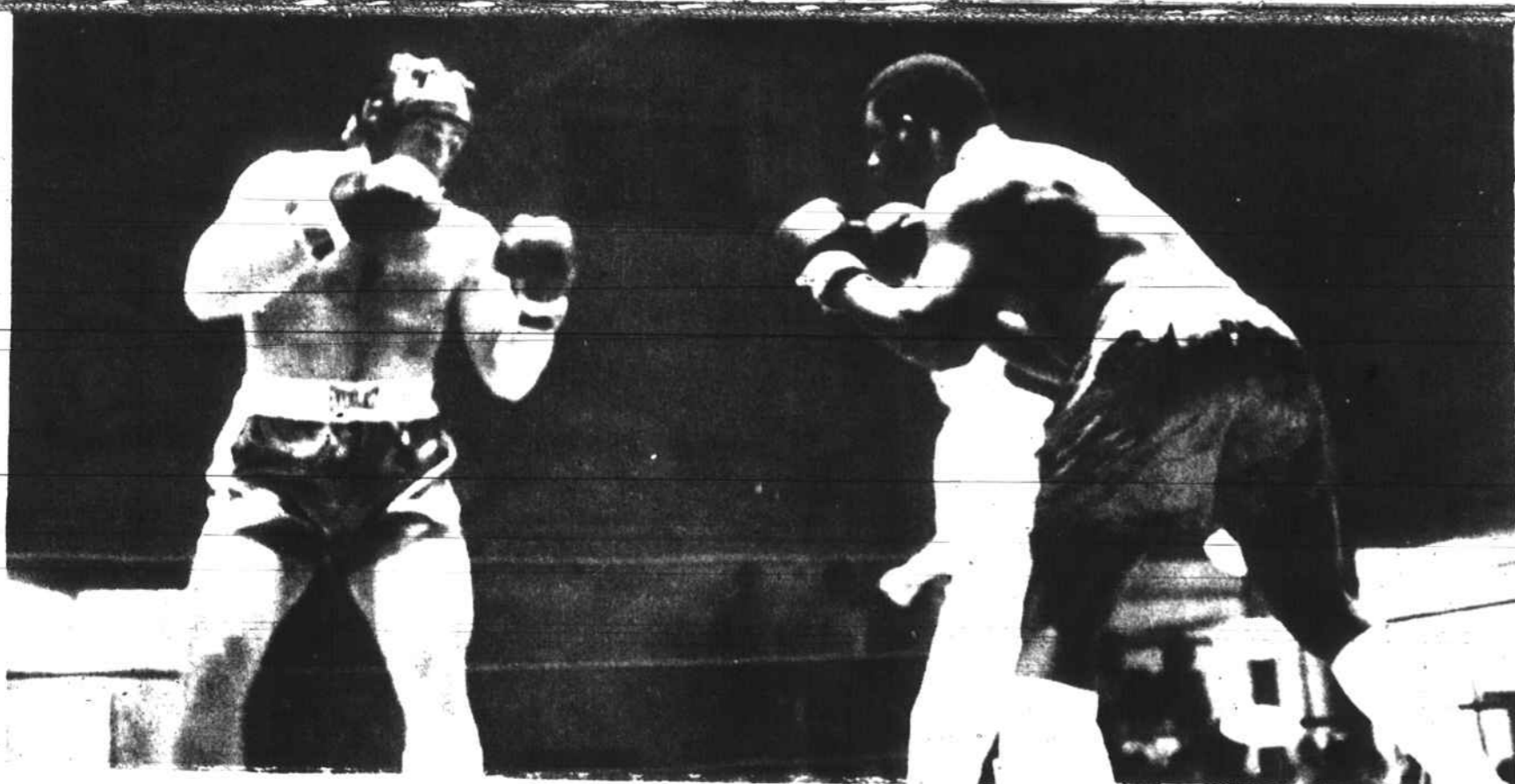




CHRONICLE SPORTS



Local boxing impresario Austin Benjamin is expecting another packed house Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Patterson Ave. Y for a 15-bout card of amateur boxing. The headline bout features Steve Cannon (left) a football

player at East Carolina and Golden Gloves national quarter-finalist Joe Ballard of Durham (right) in the heavyweight class. Teams will be present from Asheboro, Durham, Lincolnton, Charlotte, Greensboro, and Gastonia.

Turnovers Doom Rams

The WSSU Rams top seeded in the NCAA Division II playoffs were forced to travel to Delaware this past weekend to try and capture a berth in the finals of playoff competition.

As the nation's top division II team they would have played the game in the friendly confines of Bowman Gray Stadium, but a sparse crowd for their first round game (less than 6,500) caused the game to be played in Delaware where the powerful Blue Hens had drawn more than 11,000 for their first round win.

Playing on a slippery field they coughed up the football ten times on fumbles, losing four, and fell victim to four interceptions losing 41-0.

"It was a nightmare," commented Coach Bill Hayes of the team's first defeat after 11 straight wins. "We just got a good whipping. We gave them the ball early and often in our territory and you can't do that against a team the caliber of Delaware. We got behind early and we just couldn't come back."

The Ram's troubles began with the opening kickoff which Randy Bolton fumbled. The Hen's Robert Lundquist recovered on the Ram 21 and Gary Gumbs scored on his second carry.

An interception of a Kermit Blount pass moments later resulted in a field goal by Brandt Kennedy and the Rams

trailed 10-0. On the first play of their next possession disaster struck the Rams again. Blount's errant pitchout was recovered by Sam Dolente, who had intercepted the pass moments earlier and quarterback Jeff Komlo scored three plays later. Kennedy's kick gave the Hens a 17-0 lead with 8:05 still left in the first quarter.

Despite continued miscues by the offense, the Ram defense kept them from falling further behind and they trailed by the same 17-0 margin at the half.

Delaware marched 78 yards in 9 plays with the second half kickoff and Komlo passed for another touchdown after an Arrington Jones fumble to put Delaware out front 31-0. A 31 yard field goal by Kennedy put the score at 34-0 at the end of the quarter. Bo Dennis' final score was anti-climactic.

The Hens outtrashed the Rams 218 to 7 and rolled up over 500 yards total offense.

Neither the fact that the Rams are a school of 2,000 while while the Hens have some 15,000 students, that the Rams were making their first playoff appearance and the Hens their fifth, and the Rams 22-2 record over the past two seasons was much consolation to the team which had high hopes of bringing a national championship back to a city which has failed to support them through two undefeated regular seasons.

Black on Sports

Robert Eller
Sports Editor

It's funny how fast people change. Just last week a lot of people in the city were talking about the WSSU Rams bringing a national championship back to Winston-Salem. But after the devastating loss to Delaware last Saturday those same fans were talking about the Rams being outclassed.

But if one looks at the situation here its not hard to see how the loyalty of these people could be so limited. When Bill Hayes came to WSSU three years ago he took over one of the worst football programs in the CIAA. The Rams at that time were the Wake Forest of the league.

His team showed promise in his first season, winning only 4 out of 10 games, but losing many at the wire because of freshman mistakes. The fans began to come out late in the season, and there was hope that as the program grew so would community support for the team.

Last year the Rams opened with Hampton and beat them in front of a decent crowd, but the weather got worse as the season went on, and despite going undefeated, the support of the community did not grow, at least not where it counted, at the gate. Although Homecoming drew a huge crowd, the Rams played West Virginia State in an almost empty stadium.

A large group of fans followed them to the Gold Bowl and the city was up in arms when rumors circulated that Hayes might leave for another, more lucrative coaching position.

Still, the stands were not filled for the season opening North Carolina A&T game which was moved to Groves Stadium in anticipation of a 20,000 plus gate.

That game did draw a better than average crowd, (for the Rams), but as the season progressed with Hayes team destroying the opposition, the stands at Bowman Gray seemed to get emptier and emptier. It was almost as if the city was saying the Rams were now too good to come out and watch instead of too bad, as had been the case three years before.

So the Rams entered the playoffs and gained a home field advantage against California-Poly. But the city didn't get excited. There was no big promotion to fill the stands for the playoff game. The city's brass turned their backs on the nation's top division II team and only 6,000 turned out to see their Rams shutout a team that many fans said was above their level.

So the top seeded team ends up going away to play the third seeded team on a slippery field, and the result is history.

It's also interesting to not that some of the same people who failed to attend the first round game were up in arms about the Rams having to travel to the Blue Hens home field for the semifinal game. The local T.V. station admonished the city for not supporting the team, but that was like crying fire as the house begins to crumble.

Now rumors are beginning to circulate that Hayes and defensive master mind Charlie Griffin are ready to resign and guess what? The city is up in arms again. Let's just hope they're not crying fire as the house begins to crumble again.

Rams Record Reaches 4-0

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

The WSSU Rams upped their record to 4-0 this past week trouncing District 26 opponent Elon 79-60 behind Reggie Gaines 27 point performance on November 29, and getting by CIAA opponent St. Augustine's 82-74 last Friday night.

The win over St. Augustine's was the Rams second in two outings in conference play as they seek to defend their CIAA southern division title.

The win over the Falcons was not as easy as their previous three however. They led only 43-39 at the half despite Gaines 18 point output and though the Falcons never got closer than three in the final 20 minutes (WSSU led by 10 on several occasions) they never gave up.

The Rams led by 12 (53-41) with 16 minutes left and looked as if they would put the game away before a series of turnovers and violations helped the game visitors pull to within three (67-64) at the 7:40 mark.

WSSU then went to Gaines, they player they have come to depend on this year as they had Carlos Terry in

the past, and the junior responded by hitting his last five field goal attempts. Five free throws by David Harold, who finished with 22 points, (13 in the second half), gave them a ten point advantage with only 11 seconds left and put the finishing touches on Coach Gaines 624 career win.

Gaines wound up with 34 points hitting 16 of 19 field goal attempts and snared 9 rebounds. Center Mike Robinson, still bothered by a sore ankle, added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Anthony Boggan led the Falcons with 26 points. The Rams hit on 36 of 62 field goal attempts and made good on 10 of 13 charity tosses while the Falcons made 29 of 68 floor shots and 16 of 23 free throws. St. Augustine's won the board battle getting 33 rebounds to the Rams 31.

Although he was pleased to escape with yet another win Coach Gaines was not totally pleased with his teams effort. "We didn't play well inside and Boggan posted everybody we had. Harvey (Heartley, the Falcon coach) has done a fine job coaching these kids. We made too many mistakes but in the end our defense made the difference and Reggie (Gaines) took over in crucial spots."

League Formed For Blind

A bowling league for the blind is the newest addition to the Winston-Salem sports scene and completes a year-round sports program for the blind.

The Progressive Bowling League of Winston-Salem is open to blind people of all ages. The league bowls at 5 p.m. Thursdays at the Major League Bowling Lanes.

Anyone interested in bowling or any interested volunteers can meet at the Lanes.

"We're mainly interested in organizing this year, but next year we hope to join the American Blind Bowling Association. They sponsor national tournaments, and our people will be able to compete in these," Robert Eller, special recreation supervisor, said.

Through the use of a special bowling rail, blind people are able to aim the ball down the lanes. Also, a special method of scoring is used to compute a blind person's handicap.

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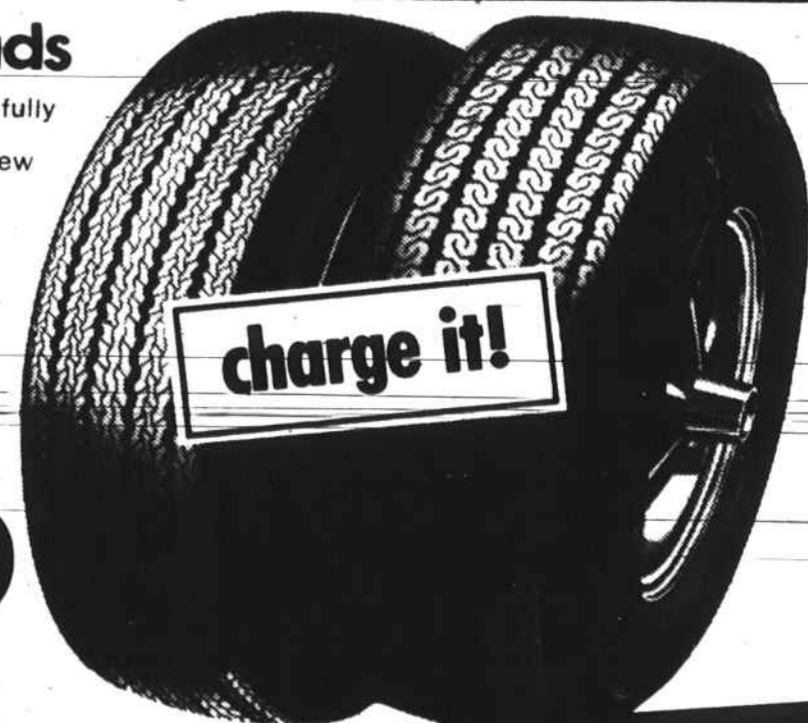
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P205/75R14	G78-14	\$58.45	\$2.90
P215/75R14	H78-14	\$63.60	\$3.19
P225/75R14	H78-14	\$68.75	\$3.48
P235/75R14	H78-14	\$73.90	\$3.77
P245/75R14	H78-14	\$79.05	\$4.06
P255/75R14	H78-14	\$84.20	\$4.35
P265/75R14	H78-14	\$89.35	\$4.64

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