

Ram Report

# Beasley a big hit in secondary

By DAVID BULLA  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Strong safety Derrick Beasley had to make two adjustments when he came to Winston-Salem State three years ago.

First, the Detroit native had to adapt to a small city. Second, the former prep all-America had to get used to a small college.

"They were big things to get accustomed to," said Beasley. "At home nobody walking down the street will speak to anybody else. You just can't trust anybody. Here everybody's friendly and that's good. People let you fit in and feel right at home. It's a small place, but fun."

Beasley has fit into the Ram football team in a big way, too. The 6-foot-2, 205-pound defensive back is the second-leading tackler on the squad with 31, including seven unassisted hits against Hampton University last Saturday.

The junior got his second career touchdown in last Saturday's 47-13 win over Hampton. He picked off a pass in the first quarter and returned it 38 yards for a touchdown.

"Derrick is a hitter," Ram Coach Bill Hayes said. "In fact, his one weakness as a safety is he likes to hit too much. He reacts to the run quickly and commits himself too quickly sometimes. There are times when he's not in position on the pass."

"Having said that, you still have to like his size and speed for a defensive back."

Beasley is a relative newcomer to football. He only began playing the sport as a junior at Detroit's Cody High School. His favorite sport had been basketball and his style of play on the court earned him the respect of Cody's football coach.

"Our football coach came to all the basketball games," Beasley said. "He liked my aggressiveness and he also saw I had a short temper. So he asked me out to play football. I was hesitant at first because it's a cold sport and I didn't like it outdoors. At home it's cold most of the time."

"But he put me at middle linebacker and changed the whole defense to suit me. He told me things would work out better for me in football."

## The Matchup

**The Game:** North Carolina Central at Winston-Salem State.

**When:** Saturday at 7 p.m.

**Where:** At Bowman Gray Stadium (18,000).

**Records:** North Carolina Central 2-2 overall and 2-1 in the conference; Winston-Salem State 2-1 and 1-1.

**Last Week:** NCCU beat Fayetteville State 19-6; WSSU defeated Hampton 47-13.

**The Coaches:** NCCU's Hank Lattimore, eighth season, 50-37-3 (sixth at NCCU, where he is 40-27-2); WSSU's Bill Hayes, 10th season (all at WSSU), 66-32-2.

**Alignments:** NCCU's offense, pro set; defense, 6-2. WSSU's offense, wing-T; defense, 60.

**Personnel:** NCCU, WR Robert Clark, WR Robert Green, TE Terrence McNeill, CB Melvin Wallace, QB Earl Harvey; WSSU, QB Dana Walker, HB Leonardo Horn, HB Calvin Handsome, FB Ed Byers, WR Masha Paul, LB Angelo Sprull, LB Mark Wallace, SS Derrick Beasley, PK Tyrone Smith.

**Injuries:** NCCU, none. WSSU, C Danny Moore (ankle sprain, probable), HB James "Jet" Johnson (ankle sprain, probable).

**Last meeting:** Winston-Salem State won 40-6 last year at O'Kelly Stadium in Durham. The Rams shut down heralded Central quarterback Gerald

Fraylon in his last game against his rivals. Fraylon threw three interceptions and was sacked five times while completing only 10-of-30 passes. Strong safety Derrick Beasley led the Ram defensive effort, scoring on a 26-yard interception return. Leonardo Horn led a Ram offense that totaled 302 yards. Horn gained 113 yards.

**The Forecast:** Once again, the WSSU-Central game will be critical to the CIAA Southern Division title. The two are the only schools to win Southern titles since the CIAA went to divisions in 1981. Central won the '81 and '82 division championships and WSSU has taken the last two. Both teams carry 1-1 CIAA records into the game and trail first-place Livingstone by a game. WSSU is hot, having scored 78 points in the last six quarters. Central, in a rebuilding year, has done as well as expected against a formidable schedule that has included top-ranked (Sheridan Poll) Grambling State. The Eagles, whose other loss came to Livingstone, are led by Harvey. The freshman has passed for 1,197 yards to rank fourth in the NAIA. Clark is Central's career leader in receptions (114 for 2,248 yards). Clark, Green and McNeill ranked first, second and fourth in the CIAA in receptions.

**Predicted Final Score:** Winston-Salem State 35, Central 22.

The change of sports worked so well that Beasley found himself being recruited by every Big Ten school, "even though I was the smallest linebacker in the state."

Beasley wasn't sure a big school was right for him. So he listened closely when fellow Detroit native Karlton Watson, then a quarterback for the Rams, told him about the little school in the South that had good football and intimate classroom settings.

"All my best friends went to big schools," said Beasley, a physical education major. "But I didn't want to go to a big school and just be a number. I wanted to put an emphasis on my education. Karlton told me Winston-Salem State had a good football program and there would be no distractions to keep me from my books."

Beasley may prove good enough to make a career of football. But he's not counting on being a professional.

"I want to get my degree first," he said. "If I become a pro later, that's great."

"But having talked to Jack

Cameron (former WSSU defensive back who played one year in the NFL), I know pro football can be a very short career. It can be a bitter dead end if you don't get your degree. So you have to be prepared for what comes after. That's what I'm doing now."

Beasley has an equally humble attitude when it comes to the needs of the team versus the desires of the individual.

"Sure, I'd like to be an all-American in college too," he said. "But first of all I want Winston-Salem State to win a CIAA championship. We've won the division the last two years, but it seems we can never quite get over the hump. If we win the CIAA, it would be like a dream come true."

The Rams' encounter with North Carolina Central Saturday night at Bowman Gray Stadium will be critical to their pursuit of a third straight Southern Division title. Beasley admits it will be a challenge for him and his fellow defenders to stop Eagle freshman quarterback Earl Harvey, cur-

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## COLLEGE STANDINGS

CIAA		
Northern Division	Conference	All
Norfolk State	3-0-0	3-1-0
Virginia State	2-0-1	2-1-1
Hampton University	2-1-0	3-1-0
Elizabeth City	1-1-0	2-1-0
Virginia Union	1-2-0	1-2-0
St. Paul's	0-3-0	0-4-0

Southern Division		
Livingstone	Conference	All
Livingstone	2-0-0	4-0-0
North Carolina Central	2-1-0	2-2-0
Winston-Salem State	1-1-0	2-1-0
Fayetteville State	1-1-1	1-1-1
Johnson C. Smith	1-2-0	1-3-0
Bowie State	0-4-0	0-4-0

MEAC		
Delaware State	Conference	All
Delaware State	2-0-0	4-1-0
Bethune-Cookman	1-0-0	2-1-0
South Carolina State	2-1-0	2-3-0
North Carolina A&T	0-2-0	1-4-0
Howard University	0-2-0	0-4-0
Morgan State	0-4-0	0-4-0

\*Ineligible for MEAC Title

**CIAA Results**  
Winston-Salem State 47, Hampton 13  
Livingstone 13, Virginia Union 12  
N.C. Central 19, Fayetteville State 6  
Norfolk State 47, Elizabeth City 3  
Johnson C. Smith 24, Bowie State 21  
Virginia State 22, St. Paul's 10

**MEAC Results**  
North Carolina A&T 48, Morgan State 20  
South Carolina State 27, Howard 21  
N. Iowa 37, Delaware State 17

**SWAC Results**  
Grambling 23, Oregon State 6  
Miss. Valley 35, Jackson State 14

Southern 14, Prairie View A&M 13  
Stephen F. Austin 42, Alcorn State 12  
Alabama State 24, Texas Southern 12

**SIAC Results**  
Albany State 26, Alabama A&M 0  
Tuskegee 34, Clark 9  
Fort Valley 41, Morris Brown 5  
Knoxville 29, Union College 23  
Miles 29, Lane 26  
N. Alabama 43, Savannah State 23

**Independent Results**  
Tennessee State 12, Florida A&M 0  
Bishop 14, Nuevo Leon 12  
Evangel 41, Lincoln, Mo., 0  
Glenville 28, W. Va. State 14  
N.W. Oklahoma 28, Langston 21  
Millersville 34, Cheyney 20


**CIAA Schedule**  
N.C. Central at Winston-Salem State  
Norfolk State at Fayetteville State  
Bowie State at Hampton  
Elizabeth City at Virginia State  
Virginia Union at St. Paul's  
Livingstone at Gardner-Webb

**MEAC Schedule**  
Bethune-Cookman at Delaware State  
J.C. Smith at A&T  
S.C. State at Alcorn State

**SWAC Schedule**  
Miss. Valley v. Tenn. State at Indian Wells  
Grambling at Prairie View A&M  
S.C. State at Alcorn State  
Texas A&I at Texas Southern

**SIAC Schedule**  
Alabama A&M at Central State  
Morris Brown at Savannah  
Fort Valley at Clark  
Lane at Arkansas AMEN  
Florida A&M at Albany State  
Kentucky State at Morehouse

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Sept. 14	SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE	7:00 pm
Sept. 21	at Penn State	1:30 pm
Sept. 28	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY	7:00 pm
Oct. 5	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	2:00 pm
Oct. 12	at Southwestern Louisiana	5:00 pm
Oct. 26	SOUTH CAROLINA	1:30 pm
Nov. 2	at Southern Mississippi	7:00 pm
Nov. 9	at Auburn University	2:00 pm
Nov. 16	UNIVERSITY OF TULSA	1:30 pm
Dec. 7	at Louisiana State	8:00 pm

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