

College Basketball

WSSU rolls to three victories

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

Winston-Salem State's basketball season, which is moving into the home stretch, so far has been like a race run on two different tracks.

In the first nine games, Coach C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines searched for the right pieces against a demanding schedule that included such thoroughbreds as North Carolina A&T, Virginia Union, Norfolk State and West Virginia Tech. The Rams limped through those nine games and posted only three victories.

The major weakness was the Rams' frontcourt, with 6-foot-6, 210-pound Harry Giles playing football and not being available until the fifth game and 6-7, 230-pound Gary Cromartie missing the first eight games with a stress fracture in his foot.

"We didn't stop anybody inside until we got Giles and Cromartie playing together," Gaines said. "Both are big and strong, and Giles is just an excellent athlete. Cromartie is playing like a man possessed, although a little too much so on offense. We like to see him rebound like that."

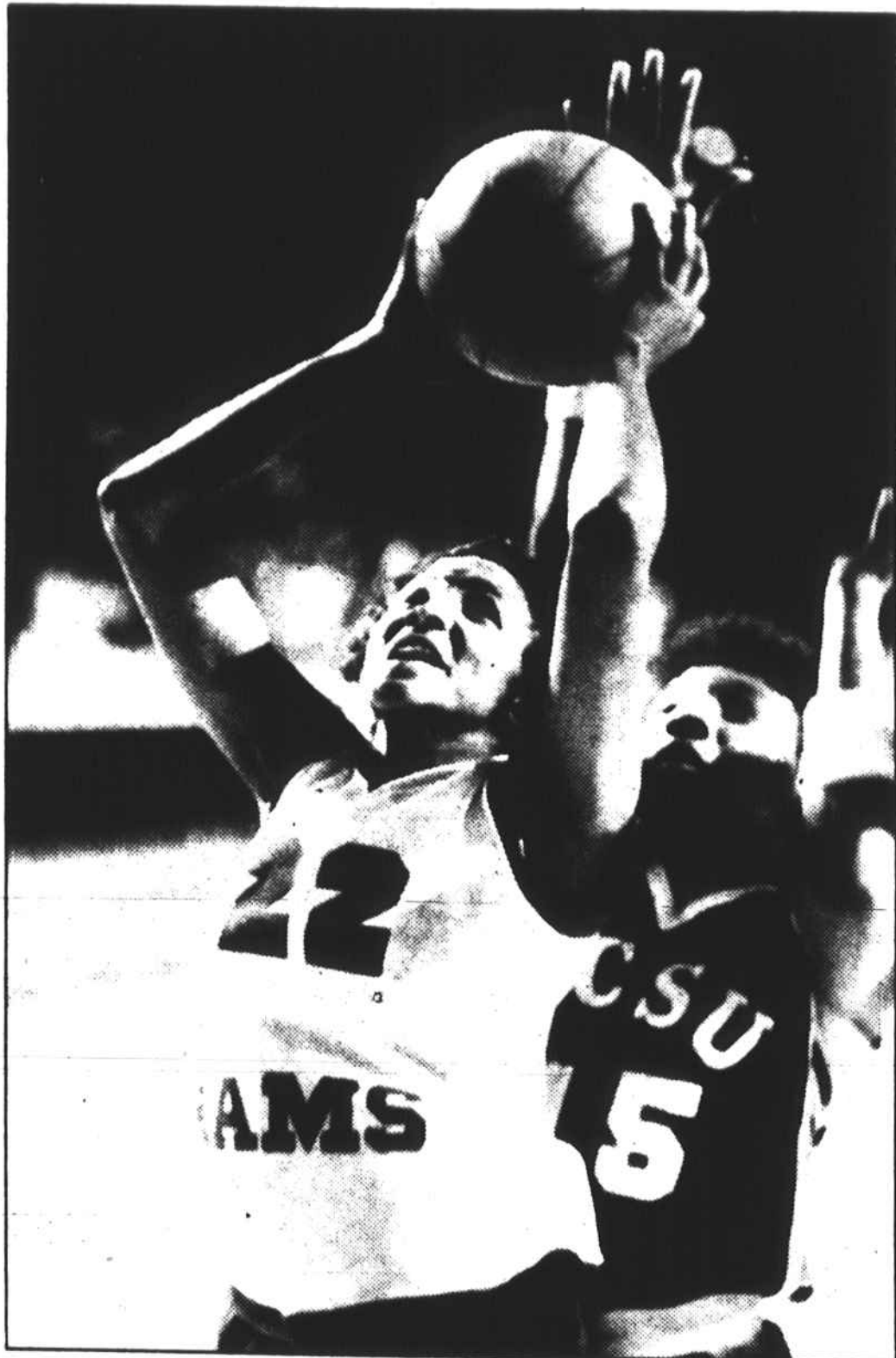
After the holiday break and a 76-69 loss to Hampton University, the Rams have found their collective stride. The result has been eight wins in 10 games, including the last three. More importantly, WSSU takes a game lead over Johnson C. Smith in the CIAA's Southern Division into Friday night's game against Livingstone at Gaines Center.

Gaines complimented his players for not losing faith after the slow start.

"The important thing is the kids didn't lose confidence in what we're doing," the 39th-year coach said. "They've continued to work hard in practice. When the players maintain positive attitudes, the coaching staff has to be pleased."

"We always play a tough schedule early in the season. We used to start with the Georgia Invitational, which brought all the winners of the black conferences together. If you came through there with two wins, you were set to go. If you didn't, you had to work against the players losing their confidence."

As he frequently has done in past seasons, Gaines has been able to add a newcomer at midseason. This year's model is 6-7 Matthew McMillan, who transferred from Lakeland Community College in Mentor, Ohio. The Newark, N.J., product



Freshman Lynette Gilliam, the former Parkland standout, goes up strong for the Winston-Salem State women (photo by James Parker).

played in each of the last three games, at three different positions.

"I had never heard of him before when he came down here with Tyrone Smith (place-kicker on the WSSU football team) visiting," Gaines said. "He can do little bit of everything. We played him at the point, wing and at center in one case."

"McMillan's a little like Troy Russell, who played here a few years ago. Sometimes he passes the ball when the other fellows don't expect it. They're having to get accustomed to his game."

The Rams halted a two-game losing streak with a 77-69 win at St. Augustine's last Thursday night. Alexander Hooper, the CIAA's second-leading scorer, totaled 22 points and Giles added 13. Meanwhile, the Ram defense forced the Falcons into poor shot selection and a 41-percent night from the field.

St. Augustine's went 5 1/2 minutes without a field goal late

in the game. That enabled WSSU to stretch its lead to eight points with 3:32 remaining.

Gaines saw his team gain sole possession of first place with a 68-65 win over J.C. Smith last Saturday night in Memorial Coliseum. The Rams received a 25-point effort from Hooper and made enough free throws down the stretch to hold off the Golden Bulls, who got 20 points from Dante Johnson, 16 from James Shockley and 12 from former East standout Vincent Brown. Johnson missed a three-pointer at the buzzer.

The Rams completed the three-game run with a 91-80 win at Fayetteville State Monday night. Hooper overcame at box-and-one to finish with 26 points. Point guard Charlie Spell pitched in 20.

The Ram women had a 1-2 week. That included 36-point effort by Carolyn Huntley in a 96-85 loss to the Lady Broncos Monday night.

Local Sports

Malloy gets gold in Chapel Hill meet

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

Sean Malloy of East Forsyth finished first in the 60-yard dash at an indoor invitational track meet in Chapel Hill last weekend.

Malloy finished second in the quarter-mile, the first time he had participated in the event.

Kevin Caesar of North was fourth in the 60-yard dash.

Mount Tabor's Phyllis Nance finished fourth and North's Denita Roseboro was fifth in the girls' 60-yarder.

Another invitational will be held in Chapel Hill on Feb. 28.

Players Win Title

The Players captured the inaugural Winston Lake Family YMCA volleyball championship.

The Players, captained by Solomon Everett, posted a regular-season record of 10-2. Last Saturday, they completed a sweep of honors by capturing the post-season tournament. The Players downed the Hustlers three games to two in the tourney final.

Other team members include Paulette Everett, Frank Jordan, Angie Jordan, Marsha Johnson, Carl Johnson, Carol Williams, Wanna Coker and Darrel Cook.

The Hustlers, captained by George Johnson, and Comets, captained by George Phillips, finished the regular season in a tie for second place.

Trimana Garlington, Winston Lake YMCA physical director, said that the 1986-87 season will begin in October.

Joyner Claims First

Norm Joyner won the "A" division championship in the Racquetball Challenge Ladder at Winston Lake Family YMCA last Saturday.

Other winners included David West in the "B" division and Paulette Evans in "C" division.

Those interested in getting on the ladder should contact Jack Jackson at 724-9205.

Soccer League

The East Winston Noon Optimist Club began registration for its youth soccer league last weekend.

Registration continues this Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Winston Lake Family YMCA. For more information, contact Bob Adams at 777-6289.

AAU Update

Those interested in entering a team in the boys 19-and-under state AAU basketball tournament can contact tournament director Jim Corrigan at 725-4247. Corrigan said the boys 19 tournament will be played in Winston-Salem, although a site has not been determined.

Other tourney directors are: Andy Royals, boys 11-and-under and 12-and-under (475-8825); Ed Sockwell, boys 13-and-under and 14-and-under (372-1865); Randy Ballard, boys 15-and-under and 16-and-under (372-1865). Please see page B7

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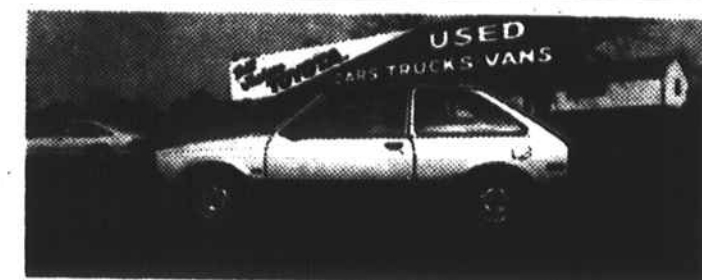
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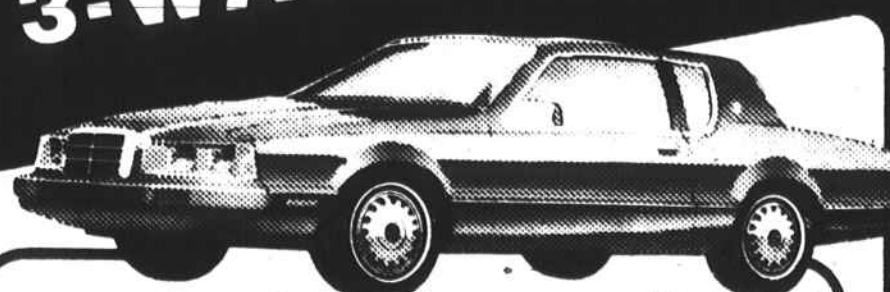
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