

Winston-Salem State's Brandi Beane cheers with teammate.

## Lady Rams posts good showing at Wake Forest volleyball event

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State University Lady Rams volleyball team opened its spring schedule on Saturday as they participated in the Wake Forest University Spring Volleyball Invitational, an eight-team invitational at Reynolds Gymnasium on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem.

The Lady Rams were one of eight teams to participate in the invitational on Saturday as the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest welcomed East Carolina, Gardner-Webb, N.C. State, Wingate, Winston-Salem State and Winthrop to their on-campus volleyball facility for a spring invitational. The eighth team, Get Low, was an all-star team comprised of former collegiate volleyball players from the area, including former Demon Deacon standout

Trina Maso de Moya.

The Lady Rams played four matches on the day with each match consisting of two games with rally scoring to 25.

While WSSU lost all four matches on the day, WSSU turned in several impressive performances.

The Lady Rams fell to the Get Low all-star team in a 12:00 p.m. matchup; dropped a contest to Wingate at 2:00 p.m.; and fell to East Carolina at 3:00 p.m. yet turned in their most impressive effort of the day versus North Carolina State University in the day's opener at 10:00 a.m. as WSSU fell in defeat 25-15 and 25-20.

WSSU head coach Douglass Hunter and the Lady Rams will return to campus for another 10 days of practice before closing out the spring session.

WSSU photo

# Blake, Roddick, Bryan brothers ready for Cup

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The USTA and U.S. Davis Cup Captain Patrick McEnroe announced last week that the defending Davis Cup champions will feature world No. 6 Andy Roddick, No. 9 James Blake and the No. 1 doubles team in the world Bob and Mike Bryan in the 2008 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas Quarterfinal. The U.S. will face France on an indoor premiere hard court in Winston-Salem's Joel Coliseum, April 11-13.

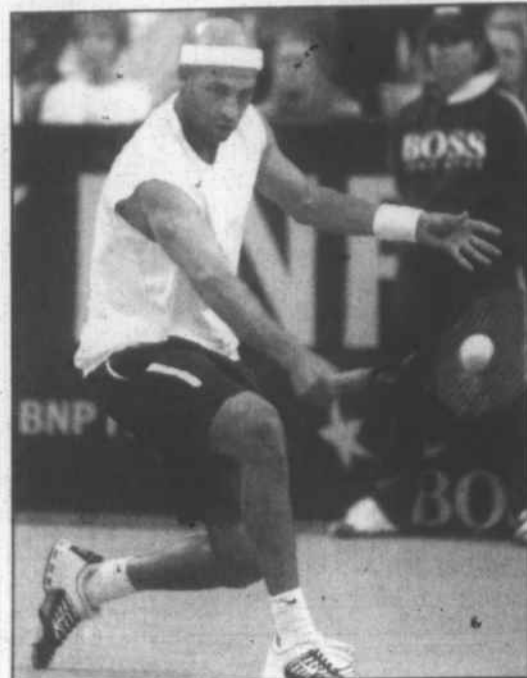
This is the tenth straight time that U.S. Davis Cup Captain McEnroe has used this lineup — a record for the U.S. Davis Cup team — dating back to the 2005 World Group Play-off in Belgium. The previous U.S. record was three consecutive ties, held by eight different teams. In addition, Mardy Fish — the third-ranked American — will come to Winston-Salem as a reserve and practice with the team.

The weekend festivities will begin Friday before the matches with a special ceremony to recognize the 2007 Davis Cup champions. During the ceremony, a banner will be raised and the team will be presented custom-designed 14-karat gold rings commissioned by the USTA with five diamonds on the top, representing McEnroe and each of the four players.

"We're looking forward to adding another chapter to our rich Davis Cup history with France," said U.S. Davis Cup Captain Patrick McEnroe, who has led the U.S. to a 14-6 record since taking over as Captain in 2001. "We received tremendous support from the crowd last year in Winston-Salem and we hope to experience that same excitement again this year."

The United States began the defense of its record 32nd Davis Cup title with a 4-1 win over Austria on an indoor red clay court in Vienna. Should the United States defeat France, the U.S. would travel to either Germany or Spain for the World Group Semifinal in September.

Last April, Winston-Salem hosted the 2007 World Group Quarterfinal in which the United States defeated Spain, 4-1. The event was played



James Blake returns a serve.

File photo

in front of sold-out crowds that made the quarterfinal the third-highest-attended Davis Cup weekend in the United States. The team used that victory as a springboard to capture its first Davis Cup title in 12 years, going on to defeat Sweden in Gothenburg and Russia in the final in Portland, Ore.

Founded in 1900, Davis Cup is the world's largest annual international men's team competition with 127 nations competing this year. The U.S. leads all nations with 32 Davis Cup titles.

Single session tickets went on sale Monday. Tickets Good seats are still available and can be purchased by calling (888) 484-USTA (8782) or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). The event is being organized, staged and promoted by the USTA.

## Gainey

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"I definitely like his demeanor," said Holt. "He's a teacher. He talks to the kids. He doesn't yell."

Gainey added: "I think my demeanor fits well with coaching girls. I'm excited to have the opportunity, and I think we'll be fine."

Gainey is already looking at his roster, trying to figure key components to this squad. He's even already got his eyes on an eighth grader, who's already in the Prep system.

"We're going to be young," Gainey said. "I think we lost about six seniors from last year's squad. We have some potential coming back, though. Aniquette Crawford has good upside. Ciarra York is also a player I am hoping will play well for me. Every program has to start with a cornerstone. My cornerstone will probably be Ashley Porter. She's a 6-2 incoming freshman. She's in our middle school program."

What will Gainey run when his team laces up?

"I have no clue," Gainey

said. "We will get in the gym and see where our strengths are. If we can run then we'll run. If we have to walk the ball down and set it up then that's what we'll do. But we will figure that out in time. We'll play it by ear."

"I know it's going to be a lot of work," Gainey continued. "I'm willing to work. I don't just want to be a coach. I want to be a good coach. I have that desire. I've worked with some good coaches through the years. I'm prepared. And, my team will be prepared as well."

## CIAA

from page B1

hard year-round with the City of Charlotte to produce a first-class event. It's very satisfying to see what this week means to Charlotte, CIAA fans, our member institutions and the Historically Black College world. I'm thrilled about our continued partnership with the City of Charlotte, the success that the CIAA Tournament produces, and to see the number of entities that are positively influenced by the Tournament's success."

The conference is expected to contribute nearly \$2.0 million to the CIAA scholarship fund. Overall attendance for the 2008 CIAA Tournament and its official events topped 181,000 — up over 10 percent from 2007.

One new addition to this year's Tournament that helped spur spending in Uptown Charlotte was the opening of the LYNX Blue Line. During the week of the CIAA Tournament, there were over 80,000 riders with Friday and Saturday ridership of over 52,000 people. "Those two days were our single busiest revenue days yet," says Olaf Kinard, marketing divisional manager, Charlotte Area Transit Authority.

Economic impact numbers were compiled by the market research department of the Charlotte Regional Visitor's Authority (CRVA) and are a function of the number of visitors and their spending habits over the course of Tournament week.

For more information about the CIAA conference or the 2009 Tournament to be held February 23 - 28 in Charlotte, please visit [www.ciaatournament.org](http://www.ciaatournament.org).



The unofficial "Mr. CIAA" shows off one of his many colorful suits during the tournament.

Photo by Anthony Hill

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