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The George-Anne

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 10

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1986

Since 1927, Georgia Southern College's official student newspaper

National Champions: 4 Years to Glory

By CHRIS NAIL
Sports Editor

The 1985 GSC Eagles took a trip to Tacoma, Washington with just one thought in mind—to win a game “Just One More Time!”

Despite critics feeling that the Eagles didn't belong in the game because of being in only their second year of 1-AA competition and fourth year of competition overall since 1941; and despite having their vaunted ground attack slowed down considerably by a tough Furman defense; and most of all, despite trailing by 22 points in the third quarter, they brought home a title that just a few months ago wouldn't have seemed to be a realistic dream: **THE 1985 DIVISION 1-AA NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS.**

“Nobody in his right mind would have thought this ever would have happened, and I haven't any idea how it did,” a jubilant Coach Erk Russell stated after Tracy Ham's 13-yard touchdown pass to freshman running back Frankie Johnson gave the Eagles a wild 44-42 victory.

Russell's statement creates a very interesting question. How did a program in only its fourth year of existence win such a coveted title as the national championship against such established programs as Middle Tennessee and Furman? To find the answer, one must go back to May 23, 1981, the date Erk Russell was introduced as the head coach for GSC's new, ambitious football program.

Sports fans all over the state of Georgia were shocked that the famous “head butting” defensive coordinator of “dem Dawgs” would leave Athens, especially with Georgia having recently claimed the “mythical” national championship of college football.

Said Georgia coach Vince Dooley of GSC's landing Russell, “It was the best recruiting job I've seen in twenty-five years!” But Russell felt the situation was just what he wanted.

“The challenge of starting from scratch had a particular appeal to me,” Russell later said, “and the more



Nay Young (3), Ken Burnett (7) and Jeff Evans (60) celebrate with the rest of the team after winning the 1-AA national title in Tacoma, Washington.

I thought about it, the more I wanted to do it. And there was no reason not to, except that I might be unemployed in a couple of years.”

Russell's last statement may or may not have been in jest, but for sure he faced a formidable task. The Eagles had no practice equipment, no practice field, no stadium, and most important—no team.

Immediately after assuming his duties as head coach, Russell hit the luncheon circuit trying to drum up support for his program. Day in and day out he spoke at banquets and meetings in an effort to convince the people of southeast Georgia that they needed football. His arguments were strong.

“You all need football in this part of the state,” Russell was fond of

See NATIONAL CHAMPS, p. 2

Eagles Celebrate ‘One More Time!’

By LISA CORNWELL
Assistant News Editor

Cold temperatures and rain outside did not dampen the spirits of Eagle fans as they relived the excitement of the Eagles' national championship Friday night inside the Hanner Fieldhouse.

Fans chanted “Just One More Time,” as they watched highlights from both the GSC-Northern Iowa game and the GSC-Furman game on big screen television.

Dressed in blue and gold and national championship shirts, fans cheered the Eagles on at the victory party.

After the GSC finale against Furman, several presentations were made.

Among them, SGA President Robert Jenkins presented a scrapbook of the Eagles' national championship victory. The book will be on display in the library.

Amy Swann, *Reflector* editor, presented a plaque to Erk Russell dedicating the 1986 *Reflector* to Erk's Eagles.

Dr. Dale Lick also shared some congratulations to the Eagles from Armstrong State College, Max Cleland and Jerry Miles of the NCAA.

A graduate of GSC, Tom Lewis, presented a proclamation by Governor Joe Frank Harris declaring January 10, 1986 “GSC Eagle Day” throughout Georgia.



GSC head football coach Erk Russell spoke to the crowd at Friday's championship celebration and shared his excitement at being the 1985 National Champions.

NEWS

NATIONAL CHAMPS Con't. from p. 1

saying. "Football is the American way of life. People ask me why football is so important to a school, and I tell them, nobody ever rallied around a chemistry lab!"

Getting people to support the program would turn out to be much more difficult than getting a team. On September 28, 1981 football practice began at GSC for the first time in 40 years, with 134 players (all walk-ons) reporting. Russell described the group as "134 of the most enthusiastic non-athletes I've ever seen."

The team played three exhibition games that fall, finishing with a 2-1 record.

Then came 1982 and with it GSC's first official football game in four decades, a 16-9 victory over Central Florida on September 11 at Jacksonville's Gator Bowl.

The Eagles won two and tied one in their first three games before suffering their first loss, a 44-6 hammering by Gardner-Webb. They then went on to finish the season with a surprising 7-3-1 record.

Despite a so-so 6-5 season, 1983 was an excellent year for the GSC program as Allen E. Paulson, president of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, donated one million dollars, and construction on Paulson Stadium was begun.

GSC ended its 1983 season in a very strange fashion, beating the Savannah State Tigers 15-0, in a mud-filled brawl. After several fights, the game finally ended two-thirds of the way through the fourth quarter when both players and fans rushed on to the field for a confrontation that lasted longer than more professional wrestling matches.

In 1984 the GSC program took a tremendous step forward, competing as a member of the NCAA 1-AA division. It was a step that caused some concern for Russell.

"The thing that bothers me is taking a program that is two years old and playing a 1-AA schedule and trying to be successful enough to keep the interest of the players and the fans," Russell said before the season. Never would he, or anyone else, have

guessed how far the program would come in just two more years.

GSC started its first 1-AA season by upsetting highly-regarded Florida A&M, 14-0, in Savannah, a game in which the Eagles were anywhere from 18 to 28-point underdogs.

The Eagles won their next two games before losing to Division 1-A East Carolina, 34-27, despite rolling up a school record 645 total yards—the most in NCAA history by a team in a losing effort. Quarterback Tracy Ham passed for 403 and rushed for 55 more of the 645.

A 48-11 victory against Liberty Baptist the following week was GSC's first-ever game in the newly completed Paulson Stadium, and started a five-game winning streak which carried the Eagles to a No. 7 national ranking, and hopes of a playoff spot.

However, season-ending losses to East Tennessee (20-17) and Middle Tennessee (42-7) dashed the Eagles' playoff aspirations.

Even though 16 starters returned for the 1985 season, prospects for a productive year didn't look good since only one of those starters was on the offensive line, which is so important to a run-oriented team.

"I thought (before the season) indeed we would be fortunate if we won more games than we lost," Russell later would say.

The Eagles opened with a 27-21 win over Florida A&M, but were trounced by Middle Tennessee the following week 35-10, in a game that could have been much closer if not for GSC mistakes.

"We executed ourselves," Russell said after the game.

Tracy Ham and company then bounced back with a five-game winning streak and a seventh-place national ranking, before a first-quarter injury sent Ham from the game and his team to a 21-6 loss to James Madison. However, it would turn out to be the last loss in '85 for Russell's troops.

With their playoff hopes on the line, the Eagles responded with three straight victories, including a wild 43-30 triumph over South Carolina State that put them into the playoffs, and earned them a final regular season ranking of ninth place.

Only 4,128 fans showed up to watch GSC dispose of Jackson State, 27-0, in the opening round of the

See NATIONAL CHAMPS, p. 3

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4,000 Fans Crowd Hanner at 3 A.M. to Welcome Eagles Home

By ANTHONY DASHER,
Staff Writer

Pandemonium. That's about the only way to describe the wild scene at the Hanner Fieldhouse Sunday, December 21 as the Eagles returned to Statesboro after winning the 1-AA National Championship.

A delirious crowd of approximately 4000 was on hand as the bus, complete with a police escort, rolled onto campus around 3:20 a.m.

Blaring horns and chants of "We're number one!" and "One more time!" filled the cold December night air. However, the thrill of victory

(along with some liquid anti-freeze for others) kept the Eagle fanatics warm.

Once the huge crowd had piled into the gym, President Dale Lick and Coach Erk Russell congratulated the team and then thanked the many well-wishers who had assembled for their continuous support.

"We did it for you all. Thank you!" were the words of Tracy Ham as he hoisted the championship trophy high above his head, much to the delight of the screaming crowd.

Posters and banners were also very popular, ranging from "We love you Tracy, Gerald, Monte, Frankie," etc...to "Erk for President." Yes, if Erk was running, no doubt he would carry Statesboro as well as the entire state of Georgia.

This show of support meant a great deal to the players themselves. "It's great that they (the fans) would come out and do it for nothing," senior, Hugo Rossignol stated. "Master Sacker" Donnie Allen then added "It really makes you feel good

that people care enough to come out for you."

Indeed, these same thoughts are shared by the rest of the Eagles as they remember the time when they were welcomed back home—National Champions.

NATIONAL CHAMPS Con't. from p. 2

playoffs. It was a wet, gloomy-looking day at Paulson Stadium, and, despite the victory, Eagle fans didn't seem to be too enthused.

But things changed after the following week's 28-21 victory over then No. 1 ranked Middle Tennessee, and the Eagles were on their way to the championship that they obtained two weeks later.

So are the Eagles really the best 1-AA team in America?

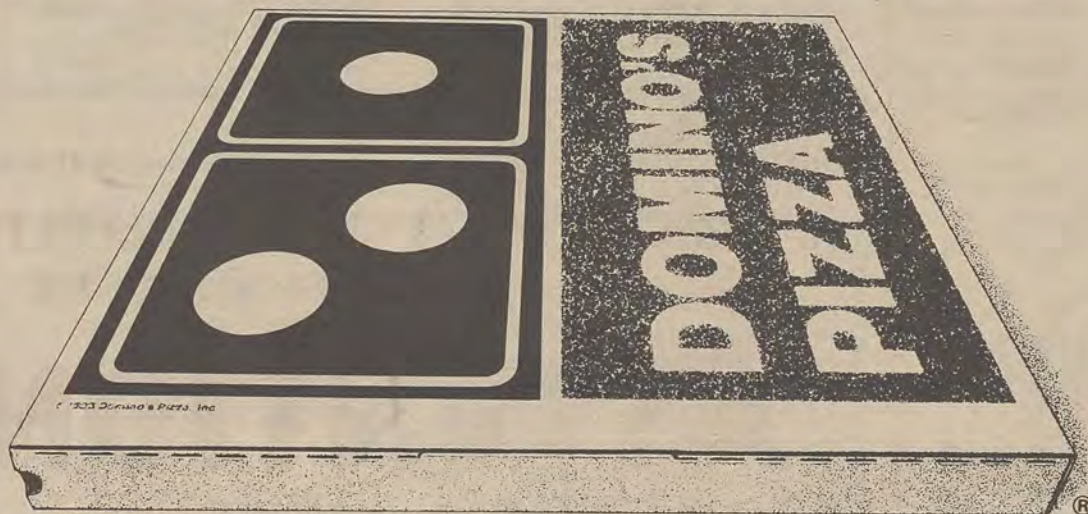
"There's only one way to look at it now," Russell says. "We played 15 games, and that's more than any other team in America played. The championship was decided on the field of play, and we won!"

As for added support for the program because of the championship, a donation received recently by Russell illustrates exactly how GSC is benefiting from the publicity. A man sent Russell a check along with a letter in which he stated he was a 1925 graduate of the University of Alabama. He said he didn't know GSC had a football team before seeing the Northern Iowa and Furman games on TV, but after these two games, he is now a GSC "fan for life."

President Dale Lick related a story that shows just how much the championship means to the people of Statesboro. He was at a local luncheon for a speaking engagement when a man entered wearing a shirt stating, "This is Bulldog Country." According to Dr. Lick, all the people gave the man a hearty round of "boo!"

Those people weren't being anti-UGA, it's just that now, as Dr. Lick says, "THIS IS EAGLE COUNTRY!"

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Editorial views expressed the the George-Anne are not necessarily those of the Georgia Southern College administration and/or faculty. Signed columns are solely the viewpoint of the writer.

Room 110, Williams Center □ Landrum Box 8001 □ Georgia Southern College □ Statesboro, GA 30458 □ (912) 681-5246, 681-5418.

Saturday classes ill-planned

It appears that things are finally back to normal. Once again, we GSC students are fortunate enough to only have to go to classes Monday through Friday. Our two Saturdays of missed cartoons, missed football games, and missed sleep are now a thing of the past. Unless of course, Statesboro is the victim of a midweek snowstorm. In which case, one of our Saturdays may again be magically transformed into a Monday or a Thursday or some other regular class day.

Let's hope that it doesn't snow on a weekday and let's hope that the planning committee that schedules our classes will have a better solution for this problem next winter quarter. But if we should again have to attend Saturday classes, let's hope that we are better informed on which classes meet on the Saturday. It was only through the grapevine that many students, including myself, learned which classes should meet. To avoid confusion and the possibility of missing a class, maybe next winter quarter's bulletin could contain the correct information on which classes meet, if we are unfortunate enough to again have to meet on Saturday.

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Are you a responsible, fairly intelligent individual who is interested in adventure, excitement, and "getting a piece of the action?" If so, we have a perfect assignment for you. Join the G-A staff as a reporter or photographer and enjoy covering the people and events that make GSC a special place to attend college.

Openings are available in all departments including news, features, sports and photography. Come by the office, meet our staff and fill out an application. We are located on the second floor of the Williams Center (above Sarah's Place). Or call 681-5246 anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Dale Lick

Twin Champions

GSC Excels Both Athletically and Academically

All of us have basked in the afterglow of the NCAA National Division IAA Football Championship since Tacoma. We especially honor our coaches and the team and take great pride in being number one in the nation.

By the same token, however, we can take similar pride in our academic programs at Georgia Southern. Given the resources available to our faculty, staff and students and the tremendous constraints they must work under, their accomplishments are, like Erk's Eagles, overwhelming. In fact, when one notes what they have done relative to others in comparable circumstances, a national championship seems a reasonable measure of their success.

Georgia Southern has the most outstanding teaching faculty with whom I've had the pleasure of working. During last year, they also authored 12 books or monographs, published 128 articles in professional journals, wrote 37 book reviews, and served on the editorial board of 47 publications. Further, they presented 296 papers at professional meetings and participated in 139 panels or workshops.

The Department of Biology serves as an excellent example. Ten of the 15 faculty members received some kind of grant, and the faculty and their students made 32 presentations at scientific meetings, published 21 articles, and have another 28 papers in press or in manuscript. The Biology Seminar series included 37 different seminars with 33 of the presenters from outside of the Biology Department. And all of this is in addition to the department's superb reputation for teaching.

Some of the other noteworthy accomplishments of the past year include:

**The baccalaureate degree program in nursing was accredited for the maximum eight years by the National League of Nursing (NLN). The results from our students completing the national board exams during the summer of 1984 ranked our program first in Georgia and 17th among 360 baccalaureate programs nationally.

**Most of the professional programs at Georgia Southern are now nationally accredited. In addition, the College has the only accredited recreation programs in Georgia and is the only senior college holding AACSB accreditation for both baccalaureate and MBA programs in business.

The Bell Honors program has gained statewide and regional recognition. Not only have this program and its students distinguished themselves on campus and regionally, they have also competed impressively on a national level.

**The marketing club, the Gamma Lambda Chapter of Pi Sigma Epsilon, continued to distinguish itself nationally. In the national "Top Chapter" competition they finished third in 1982-83, first in 1983-84 (a "first ever" for a school from the Southeast), and second in 1984-85, as well as taking first place in exactly half of the categories of competition.

In addition, major attention has been focused on the development of a formal planning process for the College. That process has been approved, is being implemented and was selected as a model by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) for publication and use in their training programs across the nation.

Georgia Southern, athletically and academically, has that national championship spirit, and the general state of the College is excellent. Because of the hard work and strong support of so many, Georgia Southern has moved progressively and there continues to be a feeling of pride, accomplishment, and excitement about the affairs of the College and its commitment to serving its students and the people of Georgia.

Thanks for helping make us "Twin Champions!"

Dr. Dale Lick is the president of Georgia Southern College.

To GSC Students: From SGA Pres. Robert Jenkins

I hope that Winter Quarter and 1986 find you all good spirited and full of energy. It is not often that one can say s/he was a part of a school that won the National Championship in football. Even more rare is the way this athletic program developed so rapidly from nothing to a spirited and proven winner. Congratulations from all of us to the football team for a most refreshing and exciting season.

When this administration took office on May 1, 1985, we focused on several projects that we felt would help to further strengthen the student government as well as help to better unify the student body. Along with several other goals, we believe that each of these would greatly enhance G.S.C. Among these goals were included strengthening ties with the administration, advancing the Student Senate, involving various organizations with good-will projects, as well as pursuing university status. These were all considered important in Spring Quarter, 1985.

Today we see much gain in each of these goals. Never before have students at GSC played as active a role within the school's various committees. We have been wholeheartedly supported by both administration and faculty members and have gained respect as we have honored them. It is indeed a joy as S.G.A. President to work in such a positive environment. Presently, the Student Senate is working toward revising our current constitution to allow for a better, more efficient line of communication to the S.G.A. from the students.

Other positive news deals with voter turnout. In the Homecoming election this past fall, the number of students voting was more than three times the previous elections, which occurred in April before this administration's term of office. The success seems to be for two reasons: the new location of the polls, from Landrum to the Williams Center and the use of a computer for the first time in a student election. Executive Vice

President Lance Smith and the Election Committee have done an excellent job.

The Student Senate and Vice President of Auxiliary Affairs Kelly Maher have worked hard for various projects involving the campus. These have included looking into lighting on campus, sidewalks, the new college union building, and grounds improvements. Dr. Richard Armstrong has been a great and much needed asset in all of these projects. Kelly also has coordinated the Freshman Record, the Housing for Off Campus Students (HOCS) Booklet, and the Student Directory.

Vice President of Finance Miriam Worley has updated all of the financial records of S.G.A. so that they are current and accurate. In addition, she has coordinated efforts with our Rentals employees. Managers Betty Johnston and Don Webb have turned a chaotic process of refrigerator, T.V., and van rentals into a smooth and reliable business.

to a new spirited height, primarily because of our athletic achievements. However, it gives me great pleasure to report to you all of the events and new marks of progress that we, as students, have and are accomplishing through S.G.A.

In our constant struggle for university status and better recognition, we are having some success. Currently, a S.A.C. (Student Advisory Council) committee is looking to present to the Board of Regents a proposal for the passage of a university south of Macon. The committee may recommend several schools to be granted university status. As it looks, this process should take about six to eight months. Hopefully, then the committee would be able to present its material. Lance Smith and I are involved with the committee and will continue this pursuit. Please keep your fingers crossed and keep this project and your S.G.A. in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Jenkins,
President

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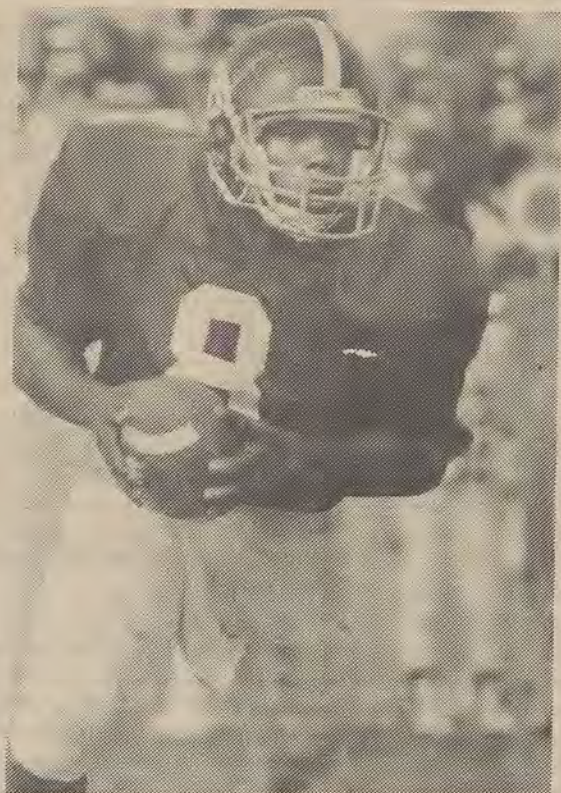
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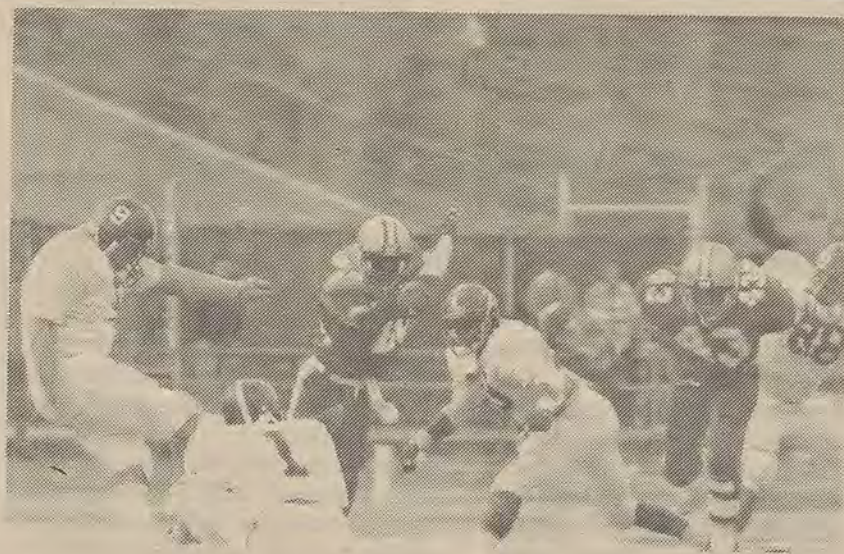
Tracy Ham ran for 107 yards and threw for another 145 in GSC's opening round playoff game with Jackson State.



Freshman Tony Belser's first of two touchdown catches in the 28-0 trouncing of the Tigers.



The GSC Defense, led here by linebacker Tyrone Hull, stiffens in the second round game against Middle Tennessee State.



All-American Kicker Tim Foley successfully converts a PAT as the Eagles upset the Blue Raiders 28-21.



Safety Brad Bowen breaks up a sure touchdown pass to a Northern Iowa receiver in the Eagles' third play-off game.



A Panther running back is stopped here by defensive guard Donnie Allen in GSC's 40-33 win over Northern Iowa.

to the National Championship

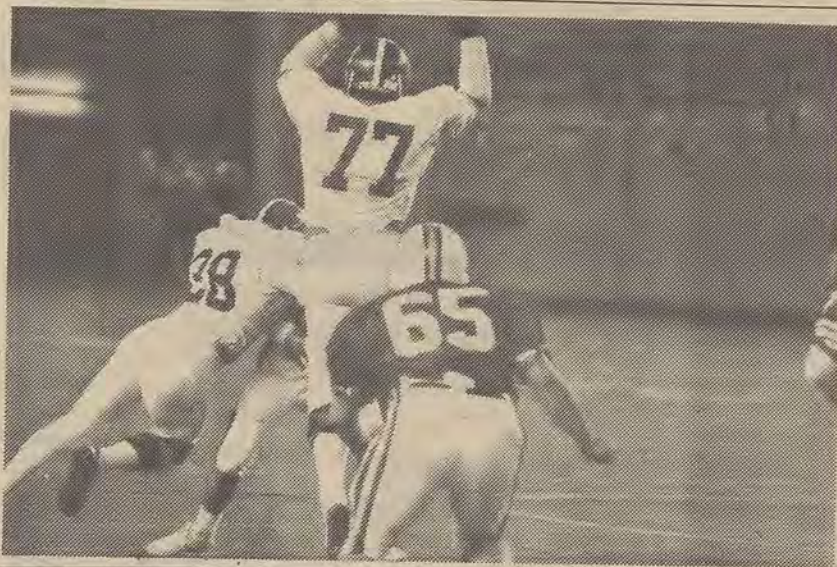
Photos by Frank Fortune



Running back Gerald Harris takes off through the Furman defensive line in the I-AA final, the Diamond Bowl.



Defensive captain Jesse Jenkins (67) leads a defensive charge against a Paladin running back.



Rover Hugo Rossignol (28) and defensive end John Richardson (77) coverage on a Paladin ball carrier.

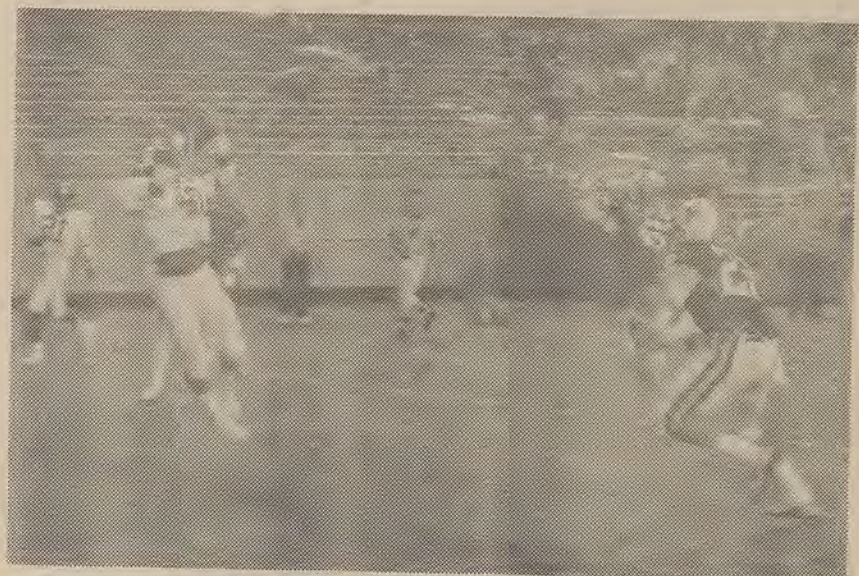


"We'll go anywhere to play one more time."

Coach Russell on having to play the final game in Tacoma, Washington.



Gerald Harris scores on a 52 yard run in the thrid quarter of the championship game.



Frankie Johnson makes the catch that makes GSC NATIONAL CHAMPIONS. Final score: Eagles 44 — Paladins 42.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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TYPING: \$1.00 per page. Call 489-1755 after 5 p.m., ask for Susan.

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WANTED: Chemistry tutor for high school student. Call 764-5522 after 5 p.m.

WANTED: Someone to share ride from Jesup to GSC daily. Starting spring quarter. Call collect 586-6451.

WANTED: Roommate-female. Non-smoker. College View Apt. #6. \$125 per month. Come by if interested.

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LOST: Gold nugget ring on campus Jan. 3. Reward offered. Contact Jerilyn Cannady.

LOST: Gold large oval palsey clip-on earring. Lost between Olliff and Newton on Jan. 7. Call 681-1893.

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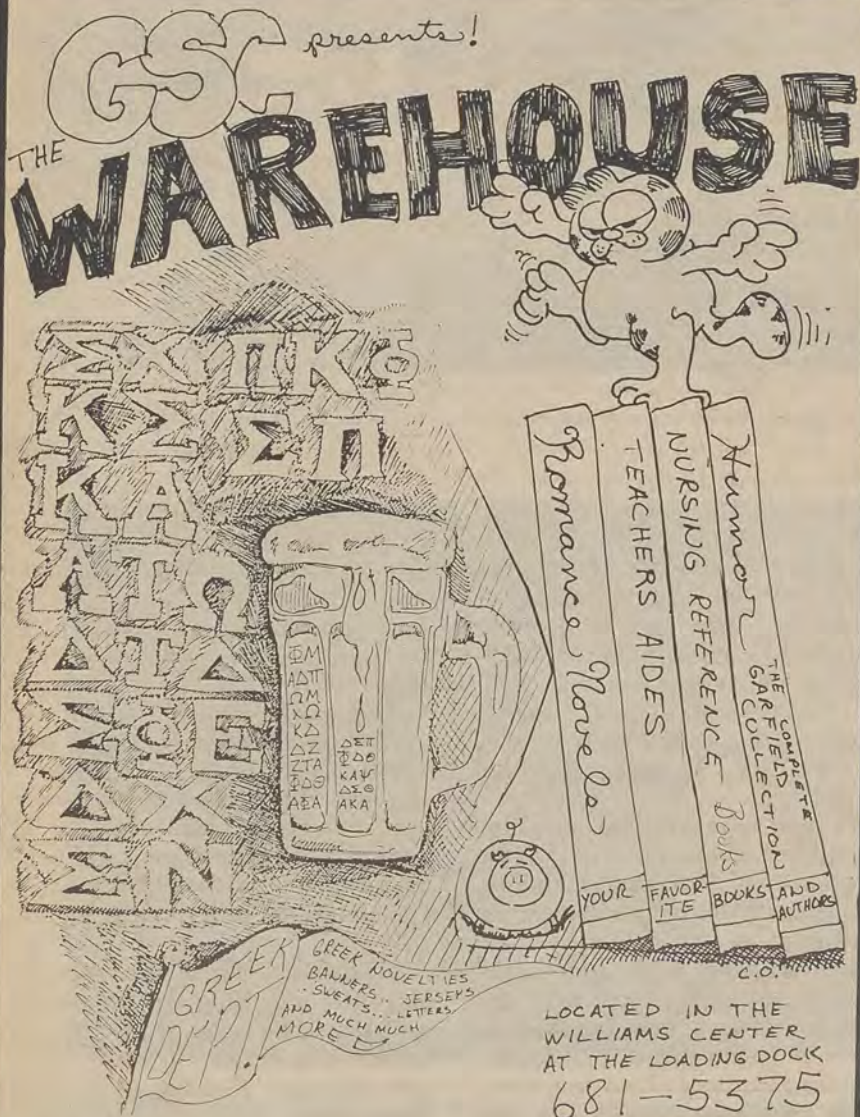
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FEATURES

M.L. King: Committed to a Dream

BEKKI SHRIVER
Features Editor

Thirty-five years ago, the South was not the place to be if you were black—or a “Negro” as this group of technically disenfranchised Americans was called back then.

Not only were blacks forced to ride in the back of the bus, worship in separate churches, eat in their own restaurants and to suffer other indignities, when they died their remains were taken to all-black funeral homes.

Any time a protest was made, reaction was often swift and brutal—a billyclub, a midnight ride among a white-hooded crowd, a church

bombing or a lynching. Blacks kept quiet in those days. They stayed in their place.

Then there appeared a man with a dream—a man who simply said “enough.” Martin Luther King Jr. was that man, and before an assassin’s bullet ended his short life more than 15 years ago, he was instrumental in setting in motion a force that would radically alter American society.

King, born 57 years ago yesterday, grew up in a world where public water fountains were labeled “whites only.”

Motels, restrooms, lunch counters,

schools and even the military were segregated.

Blacks were the last hired, the first fired and generally restricted to menial jobs where equal pay and equal opportunity were foreign phrases.

A firm believer in the Constitution, King considered it a “promissory note” guaranteeing that all men, black and white, were entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Espousing such ideals, it didn’t take long for King to amass a large following—an army, in fact, of people long weary of discrimination and segregation. King urged his followers to take up the arms of non-violent protest.

“America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check . . . marked ‘insufficient funds.’ We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

“And so we’ve come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.”

Born Jan. 15, 1929, to a Baptist minister and a school teacher, King was an eloquent and precocious child, entering Morehouse College at age 15. His education was completed in 1955 with a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Boston University.

While serving as a minister of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., King was to begin a lifetime of devotion to nonviolent agitation for social change.

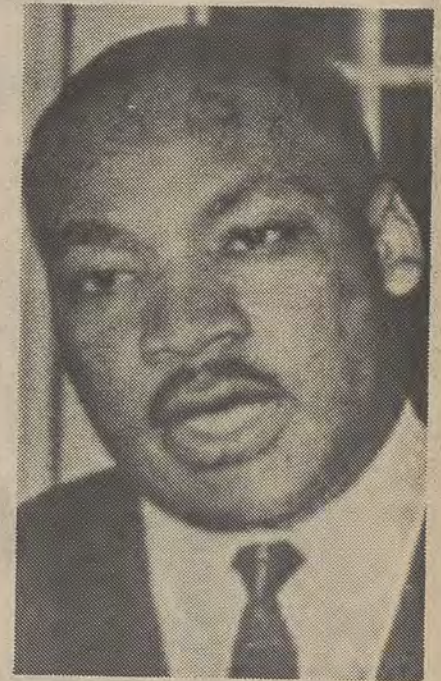
In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white person because she was tired. Parks was arrested.

A year-long boycott of the public transportation system resulted from Parks’ action, systematically spearheaded by the Montgomery Improvement Association of which King was president.

Years of beatings, imprisonment, struggles and soul-searching were to follow as King continued a fight for justice.

A trip to India served to move him even closer than he was to an acceptance of Mahatma Gandhi’s techniques which he considered to be Christianity in action.

Deep religious faith and courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love was preached to those who would follow. Classes on nonviolent methods of reaction were held to ready protestors for marches and sit-ins. Demonstrators signed “commitment cards” pledging themselves to the nonviolent



Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to non-violent agitation for social change.

movement.

“If cursed, do not curse back. If struck, do not strike back, but evidence love and goodwill at all times,” they were told.

It didn’t always work. With hundreds of thousands of people agitating for change, violence sometimes bred violence.

But national recognition was gained; support was earned. There was the 1963 March on Washington of over 250,000 blacks and whites, protesting discrimination, where King echoed Gandhi in his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.

There was the letter from Birmingham jail. There were victories—civil rights laws were passed, jobs were opened, facilities gradually integrated.

In 1963, King became Time Magazine’s Man of the Year. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest man in history to receive that honor.

King continued working for the poor and oppressed. His final days were spent rallying support for garbage collectors in Tennessee who were striking for better wages and working conditions.

The garbage collectors did march, but it was in mournful, silent memorial to their leader who was gunned down on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, April 4, 1968.

Epilogue: Yolanda, Bernice and Martin Luther King III, children of the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., were arrested at 9:35 p.m. January 6, 1986. They were protesting the sale of goods manufactured in South Africa at a supermarket in Atlanta. They have a dream.



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SPORTS

Tacoma: Not Just Another Road Trip

By BRAD MORRIS
GSC Offensive Lineman

The trainers woke us at 7:30 a.m. Pacific time. My first thought was about home and how far away it was. Breakfast was at 8:30. Coach Russell attempted to loosen us up by offering odds and favorites on the latecomers to the pre-game meal. A longshot won the tardiness award and was recognized by us with applause.

The time between breakfast and the game seemed endless. I was tired of answering questions like "are you ready?" "are you nervous?" or "how's Tracy?" John Richardson (JR) and I rode the elevator down to the lobby where the fans, family and faculty had begun to gather to send us off. Telegrams, wishing us luck circulated among the players. Good luck hugs and handshakes were being given when the buses finally rolled up.

We entered the locker room and started to tape up and dress for the upcoming battle against Furman. It was eerie getting taped for the last time. My teammates were surprisingly loose before the biggest game ever. I was thinking of how many times I had been wrapped and cared for by the training staff. This really was it.

We dressed for the last time together. There are a lot of superstitious guys on our team. The main superstitions involve getting dressed. Vance Pike has to roll his socks down halfway for luck. Fred Stokes has to be late to group stretching and Delano Little has to be the last one dressed and out of the locker room. I have my own superstition where my mouthpiece has to be kept in my right sock until calisthenics. Coach Russell says it's

not superstition, we're just not taking any chances. We certainly didn't want to take any in this game.

The game itself was strange at the beginning. We are usually the first out of the dressing room but the pep talk was a little longer than usual. Coach Russell was almost prophetic but we wouldn't realize that until later. He told us that we will have played more games than any team in America. He added that anything might happen, but he knew deep down that no matter what, "we're gonna be all right."

The game started out with a feeling of despair when Foley missed the short field goal. Furman scored and was seemingly unstoppable on offense, and while their defense wasn't stopping us, we couldn't score a TD. But everyone knew we would eventually explode.

With the score being 21-6, there was a fear among some of us. I told a manager that we would find out who our real fans were in the third quarter.

Coach Russell told us at the half that we "had 30 minutes left in our lives and a whole lifetime to heal up." He went on to say that the offense was going to score and the defense was going to hold and we were going to even it up and beat them in our quarter, the fourth quarter, which we had all worked so very hard for.

Furman started the second half out by stopping us and then scoring themselves. This wasn't what we wanted to happen. As the kickoff return team broke the huddle we were still in a TV timeout. The Furman

side was going crazy and they had reason to with the score being 28-6, but in the cheering I heard some Furman players chanting "We're number 1," and then I knew they weren't ready for what was going to happen in the next 10 minutes and 36 seconds.

Anyone who knew the persona of the '85 Eagles knew we wouldn't quit trying, ever. We went on to tie the game up at 28 going into "our quarter." I was walking down the sideline with my four fingers in the air when I saw watery-eyed Coach Russell with a look on his face that seemed to say, "now we've got 'em."

We had them, lost them and got them back. The wild celebration began and we returned to the dressing room. Things hushed as Vance Pike led us in prayer. At that moment we realized what had just taken place. We were loose, but not cocky. As we walked out of the Dome, Hugo, JR, Warnell and I went to midfield to look at the scoreboard to make sure we had won "Just One Last Time."

FINAL FOOTBALL STATS

Record '13-2

Rank: National Champions

Team Statistics	GSC	OPP
Total Points	460 (30.6)	293 (19.5)
Total Yardage	6164 (410.9)	5395 (359.8)
Rushing Yardage	3770 (251.3)	2482 (165.5)
Passing Yardage	2394 (159.6)	2913 (194.2)
Penalties	113-1040	92-714
Fumbles-Lost	41-14	28-15

Individual Statistics	ATT	COM	PCT	INT	TD	YDS
Passing						
Ham	238	134	56.3	10	15	2184
Thompson	53	21	39.6	3	2	200

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ham	234	1131	4.8	11
R. Harris	145	1051	7.3	6
G. Harris	183	962	5.3	17
F. Johnson	24	209	8.7	1
Thompson	47	131	4.5	1
Miller	12	71	5.9	1
McCray	12	71	5.9	2

Receiving	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
R. Harris	29	171	5.9	0
Sharpe	26	550	21.2	7
Barron	25	456	18.2	2
Belser	17	387	22.8	2
Little	14	249	17.8	1
F. Johnson	13	201	15.5	3
Little	14	249	17.8	1
Johnson	13	201	15.5	3
G. Harris	10	120	12.0	1
Worsham	9	134	14.9	0

Punting	NO	AVG
Whitton	31	32.1
Parker	33	37.1
Punt Returns	NO	AVG
N. Young	18	11.2
Belser	9	12.1
Kick Returns	NO	AVG
Belser	25	21.6

Field Goals	ATT	Made	Long	Extra Points
Foley	26	23	54	42 of 44 ATT

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Eagles to Play FLA Gators in 86 Opener

CHRIS NAIL
Sports Editor

Despite being the defending 1-AA national champions, GSC Coach Erk Russell says his team's approach to the 1986 season will be "exactly" the same it's been since we've had a football program here. Take each game one game at a time, and do the best we can to be competitive."

What Russell fails to point out is that one of the games on his schedule can't be classified just as "the next game," but rather "the game." Russell's troops will travel to Gainesville, Florida on August 30 to take on the mighty Florida Gators in a game the Eagles hope will add fuel to the fire in their endeavor to become

an "established" NCAA football program.

Though Russell—just like his former mentor, Vince Dooley—has become somewhat renowned for bringing out the "crying towel" when talking about opponents, it's obvious he's sincere when he says the chances of the Eagles beating the Gators are "slim and none."

Florida is coming off a 9-1-1 season in which they ended up as the fifth-ranked team in the nation. They will return a powerful team led by bona fide Heisman Trophy candidate Kerwin Bell at quarterback.

Added to this fact, the Gators will come off NCAA probation in time to accept a bowl bid next season, and a loss to the Eagles would certainly damage them in their efforts to attract a bid to a major bowl.

However, GSC assistant coach Pat Spurgeon feels the Eagles will travel to the sunshine state with one purpose in mind. "We're going to win," Spurgeon exclaimed with confidence. "A lot of people think we're going down there just to play, but we're going to win."

Any chance the Eagles will have at all will probably rest squarely on

the shoulders of record-breaking quarterback Tracy Ham. Ham was recently named the 1985 *Atlanta Journal* Amateur Athlete of the Year in Georgia, and a strong showing against the Gators would definitely be a good start for the Florida native and his teammates.

But according to GSC athletic director Bucky Wagner, win or lose, the game will be beneficial to Southern's program.

"We're interested in building our program, Wagner said, and to build you have to play these people (Fla., ect.).

Eagles Lose Two Out of Three in TAAC Games

ANTHONY DASHER
Assistant Sports Editor

GSC received a taste of how tough the TAAC conference will be this season as the Eagles dropped two of their first three conference games.

The Eagles traveled to Macon January 4 hoping to defeat Mercer University for the second time this season, but the Bears had other ideas as they edged GSC 61-56.

Southern led 32-27 at halftime and appeared to have the momentum when Ben Bailey's three-point play put the Eagles up 43-37 with 11:12 left to play, but the Bears bounced back to outscore GSC 13-7 in the last 4:25 to claim the victory.

This setback didn't get the cagers down however as GSC came back to whip Georgia State University, 91-77, before a "Jam the Gym" crowd last Thursday night of 3,609.

The Eagles never trailed in the game, and behind a very aggressive man-to-man defense led 43-28 at the half.

GSU could get no closer than 11 and turned what had been an exciting

game into a long drawn out affair when they started fouling the Eagles with 5:48 left in the game, causing some fans (and reporters) to doze off between free throws.

Naturally Coach Kerns was pleased with the score, but aspects of his team's play concerned him. "We were tentative with the big lead but held on toward the end," he stated. "Also they kicked us on the boards in the second half, but we held them off."

For the game, Michael Stokes had 17 points and nine assists to lead the Eagles. Ben Bailey followed with 16 points while Brian Newton, Anthony Forrest and Jeff Sanders added 14 apiece.

Samford provided the opposition last Saturday night in the Hanner Fieldhouse and nipped GSC 54-52 despite Newton's 24 points, the ninth straight game in which he has scored in double figures.

Kerns commented on the tough loss by saying, "We didn't turn their



Michael Stokes hits for two of his 17 points.

Photo by Rick Lee

press into our advantage. We must have missed around 12 layups."

Southern, whose record stands at 10-5 overall and 1-2 in the conference, resumes play at Arkansas Little Rock tonight and then visits Centenary Saturday.

GSC Women Fall to 2nd Ranked Dogs

CHARLES CARTER
Sports Writer

The Georgia Southern Lady Eagles continued on a somewhat mediocre path for the 1985-86 season Thursday night as they were beaten soundly by the second-ranked Georgia Bulldogs 97-47.

"An awfully talented team" was all head coach Jeannie Milling could say after the loss, which dropped her team's record to 5-4.

The Lady Eagles won the tip, but from that point it was pretty much all

Dogs, as they took a 47-23 halftime lead.

The Eagles turned the ball over 20 times in the first half to the Dogs 10. Also, the Dogs shot a blistering 66 percent (21 for 32) from the field and the Eagles shot just 47 percent (10 for 21).

The Dogs took advantage of their size and began to work the ball inside to begin the second half, running off a 14-2 streak, and win going away. The Dogs were led in scoring by Katrina McClain as she poured in 17 points.

Sharon Thomas led the Eagles with 16 and Regina Days had 12.

In the Tennessee-Chattanooga tournament played on January 3-4, the Eagles won their opener against Clark in a squeaker, 71-70, and advanced into the championship against Berry, which they lost 98-62. Regina Days was named to the all-tournament team for the second-place finishing Eagles. In later regular season action the Eagles beat Southern University behind Day's career high 37 points, 77-70.

CHAMPIONSHIP SUMMARY

GSC	0	6	22	16	-	44
Furman	7	14	7	14	-	42
Furman - Bagwell 1 run (Esval Kick)						
GSC - Field Goal Foley 44 Yds.						
Furman - Bagwell 9 run (Esval Kick)						
GSC - FG Foley 33 yards						
Furman - Lamb 10 run (Esval Kick)						
Furman - Grady 33 pass from Lamb (Esval Kick)						
GSC - Sharpe 24-yard pass from Ham (Ham run)						
GSC - Johnson 40 pass from Ham (Foley Kick)						
GSC - G. Harris 52 run (Foley Kick)						
GSC - Barron 12 pass from Ham (Foley Kick)						
Furman - Bagwell 7 run (Esval Kick)						
GSC - Field Goal Foley 39						
Furman - Bagwell 4 run						
GSC - Johnson 13 pass from Ham (Kick Failed)						
GSC FURMAN						
First downs	28		28			
Rushes - Yards	40-221		45-288			
Passing	419		210			
Passes	23-37-1		14-22-0			
Punts	1-34		4-37.7			

GSC Individual Leaders

RUSHING - G. Harris 10-92, Ham 19-90,
R. Harris 7-23
PASSING - Ham 23-37-1-419
RECEIVING - Johnson 7-148, Belser 6-111,
Sharpe 3-74, R. Harris 3-23,
Barron 2-28, Little 1-26,
G. Harris 1-9