

# SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

JANUARY 10, 2002

## Lady Rams' offensive struggles continue at Glenville State Classic

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

**GLENVILLE, W.Va.** — Winston-Salem State's women's basketball team continues its struggles, losing two games at the Glenville State Tournament last weekend.

The Lady Rams, who fell to 6-7 on the season, lost 84-48 to the host Pioneers in game one and fell 87-42 to West Liberty State in a second-round match-up. The losses didn't help the Lady Rams' prospects as they head into the toughest part of their schedule.

The Lady Rams jumped back into CIAA action on Tuesday

night when they played host to St. Augustine's College. They will continue their conference schedule on Saturday, Jan. 12, when they travel to Livingstone.

WSSU's players hurt themselves with their ball-handling and shooting in both losses. The Lady Rams turned the ball over 21 times vs. Glenville State and shot just 32 percent from the field. About the only bright spot was the play of Monique Kirkland, who was the only player in double figures for WSSU, with 10 points. Kirkland, who made five of 13 shots from the field, also contributed five rebounds.

Lashonda Horton came off

the bench to score 8 points for the Lady Rams in the loss. Horton was two-of-three from the field and also pulled down eight rebounds to lead the Rams in that category. WSSU was out-rebounded in the game by a 43-31 margin.

Against West Liberty State, the Lady Rams' shooting woes continued. WSSU never got into a flow offensively and shot a season-low 26 percent, making only 18 of 69 from the field. Their shooting from long distance was even more dismal as they made only 1 of 10 from behind the 3-point arc. The lone bright spot for Winston-Salem State in the

lopsided loss was freshman LaShonda Horton, who recorded her team-leading sixth double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Her performance earned her all-tournament honors as well as her third CIAA Rookie of the Week Award.

The Lady Rams were out-rebounded again in their loss to West Liberty. West Liberty enjoyed a 50-37 advantage. Horton had little support from her teammates. Danielle Propst's 6 points were the next highest total, and Aletha Corpening had six rebounds to back Horton on the boards.



LaShonda Horton

## Jury still out on Rams' Stitt



FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

Imagine being in Philip Stitt's shoes as Winston-Salem State reaches the midway point in its basketball season. Stitt, the Rams' interim basketball coach, replaced Rick Duckett last summer. Stitt has led the Rams to a 9-2 record as they approach the meat of their season.

If it hasn't already been the case, a lot of eyes will be on Stitt the rest of the way.

When the WSSU administration made the



Deas

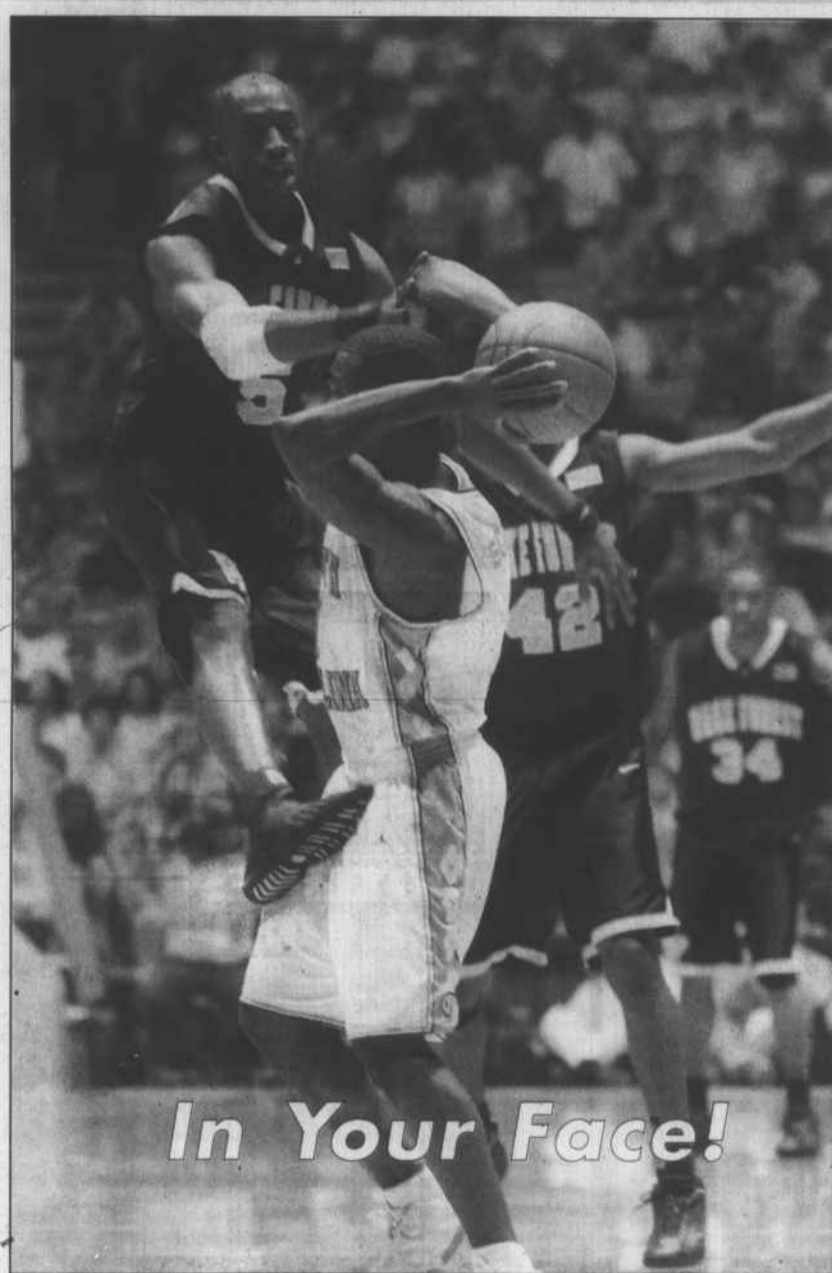
decision to hire Stitt on an interim basis, it put pressure on the players and Stitt. The players, who supported Stitt and spoke up for him after Duckett announced his resignation, will, to a large measure, decide Stitt's fate with their play on the court. With nine seniors on the roster, most of whom have been in the Rams

system for four seasons, the Rams came into the season as the favorites to capture the CIAA Western Division regular season title and win the league's post-season tournament.

But it won't be easy. The Rams are facing a CIAA schedule that includes a lot of teams that are vastly improved. Not only that, but WSSU is having to deal with some internal problems that could short-circuit the Rams' run at their goals of capturing the CIAA tournament championship and reaching the Elite Eight in Division II basketball.

The Rams have come within one game of

See Press Box on B2



In Your Face!

Photo by Bruce Chapman

Josh Howard's defensive pressure caused all kinds of problems for the University of North Carolina in last Saturday's game in Chapel Hill. Howard helped spark Wake Forest to its biggest victory ever against the Tar Heels.

## Rams lose to Lincoln in tournament finale

Dye torches WSSU for 38 points and captures MVP honors

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Anyone expecting Winston-Salem State to cruise to an easy victory in the Bighouse Gaines Classic was in for a big surprise. The Rams had little trouble in capturing a victory in the opening round of the tournament, running their home winning streak to 17 games when they rolled to an easy victory over Concord College. However, Lincoln University (Missouri) didn't exactly lay down in the championship game.

The Blue Tigers proved to be the Rams' best competition of the season. Lincoln got 38 points from guard Kenny Dye and 19 more from Mario Davis in an 87-82 victory over the Rams.

WSSU fought an uphill battle throughout the game but still had a chance to send the game into overtime at the end. The Rams cut a 13-point lead to 2, 75-73, at the 2:05 mark. But Centellis Tucker's 3-pointer, which could have given the Rams a lead, wouldn't drop. Davis hit consecutive 3-pointers for the Blue Tigers while Shawn Alexander kept the Rams close with two field goals close to the basket.

Lincoln made four free throws in the final 23.7 seconds to extend its lead to 85-79 with 12.9 remaining. But Alexander answered with a 3-pointer. The Rams then called timeout with 4.7 seconds left. WSSU forced a 5-second call and got the ball back. But Lincoln stole the inbounds pass and hit two free throws to seal the win.

Philip Stitt, WSSU's coach, said his team's defensive lapses cost it a chance to win.

"We lost tonight on defense," Stitt said. "We gave up at least 10 layups in the first half and we couldn't recover."

Stitt said the Rams might have been overconfident after capturing victories in their last eight games. That and looking at

See Rams on B2

## Woodbury set for first playoff game with Jets

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem and Winston-Salem State will be well represented in the NFL playoffs that will begin on Saturday. Two former Rams are among the players who will be involved in games. Oronde Gadsden of the Miami Dolphins and Tory Woodbury of the New York Jets will earn playoff bonuses because their teams clinched playoff berths.

The playoffs might be old hat for Gadsden but will be a first-time opportunity for Woodbury. Woodbury, a rookie who made the team on the strength of his special teams performance, hopes to see his

first action in the playoffs.

Woodbury, who grew up in Winston-Salem and starred at Glenn High before matriculating at WSSU, sustained an injury in last weekend's game against the Oakland Raiders. Woodbury suffered a quadriceps injury but still will likely see action on the Jets' special teams.

The injury came just a week after Woodbury touched the football for the first time during a regular season game. He recovered a fumble to set the Jets in scoring position in a 14-9 loss to the Buffalo Bills.

Woodbury is part of a special teams unit that has turned lots of heads this season. In fact, many NFL analysts have



Woodbury

pointed to the team's special teams as the contributing factor in the Jets' win last week, which put the team in the playoffs for the first time since 1998.

In the second quarter, Chris Hayes, long the Jets' special teams leader, beat one-on-one blocking by the center to block

See Woodbury on B2

## Inexperienced Carver girls JV improving

Short-handed Yellowjackets lose to Northeast Guilford, 44-19

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Coaching Carver's junior varsity girls basketball team can be a thankless job — especially considering the type of talent that has come through the Yellowjackets' program.

With 6-0 center Donella Miller and several other talented youngsters bypassing the junior varsity ranks and going to varsity, Carver is just trying to make the most of what it has and preparing the players for helping keep the program at the top of the state's 3-A ranks. Coach Jim Wright said that isn't always easy.

"We have a lot of young players and our focus is on



Although Carver has been scrappy on the defensive end of the court, the Yellowjackets' offense hasn't caught up yet, according to coach Jim Wright.

See Yellowjackets on B2