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ECU football tickets a hot commodity

BY RANDY JONES
The Daily Reflector

The days of walking up to the ticket office at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Pirate game day to pick up a seat are coming to an end.

East Carolina's consecutive wins over top-25 programs has vaulted the team into the national spotlight and garnered it the No. 14 spot in the latest Associated Press poll.

WEB POLL: What's the most you have ever paid for an ECU football ticket? Vote online at reflector.com.

It has also made tickets a highly sought-after property.

According to the ECU ticket office, fans may want to scoop up their tickets now or face the prospect of having to find them on the secondary market — with a big markup.

"We've been a lot busier after the two wins than we've seen in the past," said Scott Wetherbee, ECU's assistant athletics director/ticket operations.

Both home and away games have seen a significant up-swing.

"A great example would be Sunday," Wetherbee said. "After

See TICKETS, A7
Gov. Mike Easley signed a temporary measure that allows ticket sales for profit at Web sites that guarantee the validity of the tickets. The law took effect Aug. 4 and remains in effect until June 30, 2009.

It is still illegal to sell tickets for more than $3 over face value in any other way, including at game venues. The law states that “any person, firm or corporation which sells or offers to sell a ticket for a price greater than the price permitted... shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.”

A quick look at some of the more popular ticket marketplace Web sites — including stubhub.com, craigslist.com and eBay — provide a glimpse of how expensive seats already are, and a view into the future if the 2-0 Pirates keep winning.

By Wednesday afternoon, prices for tickets to the Pirates in-state rivalry game against N.C. State in Raleigh were definitely the hottest commodity. This is the only game currently completely sold out.

On Stubhub, prices ranged from $85 to $515 each.

“We have seen a dramatic shift in ticket sales for East Carolina from last year,” said Sean Pate, the head of corporate communications for Stubhub. “They have increased 300 percent from last year’s total season’s sales. That is just in a few weeks.”

At eBay, most sellers were offering blocks of four tickets. The actual bids received ranged from the low $300s to the mid-$500s. One seller has two Pirate Club tickets with a “Buy It Now” price of $1,750. But you do get a buffet and parking pass included.

Face value for an N.C. State ticket is $49.

Future Pirates games — home and away — appear on these sites, but the cost of tickets is still relatively low due to the availability of tickets at face value.

Tickets for the remaining ECU home games against Houston, Memphis, Marshall and UTEP are selling from $25 to $177. Road contests fall into similar price ranges.

The game at Atlantic Coast Conference member Virginia could be a game that sees some price volatility as it is one of the closer non-conference games.

That demand has not surfaced yet, said Corbin Hunt, Virginia’s associate athletics Director of ticket sales and operations.

“We have been averaging between 40 and 70 sold per day since mid-August,” he said, “and sold 69 Monday and 46 Tuesday. That may change in the coming weeks. We still have a good supply of tickets remaining for the game and ECU is still selling tickets from the visitor allotment.”

And if the wins keep piling up, soon ECU fans may find themselves holding onto valuable assets.

“If they continue to win, interest will only increase,” Pate said. “Their schedule is very winnable from here on out, and we could be looking at an undefeated season by the end of the year. For every win they rack up, it changes their aftermarket markup.”

Randy Jones can be reached at rajones@coxnc.com or at 329-9593.
Public Forum

ECU crowd problems started before game

The security problems at Saturday's game started even before the game.

There was nearly a riot outside Gate 7 because of swarms of drunken students barging in line and even walking all the way to the front of the line to cut in front of us who had been waiting in line for more than an hour. There were no officers around to control them. A large group of us missed most of the first quarter because of out-of-control students and extremely slow ticket-takers.

We have attended games at Michigan and Ohio State and they manage to get fans into the stadium without such nonsense.

As for fans swarming the field, it was clear that ECU was not at all serious about the announcement to stay off the field. If it had been, there are ways to do it. We have attended the World Series at Yankee Stadium. They keep fans off the field by lining the field with policemen two deep. Even the New Yorkers respect that. ECU needs to either get serious about it or just open the fences and let all of the students on the field.

I would also suggest that there be designated gates for students only and the other gates for paying fans only. No adult or child should have to be pushed and shoved like we and those around us were at Gate 7.

The security Saturday was a pathetic mix of two extremes, none or too much. It was an embarrassment to the university and to Greenville. Apparently the football coaches and team are ready for BCS crowds, but security and the athletic administration are not.

KATHY WALKER
Winterville
Saluting the Pirates from ’Bama

What an awesome display of hard-played football East Carolina University is bringing to the field. Wow! You’ve gained another new fan down in ’Bama country.

Keep it up because there’s a crowd of us down here in Alabama that appreciate great football no matter whether it’s being played at home or elsewhere. North Carolina is the most beautiful state in the South, and I love that it has such a football powerhouse. Go Pirates!

DAVID LEE VAIL
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Single-payer system the health care answer

The feature article on Dr. Walter Pories in the Sept. 7 Daily Reflector was a dismal description of the U.S. health care system: nearly 47 million Americans without health insurance. Referring to ways of dealing with this problem, Pories states that “people are afraid of socialized medicine.”

Just what is meant by the phrase “socialized medicine?” A widely accepted meaning of the term is any form of publicly funded health care. Using this definition, Medicare, Medicaid and the veterans health services are all forms of socialized medicine.

Let’s compare Medicare, a form of socialized medicine, to Blue Cross, a giant in the field of the private insurance industry. Medicare has an overhead of about 3 percent; Blue Cross’s overhead is in the range of 30 percent. Medicare insures all people 65 and older, regardless of pre-existing conditions; Blue Cross cherry picks the population and excludes those with pre-existing conditions.

If Blue Cross were the only bad apple, the situation would not be so bad.

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of private health insurance companies, each with its own set of rules and regulations. Doctors and hospitals are frustrated with this fragmented, chaotic system.

A recent survey of American doctors found that 59 percent of those polled supported the concept of a single-payer system.

What is meant by a single-payer system? Essentially, a single-payer system is Medicare for all.

A bill before Congress (H.R. 676) would provide for universal health coverage with a single-payer system replacing the current, bureaucratic quagmire.

The cost savings from such a move are estimated at about $350 billion per year, more than enough to cover the 47 million uninsured.

Is this socialized medicine? Call it what you will. I call it the only reasonable solution to this country’s problem of providing decent medical care for all of its citizens.

Paul Cook
Greenville
Case joins ECU coaching staff

Reed Case has been named director of football administration at East Carolina, head coach Skip Holtz announced Thursday.

Case will be in charge of all in-house and on campus day-to-day recruiting efforts for the Pirates.

Prior to his appointment at ECU, Case served as the coordinator of football operations at Oklahoma State from August 2007 to May 2008, where he handled day-to-day operations of the football recruiting department.

Case arrived in Stillwater after serving as a recruiting assistant at Big Ten member Northwestern. Before arriving in Evanston, he spent a year as director of football operations at Akron.

The Hopedale, Ohio native began his professional career in 1992 as an assistant coach in Ohio at Thornville's Sheridan High School and Cadiz High School, where his teams advanced to the state playoffs four times in five years.
ECU and Hilton Greenville team up to host Jazz at Night series

The East Carolina University School of Music Jazz Studies program and the Hilton Greenville have partnered to host the Jazz at Night series on six Fridays during the 2008-2009 academic year.

The first of these concerts will be held at 8 p.m. today.

The evenings will feature performances by students and faculty from the ECU Jazz Studies program, as well as occasional guest artists.

"We are delighted to have a venue like the Hilton Greenville and this type of access for the community to the jazz program, and I know our students will enjoy the audience and the learning experience," said Carroll V. Dashiel, the director of Jazz Studies at ECU.

The Hilton will offer room packages to ticket holders and also will offer appetizer and beverage service during the performances.

In addition, the hotel will donate a percentage of jazz ticket holders' restaurant purchases to the jazz studies program and sees the evenings not only as a benefit to guests, but also part of the trend toward "staycations" in response to rising gas prices.

"Obviously, our scheduled guests will enjoy on-site entertainment, but the dinner-jazz-room package should appeal to locals as a reasonable in-Greenville mini-vacation," said John Van Coutren, general manager at the Hilton Greenville.

Future Jazz at Night performances are scheduled for Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Jan. 23, Feb. 20 and March 27.

Performances start at 8 p.m. in the Hilton's ballroom.

Tickets are $5 and are available by calling (800) ECU-ARTS or at the door.
Georgia campus
to cost NCCU
School must repay federal loan funds

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL – N.C. Central University will have to repay federal loan money disbursed to students enrolled over the past four years at an unauthorized satellite campus at a suburban Atlanta megachurch.

The total tab isn’t yet known, but UNC system President Erskine Bowles said Thursday the university will owe the money because the NCCU program, based at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church from 2004 until this year, had never been approved by the university’s accrediting agency. Universities can receive and distribute federal financial aid only for programs approved by accrediting agencies. “We will have a significant liability,” Bowles told members of the audit committee of the UNC system’s Board of Governors. “How much, we do not know at this time. The source of funds and the payment plan, we do not know at this time."

The Lithonia, Ga., church’s pastor is Eddie Long, an NCCU alumnus who has been a school trustee since 2002.

Bowles made clear he was disgusted with NCCU’s prior leadership, under which the New Birth campus was created and operated until this summer. That’s why the program was finally submitted to the accrediting agency — the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges — which turned it down.

The program ceased operations, and NCCU and university system officials scrambled to figure out how it had been created and what to do with students still enrolled.

Bowles said Thursday that after months of work on the issue, he still has no explanation for the program’s origins.

NO JUSTIFIABLE REASON

"I still do not know," he said. "I can think of no justifiable reason whatsoever why the previous leadership at NCCU would completely fail" to follow proper rules.

The chancellor at the time was James Ammons, now president at Florida A&M University. Ammons said last month that he accepted responsibility for the program but added that he didn’t recall the specifics of its creation and assumed it had been properly approved.

Neither the NCCU board of trustees nor the UNC system’s governing board was ever formally briefed on the program or given the chance to vote on it.

On Thursday, Bowles said his office’s investigation is continuing and he is keeping the state Auditor’s Office and law enforcement informed. He did not elaborate.

OTHERS GET A LOOK

He did say his office has examined about 400 other off-site degree programs offered by UNC system campuses and has turned up a few small issues. "We have found nothing remotely comparable," he said.

The New Birth campus offered undergraduate degrees in criminal justice, business administration and hospitality and tourism, and 25 students graduated. There is still some question whether their degrees have the same value as those of regular NCCU students.

NCCU’s current chancellor, Charlie Nelms, inherited the New Birth issue not long after arriving in Durham last year. His work in dealing with the saga has been a bright spot, Bowles said.

"If it were not for Charlie, I do not know where we would be today," Bowles said. "He inherited a mess."
ECU fans have a team worth following

East Carolina has a big-time football team.

The Pirates, who opened the season by beating Virginia Tech and West Virginia, are ranked 12th.

But the beauty of East Carolina is that it has never acted big-time.

Although Greenville is not a small town, there has always been an intimate, small-town quality about the program. And I hope that doesn't change.

The Pirates do not play in Charlotte, the Triangle or the ACC. You do not drive past the campus on the way to somewhere else. You need a reason to go there.

In 1983, I had one — a Pirates football team that would lose only three games, each close and each on the road, to Miami, Florida State and Florida.

When I walked into practice to meet coach Ed Emory, he dropped to his knees and bowed. Imagine, he said, a sportswriter driving all the way from Charlotte for the little old Pirates.

You probably already picked up on this, but Ed could be sarcastic.

After practice, he said he would give me 10 minutes. He gave me two days. We went to Parker's barbecue, the second-best barbecue I've ever eaten, and the waitress brought him the usual. "The usual" filled the table. And it was all his. I had six inches for a notebook, a pen and a plate.

What I liked about East Carolina then, and now, is that: (A) It served the best barbecue I've ever eaten, King's out of Kinston, in the press box; and (B) because it could not depend on regional rivalries to attract fans to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, the Pirates had to become the attraction.

I wasn't in Greenville last week for the West Virginia victory. I watched from San Diego, where I had gone for the Carolina Panthers' season opener.

But I did see the Pirates beat Virginia Tech in Charlotte two weeks ago, and I saw them beat North Carolina in Greenville last season. If you do not wear Pirates purple to a home game, you're an outsider. From a distance, the stadium looks like a giant bruise.

East Carolina athletic director Terry Holland has participated in college athletics for 48 years. He has played basketball and coached basketball and been part of the ACC basketball tournament and the NCAA men's Final Four.

"At no time have I ever seen a more direct connection between those on the field and those in the stands than I observed at Saturday's game against West Virginia," Holland says.

Here's an example. When a misguided fan would, during the game, stand up to start the wave, he failed. Pirates fans don't go to football games to stand. They go to football games to watch football. It's a great concept.

Holland spoke to the Rotary Club in Wilmington on Wednesday, and a man told him that after the West Virginia victory he walked to the field to thank the players for their hard work.

Several, he said, responded by saying, "Thank you, sir."

With him was his 5-year-old son, Drew. That night Drew put on his Pirates helmet, picked up his Pirates football and walked to his dad.

"Great game," the dad said.

"Thank you, sir," Drew said.

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Perfect fit: Holtz leads East Carolina revival

Legend's son carves out own niche

By Andy Gardiner
USA TODAY

GREENVILLE, N.C. — The early-season resurgence that has made East Carolina the darling of the 2008 college football season has its genesis in an eight-month stretch four years ago.

In May 2004, Steve Ballard was hired as university chancellor. One of his first decisions was to reject the three finalists for athletics director advanced by an advisory committee and begin a new search. That led him to Terry Holland, the highly respected former basketball coach and athletics director at Virginia and a native North Carolinian.

Holland arrived in October and two months later hired Skip Holtz to revive a Pirates football program that was 3-20 the previous two seasons. ECU football has been on the rise ever since.

Holtz, son of Hall of Fame coach Lou Holtz, improved the record to 5-6 in his first season. The Pirates went 7-6 in 2006 and made their first bowl appearance in five years.

East Carolina finished 8-5 last season with a win against No. 22 Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl. That victory was a prelude to this year as the Pirates have knocked off No. 15 Virginia Tech and No. 8 West Virginia.

ECU is 20th in this week's USA TODAY Coaches' Poll, its first time in the top 25 since 1999. The Pirates open Conference USA play Saturday at Tulane, riding a high the program has not enjoyed since the 1990s.

"I don't think any of us truly dreamed this could be accomplished this quickly, and we all realize how fragile success can be," Holland says. "But I've always believed if you have the right people, they will rise to a challenge. And we have the right people."

"Blind luck" works out

Skip Holtz was out of work and six years removed from his only head coaching job when he interviewed with Holland and ECU executive associate AD Nick Floyd. After five seasons as head man at Connecticut, Holtz had become an assistant on his father's staff at South Carolina in 1999 when his mother was stricken with cancer.

Lou Holtz, who won a national championship at Notre Dame in 1988 and coached at six colleges, resigned in late November 2004 after six seasons and a 33-37 record at South Carolina. Skip was part of the departing staff.

Holland was dubious about Holtz, then 40, as a candidate. Only after the urging of good friend and then-South Carolina basketball coach Dave Odom did Holland pursue an interview.

"It was blind luck," Holland says. "The situation at South Carolina had deteriorated rapidly, and my feeling normally is that taking someone from an institution that close by, no matter how good that coach may be, it is very difficult for him to establish himself as a leader somewhere else in the region.

"We thought we'd meet with Skip and practice our interview skills, if nothing else. At least we were smart enough to recognize what we had when we did meet. It took about 15 seconds to realize Skip was the real deal."

Holtz's heritage had been as much a hindrance as a help in his career, something that bothered his father.

"Everybody thought I brought him to South Carolina because he couldn't coach and I had to protect him," Lou Holtz says. "All I wanted him to do was get a chance. I didn't care where it was. As I told him, good jobs don't open up. You take a bad job and make it a good job."

Skip Holtz saw exactly that opportunity at East Carolina. Holland promised an upgrade in facilities and the backing of a community and fan base that was just waiting for the right man to lead the Pirates back.

"Everything was there that you needed to succeed," Holtz says. "You had tradition, you had fan support, you had the trust of your athletic director. It was up to me to do the rest."

One of Holtz's first hires was Steve Shankweiler as offensive coordinator. Shankweiler had been ECU's co-offensive coordinator in 1991 and offensive line coach from 1998 to 2002.

"I knew where this program had been and what kind of football community it was," Shankweiler says. "Losing was an aberration, not the norm. I was very firm in telling Skip we could bring this program back."

Building from the bottom

The 11-1 season and Peach Bowl victory against North Carolina State in 1991 were simply memories hanging on a wall when Holtz met with his new

The East Carolina file

Where: Greenville, N.C. Founded: 1907, as a state teachers college.
Undergraduate enrollment: 20,882.
First football season: 1932. All-time record: 373-348-11 (517).
Bowl record: 8-6.
Conference affiliation: Conference USA member in football since 1997.
Home field: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (cap. 43,000).
Some notable current NFL players: QB David Garrard, Jacksonville Jaguars; RB Chris Johnson, Tennessee Titans; WR AuDrae Allison, Minnesota Vikings; WR Terrance Copper, New Orleans Saints.
Some notable ECU alumni: Vince McMahon, World Wrestling Entertainment chairman; Sandra Bullock, actress.
ECU reduces game security

GREENVILLE, N.C. — East Carolina has reduced the number of law enforcement agencies it will use on football game days. This comes after accusations that police officers used excessive force when students attempted to go onto the field following the Pirates' upset of West Virginia on Sept. 6.

In the future, ECU's police department will be joined only by agencies within Pitt County. Officers from the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office and the Kinston Police Department have been part of the overall force in the past will no longer be used. State police will continue to assist with traffic control and security.

"That was a blip that's going to be fixed," East Carolina Chancellor Steve Ballard said of the postgame confrontations. "It will not come back again."

ECU police chief Scott Shelton said poor communication contributed.

By Andy Gardiner

"In the larger picture, we're beating teams with players they didn't recruit," Holtz says.

Of ECU's last four recruiting classes as ranked by Rivals.com and Scout.com, the highest was 64th. The players perform well enough in class, as well, with an Academic Progress Rate of 922, according to the latest NCAA figures. While just below the 925 NCAA threshold, it's not low enough to initiate penalties.

Slate is ECU's only returning first-team all-conference player, and the Pirates put only three players on this year's preseason 29-man squad.

Senior quarterback Patrick Pinkney, whose father was an ECU defensive back, is completing 80.4% of his passes while throwing for 447 yards. Special teams won the Virginia Tech game by returning a blocked punt for a touchdown. The defense held West Virginia and quarterback Pat White without a touchdown.

"We have a lot of regular guys doing their jobs," Slate says. "We put ourselves aside and the team forward."

Success breeds energy

Excitement about the Pirates' fast start has engulfed Greenville and the campus. Senior Nick Morrison, a waiter at Logan's Roadhouse where Holtz holds a weekly radio show, said the buzz has been building since last year's bowl victory.

"Last year, I went to ECU. This year, I'm a Pirate football fan," Morrison says. "Everywhere you go, you see more flags, more people talking about the games. Everyone thinks Coach Holtz has us on the right track again."

But how long will East Carolina be able to keep Holtz if the Pirates keep winning? He recently agreed to a five-year extension on his $1.2 million annual salary, but Holland says that new contract does not contain a buyout clause. "We may face a situation where Skip can't turn down the opportunity... and we've got to be prepared to support that decision," Holland says. "But we're not going to try to buy his loyalty. That may work at other institutions, but particularly with us, I think that undermines long-term stability."

Holtz said he has had chances the last two seasons to leave. Holland has even alerted him to a job possibility and offered to make a call on Holtz's behalf.

"To me, that kind of loyalty goes a lot further than any financial restrictions of a buyout," Holtz says. "I'm happy in Greenville... But you never say never.

"Right now, I'm caught up in this season. I think this can be a special year for these players, for this university, for everybody. But it's a special year for me, too."

Contributing: Steve Wieberg
ECU police chief's press conference ‘confusing’

Suspected authorities being investigated

By GREG KATSKI

Staff Writer

Several law enforcement agencies hired to work security at Saturday's East Carolina University-West Virginia University football game have confirmed that their agents were involved in isolated incidents of excessive force against fans.

Following ECU’s victory over WVU, fans stormed the field at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in Greenville. In the process of celebrating, some fans were tackled, thrown to the ground and/or punched by law enforcement authorities working security at the game.

With complaints circulating about the use of excessive force, ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton addressed the media at a press conference Monday afternoon.

During the press conference, Shelton said that any disciplinary matters regarding personnel working security are handled within the appropriate agency they are employed with.

The ECU police chief also said he determined that officers with the ECU Police Department, the City of Greenville Police Department, the Winterville Police Department and deputies with the Pitt County Sheriff’s Office were not involved in any of the publicized altercations.

When asked if any of its officers were being investigated, the Greenville Police Department confirmed that one of its officers was under investigation.

“Yes, we do have an investigation going into one officer involved,” said Kip Gaskins, the department’s public information officer.

At Shelton's press conference Monday afternoon, he said, “We are most comfortable with Greenville Police Department. We work hand-in-hand.”

Lenoir County Sheriff Billy Smith was put off by comments made by Shelton at the press conference about his sheriff's office, according to media reports.

“I believe the way the situation was described in the press conference was confusing,” Smith told the Kinston Free Press.

“It needs to be made clear that the deputies were working for ECU, and that they were briefed by ECU police before the game.”

When asked about the comments made to the media by Smith, Shelton said, “He’s welcome and free to speak his mind.”

“I stand by what I said at the press conference,” said the ECU police chief.
The ECU police contracted five off-duty deputies from the Lenoir County Sheriff’s Office to provide security at the game.

“One of these five deputies was involved in an altercation on the field while assisting other officers, who were trying to subdue an individual,” according to a press release issued by the sheriff’s office. “The sheriff’s office is currently obtaining statements from the Lenoir County deputies who were present at the game. Once we have obtained the complaints, statements and video footage, we will be in a better position to make an informed determination as to the facts surrounding what the deputies were advised to do during the game and the events that followed.”

The press release, which followed Shelton’s Monday afternoon press conference, concluded with, “we regret that these incidents have cast a light upon the sheriff’s office, but we urge people to reserve judgment until the facts are gathered and presented.”

Kinston Department of Public Safety is also conducting an investigation into the actions of its officers after the game.

In a press release issued Monday, the department said, “the investigation will be thorough and will include the actions of the officers and events leading up to the confrontation. The professional conduct of our officers reflects on the entire organization and is held to the highest standard.”

On Tuesday evening, Shelton went public with a decision to use only officers and deputies from within Pitt County for the remainder of ECU’s home football games. In the press release, ECU’s chief of police also said the department will reduce the number of outside agencies used for security purposes.

According to the press release, the department has concluded its preliminary investigation, positively identifying police officers and deputies “shown in video clips of incidents after the game.”

Shelton declined to name the officers identified, citing personnel laws and regulations.

Chancellor Steve Ballard said the university will carefully review its game-day protocols and training to make sure everything possible is done to protect the safety of fans and players at the game, said the press release.

“Safety is paramount,” Ballard said. “Everything starts with that.”

The chancellor said ECU police will work with both the athletics department and the Student Government Association to educate students about the dangers of rushing onto the field after a game.

Regarding excessive force used by security at ECU football home games, Ashley Woolard, president of the Beaufort County Pirate Club, said, “The problem has been there for years.”

“The police use excessive force in a lot of different areas,” Woolard said.

Woolard, an ECU alum, hopes the highly publicized incident “brings to the forefront the situation with police over there.”
Kinston police: ECU post-game investigation is complete, no officers will be charged

banks@freedomenc.com
September 11, 2008 - 10:56PM

As far as the Kinston Department of Public Safety is concerned, the investigation into the post-game activities of its police officers at Saturday's East Carolina University football game is complete.

In a statement released exclusively to The Free Press on Thursday, the KDPS stated that no "criminal charges will be brought against any law enforcement officers" by the ECU police department.

The Professional Standards Section of the KDPS reviewed video post-game footage from Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and attempted to conduct interviews with the involved parties.

"Only limited information has been received," the statement said. "Cooperation from involved parties, specifically regarding actions and events leading up to what has been captured in video footage, has been limited. The failure of all parties to be forthright with information has limited our investigation."

Lenoir County Sheriff W.E. "Billy" Smith said on Tuesday that one of his five deputies that were on duty at the game was involved with the altercation at the end of the game. The altercation was posted to the Internet site, YouTube.com.

No KDPS officer was implicated in the post-game altercation; in fact, the only complaint against Kinston police came from before the game.

"Our department was forwarded one formal complaint by the ECU Police Department," the statement read. "This complaint involved a pre-game altercation which resulted in an arrest for Resist Obstruct and Delay and two counts of Damage to Real Property."

The KDPS statement said that alcohol use among spectators played a part in the post-game melee, in which a few spectators were detained, thrown to the ground or beaten by uniformed officers while thousands of others rushed the field to celebrate ECU's win over nationally-ranked West Virginia.

The KDPS recommends that ECU request an independent review of the incident and that it (the KDPS) would fully cooperate with the review.

"Areas of focus should be on pre-game instructions, officer conduct, the conduct of spectators and interagency communications," the statement read. "The results of this review could be utilized to prevent further incidents."

ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton decreed on Tuesday that no agencies outside of Pitt County would be used again this season to help control football crowds at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Besides the KDPS and the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, officers from Greenville, Winterville and the Pitt County Sheriff's Office assisted ECU police at the game.

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