

BASKETBALL



Keith Stagg of the Pharaohs jumps to the basket.

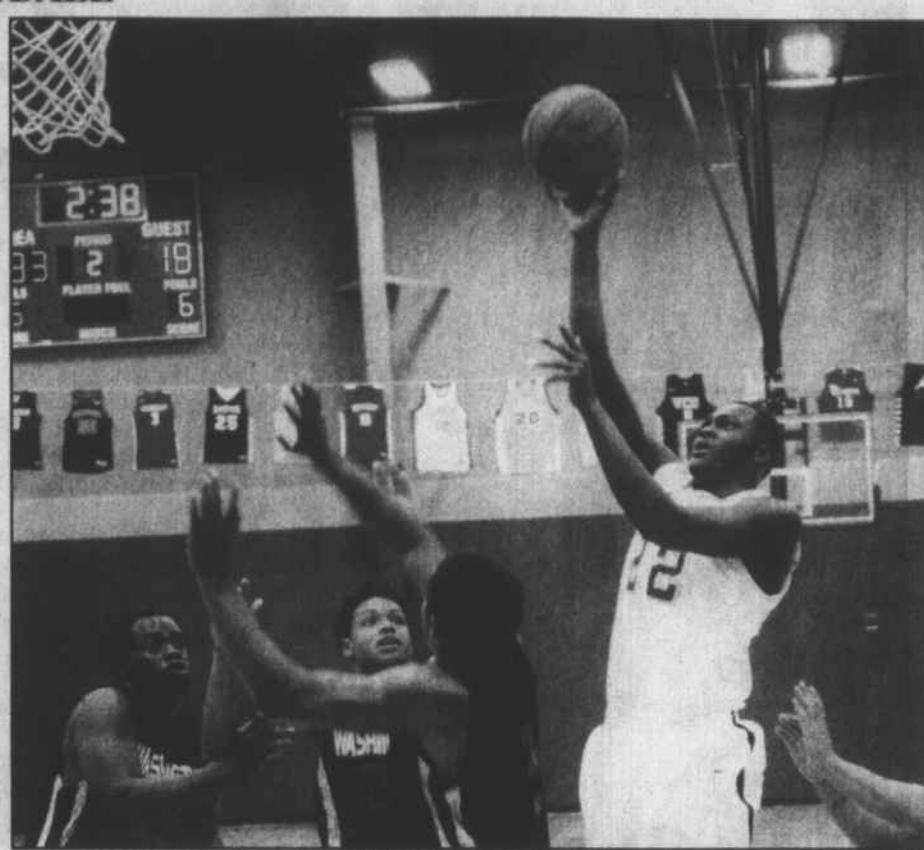


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
QEA post player Pape Ndiaye (22) scored a season-high 23 points against Washington Academy.

Relentless Pharaohs take care of business

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Quality Education Academy (QEA) started slowly and finished with a rush. The end result was an overwhelming 97-42 home-court victory over Washington Academy last week.

The first quarter was relatively competitive. By the start of the third quarter, however, the Pharaohs' suffocating defense set the tone for a 35-point lead (72-37).

"Our guys came out flat," said coach Isaac Pitts of QEA, whose team improved to 6-0.

"We talked a lot about that at halftime. If we are to have a championship pedigree, we can't afford to be up and down.

"You can't win championships by turning it on and turning it off. You have to play with the same focus and intensity all the time. We went with a more up-tempo approach in the second half and it made a difference."

The Pharaohs got a big lift from Pape Ndiaye, who had struggled to find his shot during the season's opening weeks. The 6-foot-

9 center/power forward finished with a game-high 23 points and 8 rebounds. Ndiaye missed all of last season with a torn ACL and did not play on the AAU circuit this past summer as he has during the previous two years.

This game was the first time this season that Ndiaye showed the form that attracted intense interest from Washington State, Mississippi State, UNC Charlotte and Oklahoma. He scored on mid-range jumpers, hook shots and offensive put-backs.

"It was the game that all of us had been waiting for," said Pitts. "In our first five games, Pape was so-so. But at the same time, he was out for an entire season. It takes time to get back into the flow. That's why I advised him to be patient because I knew that his time would come, and against Washington Academy, it did."

QEA went on a rampage at both ends of the floor in the second half. During that span, the Pharaohs overwhelmed Washington by a count of 57-17. The defense forced multiple turnovers, which led to uncontested dunks at

the other end of the floor.

Perhaps it was fitting that QEA's final points of the game came on Keith Stagg's windmill slam right before the buzzer sounded.

Ndiaye wasn't a solo act for the home team. Deshawn Corprew (21 points) soared and scored and played stifling one-on-one defense. Stagg finished with 12 points, and four other QEA players - Malik Brevard, Jaylan McGill, Andre' Toure and Marsellis Purvis - contributed eight points apiece.

There have been some anxious moments for Ndiaye in the early going. He had hoped to get off to a better start. At the Phenom High School Showcase held last week at Forsyth Country Day, Ndiaye was eager to prove himself in the two-day event, which annually attracts a herd of scouts from high-level college basketball programs.

In both games, Ndiaye's shot was off. But what concerned him most was his inability to establish his on-court presence as he had two seasons ago prior to his injury.

"We won, but I still felt like I should have helped

out a little more," said Ndiaye. "The game (against Washington Academy) was one that I really needed. My teammates got me the ball and everything worked very well. Things are slowly starting to come together for me."

For Washington Academy (3-1), the only player to reach double digits in scoring was A.J. Gaston with 12 points.

BASKETBALL

GET TICKETS FOR THE BEST DARN PACKAGE!

STARTING AT \$155

CONSISTING OF THESE 5 GAMES

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| JAN 6 WASH STATE | JAN 10 QEA | JAN 16 VIKINGS | JAN 25 PHARAOHS | FEB 24 RAMS |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|

FOR TICKETS CALL 336.758.3322 OR VISIT WAKEFORESTSPO RTS.COM

ACC

Rams clip Vikings 73-68 in overtime

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State overcame a sluggish start and a 17-point first half deficit to slip past the Elizabeth City State Vikings, 73-68, in overtime Saturday at the CE Gaines Center.

With the win, Winston-Salem State improves to 2-2 overall, while Elizabeth City State falls to 1-2 on the season.

The WSSU Rams fell behind big early on, as they could not find the range, missing their first 13 shots. Their saving grace was their free throw shooting that kept them in the game until they could start making baskets.

Trailing 23-8, a steal and subsequent layup by Carlos Rankins finally got the Rams their first field goal and their commitment on the defensive end kept the team within striking distance.

Winston-Salem State would finish off the first half on a 12-3 run to pull within four points at the half, 26-22.

Early in the second half, WSSU would take their first lead of game on a three pointer from Demone Harrison, but the visiting Vikings seemed to have an answer for anything the Rams threw at them.

Midway through the second half, ECSU would go back up by double digits, 46-35, before the Rams would call a time out to readjust their strategy.

Once again, WSSU would rely on their defense and rebounding to get them back into the game and would finish off regulation with a 15-8 run to the lead at 56-54 with 1:18 remaining.

Both teams converted free throws down the stretch and at the buzzer, the game would be tied at 58-58 and headed into overtime.

Winston-Salem State would outscore ECSU 15-10 in the extra period and the Rams' Jamel McAllister would knock down a big three pointer with 1:13 remaining to give WSSU the lead for good in overtime.

Demone Harrison

would sink two free throws with four seconds left to give WSSU their final points and secure a 73-68 win for the Rams.

Rayvon Harris led the Rams with 15 points, seven rebounds and two steals, while Keith Armstrong added a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. TJ Wilson had a strong game off the bench with 14 points, eight rebounds and three steals. Demone Harrison scored 13 points, and Carlos Rankins chipped in 10 points, four rebounds and five assists.

Elizabeth City State was led in scoring by DeCarlos Anderson, who scored a game high 21 points. Miykael Falcon added 15 points, and Clayton Cowell chipped in 10 points.

Winston-Salem State will wrap up their five game home stand to start the season and returns to action on Tuesday, November 24th, when the Rams host the Hornets of Morris College at 7:00 p.m. in the CE Gaines Center.

2015 Lash/Chronicle JV Tournament

December 12, 2015
11:00 pm, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm

December 19, 2015
12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 8:00pm

December 21 & 22, 2015
Dec. 21- 3:30pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 8:00 pm
Dec. 22- 6:00pm (3rd place), 7:30pm championship

All Games at Carver High School

Sponsored by

RAI **FOOD LION** **HBI HANESbrandsINC** **BANK of NORTH CAROLINA**

WINSTON SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY **Winston Salem MILLENNIUM FUND**

Revitalizing Our City • Shaping Our Future • Bringing Us Together