FOOTBALL

Led by quarterback Patrick Pinkney's 229 passing yards and three touchdowns, ECU defeated the Pirates 31-10 in East Carolina's annual spring game April 18 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Official kickoff times for all six of East Carolina's home games this fall were announced June 15 and the schedule features a blend of early and late afternoon starts to accompany one nationally-televised night contest.

ECU's regional and local television packages were also released which extends live broadcast coverage to at least 10 of 12 games in 2009. Only East Carolina's battle at West Virginia (Sept. 12) and regular season finale against Southern Miss (Nov. 28) in Greenville, are not confirmed television appearances at this time.

In addition to three-straight (Memphis, Virginia Tech and Tulsa) appearances on the ESPN family of networks in late October in early November, ECU's game at North Carolina (Sept. 19) was also selected for a national television broadcast beginning at 12 noon.

Former tight end Davon Drew was selected by the Baltimore Ravens in the fifth round (149th overall) of the 2009 NFL Draft April 26. He was the fifth ECU tight end in history to be drafted and immediately follows running back Chris Johnson, who was taken by the Tennessee Titans in the first round of the 2008 draft. The Pirates have had at least one player chosen in the last four consecutive years and in 15 of the past 20 drafts. Although a three-year All-Conference USA performer, Drew enjoyed a significant break-out season in 2008 by more than doubling his two-year catch and yardage totals as a senior. He established a single-season program record for receiving yards by a tight end with 695, topping all pass catchers with a 16.2 yards-per-catch average after making 43 receptions. He also ranks as the second-highest Pirate tight end ever drafted - only rating behind Glenn Bass' fifth round selection in 1961 by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Former offensive tackle Stanley Bryant agreed to terms with the Denver Broncos on a free agent contract on April 29. The Goldsboro (N.C.) native, who officially earned a roster position with the Pirate program as a junior walk-on transfer in the spring of 2007, recently completed his ECU career after starting 14 of 19 games on the offensive line. In all, he experienced action in 845 snaps and was credited with a combined 62 knock-down blocks.

Former defensive tackle Khalif Mitchell signed an undrafted free agent contract with the San Francisco 49ers on May 1. Mitchell served as a part-time starter for two seasons at ECU after transferring from North Carolina prior to the 2006 campaign. Although a back and foot injury limited his playing time and production in 2008, Mitchell made an impact during his first season in an East Carolina uniform in 2007 by making 19 stops, 5.5 resulting in lost yardage, in 11 games as a junior to earn All-Conference USA honors.

BASEBALL

ECU completed the 2009 season with a 46-20 overall record.

The Pirates claimed their second C-USA regular season title after posting a 17-7 league record.

East Carolina hosted the NCAA Greenville Regional (May 29-June 1) as the top seed. In addition to ECU, the field consisted of South Carolina, George Mason and Binghamton. It was also the first on-campus NCAA Regional the Pirates have hosted and their fourth No. 1 seed in the NCAA Baseball Championships.

ECU advanced to its third NCAA Super Regional after defeating South Carolina 10-9 in 10 innings on June 1 but followed by dropping both contests to in-state foe North Carolina at Chapel Hill to end its season.

East Carolina was ranked in at least one national poll for 19 consecutive weeks when the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (N CBWA) tabbed the Pirates at No. 16 in its final 2009 poll. The streak matched a school record for consecutive weeks ranked (2001).

Trent Whitehead led five Pirates on the 2009 Greenville Regional All-Tournament Team when he was named Most Outstanding Player. He was joined by Kevin Brandt, Brandon Henderson, Kyle Roller and Ryan Wood.

ECU had seven All-Conference USA selections, including a league-best five first-teamers in Ryan Wood, Stephen Batts, Kyle Roller, Seth Maness and Chris Heston, who was also named 2009 C-USA Newcomer-of-the-Year. Brad Mincey and Whitehead were tabbed second-team all-conference and Kevin Brandt was the lone selection on the all-freshman team.

Ryan Wood was named to five All-America teams (first-team Ping/Baseball, second-team NCBWA, third-team Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball, Baseball America and ABCA/Rawlings).

Kyle Roller was named to a pair of All-America squads, earning first-team designation by ABCA/Rawlings and Ping/Baseball.

Kevin Brandt was named Freshman All-America by Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball and Ping/Baseball.

Kyle Roller (first-team), Ryan Wood (first-team) and Stephen Batts (second-team) were named to the 2009 ABCA/Rawlings NCAA All-Atlantic Region Team.

Trent Whitehead set the single-season school record for hits (105) with his single in the eighth inning against North Carolina in Game 2 of the NCAA Super Regionals.

East Carolina had five players selected in the 2009 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft (Stephen Batts, Devin Harris, Chris Heston, Kyle Roller and Ryan Wood).
Five different Pirates earned C-USA Player-of-the-Week honors: Stephen Batts (Feb. 23, March 9), Kevin Brandt (April 27), Seth Maness (March 30, May 18), Brad Mincey (Apr. 13) and Kyle Roller (March 23). Roller was named NCBWA National Hitter-of-the-Week (March 24), was selected to the College Baseball Foundation National All-Star Team and was named Central Region Player-of-the-Week by Collegebaseballinsider.com.

During the week of March 17-22, the Pirates scored 90 runs on 98 hits to set a five-game school record in both categories. They scored 26 runs in back-to-back contests against Norfolk State and UCF, the most (52) in back-to-back games in ECU and C-USA history.

ECU posted a 6-7 record against nationally-ranked teams, but notched wins over then No. 1 Rice (April 11) and No. 1 North Carolina (April 22) – both coming at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

Billy Godwin finished his fourth season at the helm of the Pirate baseball program posting a 161-90 overall record, which moved him into a tie for fourth place on the all-time wins list. He took home the 2009 C-USA Keith LeClair Coach-of-the-Year Award after guiding the Pirates to their third consecutive 40-plus win season — becoming only the second coach in school history to accomplish this feat (LeClair, 1999-2002).

Fifteen student-athletes were named to the 2008-09 Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Two of the 15 were named C-USA Academic Medal Winners for having a GPA of 3.75 or higher (Jared Avchen and Jacob Davis).

Drew Schieber and Brandon Henderson garnered C-USA All-Academic honors for having a 3.2 GPA or higher, while Schieber was named to the 2009 PCS Phosphates All-Academic Team.

BASKETBALL (MEN)
• Three of the Pirates’ four incoming freshmen enrolled in the second session of summer school - Wakefield Ellison, Corvonn Gaines and Erin Straughn.

• Incoming freshman Darius Morales is participating in international competition as a member of Puerto Rico Junior National Team this summer.

• Rising senior Brock Young finished second in the nation in assists per game (7.6) and ranked 20th in the NCAA in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.44).

• The Pirates ranked among the top 50 in the NCAA in five categories last season: three-point field goals per game (15th), assist-to-turnover ratio (33rd), three-point field goal percentage (34th), fewest turnovers per game (40th) and free throw percentage (41th).

• The brackets for the 10th-annual U.S. Virgin Islands Paradise Jam were announced with ECU set to face Tennessee in a first round game on November 20. The Pirates will face either Northern Iowa or DePaul in their second game of the tournament. Other tournament participants include Boston College, Purdue, St. Joseph’s and South Dakota State.

BASKETBALL (WOMEN)
• East Carolina led C-USA in attendance at 1,602 fans per game, its second-highest attendance average in program history.

• Three players earned All-Conference USA honors as senior LaCoyta Terry was named to the first team, senior Jasmine Young was selected to the second team and all-defensive squad, and rookie Jean Best earned a spot on the all-freshman team. It marked the fourth-consecutive nod to the second team for Young and her third-consecutive all-defensive accolade.

• Young finished the season ranked fourth in the league in assists while also recording the eighth-highest single-season ECU career total with 162. She now owns four of the top 10 single-season mark in school history. Young also broke an ECU career record, moving into first-place in three-point field goals made with a trey at UCF (Jan. 29). She also finished her career ranked second in steals and assists, as well as third on the C-USA career assist chart.

• Seniors Young, Terry and Gabriela Husarova all played their 100th career games at East Carolina this season.

• ECU will add three guards and a forward to its lineup next season, as Shala Hodges (Guard, Raleigh, N.C.) Celeste Stewart (Guard, Charlotte, N.C.), Ariana Jackson (Forward, West Palm Beach, Fla.) and Elaine Morgan (Guard, Raleigh, N.C.) have signed to play for Baldwin-Tener's Lady Pirates.

CROSS COUNTRY
• The men’s and women’s cross country teams each enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in recent memory as both squads improved two places from its 2007 finish at the Conference USA Championship in November. The men finished in fifth place this year while the women moved up to sixth place. For the men, it was the team’s highest finish since 2004 while the women enjoyed their top standing since 2001.

• The Pirates also displayed an improvement at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship in Clemmons, N.C. The women placed 17th out of 33 squads and the men finished 25th out of 29 teams. It marked the highest finish for the women’s team since the 2001 squad took 13th-place. The men also improved two places from their finish in 2007.
Both the men's and women's teams turned in two second-place finishes during the season (N.C. State Raleigh Invitational and the ECU Pirates Invitational).

Freshman Zack Montijo was the top performer for the men, pacing the squad in every meet. He earned Conference USA Freshman-of-the-Year honors following his 13th-place overall finish at the league championship. He was also named second-team all-conference, the first for an ECU men's runner since 2004. Following his team-best (eighth-place overall) finish at the N.C. State Raleigh Invitational, he was named the Conference USA Cross Country Male Athlete-of-the-Week on Sept. 16.

Sophomore Brittany Copeland picked up where she left off at the conclusion of her freshman year, leading the team in every competition she participated in. While at the C-USA Championship, she checked in 14th overall with a career-best time of 17:45 in the 5K to earn second-team all-conference honors - the first for a women's team runner since 2005. Copeland also notched the second-best 6K time in program history after finishing in 21:31 at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship on Nov. 15.

Junior Jarrett Newby was named the East Carolina recipient of the inaugural Conference USA Spirit of Service award. Newby, an honor roll student and member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), has participated in numerous mentoring programs including ECU Friends, Letterwinner's Weekend and the Elementary School Homework Reward Program. Newby collected 42 hours of mentoring this fall and has totaled nearly 400 hours since enrolling at ECU. He also participated in the 2007 Gulu Walk and worked with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans with other C-USA SAAC members. Rounding off his extensive list of projects, Newby has also donated time for juvenile diabetes awareness, the REAL Crisis Center and filmed an ECU athletics public service announcement.

**GOLF (MEN)**

- ECU recorded its best-ever finish (sixth) at the Conference USA Championship. Markus Leandersson recorded an eighth-place finish and Andre Thorsen tied for ninth.
- The Pirates captured the team title at the 2009 Ironwood Intercollegiate.
- Senior Markus Leandersson was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Men's At-Large Third-Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). He also received the ECU Department of Finance Outstanding Senior Award.
- Senior Andre Thorsen was named second-team All-Conference USA and rookie Jake Colley was named to the all-freshman team.
- Rising sophomore David Watkins placed second at the 2009 N.C. Amateur Championship.
- Four prep golfers made commitments to ECU for the 2009-10 season: Zach Edmondson (Morrisville, N.C.), Ryan Eibner (The Woodlands, Texas), Michael Marshburn (Cary, N.C.) and Mark Allan Wright (Tabor City, N.C.).

**GOLF (WOMEN)**

- The Pirates finished the season posting a 101-43-2 overall record in 11 events. In addition, ECU had nine Top 6 placements, five of those being Top 3 finishes.
- Completed the '09 campaign ranked No. 35 by Golfstat and No. 42 in the GolfWeek.
- ECU made its fifth team appearance in the NCAA Championships when it was tabbed as the No. 12 seed in the NCAA East Regional. The Pirates finished in ninth place, their highest NCAA post-season finish, and narrowly missed making the championship round by three strokes. At the conclusion of the first round, ECU sat in first place after firing a school-record round of 283.
- At the 2009 C-USA Championships, the Pirates finished in third place with a 54-hole score of 957, just one shot out of second.
- Three golfers were named All-Conference USA: Abby Boys (first-team), Amber Littman (first-team) and Ana Maria Puch (second-team).
- Puche picked up All C-USA Tournament honors with her third-place finish at the league championships and finished the season with five Top 10 finishes. In 11 events, she posted a 76.39 stroke average which ranks as the 12-best season stroke average in school history.
- Boys recorded six Top 10 finishes in 11 events this season. She ended her junior campaign with a 75.25 stroke average (seventh-best in school history) and a career stroke average of 75.91, which rates as the fourth-best in ECU history.
- Amber Littman finished her sophomore season with a 76.36 stroke average (11th-best in school history) and a career average of 75.76, which is the third-best in school history. She recorded eight Top 20 placements with four coming in the Top 10.
- In January, the NCAA announced that ECU has been selected to host the 2010 NCAA Women’s Golf East Regional, which will be played at the par-72, 6,348-yard Ironwood Country Club in Greenville.

**SOCCER**

- The East Carolina soccer team won its first-ever Conference USA regular season title and No. 1 seed in the league tournament after defeating Marshall 3-2 in double overtime at Bunting Field on the last day of the regular season.
The Pirates accumulated a program-best overall record of 14-4-4 and a 7-0-4 C-USA ledger, marking the first time a league member had gone unbeaten in conference play since Charlotte produced an 8-0-2 mark in 2002. The 14 wins are the most in the program’s history in a single season while the four losses are the fewest.

ECU advanced to its first-ever C-USA Tournament title game, defeating SMU in the quarterfinals while topping Colorado College in overtime in its semifinal contest.

Head Coach Rob Donnenwirth, the winningest coach in program history, was selected by his peers as the 2008 C-USA Coach-of-the-Year. Additionally, he was the runner-up for the Southeast Region Coach-of-the-Year honor, placing behind Anson Dorrance, head coach of the national champion North Carolina Tar Heels.

Senior Amber Campbell etched her name into the program record books, taking over the top spot in shutouts, saves and goalkeeper minutes played.

Campbell, the 2008 C-USA Defensive Player-of-the-Year as well as an All-C-USA First Team honoree, garnered a 12-3-4 record in goal, backstopping ECU to its first-ever C-USA title. Campbell was also selected as the C-USA Defensive Player-of-the-Week twice, producing nine shutouts, including five in conference play, the most by any goalkeeper in the league. She led C-USA in saves, shutouts and shutouts per game in all matches while leading the league in goals against average, save percentage, saves, saves per game, shutouts and shutouts per game in conference contests.

Senior Madison Keller, also a C-USA First Team selection, played and started every contest for the Pirates this season, finishing her career having started all 82 matches. She was named the season’s first C-USA Defensive Player-of-the-Week, anchoring an ECU defense that ranked second in the league in goals allowed, goals against average and shutouts for all matches and first in the conference in goals allowed, goals against average, saves and shutouts in league contests. Additionally, Keller was recognized off the field as a National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Second-Team Academic All-America Scholar. At the completion of her collegiate career, Keller signed a professional contract with the Washington Freedom, one of seven franchises in the new Women’s Professional Soccer (WPS) league.

In addition to their all-conference accolades, Campbell and Keller earned all-region honors. Campbell became the first player in program history to net a first-team all-region nod as she landed on the Soccer Buzz All-Southeast Region First Team while Keller was named to the third team. The duo was also represented on the (NSCAA) All-Southeast Region Second Team.

The Pirates were also recognized for their accomplishments off the field, as Keller and fellow senior Nicole Moore netted selection to the C-USA All-Academic First Team. Additionally, Moore earned two academic post-season honors from the league, garnering the Scholar-Athlete Award and the Jim Castaneda Post-Graduate Scholarship. She will attend medical school at UNC-Chapel Hill beginning in the fall.

SOFTBALL

The 2009 East Carolina softball team posted a 40-15 record, including a 19-5 record in Conference USA. The Pirates had three more league wins than Tulsa, 16-4, but the Golden Hurricane had a higher winning percentage (.800 to ECU’s .792) and claimed the regular season conference title. It was East Carolina’s second runner-up finish since joining C-USA in 2002.

The Pirates reached the 40-win plateau for the fifth time in the past six seasons.

The 19 C-USA wins were the most the program has had since joining the league in 2002. The Pirates also set the program record for most Conference USA three-game series sweeps with four.

Redshirt sophomore pitcher Toni Paisley was named the Conference USA Pitcher-of-the-Year after earning seven C-USA Pitcher-of-the-Week awards, tying the league single-season record. Head Coach Tracey Kee was selected as the Coach-of-the-Year for the second time in her career. Senior infielder Jessica Johnson also earned C-USA honors, making the first team for the second time in her career.

Paisley finished the year ranked in the top 30 in the NCAA in six pitching categories including seventh in victories with 30. Her 1.22 ERA was good for 11th nationally and her 297 strikeouts placed her 16th.

Johnson’s post-season honors also included First-Team All-Region, All-North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) University Division All-State, Conference USA All-Academic and ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Second-Team selections. The Laguna Niguel, Calif., native was named East Carolina’s Most Outstanding Female Scholar-Athlete for the 2008-09 school year. She finished her career second in ECU history in home runs (33), third in walks (104), fifth in RBI (151) and eighth in hits (191). In the all-time Conference USA ranks, Johnson is tied for seventh in career home runs and eighth in RBI.

East Carolina’s .978 fielding percentage put the team in third nationally. The pitching staff’s 1.51 ERA was the 11th-best mark in the country.

Junior Charina Sumner was selected as East Carolina’s spring Conference USA Spirit of Service Award winner. Sumner has registered a perfect 4.0 GPA the past four semesters as a health education and promotion major. The Kailua, Hawai‘i, native more than doubled her community service hours this year by participating in service activities such as: the ECU Relay for Life, ALS Walk, Reading at the Bookstore, St. Jude’s Medical Center Up 'Til Dawn, Homework Reward Club and the Carolina Dirt Devils Softball Clinic.

Johnson and juniors Cristen Aona and Kaui Tom were selected to the Conference USA Softball All-Academic Team. It was the second career All-Academic honor for Johnson and Aona and the first for Tom.
SWIMMING AND DIVING
A total of 15 student-athletes committed to ECU during the spring signing period. Coach Rick Kobe will welcome a total of 25 new student-athletes to the program this fall.
Assistant coach Steve Parsons resigned to become the head coach at North Dakota State, where he served as an assistant coach from 2004-05.

TEennis
The Pirate and Lady Pirate tennis squads compiled a combined 34-12 record this spring.
The men’s team, under the direction of fifth-year head coach Shawn Heinchen, established a new program record for single-season wins with a 19-5 mark. The 19 dual match victories bested the previous standard of 16 first set in 1957 and later matched in 2000.
With its 16-1 start, Heinchen’s club also challenged the ECU’s single-season winning percentage standard of .875 set in 1959 (14-2) before faltering down the stretch and dropping four of its last seven matches, including the opener of the Conference USA Championship Tournament (Orlando, Fla.) to Southern Miss.
After suffering an early setback to Appalachian State on Feb. 15, the Pirates rolled of 12 consecutive victories until falling to USM in a regular season battle on April 4.
The Pirates earned the program’s first-ever national ranking as ECU made its debut in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) poll at No. 61 on March 3. East Carolina later reappeared in the polls at No. 70 in early April.
The men’s team has produced a 95-42 (.693) singles record and a 45-17 (.726) result in doubles play.
Senior Aleksey Kochetov (17-3) and junior Stephen Whitwell (19-4) compiled a combined 36-7 record to lead the Pirates in singles action while the tandem of Whitwell and junior Bryan Oakley led all doubles players with a 15-3 ledger.
Tom Morris’ women’s squad tallied a 15-7 record in 2009. The Lady Pirates enjoyed a strong start, opening the 2009 campaign by winning nine of their first 11 matches before hitting the road for eight of their last 11 events.
ECU opened post-season play with a 4-3 triumph over UAB in the first round of the Conference USA Championship Tournament (Houston, Texas) before ending its campaign with a 4-0 setback to nationally-ranked Marshall in quarterfinal action.
Statistically, the women’s team owned records of 88-38 (.698) in singles and 42-23 (.646) in doubles.
Junior Brooke Walter and freshman Natalie Collins paced East Carolina in singles action far with 19-2 and 15-5 marks, respectively. Collins and sophomore Tamara Sachs enjoyed the most success in doubles play with an 11-4 record.

Track
ECU experienced a record-setting outdoor season under the direction of Curt Kraft as a program-high 11 athletes qualified for participation in the NCAA East Regional, held at North Carolina A&T. Additionally, three Pirates won conference titles at the Conference USA Outdoor Championships – Kevin Thompson (200m), Kris Bell (110m hurdles) and Maegan Lewis (hammer).
The ECU men matched their highest all-time finish at the C-USA Outdoor Championships, taking fourth-place.
East Carolina finished its indoor season at the C-USA Indoor Championships in Houston. The men took fifth-place while the women’s notched 12th. Additionally, the Pirates took medalist honors in four events as Kris Bell defended his 60-meter hurdles title, Adrian Sanderson and Thompson took second in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash, respectively and the 4x400 relay team finished second just behind UTEP.
Freshman Sebastien Blau also set a new school record in the pole vault at the C-USA Indoor Championships.
The Pirates found their way into the national rankings three weeks into the season, checking in at No. 117 in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Top 130 Poll.
In non-championship competition, Bell captured two individual titles in the 55 and 60-meter hurdles, taking first at Christopher Newport (Dec. 6) and North Carolina (Jan. 14). Additionally, Percy Himmant (long jump) and Meghan Home (high jump) captured their first individual titles of the season at North Carolina.
The program signed 22 student-athletes that will attend and compete for the University beginning in the fall. The contingent includes three prep national champions as well as four state title holders.

Volleyball
On April 9, Patricia “Pati” Rolf was appointed head volleyball coach. Rolf brings 21 years of head coaching experience to the Pirate volleyball program, the last seven as head coach at Big East Conference member Marquette University. Her 412 career victories make her one of only 45 active coaches at the NCAA Division I level with at least 400 wins.
The recently released 2009 volleyball schedule features three regular season tournaments, eight home matches and the first televised home contest in program history.
The Pirates enjoyed their best start in school history, winning 11 of the first 16 matches (11-5) in 2008. Included in the 11 victories was a program-best nine-match home winning streak, which extended back to the end of the 2007 campaign.

Trish Monroe finished her career with a stellar senior campaign, moving into third-place on Conference USA's all-time digs list. In the final match of her junior season, she set the ECU career record for digs before finishing with a four-year total of 1,864 last November.

Monroe also garnered several honors in 2008, including two Conference USA Defensive Player-of-the-Week selections (Sept. 15, Nov. 10) and all-tournament team inclusion at Wake Forest, High Point and East Carolina's own event.