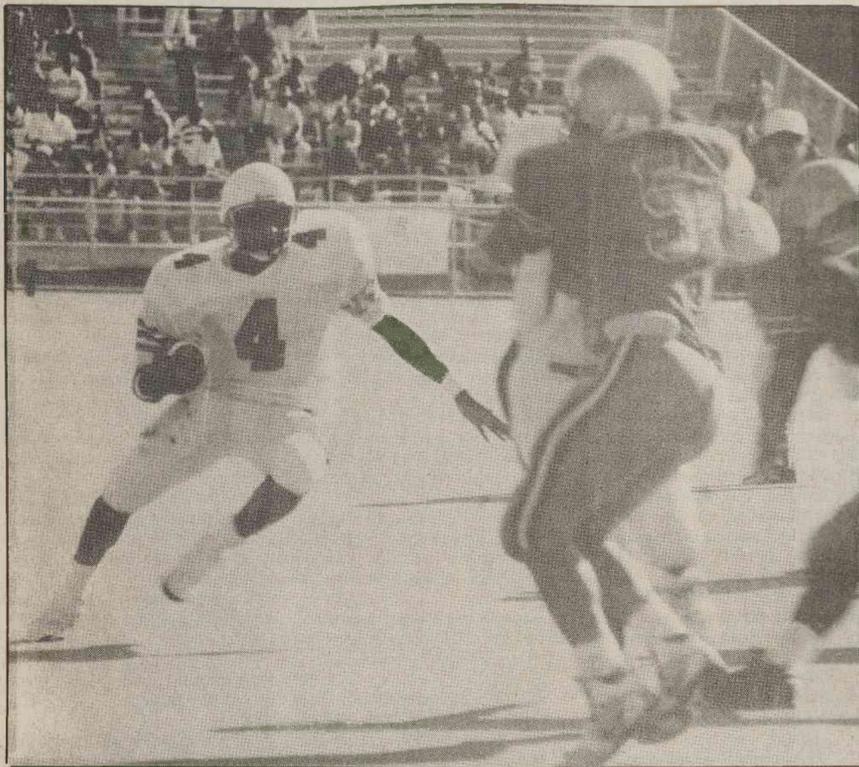


# SPORTS



ECSU's Andre Nelson looks to find an opening on a run play against Norfolk State. The sophomore tailback rushed over 100 yards in this game. Despite a hard fought game, the Spartans defeated the Vikings 26-21 Sept. 28 at Foreman Field in Norfolk, Va.

Photo by Pedro Halley

## ECSU has new athletic director

By Mark Morris and Jody Riddick

Two years after the departure of Curtis Williams, ECSU has a permanent replacement for the position of Athletic Director.

Willie Shaw, a native of Jackson, Tennessee, came to ECSU from North Carolina Central University in Durham where he worked in the Physical Education Department for four years. Prior to that, Shaw spent 22 years as head basketball coach and athletic director at his alma mater, Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee where he played football and basketball as a student. Now in his 27th year working in college athletics, Shaw is determined to bring ECSU's athletic program "up to par" and make it more competitive in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

"The CIAA is broad and competitive and overall it's a good conference," said Shaw. "The main goal for ECSU is to be well represented in the conference, but this will not happen over night."

One reason for Shaw's optimism about ECSU is the improvement in the Athletic Program's financial situation.

"It's no secret that this athletic department had incurred somewhere in the neighborhood of a \$500,000 debt," said Shaw. "Our Chancellor (Jimmy Jenkins), through his expertise was able to get General Administration to forgive us for that debt. That means we have to start operating a little bit more efficiently than we have before."

Shaw admitted that rumors have been flying about the Athletic Department's financial woes. Included in those are speculations that non revenue sports like indoor and outdoor track, volleyball, baseball, and softball will either suffer or even be dropped.

"I don't know where the rumors came from," said Shaw, "but I do know that we are going to have to streamline our funds in the athletic department so that we can stay under budget. I'm not at liberty right now to say how that will be handled."

Shaw did say that sports such as football and men's and women's basketball that generate more funds, usually require more funding to run. Shaw takes into consideration the size of the teams, travel, scheduling, and equipment when deciding funding for athletic programs. Currently, athletic scholarships at ECSU are limited to football and basketball.

"All of the sports here should be considered equal, but this isn't possible due to how the budget is set up for the various sports."

In his quest to improve the Viking's sports program Shaw hopes to involve the entire University as well as the community. His major concern is student turnout at home games.

"I was disappointed by a small attendance in Roebuck Stadium for the football game between ECSU and Knoxville College," he said. "I would like to see more students in the stands when the Vikings play at home."

Community support for the programs will require a "joint effort" by students, faculty and staff, Shaw be-

lieves.

"In order for the University family to become more involved, they must make a commitment to themselves and to the university," he said "You can't simply win every game every time you play, but if we don't pull together to show that true Viking spirit, then the people here at the University will continue to base everything on the scale of wins and losses. If we don't market our teams out in the newspapers and other publications that we have, then people will not get as involved as they should."

Shaw said that he has a good relationship with the coaches, faculty, and staff at ECSU.

The few problems he has encountered, he said, "are a result of things still being in transition."

Shaw said his style of administering will be a little different from the last athletic director (Thomas Caldwell served as acting athletic director for 1990-91. He feels there won't be any problems once he knows everyone.

"Athletics are a major part of the University as a whole," Shaw said "I can't change everything overnight to make things o.k. for athletics here at ECSU; it's going to take time and patience, but my door is always open to people who want to talk to me."

Shaw is married to his "college sweet heart," Brenda Johnson. The couple have a son, now freshman at Crescent Academy in Durham, N.C. and a daughter, who is in her third year at Howard University.

Shaw's hobbies include golf, tennis, racketball and listening to contemporary jazz.

## Kelley finally makes head coach 4-1 is Vikes' best start in 5 years

By Robert Wilkins

For nearly three decades, Alvin T. Kelley was a bridesmaid on the Viking's football coaching staff. Last spring, when former head coach Johnnie Walton left the program for a second time, Kelley got the nod. The fast results are ECSU's best start in five seasons, a renewed team spirit and a realistic shot at winning the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

The Viking's 24-23 victory in their Oct. 12 contest with Virginia Union placed them in a unique position. Unique because it marked their best start in five seasons and put them within reach of their first conference title in over a decade.

After Alabama State cancelled the season opener with ECSU in order to host return of a team to their conference, the Vikings launched their season with a warm-up at Fayetteville State on Sept. 14. ECSU outclassed the Broncos with nearly 300 yards gained on offense and posted a 21-6 victory. The Fayetteville State game was symbolic of the balanced attack the Vikings have prepared for their opponents this year.

Quarterback Tim Johnson passed the ball for 128 yards and one touchdown; a 24 yard strike to Andre Nelson with 11:32 remaining in the second quarter.

The Vikings also scored defensively as Mark Hines, a junior defensive lineman from Greenville, N.C. recovered a fumble and advanced the

ball for a touchdown in the same period.

A third score came from the Vikings special teams when Freshman receiver Philip O'Neal ran 91 yards to return a kick for a touchdown after Fayetteville's only score of the game in the fourth quarter.

A week later, ECSU played their home opener against Knoxville State and improved their record to 2-0 with a 17-8 victory.

The Vikings closed out the month playing against interstate rival Norfolk State University. For the past three years, the Vikings have played well in their first two games of the season, faltered against Norfolk in the Fish Bowl Classic, and spent the remainder of the season in the "L" column.

However, the "Fish Bowl" label was dropped from this year's matchup and by the third quarter, so was the trance that the Spartans had on the Vikings.

In front of more than ten thousand fans, the Vikings recovered from a first half whitewash by NSU and staged a monumental battle that resulted in a 26-21 win for Norfolk State and a newfound confidence for the Vikings.

The Vikings bounced back and took out their frustration on North Carolina Central University at home on Oct. 5., routing them 40-15 with outstanding play by their defensive backs, 56 yards rushing by Sophomore, Andre Nelson, and 99 yards passing from Johnson. ECSU dominated Central in

all aspects of the game, registering 315 yards total offense as opposed to 12 for Central.

Heading into their week 5 contest with Virginia Union University, the Vikings had out scored their opponents 99 to 55, averaged more than 350 yards offense per game and their opponents to less than half that amount.

The stage was set for a contest meeting between the two schools, Virginia Union's homecoming.

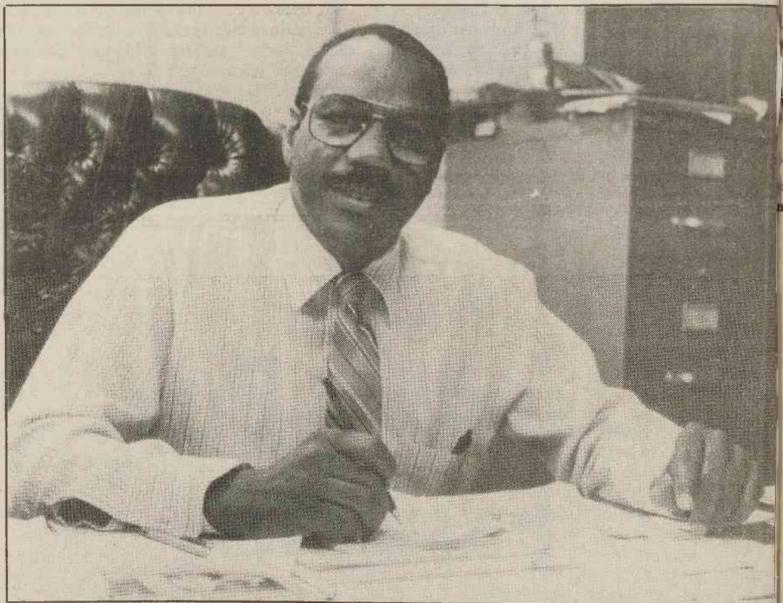
ECSU scored the only touchdown of the first quarter when running back Mike Freeman ran in from 1 yard. With 11:04 left in the second quarter the Vikings struck again as Johnnie Nelson hit Andre Nelson for a 34 yard touchdown pass.

The two teams then exchanged touchdowns through the air to tie them a half-time score of 21-14.

Then with 4:55 remaining in the third quarter, James Gonzo hit a 30 yard field goal which provided the Vikings with just enough points to win the game. With 6:22 remaining in the contest, Union scored a touchdown to bring the score within a goal. A safety with under a minute brought them within a point of ECSU but time ran out on Union before they could produce any more points.

ECSU will face Bowie State University on Saturday for the Homecoming game.

Coaches and players both anticipate that a win over Bowie would place the Vikings "sitting pretty" in the CIAA.



ECSU's new Athletic Director, Dr. Willie Shaw, takes time out from his paper work to pose for a photograph. Shaw brings 27 years of experience in college athletics to his new position. Shaw, a native of Jackson, Tennessee, came to ECSU from North Carolina Central University in Durham.

Photo by Jackie

## Freshmen learning 'hard football' say, 'It's so hard to be a Viking!'

By James Sims

Most college athletes don't see a lot of playing time during their freshman year. However, a unique group of freshmen on ECSU's 1991 football team have proven to be exceptions to that rule.

Gene Stovall, a free safety from Miami; Phillip O'Neal, a wide receiver and return specialist from Elizabeth City; and Norman Calhoun, a running back from Miami say they have comfortably fit into the Viking's concept of "hard football."

"Hard football," according to senior linebacker, Lee Macon, "consists of giving 110% for four quarters; every game and willingness to sacrifice your body during battle."

"It's been great being a part of the Viking team," said Stovall, a free safety from Miami Fla.

Stovall said he didn't expect to become a starter in his first year but felt that if he worked hard enough he would eventually get to play with the "big guys."

"When they (ECSU staff) recruited me they told me I had a good chance at getting playing time but I knew recruiters would say that kind of thing just to get you to come to their college."

Stovall quickly discovered that the promises of ECSU were real and has been a starter since the season began. Thus far, he has handled the role well, matching two key interceptions in the Viking's memorable battle with Nor-

folk State on Sept. 28.

"I was very excited when I got the two interceptions, I wanted to score but it just wasn't there," Stovall added.

The switch from the high school to college level football, has been a fun and painful experience for some of the freshmen. Talton Free, a linebacker from Greensboro, N.C., injured his shoulder in a practice session, and said it helped him to believe the team motto "It's so hard to be a Viking."

Elizabeth City native Phillip O'Neal experienced his first battle scar in the third game against Norfolk State when four Spartans pounced on him while he was returning a kick. O'Neal came away from the pile with a sore nose and a busted lip which swelled tremendously.

"I knew I would get hurt sooner or later," said O'Neal, son of ECSU art instructor Eugene O'Neal. "When Roderick Barfield, the receiver I idolized in high school, got hurt in the game against Norfolk, I had to suck it up become a man and get back in there."

In the first game against Fayetteville University, O'Neal was able to run back a kick-off return 91 yards for a touchdown.

"I was really surprised in that game," O'Neal said "I thought I was going to get hit bad, but when I was ahead of everyone, it felt just like high school again," said O'Neal.

Another freshman showing a special talent for handling the football, is Norman Calhoun, a running back from

Miami. Unable to play in the game due to technicalities, Calhoun finally got his chance in the first quarter against Knoxville College.

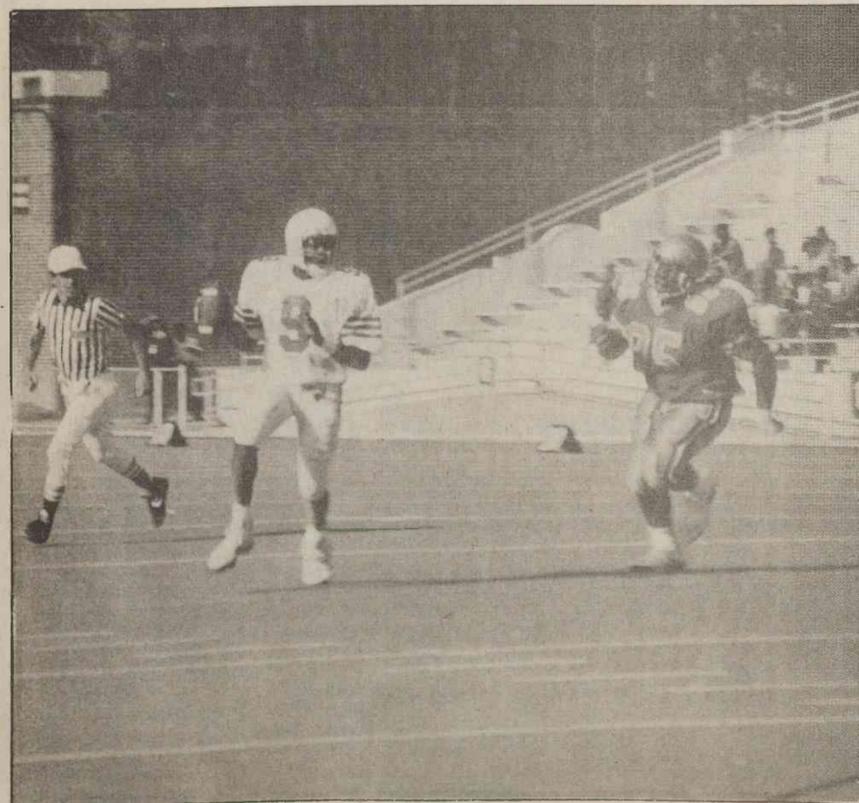
"I was nervous when I first came to college because I thought college football would be at another level like it is on television," said Calhoun.

In the last seconds of that game, Calhoun turned what would have been a penalty into a productive score. Quarterback Tim Johnson called a cadence, Calhoun jumped off the line, pretended to go in motion, received the handoff and rushed in the end zone for a score.

"That was a great feeling," said Calhoun, "I was already hungry for the ball so when I jumped off the line I managed to keep my head and my best to score."

The common denominator for the four freshman, was the initial and final job they have produced, what makes them outstanding.

Other freshmen making waves in the Viking program are: Rafael Stovall of Detroit, Michigan, Willie Stovall from Maxton, N.C., Rodney Stovall from Washington, D.C., Victor Norman from Plymouth, N.C., Lee Hunt from South Windsor, Conn., Jesse "short dog" Johnson from Miami, Omar Foster from Holly Springs, N.C., Ronaquin Clark from Paterson, N.J., Tuan Bell from Columbia, S.C., Courtland Hill from St. Louis, Mo., John Page of Miami and non Pendergrass of Weldon, N.C.



Junior quarterback Tim Johnson avoids the rush of a Norfolk State defender as he looks down field for an open Viking receiver. Johnson also rushed for over 100 yards in an effort to beat the Spartans.

Photo by Pedro Halley