

Rams, Aggies clash set for Saturday

Trojans' miscues give Rams 14-0 win

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Although it wasn't pretty, Winston-Salem State started its season on a winning note, turning two Virginia State turnovers into touchdowns to post a 14-0 victory last Saturday night at Bowman Gray Stadium.

The WSSU offense sputtered and stumbled through most of the game, but came up with key plays when they were needed to give the Rams their margin of victory.

"We didn't play well at all," said WSSU Coach Bill Hayes after the game, "but we won and that's what counts."

"Before the season started we knew we had some problems on our offensive line and they showed up

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-- Bill Hayes

tonight," Hayes said. "We're going to get better as the season goes along."

While he was upset with the offensive unit, Hayes was pleased with the way his defense played. "I thought our defense played a fine ball game," said Hayes. "They stayed on the field for almost the entire second half and still didn't give up a point."

"Our defense was consistent," said Hayes. "The only plays that hurt us were the draws and screens. Our defense hadn't seen much of them because we don't run the draw or screen much in our offense."

Mike Winbush, the only WSSU quarterback with playing experience in the CCAA, played the entire game with the exception of the final three plays. Though he had practiced only one week, Winbush was one of the Rams' key offensive performers.

"We started Winbush because he has experience," said Hayes. "He didn't fumble or throw any interceptions. Their (Virginia State)

quarterbacks threw interceptions and they cost them the game. When you play with experience you stand a better chance of winning."

After a seesaw first quarter, WSSU finally took the lead with less than five minutes remaining in the first half. Virginia State's Mike Davis mishandled Vincent Jones' punt and Dwayne Smith recovered on the Trojans' 13-yard line.

The Rams quickly cashed in on the turnover, going 31 yards in two plays to take a 7-0 lead. On first down, Leonardo Horn ran for three yards and the Rams reached paydirt on the next play, a 28-yard strike from Winbush to tight end Bobby Clark.

Clark, a 6-0, 238-pounder from North Forsyth, caught Winbush's pass in traffic and bulled over from the three to put the Rams on top. Mike Baker's kick made the score 7-0.

The Rams got their final seven points of the game with only two seconds left in the first half. Linebacker John Coles intercepted a pass from Trojan second-string quarterback Allen Butler and returned it 50 yards to the Virginia State 5-yard line.

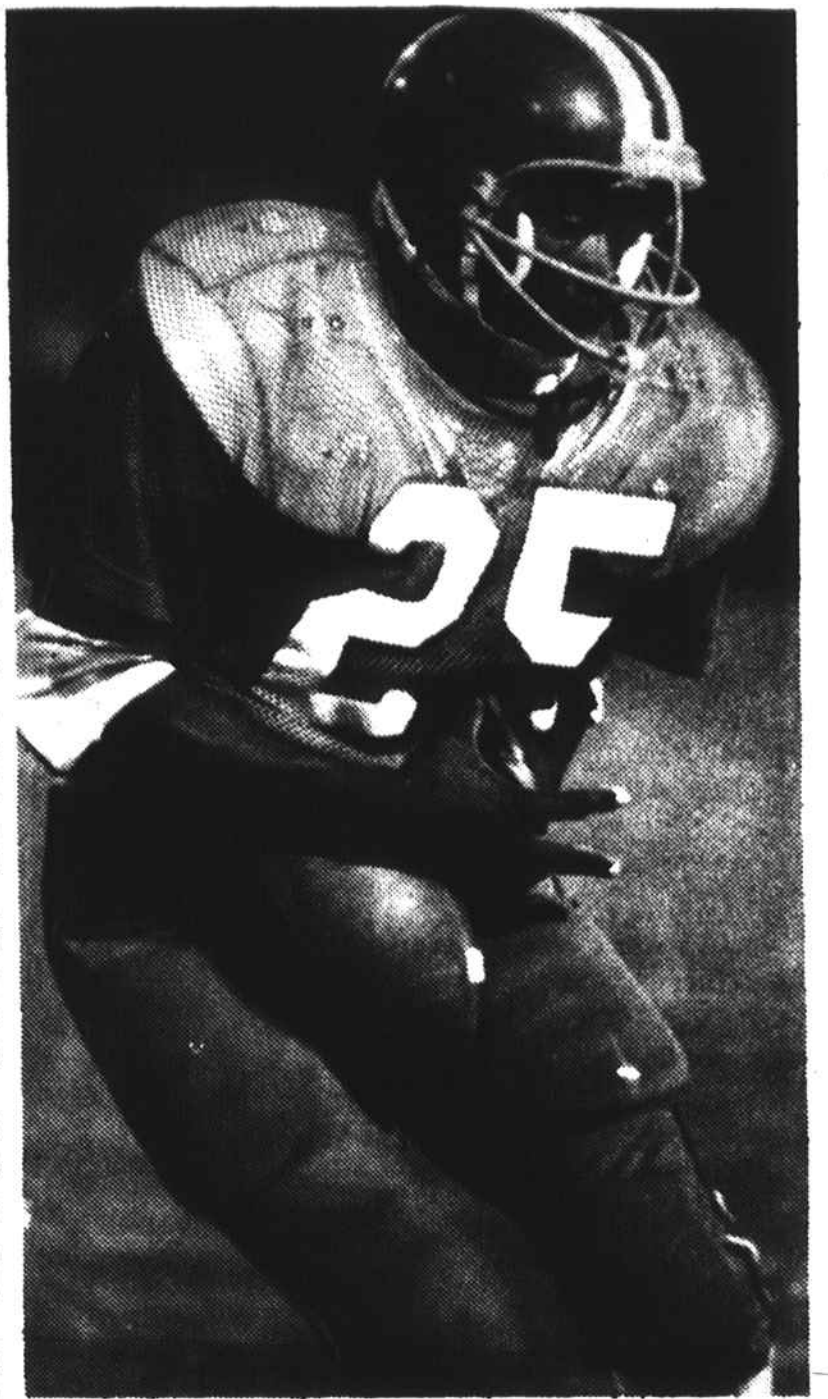
On first down, Lonnie Pulley, the highly-touted Ram freshman halfback, gained only two yards. Then, with time winding down to end the first half -- and Winbush and his teammates unable to hear the Ram coaches frantically yelling for a timeout -- Pulley dove into the end zone with only two seconds left.

The Rams were outgained by Virginia State 259 to 146 in total offensive yards, but WSSU came up with big plays defensively. Leading the charge for the Rams was all-CCAA defensive end Dan Bryson, whose quarterback sack in the final quarter denied the Trojans an opportunity to score.

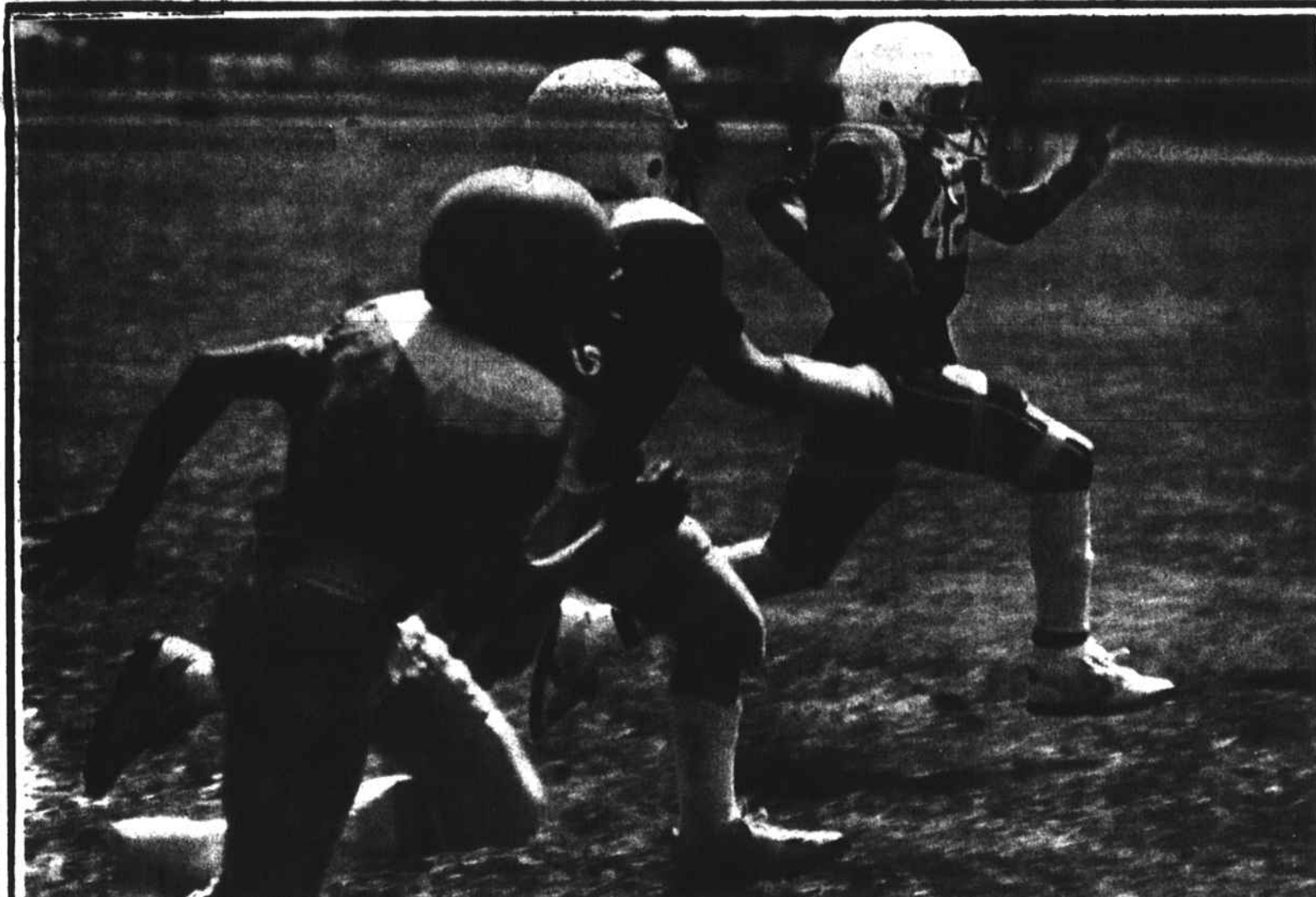
Bryson and several other Ram defenders said they knew beforehand that the Ram defense would play a crucial role in the game's outcome.

"We knew that we would need a good game from our defense," said Bryson. "We're more experienced on defense, so we felt that we would have to

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WSSU running back Robert Simmons drops a pass from quarterback Mike Winbush. Simmons was all alone in the Virginia State secondary (photo by James Parker).



On The Move

Jukie Ferguson, 42, of the Tiny Indians Jr. Midgets, finds daylight in the Gastonia P.A.L. secondary. The Tiny Indians, a perennial power in Midget League football, played host to Gastonia in a pre-season scrimmage last Saturday at Atkins' field (photo by James Parker).

Small-college athletics struggling with finances

BY BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

The 1984 football season is upon us, and for many fans, especially those who rally around black colleges, it is a time to get those clothes out of layaway, put a new coat of wax on the family sedan and squirrel away some money for the parties that are sure to come.

All kinds of businesses will feel the positive impact of another season: liquor stores, hotels, rental car agencies, airlines and fast-food joints.

But the businesses that need the money the most will be largely ignored. We are speaking of the small and predominantly black college athletic departments that are struggling to survive in the face of inflation.

The big-time schools have nothing to worry about. They share in the riches of television and can call on thousands of well-to-do alumni.

That's not the case for the smaller schools. They are sitting on virtual time bombs as their expenses start to far outstrip their income.

Several predominantly black schools are starting to register tons of red ink on their financial ledgers. In some states, carrying a deficit is illegal, but what's a school to do? Sure, fans buy tickets to the games and gobble up stuff from the concession stand. That is not nearly enough, though.

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Norfolk vs. St. Paul's: crucial conference game

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Eleven the CCAA's 12 teams will take the field during Saturday's second round of football wars. Four conference games headline the week's action with the contest between St. Paul's and Norfolk State figuring to be the most intriguing.

Willard Bailey will make his debut as the head coach at Norfolk State when he takes his Spartans into Lawrenceville, Va., to battle pesky St. Paul's. St. Paul's tuned up for Norfolk by routing Bowie State 34-6 last weekend.

In other league games, Elizabeth City travels to Salisbury to take on Livingstone, Fayetteville hosts Virginia Union in its opener and Virginia State visits North Carolina Central.

In what should be one of the most well-attended games of the season -- though it means absolutely nothing in league standings -- Winston-Salem State plays at archrival North Carolina A&T for Pied-

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There won't be much smiling by coaches Bill Hayes, left, and Mo Forte when their teams, Winston-Salem State and N.C. A&T respectively, get together for their annual battle this weekend (photo by James Parker).