

Snowden Looks For Spark in WSSU Attack

▲ Rams look to rebound against Hampton tonight at L.J. Coliseum

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Chronicle Sports Writer

When a young team with a new head coach has problems, those headaches usually occur on the offensive end. Scoring, or lack thereof, can be viewed as the main culprit because of the influx of newcomers.

Those problems seem to plague the Winston-Salem State Rams early in the 1993-94 season. Though the Rams are off to a respectable 2-3 start, WSSU has had stretches where its offense has stalled. Now Rams coach Thomas "Fox" Snowden must prepare his squad against Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association foe Hampton at Lawrence Joel Coliseum Thursday night.

"Any time a young team has

34 fouls were called the Rams, as opposed to only 13 against homestanding California. Snowden was furious when he read the final box score that had his team shooting 10 free throws compared to 52 for California.

"It seemed the whistle kept blowing and they (the referees) couldn't stop it. California has a very good ball club, they're not thirty points better than us," Snowden said of California, which entered the contest ranked seventh in the NCAA Division II polls.

Snowden tried to regroup his young team the following night in a 72-63 loss against Sheperd (W.Va.). WSSU played much closer to vest, trailing only 36-33 at the end of the first half. A Marcus Boyd jumper put the Rams ahead 45-42 early in the second half



Thomas "Fox" Snowden

ers' mind.

"It (the Sheperd game) was a like eating ice cream out of an ice

Ransom continued to impress, scoring 23 points in both games. Louis Williams scored 14 points against California, all of them coming in the second half, and Antoine Glover scoring 13 against Sheperd.

Snowden was pleased to find some much-needed depth and some firepower off the bench. Neisac Brown and Bernard Powell played solid all-around games while Winston-Salem natives Casey Simmons and Monte Gray gave Snowden consistent defense and three-point shooting, respectively.

"When you play in a difficult tournament as we had, you try to find some positives out of a trying situation," Snowden said. "Playing in a hostile environment, our players had to push it up a notch. Fortunately, we think we found something to help us."

Now WSSU turns its attention to Hampton. Unlike CIAA opponent Virginia State, which WSSU defeated 89-77, the Pirates will rely on quickness and a more one-on-one style of play. Despite not having a starter taller than 6-8, Hampton's overall size and depth concerns Snowden.

"We can't let them get in the open court and have easy baskets," Snowden said. "Whoever wins the game will be because they're hungrier than the other."

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the rough experiences that we've had on the road, it's important we get the support from our community," Snowden said. "It's especially important because it's a home game against a conference rival."

Snowden views the upcoming game as a chess match in terms of the seeding for the CIAA tournament. The Rams would like to be in a more advantageous position when Winston-Salem hosts the tournament this March. But if WSSU wants to ensure itself of a high seeding, then Snowden must find the answers to a sputtering offensive attack.

It was no more apparent in The Observer-Reporter Invitational held this past weekend in Pennsylvania that the Rams need some sort of spark.

Against host California University (Pa.) last Friday, WSSU shot an icy 9 for 31 from the field in the first half while California was 16 for 30 from the field during a 102-72 loss in the opening round. But it was the fouls category that drew the attention of Snowden.

Hardee from page B1

Carver Lee Canter, one of his top wrestlers, as an example. Prior to the start of the season, Canter contemplated not wrestling this season because of the stringent diet required to remain in his weight class.

"Lee just avoided me for two days, then I asked up front was he going to wrestle," Hardee said. "He said he wasn't, so I let him go. I wasn't going to force him to do anything he didn't want to do. In wrestling, you have to do this for yourself."

Canter eventually returned to the team with open arms from the coach. Since then, Hardee has staged a personal training program with Canter, spending long stretches of practice wrestling with the senior.

"I wanted to get back with the team, but coach told me it wouldn't be easy on me," Canter said. "The only thing he has done is tell me it's up to me if I want to be out there."

Hardee believes that every person on the squad has a chance to succeed with him if they give his undivided attention. Hardee devotes a large amount of his burgeoning schedule to the wrestlers, so nothing less than the best is what Hardee asks of his pupils.

"These kids need someone they can grab hold to, give them direction," Hardee said. "When I wrestled in high school and in college, I didn't have a coach to cheer me on. I had to excite myself out there. That's why I out there, to keep their confidence up when they're down."

"When these kids come in these doors to practice, they don't leave until it's over," Hardee said.

before Sheperd went on a 13-1 run to put the game out of reach.

Despite staying close with Sheperd a majority of the contest, WSSU's offensive game misfired, shooting only 24 for 76 from the field. But Snowden thinks the California contest was still on his play-

cream cone. When you're finished eating, you're just left with a cone," Snowden said. "We didn't play with a lot of emotion nor with the intensity we usually display."

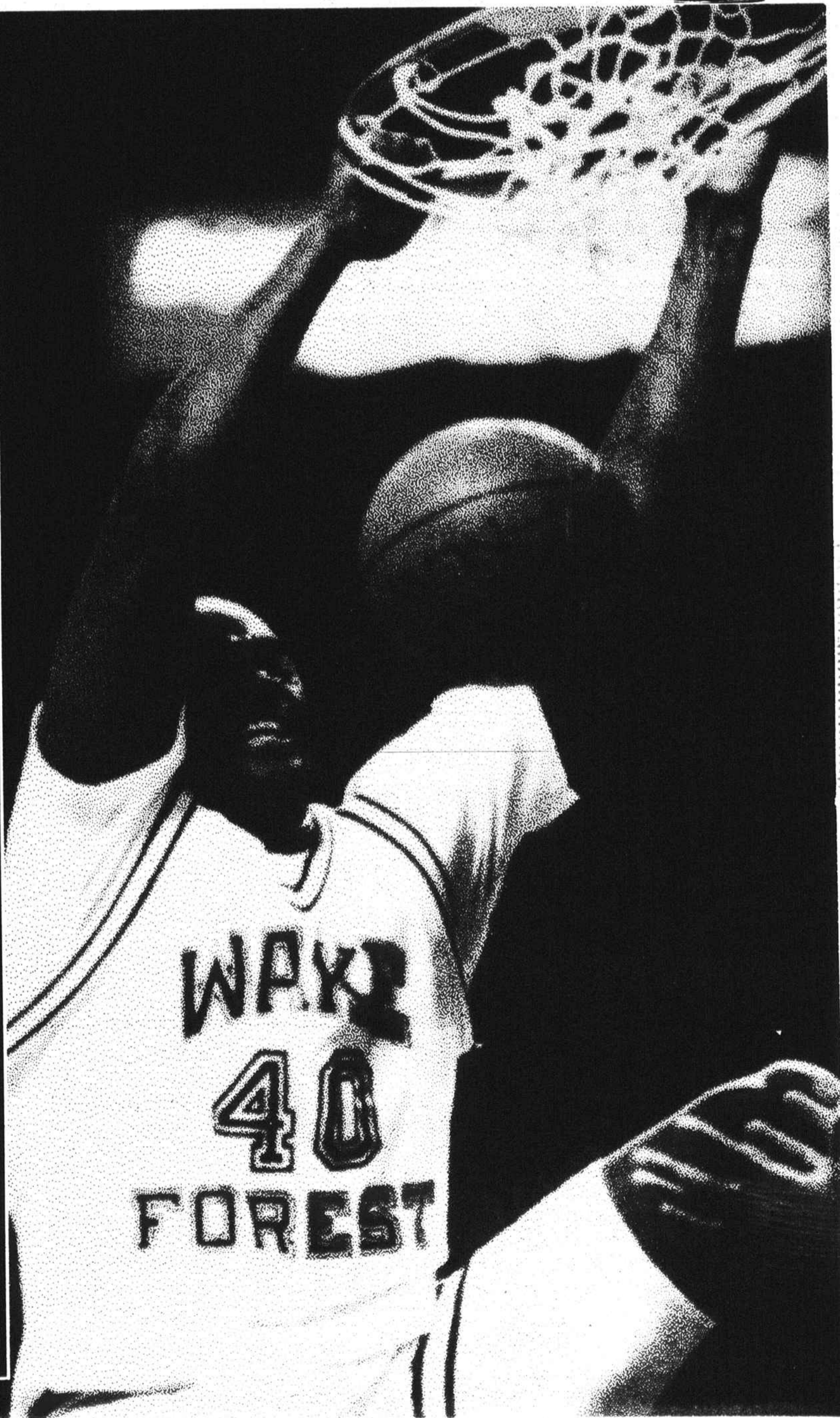
Several Rams did provide some promise. Freshman Phenizee

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