

Union snaps Rams streak From Page B1

to put it all together."

In view of the Panthers' lackluster play until Saturday, questions had been raised concerning their chances to repeat as CIAA champs for a fourth consecutive year.

Yet, Union's win showed that the team still has its share of talent.

"Union has a different philosophy than they've had in the past, but they still have excellent personnel," said Hayes. "They threw the ball better and more often than they have in the past, but we expected that. Before the game, they were looking for an identity and tonight they found it."

Although the Rams lost the game, Hayes said they looked good in spots.

"Our defense played well at times," he said. "I was pleased with the way we played in some areas, but we just didn't do the things it takes to win football games against good teams."

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-- Bill Hayes

Hayes used sophomore quarterback Dana Walker for most of the second half in place of starter Mike Winbush, and Walker responded by leading the Rams on their longest offensive drive of the night. However, the effort came up short when Walker was intercepted at the Union 4.

"We weren't getting good play from our quarterback," Hayes said, explaining why he chose to go with Walker. "I thought it was time for a change and Walker did pretty well."

Union, on the other hand, came out throwing from the beginning against the Rams, with Smith making his first start as a collegian. His pass on the opening play of the game was incomplete, but he

came back three plays later to throw a perfect strike to another freshman, speedster Felton Davis. Davis caught the bomb in stride and out-distanced Ram cornerback Masha Paul to the end zone for the score.

The Rams moved the ball well on their second series of the game, but couldn't come away with any points. They drove to the Union 9-yard line before the drive halted, but Tyrone Smith's 26-yard field goal attempt went wide of the goal posts.

After exchanging punts, WSSU moved briskly to the Union 13. But again the Rams came away without any points as fullback Leonardo Horn fumbled on first down. With neither team able to score, the half ended with Union holding a 7-0 lead.

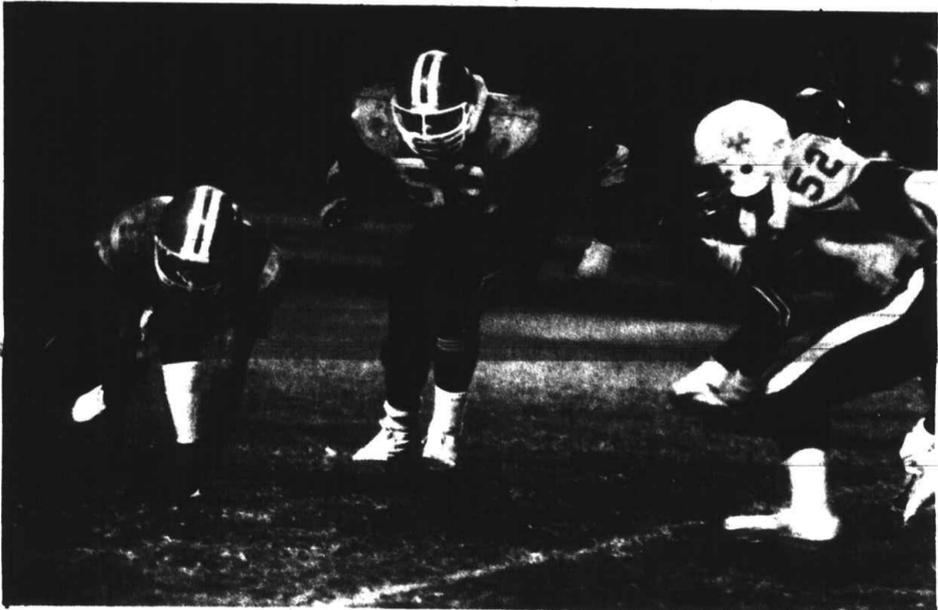
Mistakes continued to haunt the Rams in the second half. Freshman kick returner Calvin Hand-some fumbled the kickoff to start the third quarter, managing to recover on the Ram 4-yard line. Two plays later, Winbush, attempting to pass, was sacked for a safety, putting the Panthers on top 9-0.

On the ensuing free kick, WSSU's worries continued to mount as Mike Johnson returned the football 34 yards to the Ram 37. Four plays later, Sandy McDonald took a lateral from Smith and went into the end zone untouched to give Union a commanding 15-0 lead.

The Rams got their only score of the game on a 21-yard interception return by linebacker Mark Wallace, who nabbed a Smith pass and lumbered into the end zone.

On the bright side, the loss didn't count in the conference schedule and WSSU still leads the CIAA Southern Division race with a 1-0 record. But the defeat did eliminate the Rams' hopes for an undefeated season -- and pinned another disappointment on a team that felt it could finally best its nemesis this year.

WSSU will have the next two weeks off before facing Livingstone on Oct. 6.



Fumbles Away

WSSU reserve quarterback Dana Walker fumbles snap as center Danny Moore, 59, comes in to help cover the ball. Union's Thomas Chase, 52, defends (photo by James Parker).

CIAA this week From Page B1

Salem State for their first conference win last Saturday, resurgent Norfolk State and Hampton Institute both won, too, leaving the Union a game back in the Northern Division race.

Things don't look to get any easier this week. Even if they win, the Panthers won't gain any ground in their fight for the divisional crown Saturday, as Norfolk plays conference doormat Bowie State and Hampton Institute takes the week off.

Probably the most highly-contested games this week will pit Thurlis Little's Elizabeth City team against Virginia State and Fayetteville State against reeling North Carolina Central.

Virginia Union will be at home to take on pesky, but outmanned, St. Paul's in the Panthers' homecoming game.

In nonconference action, Johnson C. Smith hosts North Carolina A&T and Livingstone tackles Gardner-Webb.

Thus far, Willard Bailey's Norfolk State team has played above its head, compiling three wins against no defeats. The Spartan defense has shut down every opponent it has faced and should have no problems controlling the line of scrimmage against hapless Bowie. Norfolk by 14.

After winning its first two games of the season, North Carolina Central has run into all types of problems. The Eagles' once-potent offense has failed to rise to the occasion the past two weeks and will receive a strong challenge from Fayetteville's tough defense. The Broncos, on the other hand, are improved offensively and can move the football. Fayetteville in a squeaker by three.

Virginia State, which got its first win of the season last week, is much tougher than its 1-3 record indicates. However, Elizabeth City is for real and will put George Moody's troops to the test on the Vikings' home field. Elizabeth City by seven.

Virginia Union may have finally solved its offensive problems in a 19-7 win over Winston-Salem

State. The Panthers run a more diversified attack under first-year Coach Joe Taylor and could still capture the Northern Division crown. However, they mustn't look past St. Paul's, against whom a win could propel the Panthers back into the divisional hunt. Union by 10.

Livingstone, which was supposed to contend for the Southern Division crown, has had problems containing every team it has faced this season. The Bears have played well offensively, but so have opponents. Mel Rose's troops really need a win against Gardner-Webb and they'll get it by three.

Rebounding from two season-opening shellackings, Johnson C. Smith soundly defeated Bowie State last weekend. However, the Golden Bulls will face a North Carolina A&T squad that itself has been bombed in its last two outings. The Aggies no doubt realize that, if they lose to Smith, they have little to look forward to the remainder of the year. A&T by seven.

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The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes Anthony Wardlow of Parkland High School...He's the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Wardlow, a halfback on offense and safety on defense, scored three touchdowns in the Mustangs' 21-6 victory over East Forsyth last Friday night.

In honor of Anthony Wardlow, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company will make a cash contribution to the Parkland High School Athletic Program. Congratulations to Anthony Wardlow, the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week!

If you would like to nominate a high school athlete for Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week, contact Sam Davis at 723-8428 or write him at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

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