



photo by Eugene O'Neal

The Elizabeth City State University Marching Band makes its way into Roebuck Stadium. The Vikings fell to Virginia Union.

SPORTS

Down East Classic restores old rivalry

By: Jermayne King
Staff Writer

This year, the atmosphere of Homecoming came weeks ahead of schedule, and not where you'd expect it. The inaugural Down East Football Classic, featuring Elizabeth City State University against Fayetteville State University, provided a weekend of festivities for both schools.

Officials expected to draw an attendance of about 3,500 fans to the event held in Rocky Mount on Sept. 13. Much to their surprise, over 6,200 fans attended the game. Aside from the game itself, fans were treated to a punt, kick, and pass competition, a dinner and dance, and an after party following the game. Also included was a College Night reception for high school students, and a Celebrity Golf Challenge benefiting the Rocky Mount Boys and Girls Club.

Although winning the inaugural football classic would have been

special, it's just the tip of the iceberg for ECSU junior linebacker Al Randolph.

A former Southwest Edgecombe High School standout, Randolph was pleased to play on home turf again. "To get a chance to travel all over, then to come back here is a dream come true", said Randolph.

While being only miles apart, Elizabeth City State and Fayetteville State share a rich history. Since their first meeting in 1939, the Vikings hold a commanding 28-16-5 series record. However, games played in 1966, 1976-78 weren't recorded. Elizabeth City State holds the longest winning streak in the series at 19, dating back from the 1952-1971 season. At last year's meeting between the two schools, Fayetteville State played near flawless defense in their 19-0 shutout in Fayetteville. As for this year's battle, the Broncos of Fayetteville State held on for a 10-7 victory over the Vikings. Proceeds from the game went to the ECSU Athletic Scholarship Foundation.

Lady Vikes endure long, tough season

By Al Randolph

It has been a tough season for the Lady Vikings volleyball team. Despite a record of 0-14, coach Ola Goss feels confident about her squad.

"Throughout every game, the team is improving," said Goss.

A majority of the players are young and inexperienced, a weakness the team is trying to overcome, Goss said.

Natalie Moore, the team's only senior, is often looked upon to provide leadership to the young team. When the Vikings faced the Tigers of St. Paul's College, a team that is very talented

and ranked high in the CIAA Conference, the Vikings lost in three sets, 15-5, 15-4, and 15-1.

"I saw the team not giving up and still giving their best shot," Goss said afterwards, commending her team for their hard work. The Lady Vikings finished the season playing host to the Trojans of Virginia State University and the Panthers of Virginia Union University. As for the future of the Lady Vikings, coach Goss said she's planning to recruit more athletes to blend with the returning underclassmen, and begin some type of spring volleyball training in order to work on fundamentals.

Flo-Jo: Sports icon gone, but not forgotten

By Artelia Covington

Florence Griffith Joyner, the triple gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics, who captivated the world with her meteoric speed and flamboyant style,

died September 21, 1998 of an apparent heart seizure. She was 38.

Griffith Joyner had suffered a heart seizure two years ago on a flight to St.

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