

SPORTS

New Track Coach Looking Ahead to the Future

By Jemayne King
 Even though Elizabeth City State University's 1999-2000 track session is just months away, the idea of seeing runners in Viking uniforms seldom crosses the mind of many of the University's students.

Why? Because a track meet is not considered a social event. There aren't any stands full of college students wearing new clothes and sneakers. There isn't even a sacred section reserved for Greeks who seem to come out in droves to support ECSU basketball.

Unlike the members of the basketball or football team, it's not as easy to pick out track team members in a crowded classroom or cafe. You may not even know who's on the team unless one of your close friends happens to run, or you noticed that girl with spikes last semester. It's kind of hard to receive respect and support for competing in a sport that the rest of your classmates don't know exists.

With a stroke of coaching genius and luck, however, Coach Tim Orr plans to make the mighty Viking runners easily recognizable on campus this year.

Coach Orr has been at ECSU since 1995 when he was lured away from Atlanta's Morehouse College.

in 1991 because I love helping kids," Orr said.

Coach Orr came to ECSU after hearing about a job opening from a friend, Ernest Wilson, who works at the university.

"I was coaching down at Morehouse when a good friend of mine, Ernest Wilson, told me about a job opening here at ECSU. I took the position because it was an excellent opportunity for Ernest and I to work together.

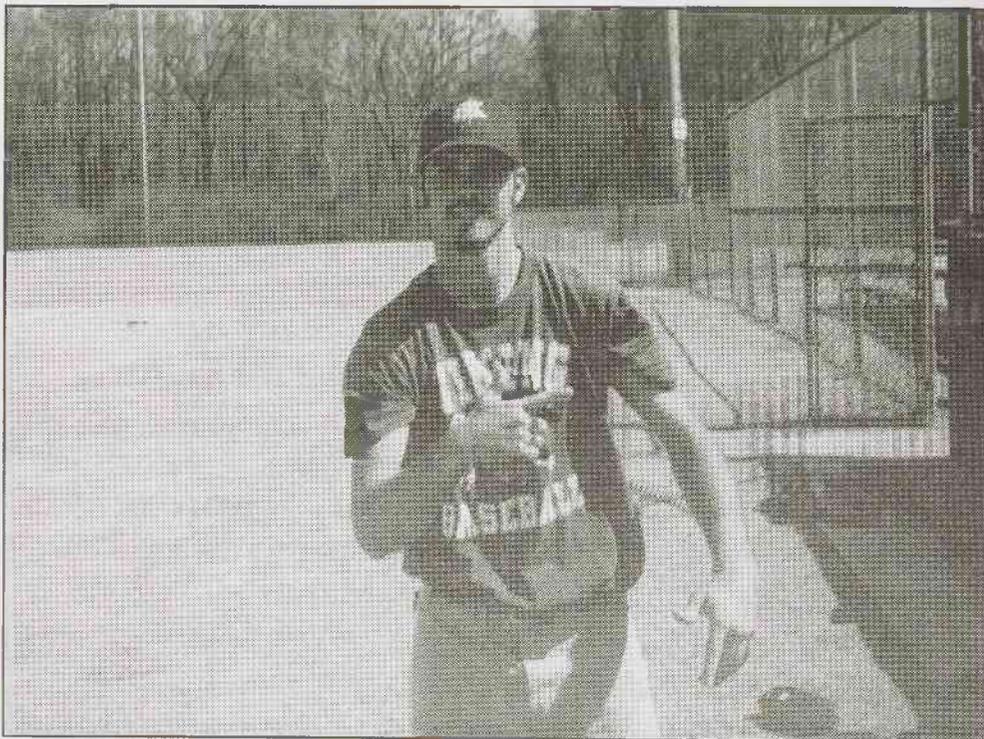
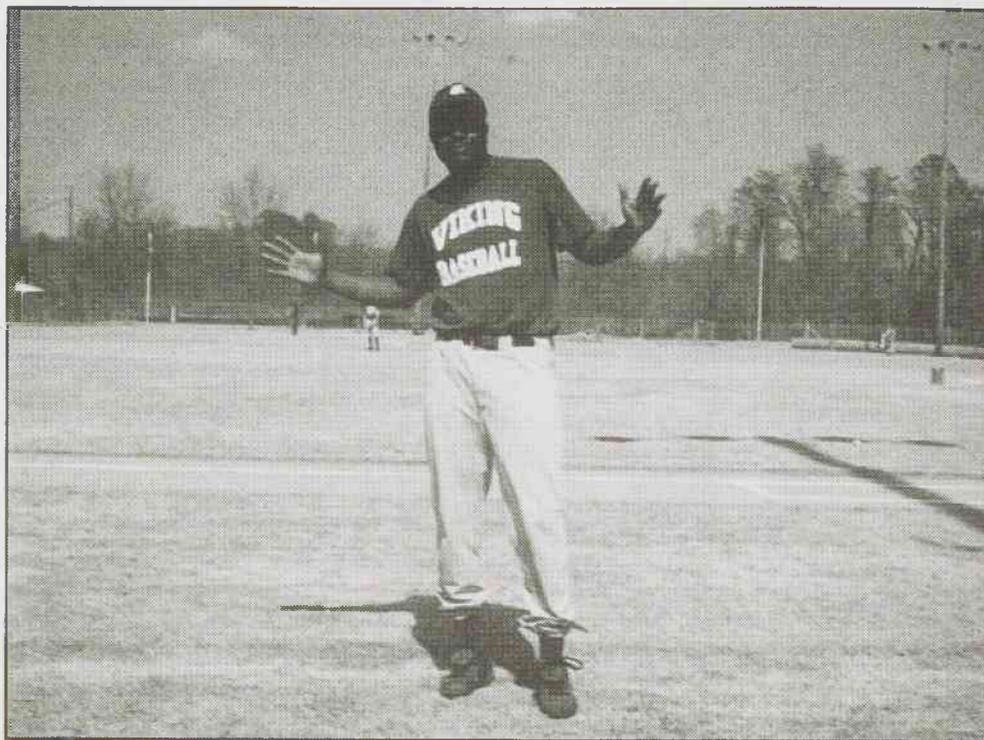
Orr says that one of the difficulties he has faced is recruiting athletes in to the track program because it is classified by the university as a non-scholarship sport. "I try to work with athletes from other sports," Orr said.

In only his second year as the Head Track Coach, Orr realizes that the team is in the beginning stages of a rebuilding process. "The first step in the rebuilding process is to acquire numbers." Orr said. "A good portion of the pre season is dedicated to getting bodies to participate."

This year's squad however, will not be flogged by new comers. There are many returning members such as Arnold Jones and Crystal Cooper. "Arnold will hold the 100 meters, the 200 meters and the 4x2 relays." said Orr. "Crystal Cooper, an athlete with good potential, will compete in the field events."

"I initially started coaching events."

Baseball Another of the ECSU's CIAA Sports



Photos courtesy Derek Lyons

Two of the team's players pose for the camera.

