

SPORTS

Lady Rams Picked To Finish In First Place

News Release

The Lady Rams have been picked by CIAA coaches to finish in a three-way tie for first place in the Southern Division. The tie is between WSSU, Shaw University and Fayetteville State University.

Lady Rams Chellia Nelson and Erica Leggett, were named to the preseason All CIAA Women's Team. Nelson, a senior, is a two-time all conference performer; while Leggett was named to last season's All-Rookie Team.

On the men's side, The Rams were

picked to finished seventh in the men's division. Otis Attucks, who plays in the guard position, was named to the Preseason Men's Team. He is the lone starter returning to the team and was the only Ram named to the team

The Lady Rams will play their first home game December 1, against Bowie State University, at 5:30 p.m., in the C. E. Gaines Center.

The Rams will play two home games before the Christmas Break. Bowie State University on December 1, at 7:30 p.m., and Greensboro College on December 13, at 7:30 p.m. Both games will be played in the Gaines Center.

Rams Are Ready To Hit The Court

BY MONICA ALEXANDER
Sports Editor

"We do the best that we can to help the players. Basketball is a tough sport because it is shared between two semesters," said WSSU's Head Men's Basketball coach.

Samuel Hanger, who is beginning his second year as coach, says a winning season is his goal for the 1996-1997 Ram Basketball Team. Otis Attucks, Casey Simmons, Nicholas Goodson, Darryl Hardy, and CC Whitaker, veteran players, are returning to the team. Thirteen new players, Johnny Watkins, Dee Mitchell, Larry Patterson, Michael Dunn, Donald Cureton, Bradley Taylor, Toby Jordan, Chuck Jones, Michael Broadnax, Anthony Peake, Wendell Owens, David Howerton and Torrian Wynn will join the veterans.

The team's new players have made such an impact on the team that the style of play has changed. Hanger is hoping to change to a quicker and more man-to-man style of play. The Rams have been picked to finish in seventh place in a preseason poll. Hanger says this preseason ranking will not stop their determination to win at least 13 of their 25 games.

"I am pleased with the new recruits. They have picked up the plays quickly and have a better basketball sense," said Hanger. "We are light years ahead of last year, but we haven't stopped recruiting because we can use a few more big guys that can play and will work hard, so we can continue to get better."

The Rams have been practicing seven days a week for 2 1/2 hours to shape their game. To shape their minds they have study hall where tutoring sessions are available. Progress reports from their professors concerning their classes are also being reviewed.

On October 14, men and women collegiate basketball players across the nation officially began the season with "Midnight Madness." Approximately 350 Ram fans went to WSSU's C. E. Gaines Center to be formally introduced to the Lady Rams and Ram 1996-97 Basketball Teams. "I loved it," said Hanger. "I thought it was fantastic!"

The Lady Rams and the Rams began their season by playing in a tournament in Atlanta, at Morris Brown College on November 15-16. The tournament included teams from WSSU, Morris Brown, Ft. Valley, and Livingston.

Attucks Wants To Win!

BY MONICA ALEXANDER
Sports Editor

"I want to win. Last year was all right, we played hard, but I want to win!" said one of the returning Ram basketball players.

Otis Attucks, a Winston-Salem native started playing basketball in the 7th grade, but feels he should have started playing as soon as he was able to dribble.

When he attended Carver High School, this talented young man not only played basketball; but he also played football and baseball. During his senior year, he even tried his hand in running track. Not being sure about what sport he should concentrate on, since he was so athletically inclined; he decided to stick with basketball. His mother and coaches also helped him with his decision. This decision lead him to a scholarship at Winston Salem State.

"I like it here at WSSU because it's a black university and it's helped me to grow," Attucks said.

Attucks, is a junior biology major, is planning to pursue a medical career.

Hewas influenced by his pediatrician at a very young age. "This is something that always interested me, and the money in this profession is decent as well," he said.

This shy down to earth 20 year old, also known as "Oshay," loves poetry, relaxing by playing video games and listening to music.

This is totally opposite from the man we see on the court. When he is playing the game he becomes intense and more vocal. Attucks says, "I express myself more when I am on the court."

This 1996-1997 basketball season will be his third year playing for WSSU and his first year as a co-captain. His basketball goals this season are to become a morevocal leader, "I always set examples instead of voicing them. I want to be player of the year, everyone wants that, and of course I just want to win," says Attucks.

Attuck's personal goal is not to become that "NBA player," but to continue his education in the medical field.

Volleyball Team Comes Up Short

BY DANIELLE PROPHETE
Staff Writer

The Lady Ram Volleyball Team came up short for the CIAA Championship Tournament. They placed fifth place in the Southern Division.

"Overall I think we did a good job. We just didn't gel as soon as we would have liked too," said Aronda Frenzley, head coach for the Lady Ram volleyball team. The team was one game away from being tied with North Carolina Central University for a playoff spot.

According to Frenzley, "It's a whole lot harder to compete in the Southern Division because the talent is greater."

Four schools competed from the Southern Division: Fayetteville State University, Shaw University, North

Carolina Central University and Saint Augustines College. Fayetteville State walked away with the title.

The team was led by Captain Kenisha Williams, a freshmen to the volleyball court; but a sophomore on campus. Other key contributors included: Kenya Bridges, Keisha Broadnax, Nekesha Simmons, Kelli Armwood and Tasheia McEachum.

"It was a pretty nice season but I wish we would have at least made it to the playoffs," said Williams.

The Lady Rams ended their season on October 29 with an overall record of 8-12. "It was still an improvement from last year," said Coach Frenzley.

Good Luck
Lady Rams and Rams