

SPORTS WEEK

Also Religion and Classifieds

JULY 30, 2015

FOOTBALL

Johnson eagerly anticipates competition for Rams' QB job

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

As things stand now, Justin Johnson is considered the front-runner in



what promises to be fierce competition for the starting quarterback job at Winston-Salem State this fall. He's the only returning QB with any game experience. But that's not the

only reason he may have a slight advantage.

Unlike his counterparts, Johnson is the only QB who has any familiarity in running the multiple offense that the Rams ran two years ago. WSSU switched to the Pistol formation last year, but has opted to return to the multiple look for 2015.

Johnson acknowledged that being familiar with the offense may help his cause to some degree. But he also realizes that when pre-season practice begins on Aug. 10, there are no guarantees for anyone.

"At this point, I haven't earned anything," he said. "Nothing has been settled. I don't have a starting spot.

We have quite a number of talented quarterbacks coming in. So, I'm just looking forward to competing."

The Rams (9-2 last season) have more than enough worthy candidates on hand, which includes transfers Kevin Sousa (Wake Forest), Reggie Green (Louisville), Calvin Garrett (Houston), Kaylon Cooper (Pearl River Community College), Rod Tinsley (Gardner-Webb) and Datwon Melvin (Yuba College).

Incoming freshmen Antonio Peterkin and Rashaad Cooper are also part of the mix. In all, nine quarterbacks will contend to be No. 1 by the time the

See QB job on B2



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Redshirt sophomore Justin Johnson figures to face stiff competition in the nine-player battle to become the Rams starting quarterback this fall.

For Atkins grad Rogers, All-Star Game was icing on the cake

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

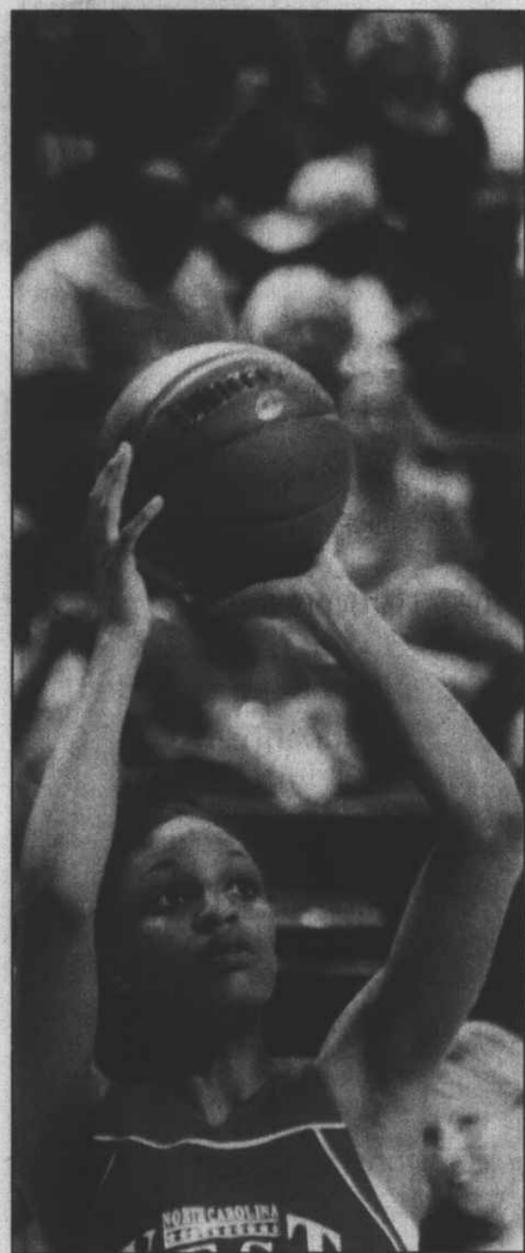
Playing in last week's girls East-West All-Star Basketball Game was a dream come true for Atkins graduate Sydnie Rogers. She couldn't have asked for a better way to close the curtains on a productive high school basketball career.

The seeds for that dream were planted two years ago when Rogers attended the game as a sophomore. During

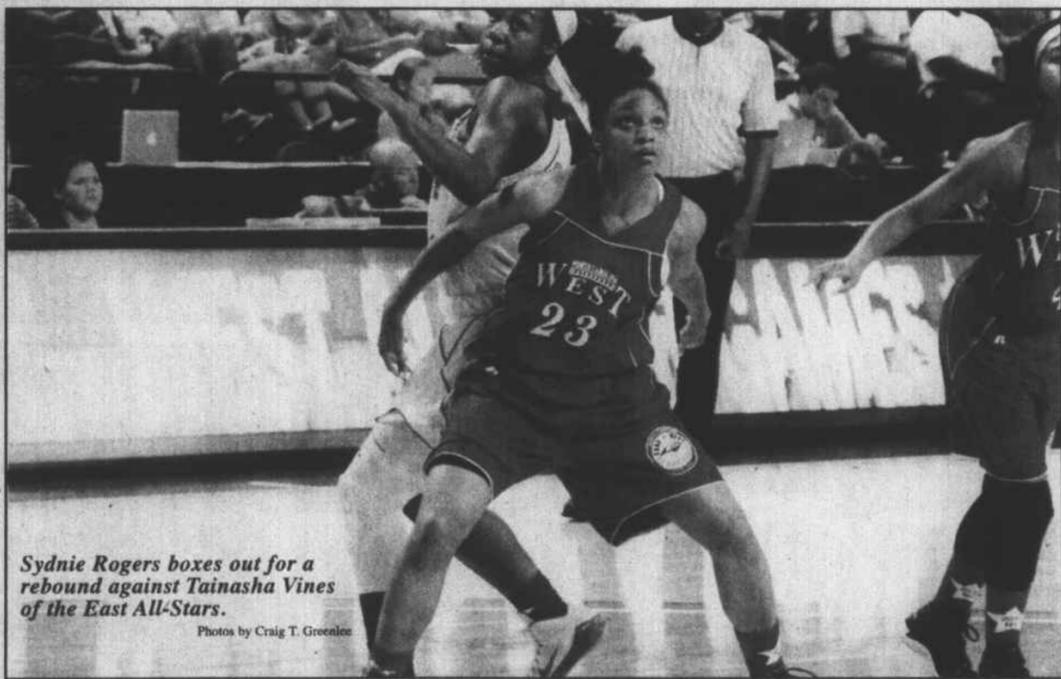
an interview after the All-Star Game, there was no denying Rogers' elation in seeing her dream come to fruition. "It came to pass, and I feel so blessed to have gotten the opportunity," said Rogers, who was an All-Northwest I-A Conference pick this past season. "It [the game] was a great way for me to go out."

For the time being, Rogers, who will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this fall, has no plans to play in college. Instead, she'll devote all of her

See Rogers on B2



Sydnie Rogers raises up to take a jumper during last week's girls' All-Star Game.



Sydnie Rogers boxes out for a rebound against Tainasha Vines of the East All-Stars.

Photos by Craig T. Greenlee

Mount Tabor's Razzak looking to make an impact at Lees-McRae College

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Nacem Razzak has developed nicely as a pass-first point guard who has learned how to generate offense on his own when needed. Those skills helped him to secure a spot in the boys' East-West All-Star Basketball Game played last week in Greensboro.

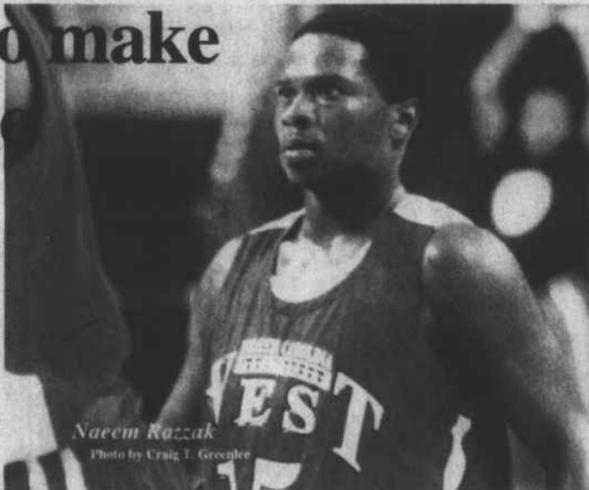
As a senior at Mount Tabor, Razzak, who is 5-foot-10, 175 pounds, showed his mettle as a difference-maker whose overall value didn't always show up in the score book. While the stat line on Razzak wasn't spectacular (averaged 12 points, 5 assists and 2 steals), his true impact was most accurately reflected in the

win-loss column.

This past season, Razzak led the way and the Spartans raised some eyebrows. Based on pre-season predictions, they probably overachieved.

This wasn't a senior-heavy group. Of the 13 players on the roster, 11 were underclassmen. In spite of its youth, Mount Tabor went 17-8 and advanced to the second round of the Class 4-A state playoffs before losing by a basket to Greensboro Page in double overtime.

"I was able to put together the best parts of my game as a senior," said Razzak who finished with 5



Nacem Razzak

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

See Razzak on B2



\$40

336-750-3220