

# SPORTS WEEK

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

## Rams fall in home opener

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State Rams gave it their all, but fell just short in a tough 3-2 loss to the Saint Augustine's Falcons Tuesday evening at BB&T Ballpark in downtown Winston-Salem.

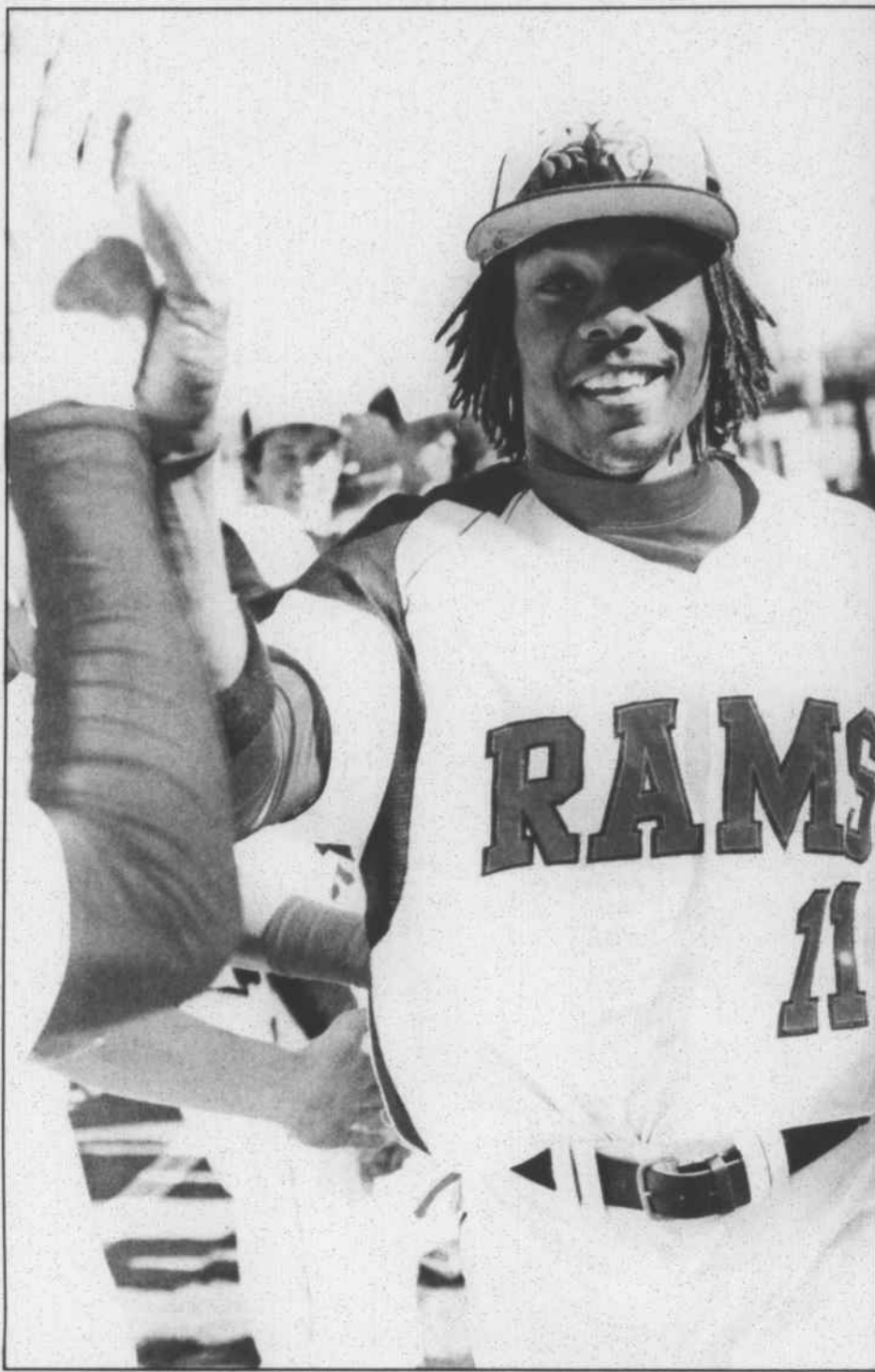
The game was a historic one as the Rams played their first home game in 37 years in front of an excited crowd. The Rams gave a strong effort on both sides of the ball, but could not hold off the Falcons in the heartbreaking loss.

The two teams were evenly matched offensively as the Rams' six hits were just one behind the Falcons' seven total hits. WSSU junior outfielder Dominique Fitzgerald led the way with a two-for-three effort at the plate with an RBI while freshmen infielder Andrew Smith added a one-for-three effort with a run scored.

The Rams got onto the scoreboard early with a first-inning run. After reaching on a lead-off double, junior second baseman Jordan Graham scored on an RBI sacrifice bunt by junior catcher Michael Robbins. Though the Falcons would answer with runs in the third and fourth innings that left the Rams trailing 2-1, WSSU would respond to the challenge with a fourth-inning run of their own to tie the game. Fitzgerald added an RBI single to right field that drove in Smith.

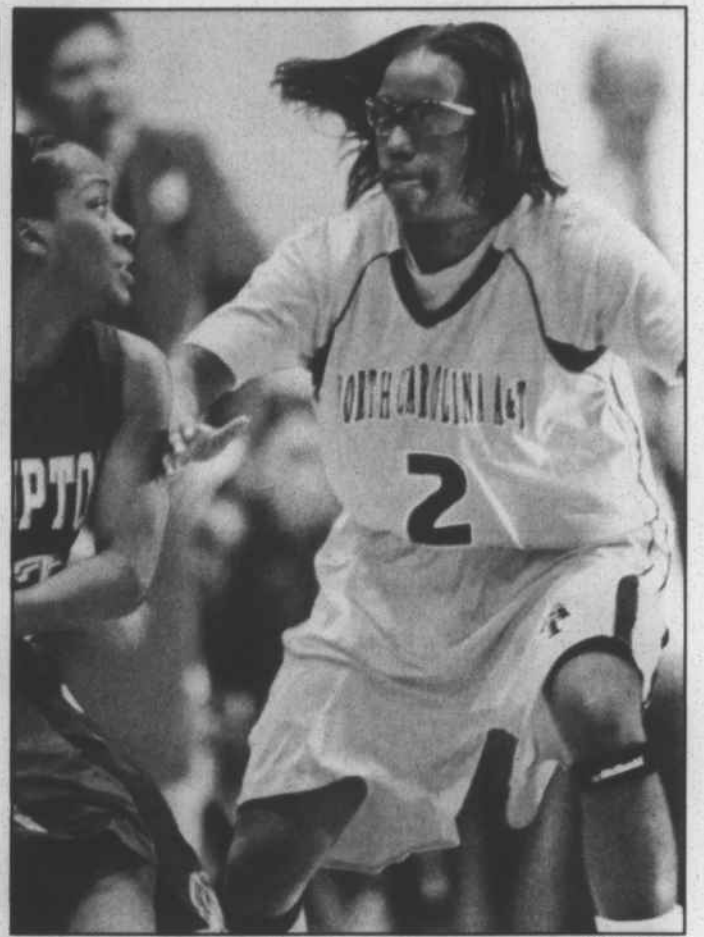
Though the Rams continued to battle, the team could not overcome a pair of sixth-inning triples by the Falcons that drove in the winning run.

The Rams (5-4 and 2-1 in the CIAA) will return to the road for their next action when the team heads to Florence, S.C. to take on the Francis Marion Patriots on Saturday. The Rams will return home on Sunday when they host the Lincoln Lions at Ed Price Field in High Point.



WSSU Outfielder Dominique Fitzgerald.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Garmes



Mikala Scott scored 11 points.

NC A&T Photo

## Aggies' home game winning streak ends

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

There were times on Monday when it looked like North Carolina A&T's streak would end without much of a fight.

That is until the Aggies started to fight. They took conference-leader Hampton's best shots and kept getting off the canvas. But the Aggies missed opportunities on the offensive end and made Hampton free throws finally finished off the Aggies in a 74-66 loss to the Pirates.

The loss brought to an end one of the most impressive streaks in MEAC history. The Aggies went four years without losing to a conference opponent at home. The winning streak lasted 30 games. It lasted so long. No current player on the roster was an Aggie when the streak began.

"A streak like that says you have had one of the better programs for a long time," said N.C. A&T Head Coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs.

Under the radar, another streak may have come to an end on Monday. The loss puts the Aggies (11-12, 7-5) four games behind the Pirates with four conference games to play. That simply means Hampton (19-6, 11-1) is one game away from eliminating any chance the Aggies have to claim their fourth straight regular-season MEAC crown. Again, it is another testament to how solid N.C. A&T's program has become.

The Aggies return to action Saturday afternoon at S.C. State.



Cage-Bibbs

## Lady Rams win CIAA track championship

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State Lady Rams claimed their first CIAA indoor track & field championship Sunday after a spectacular two-day effort at the meet in Newport News, Va.

The Lady Rams finished the meet with a team total of 99 points, topping second-place Johnson C. Smith's 95 total points. It was the strong performances in the middle distance and relay events that propelled the team to its first indoor track & field championship in school history.

"We knew what we had in our athletes and believed in them and this weekend, they performed," WSSU Interim Head Track & Field Coach Inez Turner said. "We used a great strategy and everybody

stepped up."

The Lady Rams played to their strengths as the team dominated middle distance and field events at the meet. After winning the women's distance medley relay on the first day of the meet, the Lady Rams kept things going on the second day, taking four of the top five spots in the women's 800m run. Freshman Brittney Killebrew, the 2010 CIAA Women's Cross Country champion, took first place in the women's 800m run with a 2:27.44 while sophomore Manuela Rigaud added a strong second-place finish in 2:28.75. Fellow sophomore Tyrah Winfrey took third in the event with a

2:29.06 while senior Ashley Fraser added a fifth place finish at 2:33.19.

The Lady Rams also dominated the mile run with three of the top four finishes in the event. It was Killebrew who once again who took first place in the event with a 5:33.32 while Rigaud placed third (5:34.11) and Winfrey placed fourth (5:37.33).

Freshman Dedricka Thomas also had some great efforts at the event, placing second in the women's long jump (5.77m), the women's high jump (1.59m), and the women's triple jump (11.98m). For her efforts, Thomas was named the 2011 CIAA Indoor Women's Field MVP.



Turner



Thomas

## Kids meet hoops legend Thompson

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Kids from Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center got a special treat last Sunday when they met basketball legend David Thompson at the NC State vs. Wake Forest basketball game at Joel Coliseum.

Hanes Hosiery Director Art Blevins takes kids from the Center to most WFU home games with tickets provided by Center supporters like Joel Weston, Claudette Weston, Randy Norris, Julie Griffin and Bethany Duvall of WFU.

The kids not only got to see the basketball action on Sunday but also had the chance to meet and greet Thompson, a former NC State ACC Player of the Year and NBA Hall of Famer. Blevins has known Thompson since 1995, when Thompson came to the Hanes Rec to give a basketball clinic.

Thompson took pictures with Blevins and his group, signed autographs and gave Blevins his phone number in the hopes of setting up another visit to the Center.

"Thompson was the best ever to play in the ACC," said Blevins. "Thompson was a hero to me ... (He) was incredible when he played."

The Deacs lost to NC State and have struggled this season, but Blevins says he and his kids are still big fans and cheer the home team at each game.

Despite Wake Forest's rough year, the Hanes Hosiery Crew always pulls for them. Some of the kids' favorite WFU players are CJ Harris, Ari Stewart, Ty Walker, Travis McKie and JT Terrell.



Keonte Singletary, Art Blevins and Richard Singletary (far right) with David Thompson.

Submitted Photo

## Saint Augustine's captures four CIAA basketball honors

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Saint Augustine's College took four of the eight CIAA weekly basketball awards on Monday.

Senior guard-forward Allison Sikes (of Richmond, Va.) was named women's player of the week, freshman center Umeka Benson (of Charlotte) was chosen women's rookie of the week and freshman guard Joel Kindred (of Raleigh) was picked men's rookie of the week. Lady Falcon Head Coach Rachel Bullard was voted women's coach of the week.

Sikes averaged 20.3 points, eight rebounds and 4.3 steals in three games last week. She nearly recorded her second career triple-double with 24 points, 10 rebounds and nine steals in a 71-56 win over nationally-ranked Johnson C. Smith on Saturday.

Benson averaged 9.3 points, 11 rebounds and 3.3

steals in three contests. Her best game was 16 points, 14 rebounds and five steals to help the Lady Falcons beat No. 25 Johnson C. Smith.

Kindred averaged 12.7 points and 6.7 rebounds in three games, including 16 points on 7-for-11 shooting in a 71-67 win over Virginia State Thursday. He also had 13 points and 12 rebounds in an 83-71 win over Johnson C. Smith Saturday.

Kindred has claimed the league's weekly rookie award six times which leads all freshmen this season.

Bullard, a first-year coach, guided the Lady Falcons to a 2-1 mark this past week, including Saturday's 71-56

upset of 25th-ranked Johnson C. Smith, which entered the game with one loss. The Lady Falcons also edged CIAA contender Virginia State 70-67 on Thursday. This is Bullard's second weekly coaching award this season.



Bullard



Sikes