaining in the regular season, ECSU's Lady Viking Volleyball team has an overall record of 9-11 and is looking towards the post-season tournament.

"I feel the team's chances of making the tournament are excellent," Coach Debbie Lynch said.

ECSU will host the CIAA tournament in Vaughan Center October 31-November 1. Only the top four teams in the Northern and Southern Divisions of the CIAA are invited to the tournament. Lynch, however, feels her team should be among the qualifiers. "As it stands now, we should make the tournament," said Lynch late Wednesday.

"We started out with two wins against Bowie State and St. Paul's College," Lynch said. Coupled with a forfeit, ECSU began the season with a 3-0 record.

The Lady Vikings dropped three losses to N.C. Central, Winston-Salem St. and Shaw University before picking up their fourth and fifth wins against Christopher Newport and Virginia State.

ECSU went on its longest losing streak September 26 when the Lady Vikings dropped a home match to St. Augustine, then lost on the road four times to Norfolk St., N.C. Central, and two matches to Fayetteville St.

ECSU is 4-4 in its last eight matches with wins against Virginia Union, St. Paul's College, Bowie State, and Virginia

Union, and losses to Hampton University, Winston-Salem State, Virginia State, and St. Augustine.

While the ECSU's record now stands at 9-12 Lynch hopes her Lady Vikings can do well in the tournament.

"We're really young and inexperienced," Lynch said.

"I keep telling everyone we've got to have failure before we have success," she added. "but a lot depends on how much we mature between now and tournament time."

Regarding the tournament Lynch said, "I hope a lot of people will come out and watch the tournament. We need to show our support for the tournament so the rest of the conference will see that we can host a major event like this."

## ECSU may lose rival NSU moving to Div I?

By Mark Morris

When Norfolk State University officials announced plans to move up to Division I athletics, ECSU officials began to examine what changes might be in store for ECSU and the CIAA. Their conclusion: Norfolk State's bid for Division I status could have far-reaching implications for ECSU's athletic program.

If Norfolk State's bid is successful, ECSU will lose its biggest rival, thereby depriving the school of the revenue that ECSU-Norfolk State games have traditionally generated. ECSU will also lose the opportunity to participate in the annual Fish Bowl game, a game that nets ECSU's program a guaranteed \$22,000 each year.

Despite these potential losses, ECSU athletic officials have expressed guarded optimism about Norfolk State's move.

"Many teams have moved out of the CIAA, and into other conferences, and the CIAA is still strong," said ECSU Athletic Director, Curtis Williams.

Head Basketball Coach Claude Mackey agreed.

"It would be a loss but it will not kill the conference," Mackey said. "When A & T, NCCU, and Morgan State, and all of those schools broke away, everyone thought we were going to fall on our faces as a conference."

"We're still standing tall. The CIAA is bigger than Norfolk

State or any other school in the conference. The CIAA has its own identity."

Both Mackey and Williams admitted ECSU may lose the big-time, income-generating games, like the Fish Bowl, if Norfolk State's bid is successful.

"It would hurt Elizabeth State University tremendously," said Mackey. "Norfolk would probably not want to play Elizabeth City in the Fish Bowl or at home. Norfolk is our biggest game, in basketball and football. That's our biggest draw. ECSU would suffer a financial loss."

Both Mackey and Williams predicted that the Port City Classic could become "the big game of the future," if Norfolk State leaves the CIAA. Pointing out that the Port City Classic is still just two years old, Williams says ECSU collects a guaranteed \$8,000 from the event.

"The loss of Norfolk State would be a temporary setback," said Williams. "We'll just create a new rivalry and keep going."

Williams said new rivalries could develop between ECSU and other CIAA schools, or possibly with other N.C. schools.

NSU's president, Dr. Harrison B. Wilson, has been the driving force behind the effort to make the Spartans a Division I-AA competitor. An ardent supporter of Norfolk State's bid, Wilson

has said he hopes to accomplish the change by the 1989-90 school year.

The NCAA has an established eight-year probationary period before it will accept a school as a full-fledged member in a Division I conference; however, schools admitted on a provisional status can still participate in conference games.

Should Norfolk State be accepted as a provisional member of the NCAA, the school will have to spend more money on travelling to games. Norfolk State lacks a football field, and must play all of its home games on Old Dominion University's field.

Mackey said he thinks Norfolk State may not have considered all the ramifications of a change to Division I status. He pointed out the school would be taking on three sports--soccer, field hockey, and gymnastics--all required sports for a Division I school.

"Maybe the grass is looking greener on the other side for Norfolk State," Mackey said.

If the NCAA accepted Norfolk State as a provisional member the conference would not be able to send a team to the NCAA Championship, because in order for the conference to compete in the championship, member teams must be full-fledged members.



Photo courtesy of Holly-Fonville Photography

The lovely vibrant Viking Cheerleaders prance across the astroturf in the Fish Bowl.

## Squad plans 'banner year'

By Alisa Robinson

After long hours of sweat and practice, the 1988-89 Cheering Squad is ready for a banner year.

So declared the squad's five-year advisor, Mrs. Addie Griffen.

"Not only does the squad have more members," said Griffen, "but this is also the first year we have had a JV squad. We were fortunate to have six young ladies returning, and we gained ten additional ladies, none of whom are freshmen."

Griffen said the large number of women who qualified for the cheerleading team enabled her to form a JV squad of six members. There are 12 members on the varsity squad.

JV squad members say they will probably make their grand

appearance at the first conference basketball game, cheering for the Lady Vikings.

At away games, the travelling squad will consist of ten members. So far this year at least three JV girls have cheered every away game, except the Fish Bowl.



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"This simply proves that the JV girls are just as dedicated being on top as the varsity girls," said Donna Langston, captain.

"The new faces are definitely part of the plan," said Patricia Brite, ECSU's "Miss Cheerleader," this year. "But cooperation, spirit, teamwork and pride are all areas in which we play excel."

Added Brite, "I think we have a good squad this year, with a lot of good ideas."

Stephanie Price, a junior member of the squad, said she feels the squad's morale was high gear as the squad cheered the team on the first game of the season in Charlotte. "They cheered the guys on in the rain and kept them pumped up all the way to their victory over Smith."

"Not only did it rain the first game," said Angela Hager, freshman, "but it rained at first three."

Both squad's ultimate goals this year are to keep the crowd support and to be "number one" in every aspect.