

SPORTS

No Cinderella Wins for the Rams or Lady Rams

By Ron Vample
Sports Writer

Cinderella! No glass slippers this year.

There were no surprises in the 47th annual CIAA Tournament in Richmond, Virginia last month.

WSSU took on a tough Norfolk State University in the opening round of the tournament. The Spartans played without their premiere player, Marcus Whitfield, who averaged 21 points per game. Whitfield had sprained his knee in a matchup against St. Augustine's College.

However, the Spartans still had David Donerlson, a three-point threat, and the twin towers, seven-footers Larry McCloud and Fred Benjamin.

The Spartans played a fast-break, up-tempo style that ran the Rams ragged. They handed the Rams their 20th defeat, 63-51.

The Rams finished 6-20, the worst record and only third losing season in Clarence Gaines' 46 years of coaching.

"I wouldn't say it's a relief that it's over, but it has been a long season," said Gaines.

The Spartans lead at the half 34-23 and the Rams never pulled closer than nine the rest of the game.

McCloud, Hercules Loyde, and Thomas Gibson were the hot hands for the Spartans. Keith Roundtree led the Rams with 14 points and Charles Bennett dumped in nine and had six rebounds.

On the flip side, Erica Taylor netted 19 points and grabbed 19 boards as Virginia State's Lady Trojans crushed the hearts of the Lady Rams, 70-65.

The Trojans led by 10 points at the half, 34-24. But WSSU rallied

and took a one point lead with 10:00 left when Tija Harper sank two free throws in the second half.

Both teams threatened late down the stretch, but the Trojans took the lead for good with just seconds to play with a basket from Taylor. A controversial call by the official may have caused the setback for the Lady Rams.

"The foul by (Angela) Courtney was good, but the shot was bad," said Stenson Conley, head coach of the Lady Rams. "The shot was

clearly after the whistle and the foul."

Excellent free throw shooting by the Trojans late in the game clinched the victory.

Suzette Wright had 15 points for the Trojans. Bobbi Fleullyn netted 15 points, Tracey Bobbitt dropped in 12, Angela Courtney added 11 and scooped up six rebounds, and Tija Harper scored 10 for the Lady Rams.

Lady Rams Have Their 2nd Best Start

By Erroll Brower
Sports Writer

There was a constant buzz across campus about the 1991-92 Lady Rams Basketball Team.

The ladies were off to their second best start ever under Coach Stenson Conley. This year's team is on a paceto eclipse their 18-7 record of the "85-86" season.

The Lady Rams are currently 12-8 overall, 10-6 in the CIAA conference, and 5-4 in the Southern Division.

When asked what was the key to this season's success, Coach Conley said, "maturity, hardwork, quickness, and excellent outside shooting."

On the other hand, the outside shooting of bombers like Taja Harper and Bobbi Fluellyn has

helped a great deal towards the success. Harper averaged eight points, four assists, and four rebounds per game. Fluellyn averaged 12 points, three assists, and seven rebounds per game.

When "The Bombers" were off the court, The Lady Rams like to pound you on the inside with post players, "The Dynamic Duo" Angela Courtney and Denise Conley. The Dynamic Duo were equally as tough away from the basket but, Coach Conley preferred they stay underneath and bang. Courtney led all scorers on the team with 17 points and 11 rebounds per game. Conley averaged 13 points and five boards per game.

The Lady Rams also had great play from Tracey Bobbitt, Tia Pemberton, and Tina McCormick.

Triple Losses Spoil Rams' chance for CIAA

By Patrice Michael
Staff Writer

Each year, Winston Salem State athletes and students look forward to participating in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament.

This year, however, the tournament, which was held from February 26th - 29th, was an upset for both the men and women's basketball teams and the varsity cheerleaders.

The first upset came when the Lady Rams were defeated by the Lady Trojans of Virginia State in the second round of the ladies

games. The second upset occurred when the Spartans of Norfolk State defeated the Rams on Wednesday night, during the first round of the men's games.

The third upset involved the varsity cheerleaders. Each year during the tournament a cheerleading competition is held as a CIAA event. The purpose of the competition is for the cheerleaders to show their cheering techniques and how much spirit they have for their school.

Along with basketball, spectators enjoy seeing each squad display their different cheering styles . . . but not this year!

On Saturday afternoon, the competition was scheduled to be held during half time and at the end of the Old Timer's game.

During half time, several squads performed. Each squad was given three minutes to perform their routines. The three remaining squads were about to perform when CIAA Commissioner, Leon Kerry, ordered that it be announced that the scheduled competition would have to be discontinued.

The competition was interrupted because 45 minutes had to be given to the ladies teams from Norfolk State and St. Augustine so they could warm up for the ladies' cham-

ampionship game. The spectators as well as the cheerleading squads were upset. What bothered the squads and the spectators was "what harm would it have done for the teams to warm up for 39 minutes instead of 45 minutes?"

The reason for the interruption was that the game would be televised and they had to be concerned about air time. Oddly enough, no cameras were turned on until the actual game began 45 minutes later.

Many spectators and students feel that the program should not have been interrupted since the competition was a scheduled CIAA event.

Softball Team Expecting an Exciting Season

By Erroll Brower
Sports Writer

This year should be an exciting year for all Winston-Salem State University softball fans. After last year's 1 and 27 record, the Lady Rams are expecting to have a tremendous turnaround in the soft-

ball program.

At the helm of team is new Head Coach, Gary Smith. This is the first year he will serve as head coach. He previously served as assistant coach to Tim Grant.

"We anticipate a much better season in comparison to last season," said Smith. "Some of the

things the team needs to work on are hitting, fielding, and throwing."

This year's team is more mature and will be as, if not more, dedicated to winning. This should not be too hard with the leadership provided by Tia Pemberton, Tracy Bobbitt, and other returning seniors.

Another plus that Smith brings

to the Lady Rams is aggressiveness. Smith plans to cause havoc on the base pads this year. He hopes the team will be more competitive and will have more consistency in its playing strategies.

Interested in playing on the softball team? Contact Coach Gary Smith at 750-2149.