

# Ram duo named Crown-Trophy Athletes

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association announced the CIAA Players of the Week on Sunday afternoon, and two Winston-Salem State University basketball players were highlighted for the second time in the young 2003-04 season.

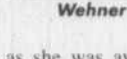


Carter

Shalonda Carter and Audly Wehner were named CIAA Rookies of the Week for the week ending Dec. 6 for their accomplishments over the last seven days. They were also both named Crown Trophy Athletes of the Week.

Carter, a freshman forward on the Lady Ram basketball team, led WSSU to a 1-0 record on the week after posting 26 points, grabbing 16 rebounds, and blocking three shots in a victory over Mars Hill on Tuesday. She and the Lady Rams were ready to hit the road and travel to Jefferson City, Tenn., to face Carson-Newman, but were forced to curtail their plans due to adverse weather.

However, despite playing in only one game last week, Carter's efficiency earned her Rookie of the Week honors for the second time this season, as she was awarded the same honor on Nov. 22.



Wehner

Wehner is no stranger to the CIAA spotlight either as he has been awarded Rookie of the

Week honors for the second consecutive week. The Rams, due in part to the play of Wehner, have mounted a seven-game winning streak and are 7-1 overall (1-0 CIAA). Wehner led the Rams to two wins this past week as he averaged 17 points, five rebounds, and two blocked shots as WSSU posted victories over Mars Hill and Glensville State.

His most impressive performance came against Mars Hill on Dec. 2 when he went 7-of-10 from the field, and a perfect 4-for-4 from the free-throw line, for a total of 18 points. He also added five rebounds, two steals, and two blocked shots for the Rams in the victory.

## East

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rebounding, boxing out or anything correct, fundamentally. That's pretty much what I told them at halftime."

From the looks of the Glenn turnaround, the speech worked. The Bobcats came out of the locker room with a lot of energy. Glenn was able to fight and scratch its way back into the game, especially in the fourth quarter.

With East clinging to a 43-29 lead at the start of the final quarter, Glenn and Gary Mahatha began to light up the scoreboard and make a run. The Bobcats trailed by as many as 15 points, and somehow found a way to come back. The Eagles finally got a grip and held the Bobcats off for a three-point victory. Steven Miller sealed the victory after he hit two free throws with 34 seconds remaining in the game.

"I was very worried," Leonard said, "because our best defenders were the guys in foul trouble. And we weren't running our offense right. We run a spread offense, which keeps the floor balanced. We didn't do a good job of protecting the ball. They would trap us and steal the ball every time we got the ball in the corner. I called three timeouts just to try to get us in the proper defense.

But I think we eventually got through our problems and made a strong finish. I'm just happy to come away with the win."

Munford added: "I commended my guys for the way they played in the second half. We simply didn't play well in the first half. This is a really tough stretch for us because we've got three games in a row. That's like an NBA schedule. We've also got five guys out with sickness. I'm not trying to make any excuses. We've got to play with what we've got. I think we'll be OK, and be a lot better. Bottom line: We'll be back."

Both teams had a number of players who finished with a pretty good game. East (4-1) was led by Nofflet, followed by Nick Corak (9 points), Steven Miller and Justin Jordan. Glenn (2-2) was paced by Chase Hawkins (19 points, four assists, four rebounds), Terrance Crosby and Gary Mahatha.

### Footnote:

Glenn outpaced the Eagles in the junior varsity girls game earlier in the day. The Bobcats won 42-32. Glenn was paced by Melinda Colley (10 points), Katie Eubanks (8 points) and Shawnda Glenn, who finished with 7 points, all in the final five minutes of the fourth quarter.

## USA

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stay in touch with teammates. That includes letting everybody know where they are going and keeping each other's cell phone numbers programmed into the phones.

"Those are the personal things that they're telling us. Keep the American flag down a little bit; tone it down," Williams said.

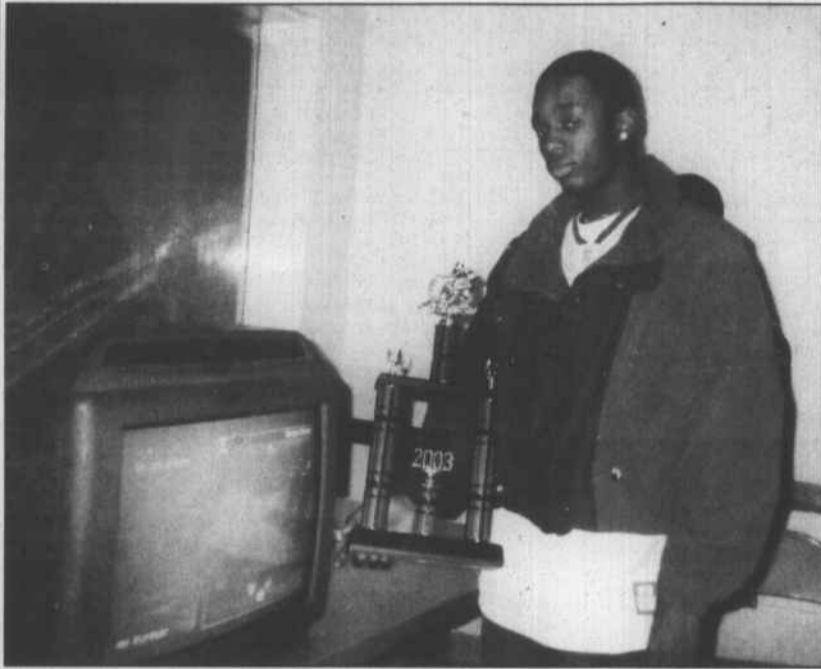
Despite the orders not to display colors or logos, Williams said it would be tough for U.S. athletes not to be conspicuous.

"Some of us are going to look American. We're going to have our Bermuda shorts on and our white tennis shoes," he said. "It's going to be hard to do."

Williams likened the situation in Athens to the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City, when the United States was involved in war in Vietnam. He said it adds to the close scrutiny the team is under.

"I feel like if all the players make this team, we'll probably be one of the greatest Olympic teams that's probably ever been assembled. But the problem is that we've got a lot of pressure on us, a lot of pressure," Williams said. "We've got probably almost as much pressure as the '68 team had because we've got the same things going on."

## Center crowns video game champ



The William C. Sims Recreation Center has crowned a champion of the "Madden 2004" Challenge. Tramaine Lindsey defeated Kedrick Braddy in the second annual "Madden 2004" tournament at Sims Center last Friday. Lindsey, a Parkland High student, had to battle through a fierce, 30-person tournament, but he somehow picked enough plays, scored enough touchdowns, and called the right defensive schemes to be named the champion of the "Madden 2004" Challenge. The center is set to host the second annual "NBA Live 2004" Challenge tomorrow. The tournament is set to start at 4:30 p.m. at the Sims Center. The contest is open to anyone who can play "NBA Live 2004" for PlayStation2. For more information call Ben Piggott at 727-2837. The Sims Center is at 1201 Alder Street, across from Happy Hill Park.

## Hill

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more than the average student as well. Most student-athletes seem to be more social than the average student too, and basketball players seem to be the most social of ALL athletes.

You all know that basketball players talk the most trash. Man, I remember a guy who played JV hoops with me, Sheriff Miles, who had no jump shot or inside game, but he would talk as much trash as a first-team All-American baller. I can hear him now, "Man, it's gonna be nothing but bottoms when I hit the court," Sheriff would say. "Can't none of y'all see me on this court." He was a trip. But the more basketball I played, the more Sheriffs I met. I'll always remember where I met the first Sheriff: on my junior varsity basketball team. I'll also remember the fun times. Sure, playing for a school brought something genuine to the game. It made it genuinely fun to play. But playing junior varsity hoops was also the last time that we played for fun. After that, it was all about the pursuit of state and national championships.

### Finally, the BCS has shown its weakness

The worst nightmare for Bowl Championship Series coordinators has finally come to fruition. The system has finally been proven terribly wrong, after it ranked Oklahoma the country's top team in its (BCS) poll on Sunday.

Some of you may be wondering, "What's wrong with that?" Well, the problem is that Oklahoma took a major butt-kicking last Saturday. Despite getting destroyed by Kansas State 35-7, the Sooners will still take their 12-1 record to the Sugar Bowl against LSU, which won the Southeastern Conference championship by beating Georgia 34-13.

There's still another problem: The University of Southern California was chosen as the number one team in both human polls. This is the first time that the number one ranked team won't play in the national championship game. Usually, the number two or three team gets affected by BCS rankings.

"I don't think anyone will know who the legitimate national

champion is unless all three teams in consideration get the opportunity to play one another," LSU coach Nick Saban said during a television interview Sunday.

The winner in of the Sugar Bowl (Jan. 4) will automatically capture the coaches' title under the BCS format. USC, which is third in the BCS poll, could still capture a share of the national title (the AP Poll) by beating No. 4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

"I'm not an expert on this, but if the No. 1 team at the end of the regular season wins its bowl game, how are they not the No. 1 team outright?" USC receiver Mike Williams asked the Associated Press. "But we don't play LSU or we don't play Oklahoma, so you'll never know."

USC head coach Pete Carroll added: "The No. 1 team is not playing in the game that they're billing as the championship game. Something didn't come out right."

If you ask me, USC got off a little easy. OK, USC is the No. 1 team in both polls. USC didn't have to face the second- or third-ranked team. The USC Spartans get to face the No. 4 Michigan Wolverines, and the Spartans get to play them on their home turf. How lucky is that? It may not be as lucky or as good as it may seem for the Spartans, though, I think Michigan will beat them, and the BCS will be saved yet another time. It will probably play out as the 2000-01 season did when Oklahoma beat Florida State in the 2001 Orange Bowl, keeping Miami from winning the title after Miami beat Nebraska in the Rose Bowl that year. Miami defeated FSU earlier that season and was still kept from the title game.

The BCS contract expires after the 2005 season, and a one-game championship might be instituted after the bowls. Too bad we can't start that process this year.

Big East Commissioner Mike Tranchese, who also coordinates the BCS, added: "What we have are three very deserving teams, and only two of them are in the game. I'm glad we're bringing the No. 1 and 2 teams in the BCS together. But I have empathy for USC. It's hard to sit here and do cartwheels. If we didn't have the (BCS) system, the top three teams would be playing in three different bowl games."

Wow, that's true. I think LSU

would be in the Sugar Bowl, Oklahoma would be playing in the Orange Bowl, while USC would still be in the Rose Bowl. I don't mind seeing LSU play Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl. My only problem comes with allowing a team that didn't even win its conference in the national title game. There was talk two years ago, when Nebraska made the title game without winning the Big 12, about making winning a conference a requirement to make the championship game. Now, it should definitely be one of the many changes done with the BCS.

"With the events this year, we'd be foolish if we didn't look at it again in the spring," Tranchese concluded.

### Cochran, how's Mississippi State treating you?

Talk about having a horrible start to an era. Sylvester Cochran and Mississippi State received an official letter of inquiry from the NCAA that detailed specific



Cochran

charges of rules violations by the school's football program, according to a Sunday newspaper report.

The university has three months to respond to the NCAA's allegations. Mississippi State also received a preliminary letter of inquiry last March that said the NCAA was investigating allegations of improper inducements to and contacts with prospects by coaches and boosters, unethical conduct by staff members and a lack of institutional control from 1998-2002.

One of the allegations the NCAA was looking into was an accusation of payments made to a former Brandon High School football player, Kenneth Griffith, who never signed with Mississippi State and is now in junior col-

lege, told the NCAA that he was given \$800 by a former assistant coach to pay for a summer school course. The accused coach denied any wrongdoing.

Mississippi State's football program was found guilty of major NCAA infractions in 1996 and received one year of probation and a loss of scholarships. The NCAA also could deal with the university as a repeat violator, and that would lead to harsher penalties.

Mississippi State hired Croom last week to replace coach Jackie Sherrill, who retired after 13 seasons as Bulldogs coach. Croom said he discussed the NCAA issues with the school's athletics director before accepting the job and becoming the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history.

I'm just not sure how much detail the Mississippi State A.D. went into when he discussed the job and situation with Croom. It kind of looks like he got suckered into taking a job for a school on its way down. Let's hope not.

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