

SPORTS WEEK

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WSSU Photo by Garrett Garms
The Rams beat-up on Shippensburg on Saturday.

Almost Doesn't Count

Rams want championship this season

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Pleased, but hardly satisfied. Winston-Salem State whipped Shippensburg (Pa.) 37-14 in the second round of the NCAA Division II football playoffs last Saturday. And while the Rams do have cause to celebrate, there's still no reason to get overly excited.

Why not? Every player on the WSSU roster knows that there's so much more to accomplish.

The Rams victory marked the first time that a black college football team has ever won a postseason game in back-to-back seasons. That's important to note because black colleges are typically one-and-done in the football playoffs.

Winston-Salem State, ranked No. 2 nationally, looks to keep its postseason hopes alive when it faces Indiana University (Pa.) in the quarterfinals at Bowman Gray Stadium on Saturday (noon kickoff).

Middle linebacker Carlos Fields realizes that dwelling on last year isn't going to help WSSU win the grand prize — a national championship. The Rams came close a year ago in reaching the semifinals. But a deflating home loss to Wayne State (Mich.) kept them out of the championship game and wrecked their title plans.

"None of us are thinking about what happened last year," said Fields, who recorded a team-high eight tackles vs. Shippensburg. "Yes, we almost

got it done, but now it's another season. It's important for us to keep moving forward. To get what we're after, we have to do more (than last year). That's why we're not worrying about history."

Shackle factor 'D'

Any concerns about Winston-Salem State's ability to handle a high-scoring offense were answered last Saturday. Shippensburg averaged

49.6 points and 550.8 total offensive yards a game. The Rams defense, however, went into padlock mode and forced five turnovers. In the process, they limited

the Red Raiders to 280 total yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"Our offense feeds off of our defense," said WSSU defensive end Justin Wilkerson. "They get momentum when we force turnovers and when we stop the other team's offense with three-and-outs."

Even though Shippensburg put points on the board, one could reasonably argue that the Rams defense pitched a shut-out. The Red Raiders scored when linebacker Brian Sourber picked off WSSU quarterback Anthony Carrothers' pass and ran it back 63 yards. In the late stages

of the first half, Blair Brook returned a kickoff 86 yards and Shippensburg scored three plays later.

"When I look at the stat sheet and see that Shippensburg ran 78 plays and had 280 yards, that's pretty good," said Winston-Salem State Coach Connell Maynor. "If our defense can play better than that, I'd like to see it."

IUP vs. WSSU

Both teams play swarming, suffocating defense, so don't expect a high-scoring game. Most likely, the final outcome will hinge on turnovers, special teams and field position.

Indiana relies on a time-consuming ground game that features Harvey Tuck and De'Antwan Williams, who have combined to rush for 2,866 yards and 25 touchdowns. IUP has an efficient passing game with Mike Box (1,215 yards and 12 touchdowns), who has thrown only two interceptions.

Winston-Salem State has enough offensive balance (Carrothers, Maurice Lewis, Jameze Massey and Jahunn Butler) to pose problems for IUP. Yet, it's crucial that the Rams avoid turnovers and protect Carrothers, a Grambling transfer who played well last week as a stand-in for starting quarterback Kameron Smith.

The Crimson Hawks, who allow 11.85 points per game, rank among the national leaders in scoring defense and they have a ferocious pass rush (34 sacks). IUP's defense, however, is not invincible.



Maynor

ACC honors for Deacs

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest juniors Michael Campanaro and Nikita Whitlock each earned All-ACC second team honors, while freshman punter Alexander Kinal earned honorable mention honors.

Campanaro, a 5-11 wide receiver from Clarksville, Md., had a tremendous season despite missing two and a half games with a broken hand. Campanaro caught 79 passes for 763 yards and six touchdowns. His average of 7.9 catches per game is the second-best average in ACC history behind Torry Holt, who had a 8.00 catches per game in 1998 at NC State. Campanaro tied the school-record with three touchdown receptions in the win over Boston College and also tied the ACC record for most catches in a game with 16. He has caught at least one pass in each of the last 22 games he's played.

Whitlock, a Wylie, Texas native, earns his second team All-ACC honors for the second-straight season. Like Campanaro, he missed two games due to injury but still finished with 51 tackles and 5.5 tackles for loss. His three sacks also ranked third on the squad.

Kinal made his Demon Deacon debut this season a memorable one. A native of Adelaide, South Australia, Kinal punted an ACC-record 95 times, breaking the old mark of 90 set by Dan DeArmas of Maryland in 1991. He finished with an average of 40.7 yards per punt and downed 28 punts inside the 20, which is the most by a Demon Deacon since 2001.



Whitlock



Campanaro



Kinal

WSSU's Howell spends time at U.S. Olympics headquarters

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Evanna Howell, a senior sport management major at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), was one of 15 college students from across the nation selected to participate in the 2012 F.L.A.M.E. Program sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee.

F.L.A.M.E. (Finding Leaders Among Minorities Everywhere) was held in October at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. It provides students with an in-depth look at the Olympic Movement and personal exploration of the Olympic ideals of excellence, friendship and respect.

"It was certainly an eye-opening experience," Howell said. "The stories we heard were inspirational and seeing how the movement is really like a family was awesome. They kept telling us that once an Olympian you are always Olympian, never a former or past participant."

The five-day program allows the students to reside and eat alongside U.S. Olympians, Paralympians and hopefuls. While the students selected have already demonstrated a pursuit of excellence, they are provided the opportunity to further their personal and professional growth through unique seminars and workshops with athletes as well as USOC and National Government Body leaders.

"We were able to have one-on-one conversations with athletes and with chief officers of the Olympics and the various sports," Howell said. "Everyone is just so passionate about being there. They were even passionate about just coming to talk to us."

While Howell said while the entire program was remarkable, hearing and meeting Teresa Edwards was certainly a highlight. Edwards, a five-time Olympic medalist in basketball, was chef de mission (head of mission) of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team.

"I was so impressed with the dedication of the athletes," she said. "One of the fencers lives at the Training Center and earns his room and board by giving tours. Not only did he give us a tour of the center, but he gave us a fencing demonstration. Then, we were able to put on all the equipment and try it."

Howell, a Chancellor's Scholar, plans to earn an MBA after her undergraduate work is completed. Her ultimate goal is to work for an NBA team and eventually owning her own event planning business that works with athletes and athletic teams.



Submitted Photo

Evanna Howell with Dartanyon Crockett, a Judo Paralympian and Bronze medalist at the 2012 London Games.

Synchronized swimming championships coming to G'boro

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Greensboro Aquatic Center will host USA Synchro's 2013 SwimOutlet.com U.S. National Synchronized Swimming Championships from April 9-13. More than 200 swimmers from 30 teams across the country are expected to take part.

"We're really looking forward to returning to Greensboro," said Terry Harper, executive director of USA Synchro. "The city and the facility engaged the entire community for our Olympic Trials last year. They do an outstanding job."

USA Synchro was established as a nonprofit organization in 1977, and is the United States's national governing body for synchronized swimming.

Spectators have been awed by



the grace and power of synchronized swimming since the inception of the sport in the early 1900s.

The inaugural synchronized swimming U.S. National

Championships were held in 1946, just one year after the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) first recognized the sport. A few years later, the 1955 Pan American Games included synchronized swimming events, and the World Aquatic Championships soon followed. After almost 40 years of concerted effort, synchronized swimming was at last included in the Olympic Games in 1984, with the United States winning the first solo and duet Olympic gold medals.

The GAC hosted the U.S. Synchronized Swimming 2012 Olympic Team Trials last November, and in August of 2011, the U.S. Synchronized Swimming National Team participated in the Greensboro Aquatic Center's ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Middle school boys hear from Aggies

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Eighteen members of the North Carolina A&T football team spoke to male students at Allen Middle School in Greensboro during "Meet the Aggies Day" on Monday, Nov. 17.

The players talked about being student-athletes and also addressed topics such as manhood. Many of them shared personal testimonials about what led them to where they are now.

Junior safety Travis Crosby, for example, told the boys that he had to make the right, but difficult, decision to focus on his grades and athletics instead of hanging out with friends and doing the wrong things. Senior defensive end Tony Mashburn told the students how he made the effort to stay away from being academically ineligible. Now, he is on track to earn his degree.



Photo by Kevin L. Dorsey

Aggies running back Chauncey Burgess poses with Allen Middle School students.