

Lady Deacons

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which gave Wake Forest the possession, and Wake was able to hold on to its lead on the strength of two free throws each by Tiffani Listenbee and Bianca Brown.

Coach Charlene Curtis of Wake Forest, whose team snapped a four-game losing streak in the ACC, said it was a much-needed victory.

"I'm very proud of the

team," she said. "It would have been very easy for us, especially after losing at home to Georgia Tech and then being blown out by 40-something at Duke, to just drop our heads and quit. But the way we stepped up tonight says a lot about us. Tonight it was all about the mental side of the game."

Brown, whose previous high was 20 points in a victory over UNC-Wilmington earlier this season, praised her teammates who worked to get her

free with picks and continued to feed her the basketball in the first half.

"My teammates kept giving me chances to shoot the ball," she said. "I knew if I hit shots from the outside, it would open up the inside for us."

Florida State, which used both a zone and man-to-man defense in the first half, employed mostly man-to-man in the second half, trying to keep Brown from getting open looks at the basket. That opened up the inside where LaChina Robinson came through with a big second half.

"At the beginning of the second half we had to run a different offense that we didn't run in the first half," Curtis said. "We went more with a Triangle-type offense, and we weren't able to get the ball to her (Brown) as much. But she was still able to hit some clutch shots. And LaChina was able to get free for some big baskets inside."

The Lady Deacons also got strong play from Adell Harris and Bianca Brown at the point.

"Adell is really stepping up as the leader of this team," Curtis said. "That's really going to help Bianca. She's a younger player and that's going to help her confidence a lot."

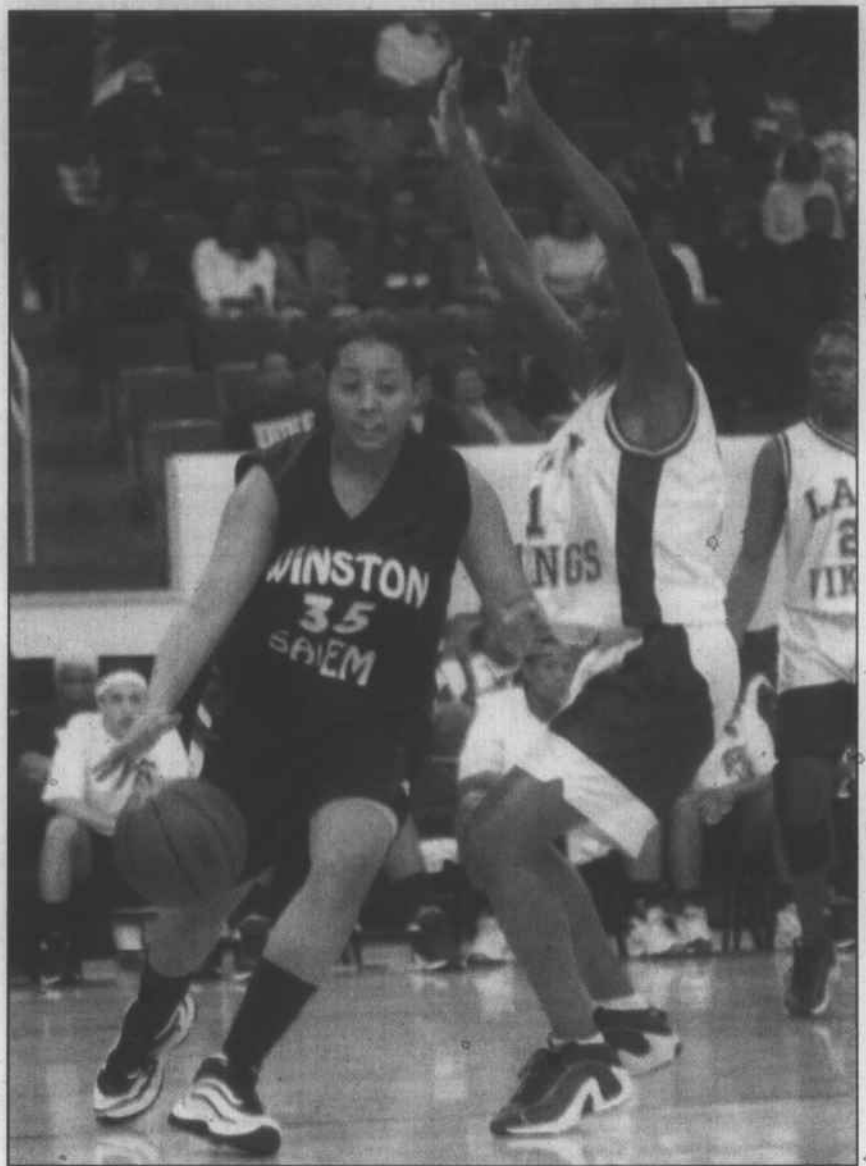
Tonia Brown said she and her teammates were more determined down the stretch.

"There have been a lot of situations where we didn't have confidence and stick together at the end of the game," she said. "We just felt like if we stick to it we will be fine. Tonight we were all determined to make the defensive stops."

For Curtis that means the Deacons may be coming of age. "I think this is a sign that this team is ready to move to another level," she said. "Hopefully this is a turning point. We hadn't won in the new year, and I hope this is the beginning of something and we can go back and make things better."



Charlene Curtis



Tiffany Whitted drives to the basket during a game against St. Augustine's last week.

Lady Rams

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Rams made 20 of 36 field goals in the second half.

Shellby led the way with four of her points coming on uncontested layups where she used her speed to blow past Livingstone defenders. Shellby, who is listed on the roster at 5-0, was able to weave her way through the Lady Blue Bears

and rendered their full-court pressure totally ineffective.

With the Loyola-Chicago transfer providing the offensive spark, WSSU was able to enjoy advantages in shooting (46 percent to Livingstone's 40 percent); rebounding, 45-38; and assists, 22-17, for the game.

The Lady Rams improved

to 8-7 on the season and 1-1 in the conference under first-year coach Daymond Lindell. Livingstone, which captured the CIAA Tournament two years ago, fell to 2-10. The Lady Blue Bears were led by Erica Deas with 26 points. Angela Thomas scored 14. Miriam Baltimore added 12 and Alycia Garrison chipped in with 10.

Parkland

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feet."

Most times, however, the Mustangs expect McCandies to get the job done down low in the paint. With guards Ray Bristow, Marcus Jordan and Mark Mason doing the damage on the perimeter, McCandies has to play with his back to the basket. It is a role that he has accepted and made the most of this season.

With key games this week against Southwest Guilford, Northeast Guilford and Glenn, the Mustangs are at a crucial stage in their season. Because of the football team's success, the Mustangs will play three games again next week. But Pennington said the team is really coming together in time to make a run for the conference regular season crown.

McCandies is one of the main reasons. He's broken out with several big offensive games, including a 29-point performance against Mount Tabor early in the season and a 26-point effort last week in a victory over Eden Morehead.

"We're getting better all the time," Pennington said. "The football players are getting adjusted now and they are surprised at how much better Phillip has gotten. They're getting used to him and seeing how much his game has progressed since the summer."

The team's biggest conference battle of the season could come next Wednesday when Parkland takes on Greensboro Dudley, which is led by Eric Hicks, a 6-7 senior who has already signed with the University of Cincinnati.

"Because we don't have a lot of size and strength, Phillip will have to guard him, and they don't have size, so Hicks will have to guard Phillip," Pennington said. "They're going to play man-to-man and we're going to play man-to-man. That alone should be worth the price of admission."

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