

# SPORTS

## Viking PAIN

Despite bruising losses fans' support is high

By Jody Riddick and Mark Morris

The ECSU Vikings began the 1989 season in championship form, taking out Livingstone College 16-8 in their opener and defeating Fayetteville State 14-7 in the Port City Classic on September 9.

The fiery spirit generated by new head coach, Johnnie Walton, was spearheaded by junior running back, Nelson Welch, who rushed for 116 yards in the first game, and defensive back, Curtis Perkins, who registered an incredible five interceptions in the two contests.

On September 16, however, the Vikings returned to Roebuck Stadium only to watch the bottom drop out against Winston-Salem State. Welch, after scoring on a 10-yard touchdown run went out with an rib injury. Viking problems increased with the loss of Curtis Perkins in the same game. The Rams of Winston-Salem rushed for 316 yards (194 of which came from Junior Broderick Graves) and went on to a 27-13 victory over Elizabeth City.

That loss, followed by an embarrassing 57-0 route by Norfolk State in the Fish Bowl, still left Coach Walton speaking with guarded optimism. "We're doing well with a .500 season so far," said Walton, "Our main goal

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is to win a CIAA championship."

The next week, the Vikings were back at home to host the Thoroughbreds of Kentucky State. Before the game, Walton spoke of the benefits of playing the non-conference team. "It will help the publicity of the team and the school...it will be a special night."

It was indeed a special night for Kentucky State as the 0-4 Thoroughbreds recorded their first victory of the season, capitalizing on a couple of blunders by Vikings special teams and stealing a 32-20 win over the disgusted home team.

The following matchup promised no light at the end of the tunnel as the Vikings traveled to Richmond, Virginia to take on traditionally tough, Virginia Union. The Vikings came out swinging, scoring the first and only touchdown of the first quarter on

a 1-yard run by Rodney McNeil, and maintaining a 7-7 deadlock at the half. In the second half, however, they fell victim to the passing arm of Union quarterback, Carl Wright who completed 18 of 29 attempts for 259 yards and led the Panthers on three touchdown drives in the second half to give Va. Union a 27-15 win. It was the Vikings' fourth consecutive loss.

Back to the drawing board went the Vikings. Desperate for a conference win, Coach Walton inserted a new passing scheme into the offense to surprise CIAA powerhouse, Bowie State.

More than 13,000 people showed up at Roebuck Stadium on October 14, hoping to see the Vikings knock off the toughest team in the conference. The homecoming crowd was treated to a classic battle. The underdog Vikings practically extinguished

the high-powered Bulldog offense, holding them to a mere seven points and shined offensively, on the wings of an excellent passing performance despite four interceptions, by quarterback, Juan Langford.

The 5'10" Sophomore out of Laurel Hill, N.C. completed 14 of 25 attempts through the air for 158 yards, twice as many completions as Bowie's quarterback, Henry Frazier. Langford's passing effort almost won the game for the Vikings as a last second toss into the end zone, intended for receiver, James Brown, was tipped out of bounds by a Bulldog defender.

Although the Vikings lost their fifth straight, they were still impressive in holding their own against the team that manhandled the same Norfolk State team that defeated the Vikings in the Fish Bowl.

In light of some of the problems that may be affecting the teams play, Coach Walton was asked how he felt about the fan support this season. "The fan support has been tremendous," said Walton, "Attendance has been good as well."

Walton also commented on the differences between this year's team and the team he coached in 1982. "The team in '82 was larger. Recruitment is harder now than in '82...proposition 48 has been a large factor in this."

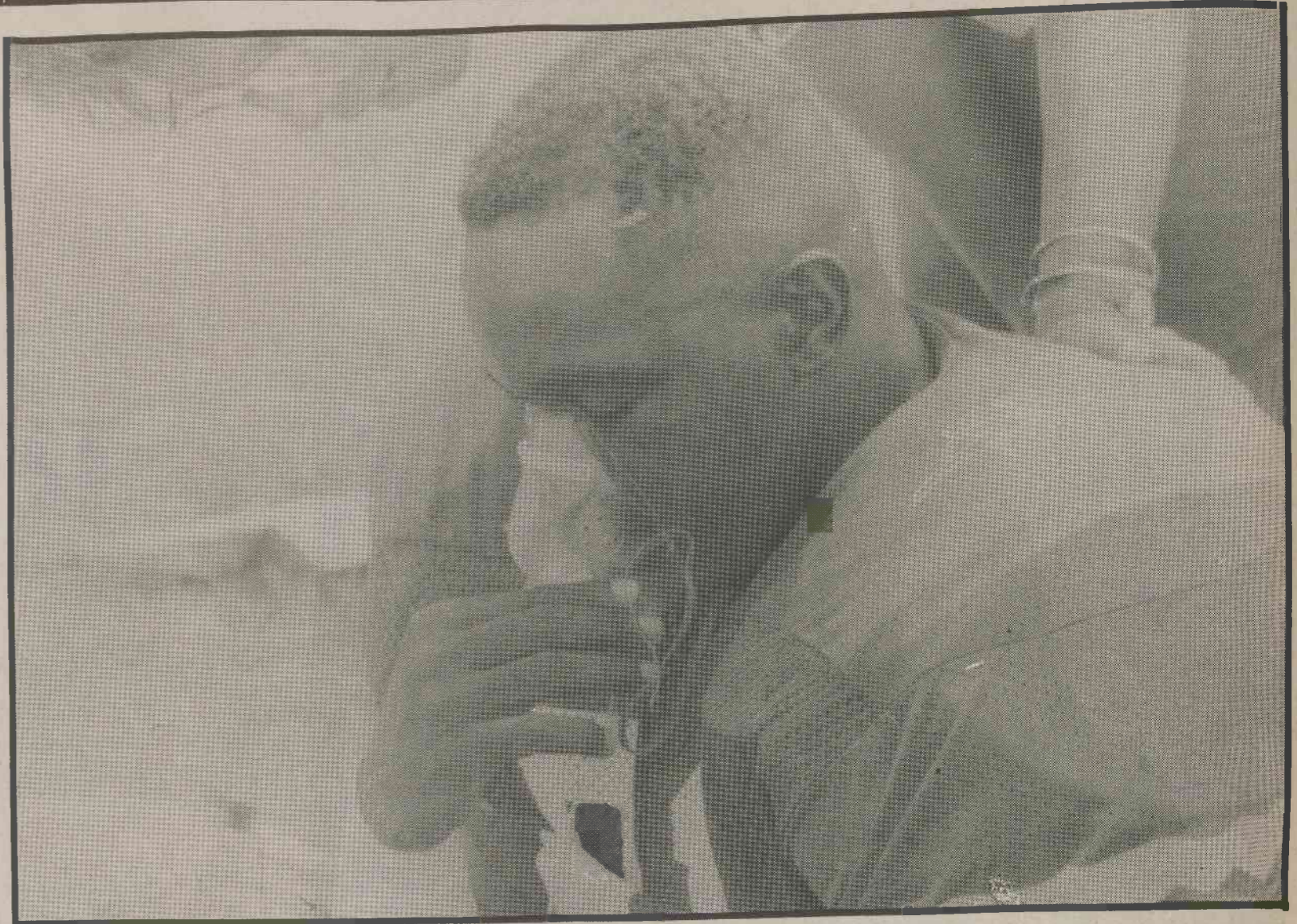


Photo by Richard McIntire

Viking defensive back Paul Byrd had the wind knocked out of him during the battle between Elizabeth City and Winston-Salem. His condition could be compared to that of the Viking win-loss record of 2 and 5.



Photo by Richard McIntire

## Proposal to cut season makes tempers flare

By Mark Morris

Since the 80's began, the NCAA Presidents' Commission has not come close to winning any popularity contests. In fact, rulings such the infamous Proposition 48, which placed restrictions on player eligibility according to SAT scores, and the recent rulings forcing players to sit out an entire season after transferring across division boundaries, have set off new protests every season.

The commission has generated another wave of controversy with its proposal to shorten the basketball season by a month and cut spring football practice in half. The proposal is planned to limit basketball and football to one semester each, and cause the athletes to spend more time in the classroom.

Football and basketball players spend an average of 30 hours a week on their sports, according to an NCAA survey.

Already, tempers have flared among head coaches throughout the NCAA.

Michigan University's head football coach, Bo Shembechler was quoted by *The Washington Post* as calling the proposed legislation "ridiculous and unbelievable."

Added an irate Shembechler, "When you get these 'academicians' into things, they have no idea what it's all about. That's what happens when you turn these people loose with no

information."

Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski also spoke to *The Washington Post* on the matter, calling the idea bold and impractical. He said the new season would conflict with many school's exam periods, and end up costing athletic departments money.

"It makes no sense," he said. "In this case they end up hurting the kids."

There will be a conference to discuss the possible amendment in January.

## Lady Vikings: morale is up

By Mike Stone and Jody Riddick

On September 8, 1989 the ECSU volleyball team opened their season at home in impressive form by defeating the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Shaw University.

"Teamwork and overall attitude have greatly improved since last season", said volleyball coach Debbie Lynch. On September 15 the Lady Vikings collected another win by defeating Fayetteville State University. Teamwork and attitudes have been the team's strong points this season.

This year's team has five new players: Jeana Gordon, Dee Soriano, Nikki Wells, Terri James, and Heidi Managanlit. The three returning Lady Vikings are Swanola Chance, Erika Ruffin, and Karen Pope.

On September 18, the Lady Vikings suffered their first loss to Lady Falcons of St. Augustines College.

"The team's weaknesses are mental errors and that we do not take advantage of the other team's mistakes," said Coach Lynch.

On September 19, ECSU experienced their second loss to the Lady Eagles of N. C. Central University. On September 20, the Lady Vikings redeemed themselves by recording two wins in a double match with St. Paul and Bowie State.

The Lady Vikings suffered their third loss of the season the following night to Virginia State.

After a five day break between games the Lady Vikings traveled to Hampton University to face St. Paul again and the Lady Pirates of Hampton in a double match. The Lady Vikings won their first match over St. Paul but lost the second match to Hampton, marking their fourth loss of the season.

On September 28, ECSU traveled to Richmond, Va. to face Virginia

Union and Bowie State and again walked away with two victories in a double match.

On September 30, the Lady Vikings were on the road again, traveling to Durham to meet North Carolina Central for the third time. They were looking to avenge two earlier losses to the Lady Eagles but Central, once again, proved to be too strong.

On October 2, the team returned home, hosting and defeating Virginia State boosting their record to 9-5 overall and 6-2 in the conference. Coach Lynch feels that the team has a strong chance at winning the conference tournament this year.

The CIAA volleyball tournament will be held in Durham October 29, 30, and 31. The top four teams of both the northern and southern divisions will participate in the tournament.

Coach Lynch said she would like to thank the student body, faculty, and the community for supporting the Lady Vikings so far this year.

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Viking spiker Dee Soriano sets up a Shaw University Bear during recent CIAA volleyball action in the Vaughan center. Soriano and her teammates currently possess a 9 and 5 record and hopefully will be one of the four teams that will participate in the CIAA volleyball tourney to be held in Durham the 29th through the 31st of this month.