

SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

FEBRUARY 1, 2001

Robeson, Deas spark Rams to key win over J.C. Smith

WSSU climbs back into divisional race, faces N.C. Central on Saturday

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University staked its claim to the leadership in the CIAA's Western Division with a 68-57 victory over the Golden Bulls last Saturday at Lawrence Joel Coliseum.

The Rams, who suffered two early losses in the division, put themselves back in the hunt for the divisional title with the win. WSSU improved to 16-3 overall and 2-2 in the division. Smith,

the front-runner going in, fell to 14-3 overall and 4-1 in the division.

Coach Rick Duckett of WSSU said the victory put the Rams right where they expected to be going into the stretch run of the season.

"Coming into the season a lot of people expected us to be in contention and that's where we expected to be," Duckett said. "We thought we had a chance to beat them down there (Charlotte) and we didn't want to let an opportunity to beat them at home get away from us."

The big key for the Rams, according to Duckett, was their inside play.

"Our offensive rebounding kept us in the lead," said Duckett, whose team enjoyed a 43-28

rebounding advantage. "In the second half, I thought we did a good job of boxing out, and Tyrone (Robeson) really gave us what we needed."

The Rams were able to keep their working margin that had been built up in the first half and added to it in the game's final 10 minutes. Robeson's 16 points led the way for the Rams. Marcus Best had one of his best offensive games of the season with 12 points.

Best was four of seven from the field, which included an uncharacteristic assortment of medium-range jump shots. He also tied teammate Kevin Henry for the team high in rebounds with seven. Devonaire Deas, who along with Robeson had been in Duckett's doghouse, came off

the bench to score 10 points, dish out two assists and grab four rebounds.

"What happens is that your KP guys make the key plays that you need," Duckett said of Robeson and Deas. "What we've seen from Tyrone and Devonaire tonight is an indication of what they can do every night. We're trying to tell them that this is not Bid Whist where you can play some hands and sit out other hands. You have to come to play every hand you're given and not make excuses."

WSSU jumped out to a 31-27 lead at the half on the strength of its defense. The Rams were also able to get the ball down in the paint for easy baskets. The Rams scored 20 of their first-half points in the paint while

Smith was able to manage only eight.

Deas and Robeson were able to get out of Duckett's doghouse with inspired play on both ends of the court. Deas dished off two assists and scored five points in nine minutes in the first half. Robeson led the Rams in scoring with 10 points in the half, making five of eight field goals.

WSSU opened up its biggest lead at 31-23 when Deas connected on a 3-pointer with 3:07 left in the half. Smith fought back in the final minutes of the half, scoring the final four points for the halftime score.

Wyle Petty's nine points helped keep Smith in the game in the first half. Petty, the Bulls'



Deas

See Rams on B2

FROM THE PRESS BOX
SAM DAVIS

Robeson's hustle, scoring carry him from Rams' doghouse to penthouse

It's taken Tyrone Robeson only a matter of a few games to go from the doghouse to the Penthouse at Winston-Salem State.

Robeson, a 6-8 sophomore forward, was banished to the bench for an entire game by coach Rick Duckett two weeks ago and saw only spot duty in two other games. He finally got a chance to see considerable

action against Virginia State last Wednesday and then broke out of Duckett's doghouse last Saturday night against Johnson C. Smith

when he played the best game of his career against the Golden Bulls, scoring 16 points and grabbing six rebounds in helping the Rams earn their key CIAA Western Division victory.

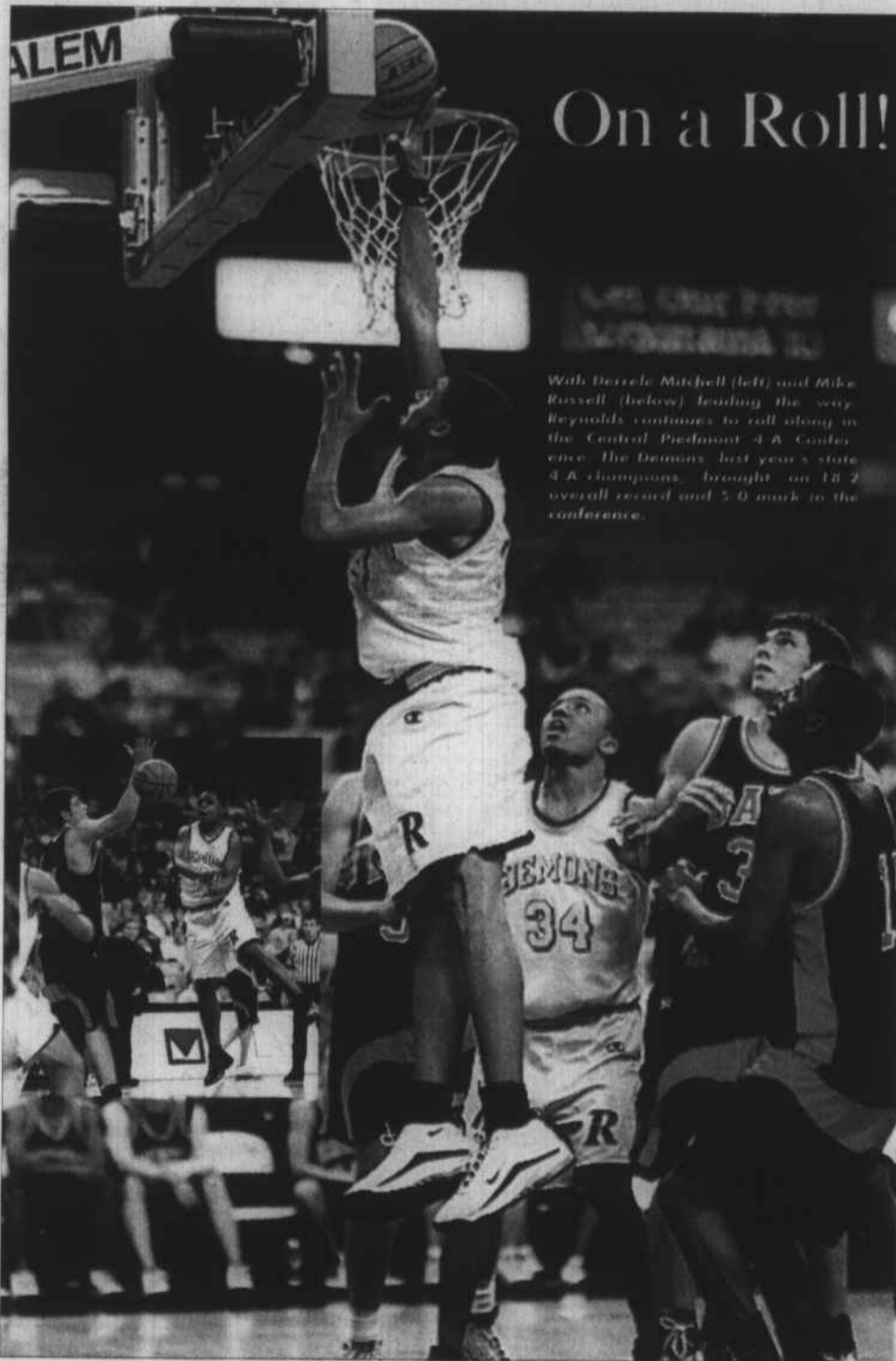
Robeson said he definitely had an extra incentive in wanting to play well.

"You sit on the bench a whole game and you start seeing things a different way," he said. "You see your teammates doing their best and you can't do anything to contribute. So tonight I wanted to help my teammates any way I could."

"It was tough sitting out and watching the team play and not be able to contribute," Robeson said. "In the games I didn't get in, I guess coach figured I wasn't getting the job done and it's his responsibility to do something about it to get us to play up to the level he expects. I got a chance to see how much I missed playing and when I got in there, I wanted to do my best so that I could continue to get playing time."

The slightly built Robeson battled tooth and nail inside with Lemans Shingler of Smith, one of the better pivot players in the league. Robeson's

See Press Box on B2



On a Roll!

With Derrell Mitchell (left) and Mike Reynolds (below) leading the way Reynolds continues to roll along in the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference. The Demons last year's state 4-A champions, brought on 18 2 overall record and 5-0 mark in the conference.

Lady Rams respond to Clark's challenge, defeat Golden Bulls

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

It was a matter of "Truth or Consequences" when Winston-Salem State's women's basketball team squared off with Johnson C. Smith in a key Western Division CIAA game last Saturday night.

The Rams came through with their best performance in recent games and escaped with a 64-52 victory over the Golden Bulls. That victory tied the Lady Rams atop the divisional standings with N.C. Central with a 3-0 mark going into this week's games. WSSU trailed 33-28 at the half and fought an uphill battle for most of the game before putting

together a 15-0 run midway through the second half to take control of the game. The Rams trailed 42-39 before reeling off their run to increase their margin to 54-42 with 5:21 remaining in the game.

Johnson C. Smith cut the margin to 59-52 with 1:10 remaining, but that was as close as the Golden Bulls were able to come the remainder of the game. The Bulls' run was helped by WSSU's inability to make free throws. The Lady Rams missed eight consecutive free throws before Charette Guthrie converted four in a row to close out the game and give WSSU its final margin.

Coach Debra Clark of WSSU said the Rams responded to her proddings and that was the key to the victory.

"The last two games we didn't play well at all," Clark said. "We knew that rebound was a weakness and we had to do better at that tonight. So I had to give them some consequences that were going to be put into effect if they didn't do it."

"Tonight we responded," Clark added. "I thought we played good defense and rebounded the ball well. We got good performances from Tiffany (Whited)

See Lady Rams on B2

Aggies capture key road victory in MEAC action

BY EDWARD HILL JR.
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Bruce Jenkins and Landon Beckwith provided a second-half spark, combining for 27 points after intermission, and N.C. A&T continued its climb toward the top of the MEAC standings with a 75-70 victory over Howard University on Monday night.

Jenkins had 14 of his game-high 24 points after intermission and Beckwith scored all of his 13 points in the second half as the Aggies captured their fourth straight MEAC victory and improved to 9-8 overall and 6-2 in the conference.

The victory by the Aggies snapped Howard's four-game winning streak. The win was also important for the Aggies because it was their first road win of the season. The Aggies trailed 40-33 at the half and looked to be on

their way to another defeat before getting untracked offensively at the start of the second half.

Jenkins, a 6-5 junior forward, was playing in a homecoming game of sorts. He played his high school career at Springbrook High in the metropolitan D.C. area. He finished the game six of eight from the field with most of his baskets coming near the basket. Beckwith, a 5-11 sophomore guard, helped loosen up the Bison defense by connecting on all four of his long-range jumpers, including two shots from beyond the 3-point

line. As a team, the Aggies shot 61 percent (14 of 23) in the second half.

Coach Curtis Hunter of A&T said the play of Jenkins and Beckwith provided the spark his team needed.

"We needed something to pick us up in the second half.... Landon gave us that spark and Bruce has played big for us ever since he returned from his injury."

— Curtis Hunter

In addition to the play of Jenkins and Beckwith, the Aggies benefited from the clutch free throw shooting of senior guard J.J. Miller. Miller's free throw shooting proved to be the difference in the game as he sank four of

five in the final two minutes to seal the win.

Howard was led by its guard combination of Jonathan Stokes and Ali Abdullah, which had carried the Bison to their four consecutive wins. The two combined for 34 points and 10 assists. However, they got little help from their teammates. Stokes, who scored 19, and Abdullah, who scored 15, were the only two Bison players to score in double figures. The Bison were also out-rebounded by a 42-31 margin and struggled to their poorest shooting performance of the season from the free throw line, making only 10 of 19 in the game.

"They did a good job of attacking our zone and hitting their shots in the second half and they hurt us on the boards," said Frankie Allen, Howard's first-year coach. "But even with that, we still had a chance if we make our free throws."



Stopper!! — Michael Copeland has been a defensive catalyst for Glenn's JV basketball team. The Bobcats improved to 14-6 with Tuesday night's win. See story on B3.