

WSSU loses Worthy on Monday

Freshman Renee Rectors scores 12 points in defeat

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State Lady Rams (0-6) played their best game of the young season, but suffered two losses in the process.

The Lady Rams came gave up a late run to the USC-Aiken Pacers in a 70-58 loss, Monday evening. Winston-Salem State also lost a key player in Keoshia Worthy in the defeat earlier this week. Worthy went down in the first half after suffering from a knee injury.

Freshman center Vontisha Woods and freshman guard Corbin Bradford would lead the way for the Lady Rams with 15 points each in the loss. Freshman guard Rene Rector would add 12 points. Woods also led the Lady Rams with eight rebounds in the loss.

With Worthy sitting out in the first half, the Lady Rams saw their lead cut down to 7 points over the next four minutes with USC-Aiken going on a 10-4 run that left the Lady Rams leading 20-13 with 11:12 left in the half. The Lady Rams went nearly seven minutes without a score, allowing the Pacers to cut the WSSU lead down to just four points, 20-16 with 7:24 left in the half. A Jalesa Byrd free throw would snap the drought by the Lady Rams, but the hard-charging Pacers would continue their run, cutting the WSSU lead down to just one point when freshman guard Corbin Bradford hit a lay-up to keep the Lady Rams ahead, 23-20, but a Pacer three-pointer would erase the



Keoshia Worthy was injured during the loss on Monday.

WSSU lead and cap a 20-7 run by the Pacers. WSSU took a 5-point lead into the locker room.

Without Worthy in the

game, the Lady Ram freshmen had to grow up in a hurry. Though the squad battled for much of the half, the Lady Rams were not able to hold on

as a late surge by the Pacers put the game out of reach. The second half got off to a different start with the Pacers scoring first, but a three-point barrage by freshman guard Corbin Bradford would keep the Lady Rams ahead early. Her second three-pointer would keep the Lady Rams in control of the game, 41-35 with just over 17 minutes left in the game. Though the WSSU offense would struggle at times without Worthy, the team's defensive effort kept things intact for the Lady Rams over the next few minutes as the team held on to a five-point lead, 45-40 with 13:15 left in the game. The Pacers would pull to within one point, 47-46, but a clutch jumper by Bradford would keep the Lady Rams ahead, 49-46 with just over 12 minutes left to play.

It was with just over seven minutes left in the game that the Pacers would mount a critical late run that erased the WSSU lead and put the game out of reach for the young Lady Rams. It was then that the Pacers would score 11 unanswered point to take the lead en route to a 25-3 run that ended the night with the Lady Rams falling 70-58. The final four minutes saw the WSSU squad struggle with the team scoring just three points in the final minutes and allowing the Pacers to extend their lead to go up by as many as 15 points.

The Lady Rams will return to action on Dec. 13 when they host Elon in the C.E. Gaines Center.

JCSU names Graham its head track and field coach

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Johnson C. Smith University has hired Lennox Graham as its new head men's and women's cross country and track and field coach. He also serves as the Irwin Belk Complex (IBC) stadium manager.

Graham brings 14 years of coaching experience at the junior and senior level, resulting in six national high school championship titles at Kingston College (High School) in Kingston, Jamaica. He has coached many individual champions at the local high school, Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), Central American and Caribbean (CAC), North American - Central American and Caribbean (NACAC), Penn Relays, Pan American Junior Championships, and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) levels.

"When we built the Irwin Belk Complex, our plan was to create a recognized track program," said JCSU president Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "We dreamed of grandeur and recognition again...like our earlier teams that ran on cinder. We are so excited that he is here. We have laid the foundation for an outstanding track and field program for years to come."

"We are very fortunate to be in a position to have an individual of Lennox's caliber working with our track and field/cross country programs," JCSU athletics director Steve Joyner said. "His success speaks for itself and the relationships that he has developed in Jamaica and throughout the country bodes well for the continued success of our program."

A 1984 graduate of Alabama State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, Graham earned his master's degree in business administration from The University of New Orleans in 2006. As a student-athlete at Alabama State University, Graham was the top sprint/hurdler all four years and still holds the school record for the 110 meter hurdles.

"I want to thank Dr. Yancy for her vision in hiring me," said Graham. "I saw the IBC complex in May. It is a magnificent, state-of-the-art complex. The track program had a solid foundation. The infrastructure is there; now it's time to add the human resources."

As a coach, Graham has made his presence felt on the national circuit having coached in several championships. He is also a member of the national coaching team working with the hurdlers for the World Junior Championships (Annecy, France 1998).

"My objective is to bring prominence to the university in the CIAA and to establish a consistent presence at the NCAA championships," said Graham. "We have to attract smart and positive student-athletes."

Graham has already been successful by recruiting Leford Green as a student-athlete, competing for JCSU this spring. Green has ambitions to compete in the Olympics in China next summer. He recently participated in the 11th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships in Osaka, Japan. He ran the third leg of the 4x400 meter relays as part of the Jamaican national senior team in which his team finished in fourth place. He ran the fastest time in Kingston College's history (45.82 seconds) and is a decorated athlete.



Graham



Wake coach Jim Grobe.

Bowl

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vious bowl games have had a great experience. I am sure that our fans and players will have the same experience."

Connecticut is 9-3 overall and tied West Virginia for first place in the Big East with a 5-2 record.

Both Wake Forest and UConn have been ranked among the nation's top 25 teams this season. Each is currently receiving votes in the Dec. 2 national polls. The two teams have met just twice. Last year, Wake beat the Huskies 24-13 on the road. UConn posted a 51-17 win over the Deacons at BB&T Field in 2003.

"We're very honored and feel very privileged to be play-

ing against Wake Forest in the Meineke Car Care Bowl on Dec. 29," said UConn head coach Randy Edsall. "We know them from a year ago when they came up here to Rentschler Field and beat us. They're a quality team. They're well coached. Jim Grobe and his staff do an excellent job. They had another very good year this year and we know that we've got to go down and play them in their back yard so it will be a tough environment and a tough game, but we're looking forward to playing a class outfit and a very good football team in Wake Forest."

Game time is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Dec. 29. The game will be televised live nationally on ESPN.

Hill

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trict of out the high schools (before the newer high schools) and were still underutilized. Atkins, Carver and Prep would really make up one 4A high school if they were together. And, the county schools are busting at the seams. They're getting ready to build another high school (Walkertown) that will probably take more students from us."

"We might be down to 4 or 500 students, if that many," Wilkes continued. "We'll have four high schools within a 10 mile radius. Instead of building new schools they should help us improve our school. We don't have good facilities or practice lights. There's some new schools that could light up half of Old Town. I think the system is against us. This is just my opinion. The teachers at Carver do an outstanding job. We have a good administration. The word is out that we're not doing what we're supposed to be doing academically. But we're losing close to 200 students a year. We're depleting every time it's time for realigning. I'm trying to figure out what's going on. I pay taxes, and this is my opinion."

Coach, I don't know what to tell you other than to say you had some good points. I wish I could've printed the entire conversation because he's passionate about this proposed realignment. It has very little to do with football.

The N.C. High School Athletic Association noted that the first draft of the proposed reclassifications was based on enrollment, while conferences were based on geography. New classes and conferences will go into effect in 2009-10 and last for four school years. It's going to be interesting to see what comes out of this. All I can say is that things will definitely look different around here.

Todd reassigned at N.C. A&T

I am not a genius, but I know it's not a good thing to go from athletic director of a university to an unnamed position in the School of Education.

That's exactly what happened to N.C. A&T



Dee Todd

athletic director Dee Todd. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University officials announced that she has been relieved of her official duties as the University's athletics director, effective immediately. They sent me a release about that last week.

"This decision was made in the best interests of the athletics program," N.C. A&T Chancellor Stanley F. Battle said. "The University expresses our appreciation for Ms. Todd's services and contributions during her tenure as athletics director."

Effective immediately, assistant athletics director Wheeler Brown, is appointed interim athletics director while a national search is planned and conducted. So, stay tuned.

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