

Vikings travel to NCCU

Team hoping to get back on track

By Mark Morris

Hoping to get back on track after a three-game skid, ECSU's head football coach Thurlis Little says his team has a game

plan for tomorrow's game in Durham against North Carolina Central and that team's star quarterback Earl "Air" Harvey. Harvey led the NCAA in pass yardage last year with

2,355 yards and is averaging over 225 yards offense per game so far this season.

"We have a plan of attack," said Little. "We've just got to execute that plan."

ECSU's attack will include last year's second-ranked quarterback Bill Wilde and All-CIAA preseason selection wide-receiver Rob Tiller. And while that combination has put together some strong statistics in the past, things have not been as spectacular this season.

After six games Wilde has 524 yards, with 63 completions in 96 attempts, while Tiller has just 17 catches for 186 yards.

According to Little his team is having some difficulty executing this season, and he blames part of the problem on the fact that his team can not practice together as a unit.

"We don't have the entire team on the field at any one practice session," Little said.

He explained that due to the way classes are scheduled there are always players who are not able to attend practice. "We've got between four and six players who can not help but take classes that meet during practice. These are classes they must have in order to meet graduation requirements and until the university decides to rectify the scheduling problem there's not much we can do.

"It's just a problem we have to live with," he added, "after all, getting an education is their primary reason for being here. But then again, before classes started, when we were able to practice together as a team, we played much better."

In fact, the Vikings began the season with a 19-15 win over Johnson C. Smith followed by a 6-6 tie with Fayetteville State in the Port City Classic. By week three of the 1988 season ECSU had picked up a second win with a 26-0 romp over the University of the District of Columbia. State dealt the ECSU its second loss with a 33-0 pounding, and

The Vikings woes began with

the Fish Bowl and a 20-6 loss to Norfolk State. South Carolina Virginia Union proved to be too powerful for the Vikings as the Panthers defeated ECSU 48-0 in the first home game of the year.

"We started out well," Little said, "but we've taken a nose dive in the last three games."

While Little says he is not looking for excuses, he points out that his team has had difficulty executing because of the lack of constructive practice time.

"Football is a precision sport. If you can't practice, then you can't execute," he said.

Little said that he has been reviewing films of N.C. Central since last Saturday and has been able to map out a defensive strategy that should help to contain the NCAA's all-time leading scorer. However, the inability to make adjustments to the defense during practice may once again play a factor in how well the Vikings do against the N.C. Central.

"Defensively you need to be able to make adjustments from week to week, but once again, it's difficult when you don't have all of your players together," he said.

N.C. Central is currently ranked ninth in the Sheridan Poll of black college football teams. Also ranked in the Sheridan Top Ten is Winston-Salem State and Bowie State, while Virginia Union, Virginia State, and Hampton University have all been ranked nationally during the 1988 season.

Little added that his team's record of 2-3-1 may not be indicative of the kind of teams in the league this year.

"The (CIAA) conference is really loaded this year," Little said. "I think there is more parity in the conference this year than in any other year."

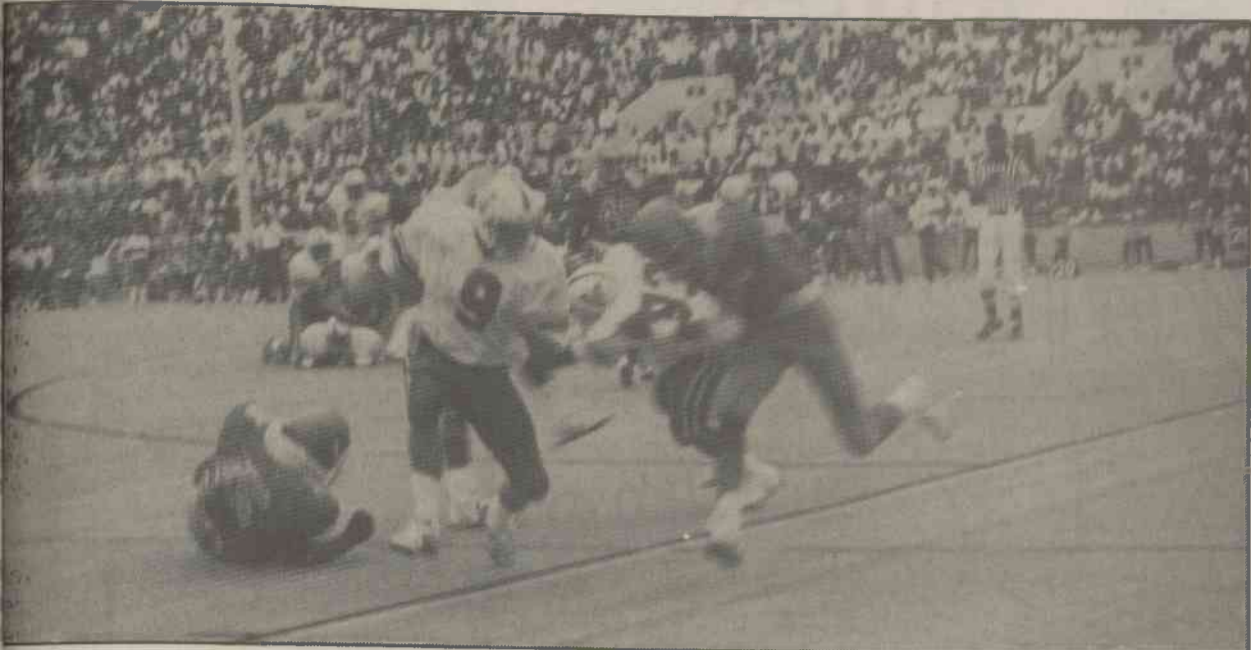


Photo courtesy of Holly-Fonville Photography

Quarterback Bill Wilde tries to elude a Spartan for extra yardage at this year's Fish Bowl, held at Foreman Field in Norfolk, Va.

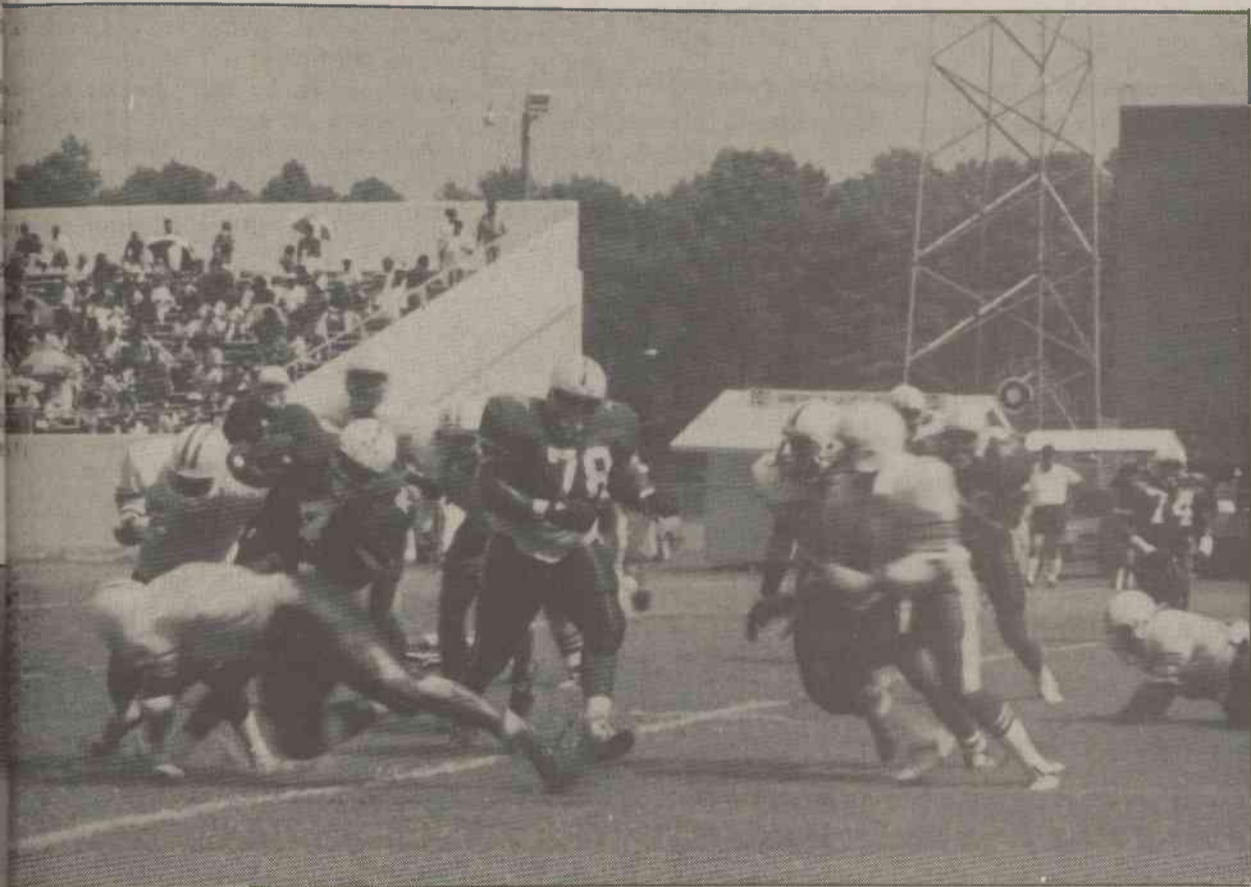


Photo courtesy of Holly-Fonville Photography

Wide receiver Rodney McNeil gets cut down by a Fayetteville State Bronco at the Second Annual Port City Classic held in Wilmington, N.C. The Vikings tied the Broncos in that game.

New band boss: 'Music is my life'

By Leamon Pearce

R. J. Johnson has faith in the power of belief.

"I try to instill in my students not to have the attitude of 'I can't,' says Johnson, ECSU's new Band Director, "Because I know a student can do anything that he or she wants to do. The first step is trying. If you don't try, you never will."

Johnson, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, assumed his new position at ECSU August 1. He has a bachelor's degree in instrumental music from Southern University, and a master's degree in musical education.

He comes to ECSU from Liberty, Mississippi, where he was band director of Liberty High School for the past seven years. Music, Johnson says, is his life.

"It's a pleasure for me to work and get paid for a job that I enjoy doing. At an early age, I decided to get my act together with music, because I enjoyed it so much, to make that my career instead of being someone who wakes up every morning, hating to go to his job.

"I love every aspect of it, even problems. I enjoy solving problems. That's what makes things exciting. If everything was laid out perfect, it would be boring."

While a student at Baton Rouge, Johnson was section leader for trumpets in the school's marching band. "The trumpet got me through college. We played in two Superbowls, four Sugar Bowls, Mardi Gras, and a presidential inauguration."

Johnson's mother and older brother are musicians, and he recalls that "music was around me quite a bit," when he was growing up.

"My brother, Roy Johnson, is Band Director at Southern University. He taught me that the

"My goal is to make ECSU's band the most outstanding band in the U.S. It's that simple."

R.J. Johnson



Photo courtesy of Holly-Fonville Photography
R.L. Johnson with members of the ECSU marching band.

only way to get better on an instrument is by practice. He used to take up time with me at an early age."

Johnson says his older brother served as a role model. "He played behind some of the big stars. I said, 'Hey, I'd like to do the same thing.'"

Johnson also credits his high school band director as having a been a major influence on his career choice.

"My high school band director, Oliver Humbles, helped to guide me in the right direction. He saw some potential in me, took up a little time with me, to show me a better way to do things.

"Some of the same guys I was hanging out with before he helped me are either dead, in prison, or about to get out of prison, or about to go back in prison. My senior year, two of the guys I used to hang out with were shot: One of them shot four times, one of them shot twice. Luckily, they survived, but if I hadn't have been influenced by

Mr. Humbles, I might have been with them."

Today, Johnson spends much of his free time "writing music, learning, and practicing on the

"Students are here to get something in their heads. If your grades are not up to par, I'm doing you an injustice by letting

you participate in band. In the too many black schools have been used. Athletes have been able to play sports, but when many of them get out of school, they haven't developed their minds to do anything. This has happened in band, too. Students should be coming to college to get something in their heads, so

that when they leave they will be in a better position to be successful in life."

"We have been used by other people, and we have been used by each other. I don't want to be one of the users. I want to be one of the helpers. That's what we're trying to do with the program here."

Johnson has high hopes for ECSU's band. "My goal is to make ECSU's band the most outstanding band in the U.S. It's that simple. That might seem like a big statement, but I believe that it can develop to that point."

Johnson envisions ECSU's band playing for pro football games, presidential inaugurations, and representing the school to the state. "I want to open people's eyes, and hear them say, 'Man, where is this place, Elizabeth City. That band is cooking.'"

Johnson is married to the former Diana Williams of Liberty, Mississippi. Their son, Kevin, is 19.

Sports agents indicted for payments to athletes

(CPS) — Three sports agents and a pro football player were recently indicted for allegedly using lucrative but illegal payments and threats to coerce college athletes into signing representation contracts.

New York agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom are accused of offering student-athletes cash, cars, trips and clothing if they signed — agreements allowing Walters and Bloom to represent them in professional contract negotiations.

If the offer of cash or cars didn't work, U.S. Attorney An-

ton Valukas said, Walters and Bloom threatened to break their legs and harm their families.

Bloom and Walters are charged with racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion. The payments and contracts violated National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules.

Also indicted was California agent Dave Lueddeke and Cris Carter of the National Football League's Philadelphia Eagles.

Bloom used Franzese's reputation to coerce athletes into signing contracts, Valukas said. Franzese is serving a 10-year prison term in California for racketeering and tax violations.

Walters also allegedly used threats to sign acts in the music business, including the Jackson Five, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors say Walters and Bloom induced athletes to defraud their schools by accepting cash and signing contracts in violation of NCAA rules, and then signing affidavits saying they had not broken any rules.

SPORTSLINE

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Oct. 15	North Carolina Central	7:30
Oct. 22	*Virginia State University	7:30
	(EC Community Business Night)	
Oct. 29	*Hampton University	2:00
	(Homecoming)	
Nov. 5	Morgan State University	1:30

*Home Games

ECSU Individual Statistics

Offense			
Passing			
Player	ATT	COMP	AVG INT
Brian Bynum	3	1	17.0 1
Randall Jackson	45	10	8.1 4
Bill Wilde	96	63	8.3 3
Rushing			
Player	YRDS	AVG	
Player	GAINED	YRDS	
William Johnson	58	2.9	
Rodney McNeil	298	3.7	
Jeffrey Privett	70	3.5	
Receiving			
Player	NO	YRDS	AVG
Richard Keshaw	10	155	15.5
Rodney McNeil	12	66	5.5
Robert Tiller	17	186	10.9

Defense

Tackles		
Player	UN	AS
Paul Byrd	23	16
Michael Mabrey	42	22
Lee Macdon	21	20
Jimmy Smith	30	13

Sacks

Player	NO	YDS
Michael Mabrey	5	50
Lee Macdon	3	19

Interceptions

Player	NO	YDS
Curtis Perkins	3	50
Jimmy Smith	3	47

Sheridan Poll

The top 10 teams in the Sheridan Poll of black college football teams, with records and total points through Oct. 1.

Record	Pts.
1. Central State, Ohio	5-0-0 140
2. Winston-Salem State	5-0-0 116
3. Howard U.	3-1-0 88
4. Jackson St.	2-0-2 87
5. Bowie St.	5-0-0 64
6. Grambling St.	3-1-0 58
7. Albany St., Ga.	4-0-0 55
8. Florida A&M	1-2-1 44
9. N.C. Central	4-1-0 43
10. Southern U.	3-1-0 38

NCAA News

Football Statistics

Through games of October 1

Division II Individual Leaders		
PUNTING		
*Rodney Hallom, ECSU	FR	25 434
Wally Henry, Mississippi Col.	JR	31 432
Tim Baer, Colorado Mines	JR	26 428
Earl Bryant, Savannah St.	JR	40 428
Trent Morgan, Cal St. Northridge	SR	27 425
Freddie White, Tuskegee	SR	28 411
Jonathan McManus, UC Davis	SO	26 408
Todd McNamee, East Trousburg	SR	31 408

PUNT RETURNS		
*Paul Deberry, Va. Union	SO	7 146 20.9
Kerry Simien, TX A&M	JR	8 161 20.1
Mark Steimeyer, Kutztown	FR	7 133 19.0
Chris Holder, Tuskegee	FR	5 78 15.6
Carl Johnson, Cal St. Hayward	JR	15 218 14.5
Steve Carson, Northeast MD St.	FR	6 87 14.5
Daniel Hutton, Indianapolis	SR	12 171 14.3
Russell Cambridge, Morris BR	SO	12 167 13.9
Willie Deloach, Savannah St.	FR	10 132 13.2

INTERCEPTIONS			
Player	CL	G	NO
Stacy Sanders, Hampton	SR	5	8 1.6
Joe Waskiewicz, Calif (PA)	JR	4	5 117 1.3
*Larry Bryant, Norfolk St.	JR	5	5 106 1.0
Todd Zabel, North Dak. St.	JR	3	3 6 1.0
Rod Patterson, Hixson	SR	4	4 57 1.0
Steve Calhoun, Morris BR	JR	5	5 55 1.0
Pete King, Millersville	SO	4	4 0 1.0
Kenny Helmuth, Indianapolis	SO	4	4 6 1.0
Anthony Perille, Eastern N. Mex.	SO	4	4 48 1.0

TOTAL OFFENSE			
(Player)	PLAYS	YDS	YDSPG
Tommy Compton, North Ala.	173	1143	285.8
Mark Sedinger, Northern Colo.	144	1123	280.8
Jeff Frost, Northeast MO St.	209	1332	266.4
Shaane Willis, Central Fla.	204	1311	262.2
Jeff Mitchell, Indianapolis	95	764	254.7
Alan Brown, MD Southern	224	1249	249.8
Barry Griffiths, Washburn	118	922	236.5
*Earl Harvey, NC Central	250	1120	224.0
Mike Horton, New Haven	149	876	215.0
Jack Hall, Grand Valley St.	162	1036	207.2
William Williams, Humboldt St.	168	822	205.5
Sam Yanner, Bermuda St.	135	801	200.3
Chris Sindson, North Dakota St.	85	789	197.3

CIAA STANDINGS

Team	Conference All games							
	W	L	TP	OP	W	L	TP	OP
Northern Div.	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Virginia State	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Hampton	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	1
Va. Union	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	1
Norfolk State	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Elizabeth City	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	1
Southern Div.	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Oct. 17	Shaw University	6:00 pm
Oct. 19	*Hampton University	6:00 pm
Oct. 25	U. Maryland-E. Shore	6:00 pm
Oct. 31	*CIAA Tournament	
	-Nov. 1	