THE DAILY CLIPS

August 18, 2009

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
Widespread H1N1 strain adds concern for flu season

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

The H1N1 strain of influenza, sometimes called swine flu, is expected to be the most widely spread flu virus this year, but the regular flu is not going away.

The Pitt Infant Mortality Prevention Advisory Council (PIMPAC) met Monday at the Edwin Monroe Area Health Education Center to discuss how the new flu will affect pregnant women and infants.

Dr. John Morrow, director of the Pitt County Health Department, said officials have stopped counting the number of swine flu cases because there are too many of them. The flu has been named a global pandemic because it meets the three factors: It spreads from person to person, it is a new virus that nearly everyone is susceptible to, and it has a wide geographic spread.

There were more than 500 cases reported in North Carolina before officials stopped counting as of July 29.

"The disease is out there in our community," Morrow said. "If you have flu-like symptoms, then you have H1N1."

Dr. Kristina Simeonsson, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine, spoke to a group of about 50 health care workers on what to expect for the upcoming flu season.

"This doesn’t mean that we are going back to the Spanish flu of 1918, but we need to be prepared for that,” Simeonsson said. “Over half of the people who have been hospitalized have an underlying condition."

Perhaps counter intuitively, the elderly are among the least susceptible to the virus. People older than 65 account for only two out of every 100,000 cases. Officials believe people older than 65 have an immunity from a flu that circulated in the early 20th century.

The most susceptible group is children up to 4 years old and children and young adults from 4 to 24 years old.

The rate of admission to hospitals for H1N1 is higher among pregnant women than for the rest of the population, Simeonsson said.

Pregnant women who shows signs of the flu should be immediately treated for the H1N1 flu, Simeonsson said.

"Pregnant women should receive empiric antiviral treatment,” Simeonsson said. “Most patients do not even need to be tested."

Pregnant women and other susceptible groups should be vaccinated for the H1N1 flu, which comes in two doses, and the regular flu vaccine.

Other groups are children older than 6 months and young adults as well as health care workers and primary caregivers for children.

Simeonsson said that young mothers should not stop breast feeding infants even if they have the flu. They should take precautions to limit the child’s exposure to the virus but continuing to breast feed is very important.
she said.

Flu vaccines will be available in about a month, both for H1N1 and for the regular flu.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9665.
Top heavy

Titles abound at public universities, bringing generous salaries. Taxpayers should demand a healthy diet.

At a time when public universities are facing budget cuts that some officials have said will hurt instruction by forcing the elimination of some classes, a golden opportunity has presented itself. The opportunity is a little embarrassing, but it’s an opportunity nonetheless. And here it is: return those in a plethora of administrative jobs to the classroom, where they are needed.

This accomplishes two things. First, it reverses an unfortunate pattern of recent years to stack titles and administrators on top of titles and administrators. Second, it would reorient priorities and preserve classes that otherwise might be removed from course offerings.

A News & Observer payroll analysis, along with some similar work by the General Administration office of the University of North Carolina system, shows that in a relatively short period of time, the bureaucracies of public institutions have expanded at a remarkable clip.

Consider just a few examples: at UNC-Chapel Hill, there were no assistant vice chancellors in 2004. Now there are 14, at a total of $2 million in salaries. (That’s over $140,000 per job.)

At UNC Greensboro, there were five assistant vice chancellors in 2004. Now there are 21. (The average salary in that post is around $100,000.) And at N.C. State University, where trouble has been brewing over finances and pay packages surrounding a resigned chancellor and provost, there are 11 associate vice provosts and 10 assistant vice provosts, as opposed to five people in the first category and four in the second in 2004.

It’s true, of course that sometimes titles change because of promotions or the reclassification of jobs that already exist. But Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC system, acknowledges he’ll be looking to slice positions in management. Chancellors at individual campuses are looking as well.

A couple of questions need to be answered by Bowles’ office: First, how did this huge expansion of titles and layers happen to begin with? Did it reflect weak oversight on the part of the system’s Board of Governors, the individual boards of trustees or chancellors’ offices? Has the granting of more flexibility in budgeting and administration to some campuses resulted in bloat and inefficiency? Does the General Administration office need to set specific limits on the numbers of titles (and higher salaries) that can exist in schools depending upon size and the complexity of curricula?

It appears from a report by The N&O’s Dan Kane, Eric Ferreri and David Raynor that the answer to those last three questions is yes.

Universities can develop their own management cultures. But when public money is involved, efficiency is all-important.

Chancellors who built these top-heavy structures doubtless would argue that flexibility is important, and perhaps the proliferation of titles and promotions just got away from them. But the time has come to pull the reins.

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be published, broadcast or redistributed in any manner.
Offensive line choices abound for Holtz and Co.

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

Monday, August 17, 2009

Not having enough talent to fill a starting lineup is perhaps the worst problem to have in football.

East Carolina has the opposite problem at the moment. Entering the 2009 season, ECU has more able bodies than it has positions on the field, and head coach Skip Holtz has spent camp playing a choosing game when it comes to building his depth chart for the season.

While much of the attention has been given to the Pirates' defense in the preseason, the Pirates have plenty to offer on offense as well, starting with an offensive line that's still being tweaked in order to find the best combination of five.

"We have some flexibility with our offensive line," Holtz said. "When you have that many juniors and seniors that have played as much as they have — and there are 10 of them right now — there is going to be a lot of flexibility. We've got to continue to put our best five on the field."

That has meant some jumbling. The Pirates spent much of the offseason without usual starting right guard Doug Palmer due to injury, causing a shift that included moving veteran tackle Terence Campbell to Palmer's spot. But Palmer was back in his usual spot Monday morning at practice, leaving the question open as to how the line will readjust now.

For the moment, Campbell will likely still be at guard because the other tackles — D.J. Scott, Willie Smith and Steven Baker — have excelled when given playing time. Holtz said he expects players like Campbell to continue to play wherever they're needed most.

"We felt like to get our best five on the field we needed to put Terence on the inside," Holtz said.

Talk about versatility. Holtz said guards Cory Dowless and Doug Polochak can also play center, and a great offensive line usually carries with it players who are able to jump from position to position. In ECU's case, there are also viable backups at almost every position already.

"We ask them to learn two positions, a primary position and a secondary position in case we have to do some moving around," Holtz said. "It keeps them thinking and keeps them sharp mentally because you don't know how the season's going to go. You don't know where the injuries are going to show up."

Dowless, for example, started all 14 games last season at left guard, and would appear to be the man for the job again this season.

But with two other veterans — Campbell and Palmer — also vying for two spots, Dowless knows nothing is a sure thing.

"Your spot's not guaranteed," Dowless said. "We're always in competition with each other. I've also got (senior) T.J. Harper behind me, and he got about as many reps as I did last year."

Allen's army

Although there are clearly plenty of guys who can play his position if need be, senior center Sean Allen doesn't
plan on giving up his starting role until the end of his final season.

Allen also started all 14 games last season and feels like the Pirates are deeper than ever on the front line.

"We've been rolling two deep all through camp," said Allen, a Wilson native. "Both groups have been pretty good. (Campbell) moved to guard, so we've been working guys like Willie Smith and Steve Baker on the left side, and they're just catching on."

The point of it all, according to Allen, is to do a better job across the board on offense to help the defense, which last year dictated much of the Pirates' success while the team often struggled to score.

'Red' shirts

Plenty of players like running backs Dominique Lindsay and Norman Whitley and tight ends Zico Pasut and Justin Jones spent Monday morning's session stuck in red jerseys, meaning they are off limits to full contact because of lingering injuries.

Also, Campbell saw limited duty because of a minor finger injury.

JUCO transfer running back Giavanni Ruffin still has a day of warm-up before he can enter practice as a full-time player after recently being granted full playing status by the NCAA.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@coxnnc.com or (252)329-9595.
Pirates having leg trouble

BY KEN TYSIAC, Staff Writer

GREENVILLE - For once, a field-goal attempt near the end of Monday's first two-a-day practice split the uprights.

East Carolina football coach Skip Holtz's sarcastic shout pierced the humid air.

"There's one," he said. "Let's see if we can get two."

Successful field goals have been in short supply the past few days for the Pirates, who are trying to find a second option to sub for injured place-kicker Ben Hartman. He is out indefinitely while he tries to rehabilitate from a recurring hip injury that caused him to miss the first three games of last season.

Hartman, a senior, has made 37 field goals during his career with six game-winners, including four on the final play of the game. Matt Dodge -- who already is East Carolina's punter -- and Ben Ryan are competing for an opportunity to kick until Hartman is able to return.

So far, they have struggled. Holtz said that when the team charts kicks with no defense during practice, the kickers make about 18 out of 20. But when a defense and a rush have been added, accuracy has plummeted.

Holtz plans to have the whole team do wind sprints after missed kicks in order to increase the sense of urgency for the kickers.

"You can't simulate pressure in a game, so we've got to try to put as much as we can on them here," Holtz said, "and right now they're not responding. They didn't respond to it very well [Monday], and they didn't respond to it very well in the scrimmage on Saturday."

The ideal situation would be to get Hartman back, but Holtz isn't sure when -- or if -- that will happen. Holtz is hoping rehabilitation eventually will heal Hartman, who has been working with
specialists to avoid surgery.

"If they have to go that route and fix it [surgically], then it would turn into a yearlong situation," Holtz said. "We're really hopeful we can do this with treatment and what he's doing right now with all his rehabs."

Neal shines: Former N.C. State defensive back Levin Neal has climbed to the top of East Carolina's depth chart at strong safety. Neal, a senior, moved ahead of sophomore Derek Blacknall after Saturday's scrimmage. Blacknall will have a chance to regain the first-team spot again in the next scrimmage Saturday, but Neal has impressed the Pirates' coaches.

"He's done a great job and had a great scrimmage Saturday," defensive backs coach Rick Smith said. "... We're just glad he's here."

Unusual camp: Holtz said this has been an unusual camp because his team has back so many starters that he has spent a lot of time evaluating younger players to see who can fill backup roles.

Some backups established themselves during Saturday's scrimmage, so the starters will be getting more work now.

"This is the first day of really kind of putting it together where the ones are going to get the work and the twos are going to get some," Holtz said, "but with the heat they got tired today, and that's something we continue to need to do, the tempo drills that we're doing in practice to get in shape for this season."

ktysiac@charlotteobserver.com or 919-829-8942

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
College students need to handle debt, credit cards wisely

By Michelle Walbaum, USA TODAY

In tough economic times, success in college often depends as much on money smarts as book smarts. Risky financial behaviors, such as paying bills late or paying less than the minimum due, maxing out credit cards or taking on payday loans, for example, can jeopardize a student's college career.

Students who exhibit one or more such risky behaviors say they're less likely to graduate than students who don't take on such risks, according to a University of Arizona study published earlier this year.

COLLEGE COSTS: Programs to help unemployed graduates with debt

Poor money management spills over into other areas of students' lives, too, say researchers Joyce Serrido and Soyeon Shin, who surveyed more than 2,000 freshmen at the university. Money problems can strain relationships with family and friends and negatively affect students' health and psychological well-being.

Students heading to college for the first time in the next few weeks can start immediately to keep their finances fit. Knowing how much you need to pay for helps, says Kristy Vienne, director of the Student Money Management Center, a personal finance education resource for Sam Houston State University students. Some steps to take.

Keep your parents involved

Your parent or guardian should be in the loop, says Lynne Strang, spokeswoman for American Financial Services Association.

Figure out student expenses per month — from essentials such as laundry and food, to entertainment and clothes. Then determine whether parents will contribute to the cause. "Together, go through that list, and agree upon a set dollar amount," she says.

The family discussion sets clear financial limits and ground rules for who pays what. When the money's gone, "it's gone," Strang says. "You need to pace yourself!"

Track your expenses

Students might think a cup of coffee every morning is not much. But $2 a day can add up to more than $700 a year.

Jinhee Kim, an associate professor teaching a personal and family finance course at the University of Maryland, tells students to record every purchase. "When students actually track those expenses, they realize how much they are spending on little items. And small things add up," she says.

That's what happened to Brandi Burke, 20, who got her first credit card as a sophomore at Sam Houston State and ended up $500 in debt.

"I spent most of my money on eating out," she says. McDonald's and Jack-in-the-Box were frequent destinations. Burke went to Sam Houston's Money Management Center for help with budgeting. Recording purchases helped her find what was burning a hole in her pocket.

Tracking expenses also helps you see what you spend regularly on essentials, says Angela Caddell, director of Oklahoma Money Matters, a personal finance education program. That information will help you measure whether you need to increase or decrease the amount in your projected spending plan.

Start saving some money

Paying yourself first — setting aside about 10% of income every month in savings — is a good strategy. Vienne says. Having money on hand is useful, in case something happens, such as "you get up one morning, and you need four new tires," says Patricia Donnelly, interim director of Student Money Management Services, a personal finance education resource for Bowling Green (Ohio) University students.

Set financial goals

Write one down and set a deadline to achieve it. That way, you can see a tangible finish line, Donnelly says. It may help you save to pay off debt, or to afford a spring break getaway.

Burke says her short-term goal was to save money every two weeks. Her midterm goal was to pay off the credit card, which she did in three months.

Get a job

Working students pay more bills on time and keep up with credit, Serrido says.

But working more than 20 hours a week can hurt your grades, according to a study by Nellie Mae, a student loan program of college-financing company Sallie Mae.

Use credit cards wisely

Credit cards can be powerful tools — for good or ill.

With a good credit score, you can rent an apartment, purchase a house or make payments on a car after graduation. A low score hinders all of the above.

"Your GPA (grade-point average) is obviously an important thing for relatively a short period of time," says Adam Levin, chairman and founder of Credit.com. But a credit score is "this other three-digit number that follows you your entire life."

Some 84% of undergraduates on college campuses have credit cards, according to a study this year by Sallie Mae. By graduation, seniors in the study averaged $4,105 in credit card debt.

That's in addition to student loans. Average student loan debt is around $20,000 for public universities, and $28,000 for private, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

A new law that goes into effect Feb. 22 will make it harder for students younger than 21 to get a credit card. Minors will need a co-signer unless they prove they're employed and can handle the responsibility. The credit limit will be capped at $500, or 25% of total income, whichever is less.

Levin says if you do have a credit card, try not to use more than 10% of allowed credit, and try to pay off as much as possible on a monthly basis.

Set up a bank account

http://usatoday.printhis.clickability.com/pt?act=pt&action=ctl&title=Co...
Try looking for accounts geared to college students, says Carol Kaplan, spokeswoman for the American Bankers Association.

"More than half of large banks offer special checking accounts for students — free or discounted accounts," she says. But keep in mind these accounts may limit bank transactions.

If you choose to get a checking account, you can opt for a debit card.

Just be aware that you can get into debt with debit cards, too. Many banks allow you to spend more than you have in your bank account, then charge you a steep fee for doing so. Another drawback: Some debit cards don't offer protection in cases of identity theft, Strang says.

PayPal on Tuesday unveiled an account option aimed at teens and young adults. Parents place funds in a PayPal account that's available to the student online and off via a debit card. If the student needs more money placed in the account, they can text parents. Parents then send a text to PayPal authorizing a transfer of funds into the account. Parents can also transfer funds online from their PayPal account.

If someone charges more than the balance, the card is declined; there's no overdraft fee. But PayPal charges students a dollar if withdrawing from an ATM. "You can't spend more than what you have," says Don Fotsch, vice president of customer experience and design at PayPal.

Find this article at:
http://money.usatoday.com/2009/06/12/saving-students-debt-credit_N.htm
Rules Trail Raucous Students Off-Campus
Colleges, Neighbors Seek a New Peace

By Jenna Johnson and Martin Ricard
Washington Post Staff Writers
Monday, August 17, 2009

Each August, moving vans and pickups roll into the neighborhoods surrounding college campuses, carrying futons, boxes and mini-fridges. As move-in season kicks off, homeowners try to determine how their quiet streets will be transformed by hordes of students.

"Even if you see them hauling in a keg the first weekend, maybe that will be their one party of the year," said Jennifer Altemus, president of the Citizens Association of Georgetown. "Still, I wouldn't think that's a great sign."

For most college students looking to live in or near the District, the cheapest option is to rent a house with a large group of friends, packing in as many people as possible. Living off campus also frees students from the adult supervision of the dorms, but they quickly learn that their new neighbors have rules, too -- and enforcement tactics that have been honed on decades of young neighbors.

This year, residents living near Georgetown University plan to hang signs on the doors of student renters, informing them of the rules about garbage collection and noise. On Tuesday, the College Park City Council narrowly voted to continue rent control on single-family houses to help University of Maryland students and others find cheap housing and discourage landlords from buying more houses. And residents of the Brookland neighborhood near Catholic University have pressured police to adopt a zero-tolerance policy for disorderly conduct.

At a community meeting last month, 5th Police District Cmdr. Lamar Greene said officers will measure noise levels when called to student homes and make arrests for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct if necessary. Brookland residents have identified houses rented by Catholic University students, checked landlord licenses and reported those not in compliance.

"My community is absolutely at wits' end about this," Carolyn Steptoe, an Advisory Neighborhood Commission member.

Craig Parker, associate vice president for community and government relations for CUA, said that the university makes clear its expectations for students living off-campus. University policy includes sanctions for students involved in disruptive behavior in off-campus housing and urges neighbors to call the police when there are problems.

Although neighbors often have a point, sometimes they're simply "nitpicking on small issues," said CUA student Ryan Winn, chairman of the student government's student life committee.

"Students are residents," said Winn, 20, a junior political science and pre-law student. "They have
rights, too."

Stuck in the middle are university officials who want to stick up for the rights of their students but also keep peace with the neighbors who can have immense influence on zoning requests and construction plans, said David Clurman, president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers.

"Sometimes it's just people being hyper-sensitive, and sometimes it's the students being out of control. You just have to find a balance," said Clurman, assistant director of residential education at University of Maryland Baltimore County.

A public hearing in College Park about rent control last month at times turned into a debate about where U-Md. students should live. Some students questioned why rent control applies only to single-family houses and not apartment complexes, dorms and other on-campus housing, which can cost hundreds of dollars more each month.

"The only reason I can afford to live in College Park is because I'm able to rent a single-family house with a group of people," said Bob Hayes, a junior mechanical engineering major.

More than a dozen landlords spoke, angrily accusing the city of being "anti-student" by trying to run college group houses out of business.

"This is a college town," said Ken Blumenstock, a landlord who lives in Bethesda. "It is normal for students to live in the neighborhoods."

Adele Ellis, who lives near campus with her husband, a U-Md. professor, said rent control helps prevent landlords from getting rich while students live in substandard or unsafe housing.

"We are not anti-student. It is not a matter of throwing students out of the neighborhood," she said at the hearing. "It is a matter of addressing the problems that arise when a number of students in an area becomes overwhelming. It is the difference between a mixed neighborhood and a student slum that is the concern."

In 2004, a GU business student was killed in a rowhouse fire caused by faulty electrical wiring.

"Housing is at such a premium that students" often put up with unsafe living conditions, said Altemus, of the neighborhood association. "And they are paying $6,000 or $7,000 a month for these places."

In addition to student safety, universities have other incentives to keep neighborhood residents happy.

In 2001, the D.C. zoning board refused to allow George Washington University to increase enrollment or launch any new construction projects until at least 70 percent of students lived on-campus. At the time, only about half of the school’s undergraduates lived on-campus. Today, 73 percent do.

That same year, the zoning board also refused to approve Georgetown's 10-year construction plan or allow the school to accept more students until school officials gained control of off-campus students.

The school started a 24-hour hotline that neighbors can call to report problems, created its own security team to patrol neighborhoods and punished students who broke laws or violated the student code of conduct while living off campus.

Both GWU and GU have also formed committees of university officials, students and neighbors to discuss town-gown issues and added lessons on being a good neighbor to their orientation programs. GWU provides students moving off campus with a handbook that spells out their rights as tenants, offers suggestions on finding a place and includes a section titled, "Don't let your right to party
overshadow your responsibility to your neighbors."

This fall, GU is opening its own row of townhouses on 36th Street NW, called Magis Row. Each house will have four students, a faculty or staff adviser and a theme, such as living green or redefining the hip-hop movement. The houses are meant to be "the best of both worlds" for students who want to live in a house but still have ties to campus, said Jeanne Lord, associate vice president for student affairs.

Students must have high grades and clean records to live in the "coveted houses," so Lord expects that they will be tame, role-model neighbors -- just what the university needs as it prepares to again submit a 10-year plan to the zoning board in 2011.

Post a Comment

View all comments that have been posted about this article.

Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that are unsigned or contain "signatures" by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the full rules governing commentaries and discussions. You are fully responsible for the content that you post.

© 2009 The Washington Post Company

Ads by Google

Private Student Loans
Wells Fargo Private Student Loan. No Payments While You're In School.
www.WellsFargo.com/student

Campbell Student Housing
Live off campus for less! Media Room, Fitness Center, and more.
www.campushabitat.com

Student Housing
Awesome studios, 1 Beds & 2 Beds Brighton, Penfield, Downtown
www.belmontproperties.com
Area players propel ECU club baseball

Team finished season at No. 17 in country

By GREG KATSKI
Staff Writer

With the help of several players from the area, East Carolina's club baseball team reached new heights this past season. The club team climbed to No. 17 in the final National Club Baseball Association Division I poll, released in June.

The NCBA is comprised of 118 Division I teams from across the country playing in 22 conferences. ECU plays out of the Mid Atlantic — South Conference, which includes club teams from Wake Forest, N.C. State, UNC — Charlotte, North Carolina and Elon. The Pirates also play teams belonging to the Mid Atlantic — North Conference during the regular spring season, including Maryland, George Washington, Virginia Tech, James Madison, Virginia and Towson.

In 2009, ECU made it to the NCBA Regional Tournament, joining MAC foes James Madison, N.C. State and Maryland. The Pirates eventually fell to tournament champion Maryland, which represented the MAC in the NCBA DI World Series. ECU finished third in the Regional Tournament, which is the closest the program has ever been to the World Series.

For their efforts, a handful of Pirates were recognized by the NCBA as club sports All-Americans, including Aurora native Patrick Williams. Williams made the first team as an all-American after his stellar junior season on the mound for the Pirates.

ECU's ace wasn't surprised to receive the accolade, and said it was the culmination of a lot of hard work.

"I knew my name would be up there with some of the good pitchers in the nation," he said. "I was very pleased I got it though, that's for sure."

Williams was one of four pitchers named to the first team, after posting a 9-0 record with an impressive 1.59 ERA. He posted an outstanding 71 strikeouts in 56-plus innings pitched with just 14 walks for a strikeout to walk ratio of more than 4:1.

The rising senior that's been clocked at 93 mph has been on the club team since his freshman year. He joined the team before the spring season after talking to club baseball head coach Joe Carracci, who's a friend of the family.

"Joe needed a shortstop and called me up and asked me if I wanted to play for the team, and I was down for it," Williams said.

Williams was a star pitcher for three years at Pamlico High School before transferring to Washington High School for his senior year to face better competition and receive more exposure.

Williams joined a Pam Pack team that featured current ECU standout center fielder Trent Whitehead, and faced pitchers like former J.H. Rose and UNC phenom Alex White.

The flamethrower had his heart set on playing DI baseball in college, but was hardly interested in any offers he received.

"I was looking for a top 25 school," he said.

So instead, Williams, an industrial distribution and technology major, decided to focus on his education.

The staff ace had no intention of playing competitive baseball until Coach Carracci came calling. Williams said Carracci is the reason for ECU's increasing success and exposure.

"Joe has really helped the program. He's put a lot of time into it," Williams said.

The coach has also helped shape the attitude of the club
Patrick Williams, a native of Aurora and a pitcher, gets ready to deliver a pitch for ECU baseball team. Williams was honored as a club all-American after posting a 9-0 record with the Pirates. (Photo courtesy of ECU Sports Information)

from Page 1B

Club

One of those players is ECU’s starting first baseman, Dennis Butts. Butts, a former Pam Pack standout and Washington native, has been on the team for three years running. The power-hitting first baseman was also recognized by the NCBA for driving in a D-I-high 36 runs on the season.

Butts joined the team with the encouragement of Williams, among others.

“I figured it would be competitive in the way that all the guys wanted to win and earn a position, but at the same time, kind of not like a full-time job like other teams are,” Butts said.

The former Pam Pack great is now pleasantly surprised to see how competitive the team has become.

“We went from a .500 team two years ago to finishing No. 17 in the nation and third at regionals,” he said.

The health and exercise fitness major attributes the team’s success to chemistry.

“I feel like we had one of the best group of guys that I’ve ever played baseball with, as far as coming together as a team,” he said.

The rising junior finished with a bold prediction for the Pirates.

“I expect us to win the region and at least compete in the World Series,” he said.

“I think we’re going to be the strongest team in the conference.”