VSU's Holleman Brings Hard-Hat Effort to Game

▲ *Trojans' star first of thirteen All-CIAA selections to visit Rams*

By MICHAEL JOHNSON
Chronicle Sports Writer

Virginia State senior forward Kevin Holleman wants to leave a big impression behind when he leaves a team's home floor. Mainly, that he is going to leave everything he has on the floor and give his opponent a long night's work.

"When the game's over with, I hope whoever's guarding me gets a good night's sleep," said the St. Petersberg, Va. native. "It's not like I'm being overconfident or anything, but I want him to know that play hard."

Such a lunch-bucket attitude is what VSU coach Harold Kane hopes to instill on his Virginia State team. Last year, the Trojans were only 12-15 overall and 8-11 in Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association play. But Holleman was strong all year, averaging 16.6 points and 10.1 rebounds a game. It was those numbers that put him on this season's 13-man preseason All-CIAA team.

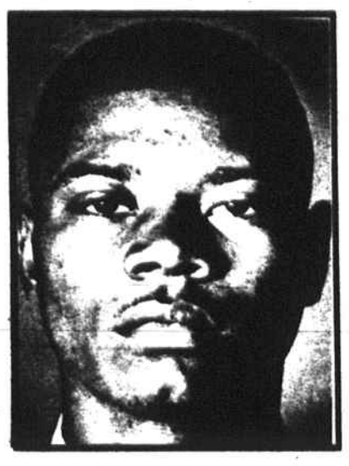
Holleman made his only stop of the season through town last Friday during a 89-77 loss to Winston-Salem State. Holleman had his usual sturdy game, scoring 14 points and hauling down 10 rebounds. But Holleman said what he saw on the court was an improved Rams team, one that made shots a little harder to come by.

"They've gotten tougher on the inside, made it little harder to get my shots," Holleman said. "I had to move around to score a little bit more. All in all, I had a good game, but I wished I scored a little more."

Holleman's blue-collar approach to the game was evident throughout the contest. Firmly entrenched in the paint, he would post up inside, extending his hand out for the ball. Whenever the ball did find its way to the inside, Holleman would be greeted by another forward or a guard would run down to double up on him. It's a strategy WSSU's post players have in mind for the opponent's big men.

"It's something we've been working on in practice, stopping the ball from getting in the post , especially on Holleman," said WSSU power forward Antoine Glover, the main man assigned to stopping Holleman. "He's a tough player to play, especially on the boards. He's such a good rebounder, so we had him work a little harder. Coach (Tommy) Snowden also went through on how to limit him to only one shot and not to get a good look at the goal."

But Holleman wouldn't want anybody to take it easy on him. Ever since Holleman first walked on campus as a freshman for his hometown school, he was expected to be the tower of power for the



Kevin Holleman

Trojans' inside punch. However, Holleman was not the freshman of influence as he first thought.

"Kevin's game was a little raw to say the least," Kane said. "He had to work on his footwork. He used to stand in the same place and he could easily be boxed out on the boards."

It was during the summers that Holleman worked on his overall game. While he may not remind basketball fans of Hakeem Olajuwon with his movement or have Patrick Ewing's offensive moves, the St. Petersberg High graduate has become more effective in the post. Meanwhile, Holleman's bread-and-butter shot—the turnaround jumper on the low blocks—has become one of the most effective weapons in the CIAA.

"That's something I've been working on for the past several years, and I'm glad it's been paying off," Holleman said. "It seems like it takes forever to get to where you're comfortable with it. But once I got down, it's been easy for me to get it."

While Holleman has seen his offensive game round into shape, Kane would like to see his big man develop a few more wrinkles in his offensive arsenal.

"Teams will start to find out if you only have one move, so Kevin is going to have to work on another shot," Kane said. "I would like to see him change up, go with a little jump hook in the lane. Kevin's also got o improve on his passing as well, so he can recognize double-teams."

But one thing that Kane hopes his senior never loses is his intensity. Called a "great practice player," Holleman brings a workmanlike approach to the game. It's a work ethic he hopes to instill in the next group of players who will be on the team next season while he's watching the Trojans in the stands.

"I want everyone here to remember Kevin Holleman as a player who tried hard," he said. "I may not have been the most talented player in the conference, but I was the one that made the opposition work the hardest."

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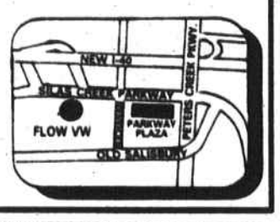

Basketball Sign-up at Sims Center

The Youth Basketball Sign-Up at William Sims, Sr. Recreation Center will be on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 - 3:30 p.m.

This sign-up is for children and parents who plan to participate in the Jr. Hornet Basketball Program and/or the Sims Center and Winston-Salem Authority Basketball League.

For more information call Ben Piggott 727-2837.

Final
Sheridan Black College Football Poll

School	Record
1. Howard	11-1
2. Southern	10-1
3. Hampton	12-1
4. Albany State	12-1
5. Central State	8-0-2
6. Virginia State	10-1
7. S.C. State	8-3
8. N.C. A&T	8-3
9. Alcorn State	8-3
10. Grambling	7-4

Others receiving votes:
Langston (Okla.), Delaware State

RESULTS FROM 11/27/93

NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs
First Round
Marshall 28, Howard 14

NCAA Division II Playoffs
Second Round
North Alabama 45, Hampton 20

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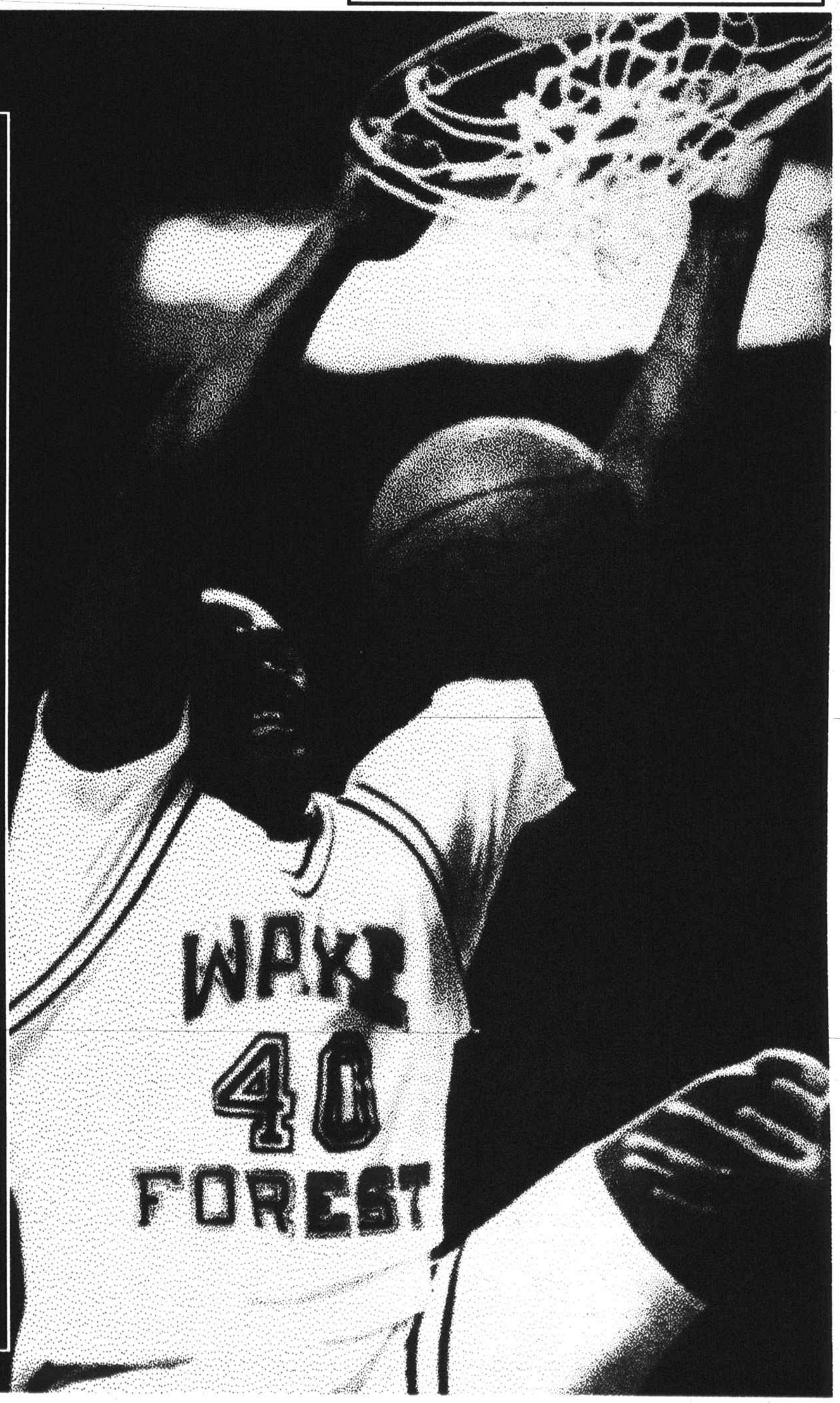
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