

Vikes finish 2nd in CIAA

By James Sims

The ECSU Viking baseball team settled for second place in the CIAA after losing to the Norfolk State Spartans three times in regular season play, and once again in the championship game April 18.

Going into the doubleheader against the Spartans, the Vikings won 10 of 11 then lost the next two to the rival Spartans. The losing streak didn't stop there; the Vikings lost another doubleheader to Virginia State April 5, and lost once more to Norfolk the next day.

But the Vikings didn't give up hope. Some players knew they would meet the Spartans once more in the championship game, and they did—only to be disappointed. The Vikings lost 2-1 due to a Spartan play in the last inning.

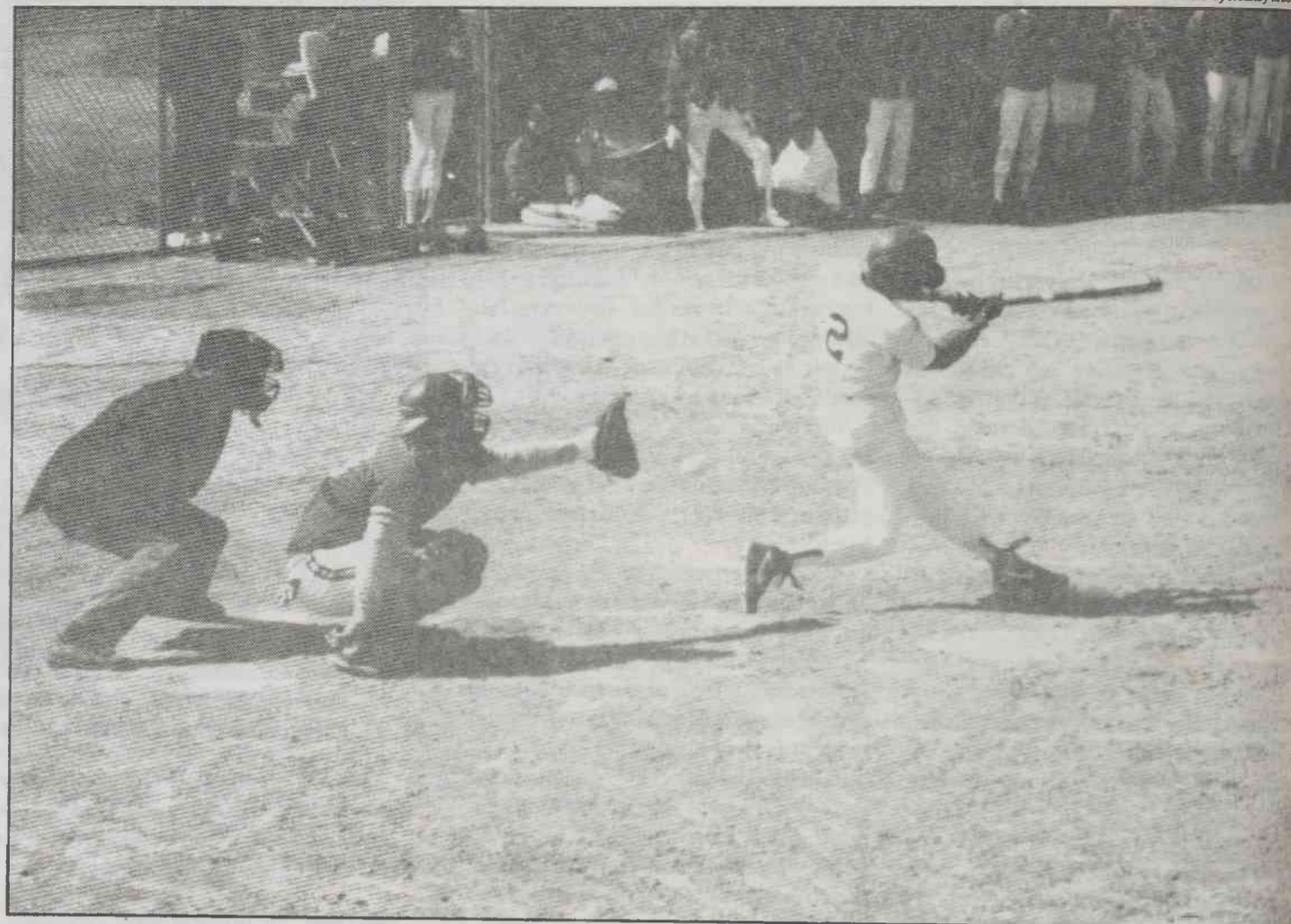
"The championship game against Norfolk State is something that will haunt me for a long time," said Langford. "I would rather have gotten blown out than to play so hard and come up short."

Despite their loss to Norfolk, the Vikings' overall record of 20-13 is no fluke. Coach Charles Cullens gives a lot of the credit to the improved pitching.

"Pitching is stronger as opposed to last year," said Cullens. "Jeff Creef (7-4), is a transfer pitcher from NC Wesleyan college, who's been a big boost to us because he has two years experience under his belt."

Creef, a junior from Columbia, NC, also made the All-CIAA second team.

Pitching isn't the only thing that



ECSU senior Juan Langford takes a cut on a Norfolk State pitch. The Vikings lost this game 3-6, but finish season 20-13 overall.

launched the Vikings to the championship game. Performances from '92 All-CIAA first team players such as Andre Nelson and Juan Langford deserve credit as well.

"I don't know where we would be if it wasn't for Andre," said Cullens.

Nelson, a junior from Ridgeway, SC, is the team's batting leader with an average of .387.

"We have had scouts interested in

Photo by James Sims

Andre," said Cullens. "He has whatscouts are looking for: he's big, fast and strong."

Cullens praised Langford, the only senior starter on the team, for his excellent defensive skills and also for taking on the leadership role on the team.

"Langford has done a great on the field and as a leader," said Cullens. "He's sort of like a coach on the field," said Cullens.

Second baseman, Duane Byrum, a sophomore from Elizabeth City made the

All-CIAA second team as well.

This year's Viking record is a big improvement over last year's less than .500 season of 15-16, and with only one person leaving, the Vikings are looking forward to a championship title in the near future.

"We've had a good year with the exception of the five game losing streak," said Cullens "I believe we just got a little worn out mentally and physically, but we were well rested for the tournament."

Lady Vikings place fourth

By James Sims

The ECSU Lady Vikings softball team finished the regular season with close to a .500 season and sealed a fourth place spot with a 15-16 overall record and a 14-13 conference record.

The season ended relatively similar to last year's record of 11-13.

The Lady Vikings concluded their season after losing five of their last 10 games. They lost to Virginia Union, a doubleheader to Norfolk State, to St. Augustine 12-8 in the first round of the CIAA tournament and again to Shaw University 22-3 on April 18 in the last game of the season.

Despite the mediocre season, some players feel as though the season really wasn't that bad.

"The season really wasn't that bad considering what we had to work with," said Keisha Moore, a senior third baseman from Williamston, NC. "Though we have five starters leaving, I just hope the new recruits next year will be more prosper-

ous than we were."

Jessica Burden, a senior from Bertie, agreed about the fairly decent season but added that the team was weakened after some of the players quit.

"I'm happy about the dedicated players who remained and worked together to place us where we are which is fourth place," said Burden.

Even though the Lady Vikings have yet to win a recent CIAA title, they have managed to get players nominated for the All-CIAA team. Nominees for this year's team were: Keisha Moore and Abby Godwin, a senior from Elizabeth City.

"Even though we weren't able to win the championship, it was an honor being nominated," said Moore.

Team batting leaders for the 1992 season are Genevieve Moore, senior pitcher from Camden (.326 bat. avg.), who has won all 15 games as the only pitcher; Keisha Moore (avg. .420), and Erica Leary (avg. .345), a senior outfielder from Windsor.



Jessica Burden attempts to get a hit in a game with Christopher Newport News Marcy 17. The Vikes lost both games in the double hitter, 10-0 and 11-0.