

# The Ultimate Walk-On Story

## Wilde waiting for chance in NFL

By Chad Allen

**W**hat do you want to be when you grow up? Most of us have forgotten our answers to such childhood questions but not Bill Wilde. His dreams of being a professional football player still linger.

Wilde, a criminal justice major who will graduate in May, hopes that some National Football League team will give him a shot.

"All I want is a chance," he says. "If things don't work out, I'll survive."

The Rutherford, New Jersey native who grew up in the shadows of Giants Stadium did not expect to be drafted. Instead, he fixed his sights on being invited to a mini-camp. A good showing at a mini-camp could earn him a trip to training camp and from there a possible place on an NFL roster.

Wilde will be getting his NFL chance May 11 when he has a try-out with the New York Giants.

Wilde, a 6'3" 210 lbs. pure dropback quarterback says, "I think I can play at another level. I am awaiting the upcoming NFL draft with hopeful anticipation."

"He's a top notch field general," says former ECSU Coach Thurlis Little. "Wilde has progressed over the

last four years in many areas. First, there was the adjustment from high school to college. On the field the players were bigger and faster. Off the field, being away from home at a predominantly black school took considerable adjusting."

"I felt like I was on an island. I ran up a phone bill exceeding one hundred fifty dollars my first month here," said Wilde.

"My first year I tried to learn all I could, on the field and in the classroom." He began his freshman year as the seventh string quarterback and was entertaining the thoughts of leaving but after listing the pros and cons decided to stay. Wilde is quick to admit that ECSU's new head football coach Johnnie Walton played a big part in his decision to stay. Walton, a former NFL quarterback, made a strong impression on Wilde.

"I remember one day during practice a quarterback needed a hands-on demonstration of how a particular pass should be thrown," said Wilde. "Without warming up, Walton said let me show how it's done, then proceeded to throw what Wilde described as a missile to a downfield receiver. That impressed me, I knew right then this guy could help me."

After the first year Wilde seemed to have a new direction and purpose. He worked hard in the off season and

was determined to make it. By the start of his sophomore season he was the starting quarter-back. For the next three seasons he held that position, being named All-CIAA northern division. His junior year saw him throw for 1,829 yards along with 14 touchdowns.

He finished the year second in the conference for passing yardage.

As the 1989 season began Wilde and Coach Little had hopes of a 2,000 yard season but a nagging toe injury all but drained these hopes.

Wilde, as well as Walton, admits that the last four years have been filled with ups and downs. If anyone is qualified to predict the possibilities of Wilde making the NFL, it is certainly Walton.

"I enjoyed working with Bill during his first two years. He is a very talented football player who possesses considerable knowledge of the game. If given the opportunity, I think he will do well," stated Walton.

When asked about his last four years Wilde tells of everything from being showered with oranges, having an opponent attempt to bite off his thumb, and being the target of some very creative racial slurs. Wilde is quick to point out, however, that racism was never a concern of his on the field.

"I was brought up in a house where there wasn't any prejudice," said Wilde. "Color is inside out. To me, it's what is inside that counts."

After coming from a very successful high school program he naturally wishes the Vikings had taken more trips to the win column but he believes the experiences he's been exposed to have only helped him as a player and person. One day he hopes to co-author a book about his four years at ECSU.

Even though Wilde is optimistic about his chances of playing in the NFL he is also capable of dealing with the idea of hanging up his cleats.

Once heralded as the ultimate walk-on story by Coach Little, Wilde has dealt with adversity as well. Bill lost his father when he was in the eighth grade. His dad's unexpected death at the age of thirty-four gave him a new perspective on life.

"It made things such as being a white quarterback in a predominantly black school seem minute in comparison," he said. "My father wanted me to be the best that I could be. I remember him taking me to Jet's games at Shea Stadium. My dad was a big fan of Joe Namath and I was a big fan of my dad. My mother has also been one of my most important motivational forces. She is the toughest woman I know and at the same time my best friend."

The ultimate walk-on story continues May 11. Hopefully it will involve a chapter which speaks of a quarterback named Bill Wilde joining other ECSU alumnus such as Reggie Langhorne and Tim Cofield in that football fraternity we refer to as the NFL.



As former football coach Thurlis J. Little looks on, Viking quarterback Bill Wilde practices 'the snap' before the Fish Bowl.

Photo by Pedro Holo

## MS III cadets

### Doing more by 7 a.m. than most people do in a day

By Miracle Perry

ECSU's MS III cadets who participate in the Army Reserve Officers' Training corps do more by 7 a.m. than most people do all day.

From August through May, the MS III cadets undergo vigorous training everyday and seldom have any weekends free. They train in various training spots training on the five evaluated areas needed to successfully complete Advance Camp.

The five evaluated areas are land navigation, basic rifle marks-manship (BRM), tactics, physical training (PT), and job performance.

Land navigation is using a compass, map, and protractor to go from one point to another. BRM is teaching the four basic fundamentals of marks-manship, which enables the cadet to become expert shooters. Military tactics are the maneuvers used in peace and wartime military practices.

PT consists of exercising and developing the body so that it will withstand any of the rough training; and job performance is the rating of the cadets job performance in any of the leadership positions.

The training stations are in North Carolina and Virginia. At Ft. Bragg the cadets are trained in day and night land navigation. At Forty Story, Virginia the cadets are trained in land navigation and tactics. At Ft. Eustis

cadets are trained in land navigation, repelling, BRM, and tactics. A.P. Hill is where the cadets conduct BRM training. Ft. Pickett serves as the finale of a long years work, so the cadets train in all five evaluated areas for 2 1/2 weeks before Advance Camp.

Students receive local training at ECSU and Norfolk State University, which offers seminars through-out the year for the cadets.

Many of the cadets say that the training takes a lot of time, but in the end it is rewarding.

"I am always with the cadets and cadre of the ROTC program, so I never have time for my girlfriend," said one MS III cadet. "So I made ROTC my girlfriend."

All of the training is not necessary, because "Even at training you can do nothing, but what you do depends totally upon you," said Patrick Sullivan, a MS III cadet.

A typical day on a weekend training exercise would be very hectic because at 5 a.m.-5:15 am first call (morning wake-up call) comes, 5:15-6:00 is personal hygiene, 6:00-6:45 is barracks maintenance, 6:45-7:00 is travel to the dining hall, and breakfast is from 7:15-8:00.

The rest of the day is spent in such diverse areas as weapons training, tactics, tests, and reviews.

Despite this busy schedule, some selected cadets also have night duty such as Command Quarters duty (CQ) and Fire Guard duty. Fire guard duty runs on a rotating shift for 1 hour from 11:00 until 5:00. CQ duty runs from 11:00 until 5:00 for 2 to 2 1/2 hours long.

"It's rough and it takes a lot of time, plus you never have enough time for your other studies, therefore you have to make time," said Darryl Brown a MS III cadet. "But they (ROTC Officials) don't seem to realize that."

Is the training valuable? "Yes," commented Stephanie Boulding, a MS III cadet, "because as a black female you must know your job better than everyone else, therefore the training is valuable because it trains you to do just that."

"It's a lot of work and we (women) need the extra work," said Linda Foster, a MS III cadet. "If it is what you want, go for it."

"The training is equal, but we (females) don't benefit from it because we can't go into certain fields such as Infantry," said Karen Pickett, a MS III cadet. "Therefore that is the whole problem. We train equal-ly, but don't qualify equally."

MS III cadets say they reap many rewards from the training. "I feel ROTC has brought out qualities in me I never realized I possessed," said

Shawn Everett, a MS III cadet. "Although the training is vigorous and time consuming, it will pay off in the end when it's time to for me to become a female officer in a male Army," added Everett.

"It was fun my first two years, but the MS III year should be constructed a little bit different to give us (cadets) a chance with our social lives as Juniors in college."

"It is too demanding and serious minded," commented one MS III cadet.

"ROTC did not give me leadership, but it did enhance my leadership abilities through all of this training," said Tony Dawson, a MS III cadet.

"It's a real good program," said Kevin Brown, a MS III cadet, "they prepare you for life, but the bar on your shoulder doesn't make you a good leader. A good leader makes a good follower and some of us still aren't that, even with all of this training."

These MS III cadets have not only good military backgrounds, but good academic backgrounds as well.

"The time is limited, hours are long and hard, but the payoff in the end is high," said one cadet.

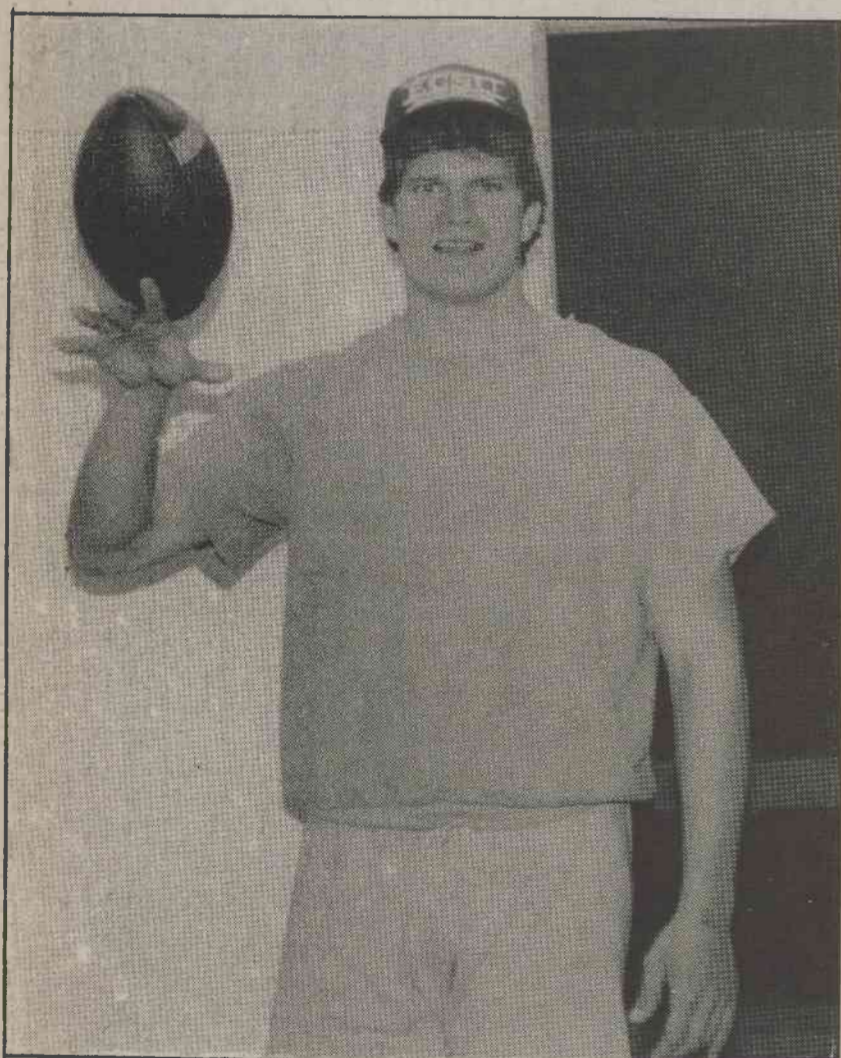


Photo by Chad Allen

Even when resting at home, Viking quarterback Bill Wilde, twiddles around with the old 'pigskin'.

## Basketball star Galvin Walker killed in automobile accident

By Mark Morris

ECSU basketball star Galvin Walker died instantly Wednesday, March 29, after his car hit a mud puddle in a curve and skidded into a field.

The accident occurred in Currituck County, less than a mile from his home.

As the shock wears off from the death of Walker, what remains is concern for those he left behind. While many are still asking "Why Galvin?" others are already wondering how Walker's absence will affect the play of the ECSU basketball team for the 1989-90 season.

"This is something I think we have to deal with. As a coach, I

will help them work through it," said Claude Mackey, ECSU basketball coach.

In the 1988-89 season, Walker, who was a starting guard for the Vikings, registered 215 points, 74 rebounds, 47 assists, and 38 steals. Walker was fourth on the team in scoring during the CIAA tournament, averaging 10 points in the Vikings' three game effort.

Aside from Walker's contributions on the court, the loss of Galvin, known as "G" to his peers, will have an impact off the court as well as on the court, Mackey said.

"Very seldom, on a ball club, do you have one person who everybody has a special feeling for," said Mackey. "Galvin was that kind of

player."

"You really can't say anything but nice things about him," said Andre Smith, News and Sports Information Director for WRVS. "He was a perfect gentleman, very well-mannered. He was always willing to give a friendly greeting."

Viking point guard and floor general James Eaton will dedicate next season to the memory of Walker.

"I'm going to do more than I did last season," said Eaton.

Mackey said he will hold a "death and dying session" to help team members deal with Walker's death. Still, it seems, that the key to everyone dealing with the death of Mr. Galvin K. Walker is time

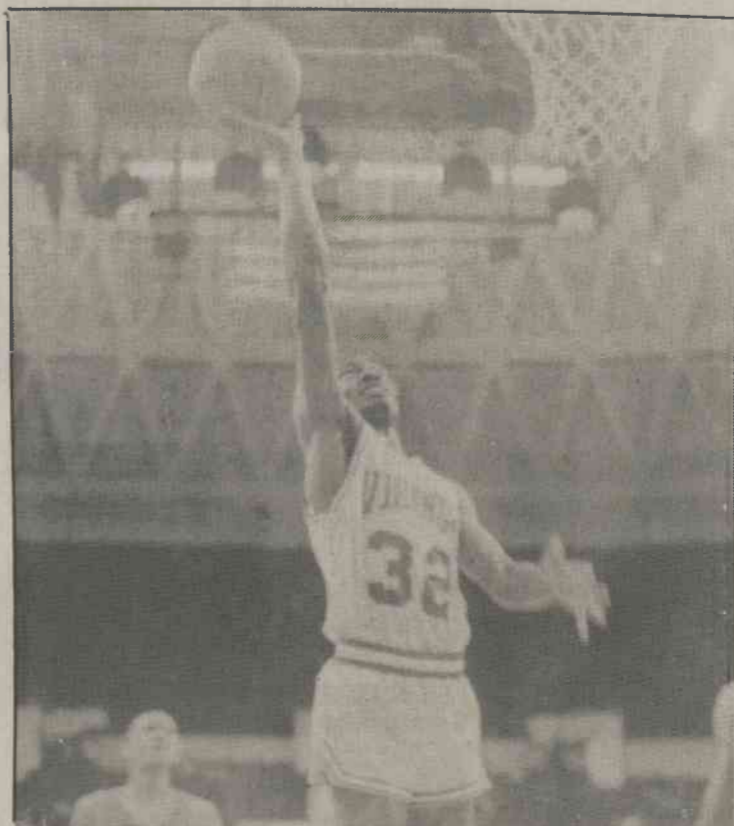


Photo by Leamon Pearce