



Senior catcher Brent Underwood played a consistent game against St. Augustine at Knobbs Creek. Coach Charles Cullens considers Underwood to be "the best catcher in the league defensively."

Moody resigns for Norfolk job

by Donald Perkins

George Moody has announced his resignation as head football coach of Elizabeth City State University, effective April 30.

"I have been meeting with players individually and I had a team meeting yesterday. They were shocked. It was one of the hardest things in the world looking in the face of some of those kids, but they understand that I am getting a better opportunity job-wise and for me and my family."

According to the local media, Moody will become the assistant Coach at Norfolk State University.

Players had mixed comments about Moody's resignation.

"I think that he went with a better opportunity," said player Omari Salsibury. "Others think Coach Moody's decision wasn't the best thing to do."

One player expressed disappointment in Moody's resignation.

"I feel as though it was sudden," said junior running back, Malcom Mackey.

Malcom said he noticed a change during Coach Moody during spring ball practice. "Everyone noticed it," he said.

Moody was an offensive coordinator at Norfolk State for three seasons. He was also head coach at Virginia State, from 1981-1990.

Moody joined ECSU in 1993 just three and a half weeks before the season started. After being at ECSU three years he finished with a 14-18 record

overall.

Last football season the Vikings finished a winning 7-4 season, but lost to Virginia State in the CIAA championship game.

"The keys to becoming a good coach are being able to maintain a sense of compassion and respect for opinions of others, and to not forget your roots," said Moody.

Moody said that Walter "Doc" Harley, his high school football coach, was his greatest influence in coaching.

"He had a great influence on me and he made the game fun." Moody believes he accomplished his goals at ECSU.

"I came here to rebuild this program into a championship caliber in a three to four year period. That has been achieved."

Moody said it was enjoyable working with his coaching staff.

"It was really great to see these guys grow," said Moody. "They established discipline and overall team spirit." Moody added that the players should continue their work ethics of football.

"They must continue conditioning year round, and they must dedicate their individual goals, which makes team excellence," he said.

Coach Moody ended by saying that ECSU has been enjoyable.

"This has been one of my greatest tours of my life," said Moody. "I have really enjoyed seeing these young men grow, as individuals and as a team unit."

Vikes wrap up successful year

by Tonia F. Polston

The ECSU Viking baseball team once again finished in the top five of the CIAA tournament held in Raleigh, NC April 18-20.

Last year the Vikings ended their season ranked third in the conference, losing in extra innings to Shaw University. This year the Vikings were 9-15 overall and 7-10 in the conference.

"We played much better the last couple of weeks," said Coach Chuck Cullens. "We had a few games that were one run ball games that could have gone our way but didn't. It happens to a young team, which we fairly are with only four seniors."

Cullens credits his seniors as being the most consistent this past season.

"Catcher Brent Underwood did an excellent job all year behind the plate," Cullens said. "I think he's the best catcher in the league defensively. He threw out quite a few base runners this year."

Cullens praised Jason Pipken and Aaron Kelly's (the Viking's leading hitter) hitting. Though the seniors were consistent the team lost more games than they would have liked. Cullens said that each loss seemed to be attributed to something different each time.

"One game it was the pitching,"

Cullens said. "The next game it was errors. Then the next game the pitching and errors maybe fine but we just couldn't hit the ball."

When tournament time rolled around, the Vikes had to overcome nagging injuries and fatigue. Though the team was tired from recent traveling, Cullens felt that ECSU had a chance of winning it all.

But during the first game Apr. 18, the Vikings lost to St. Augustine's 16-5. The next game the Vikes won against Shaw University 15-7. During the Shaw game Aaron Kelly did well hitting a home run for ECSU, Cullens said.

Then once again the team had to face St. Augustine's and they lost 7-2.

"We could have done much better," said Cullens. "We made quite a few errors. St. Aug. has been a thorn in our side all year. I think they've beaten us five times. We're a little disappointed in the outcome."

Cullens and company are waiting for next year to roll around now that his young team has gained some experience.

"Our boys gave it a good effort," Cullens said. "We'll wait and see what happens next year."

Track and field team shine at tourney

by Tonia F. Polston

The Viking men's track and field team gave a solid showing at the CIAA Tournament held the weekend of April 18 in Raleigh, NC.

Senior Dorian Hubbard placed second in the discus throwing about 132 feet. He placed sixth in the shot put throwing about 42 feet. Hubbard made the All-CIAA tournament team in track and received a second place trophy.

Senior Earl Owens placed ninth in the 100 meter and 200 meter.

"I was impressed with Earl Owens," said men's track and field Coach Kelvin Brown. "He acted as a team leader during the tournament. He gave real good leadership as far as the team goes."

Brown says because Owens was the primary sprinter his loss due to graduation will be felt next season. But Brown is impressed with the way Hubbard has taken freshman Keith Manson under his wing.

"Manson has improved in the shot put and discus," Brown said.

In the 400 meter sophomore Damian Lynn ran very well, though he did not place said Brown.

"He's a challenging athlete," Brown said. "They all are."

Brown feels that because ECSU had a good showing at the tournament there will be an increase of track athletes next year.

Coach Williams of the women's track and field team echoes this sentiment, though the women did not place in the tournament.

Coach Williams said that everyone wanted to begin to build a foundation for a solid track program at ECSU.

At the end of the season the women's track and field team found their numbers tremendously dwindled.

"We had a lot of members to begin with," Williams said. "This said a lot for the members who remained. They competed against those who were very competitive. It's easy to go on when you win, but when you're not placing it says something for those who stick around."

Though no one place Coach Williams said that she was satisfied with the improvement that her athletes showed. Next year she expects an even better showing.

"I hope to see continued improvement," Brown said. "We took only a limited number to Raleigh. Hopefully the number will increase with our overall performance this year."