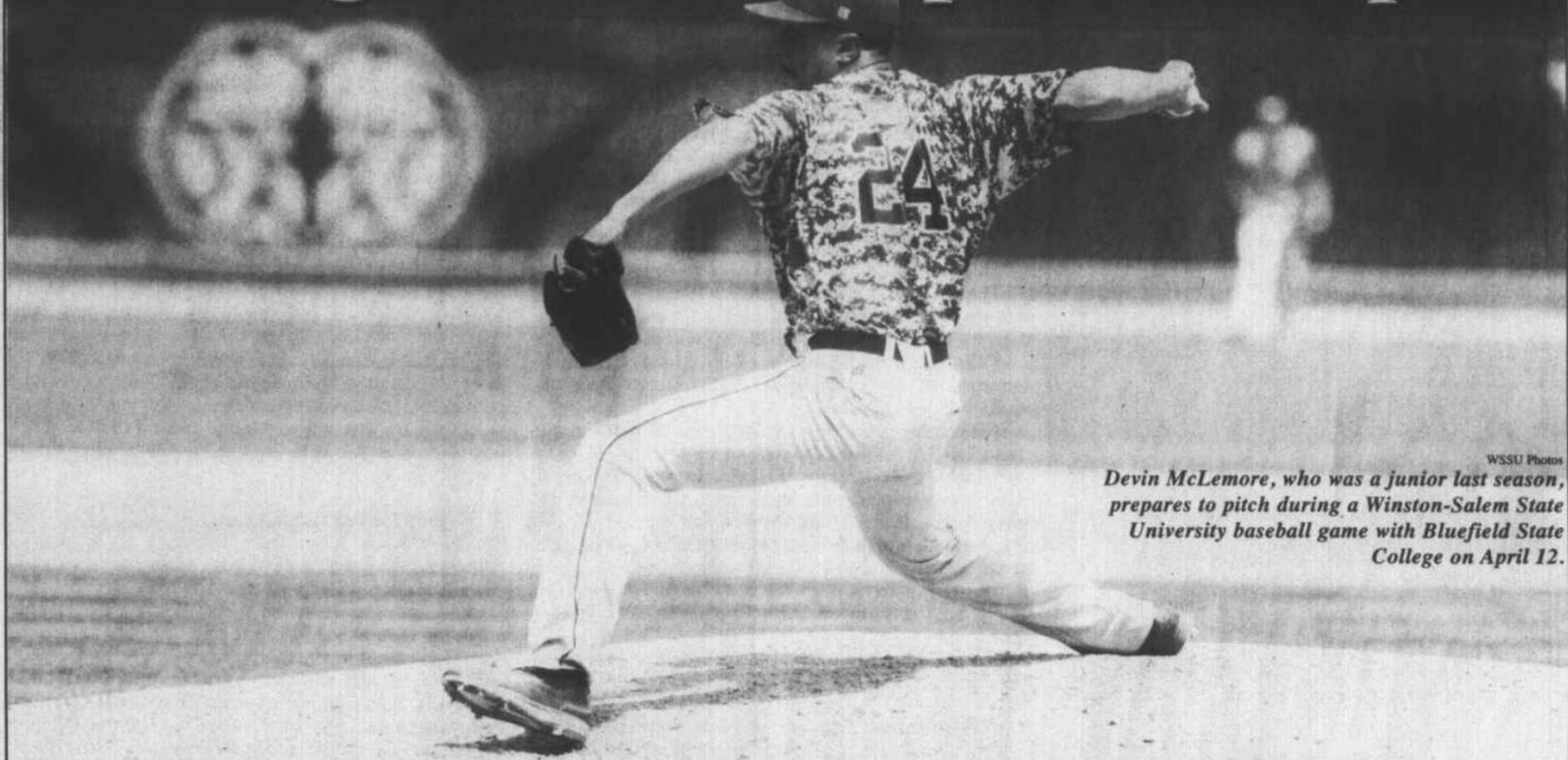


# WSSU Rams baseball ranked #21 in collegiate baseball preseason poll



WSSU Photos  
Devin McLemore, who was a junior last season, prepares to pitch during a Winston-Salem State University baseball game with Bluefield State College on April 12.

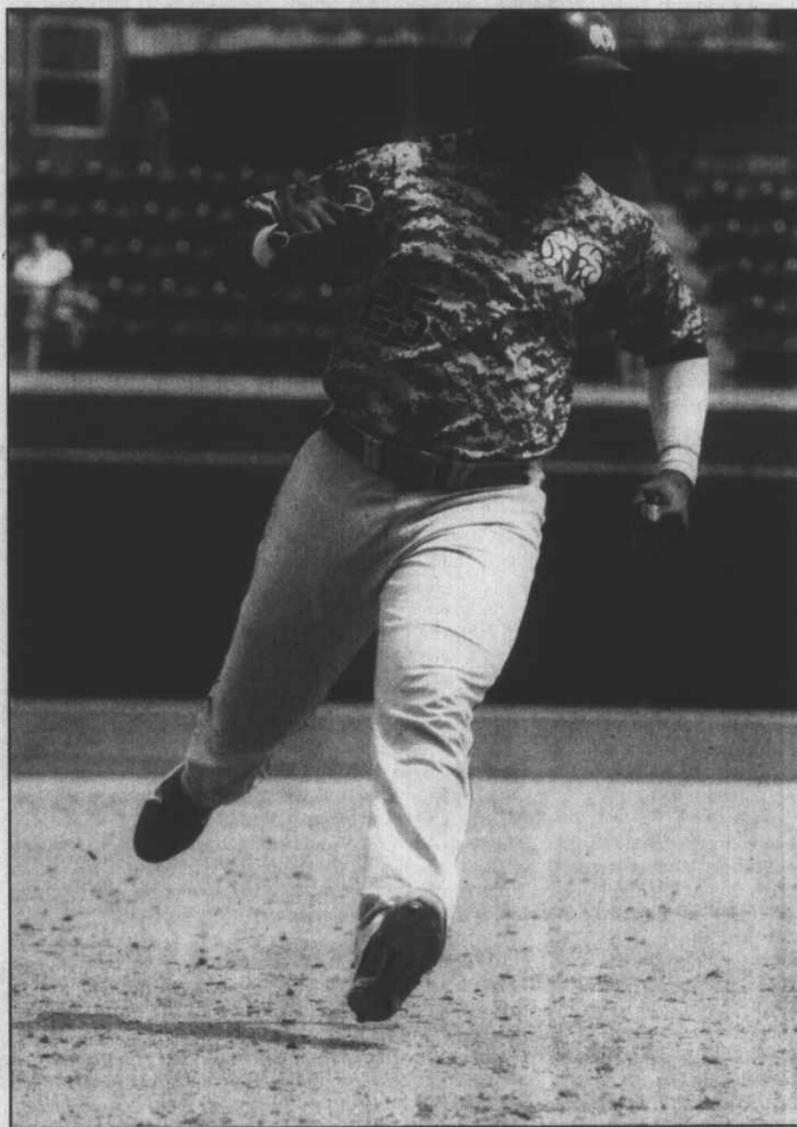
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

TUCSON, AZ - Collegiate Baseball Newspaper has released its first set of college baseball preseason rankings for NCAA Division II for the 2016 season, and the Winston-Salem State University Rams have been tabbed the #21 team in the rankings.

"Preseason rankings are exciting because it means the season opener is right around the corner," said Kevin Ritsche, WSSU head baseball coach. "Being only a few votes from the top 12 is a sign of respect for our program. Now it's up to us to uphold it in February," added Ritsche.

Winston-Salem State finished 42-15 in 2015, capturing their fifth consecutive CIAA baseball championship. The 42 wins by WSSU in 2015 are the most in school history, and the Rams advancing to within two wins of the NCAA DII College World Series is the furthest a CIAA baseball team has ever gone.

The 2016 WSSU baseball team will open the season on Friday, Feb. 5, when the Rams host Millersville University of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference at BB&T Ballpark in downtown Winston-Salem. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.



Rashad Webster, who was a sophomore last season, heads around the field during a Winston-Salem State University baseball game with Bluefield State College on April 12.

## Top 25 Collegiate Baseball Newspaper College Baseball preseason rankings for NCAA Division II for the 2016 season (first set)

Rank, School	2015 Record	Pts
1. Tampa	(43-13)	630
2. Catawba	(47-15)	626
3. Mercyhurst	(40-11)	623
4. Franklin Pierce	(48-4)	619
5. Minnesota State	(43-9)	616
6. St. Cloud St.	(54-5)	614
7. Florida Tech.	(38-13)	611
8. West Alabama	(42-11)	608
9. Colorado Mesa	(48-9)	606
10. Poly Pomona	(46-15)	603
11. St. Edwards TX	(40-13)	600
12. St. Mary's TX	(41-16)	597
13. Angelo St.	(42-18)	595
14. Southern Arkansas	(40-18)	592
15. North Georgia	(38-27)	590
16. Henderson St.	(33-21)	589
17. Nova Southeastern	(39-13)	585
18. Millersville	(45-11)	584
19. Seton Hill	(45-13)	581
20. Lynn	(35-15-1)	576
<b>21. Winston-Salem State</b>	<b>(42-15)</b>	<b>572</b>
22. Quincy	(40-17)	596
23. S. New Hampshire	(31-14)	565
24. Missouri Southern St.	(40-14)	562
25. Armstrong State	(34-14)	560

## Richard Hayes named head coach at Fayetteville State

WSSU defensive coordinator, Richard Hayes Jr., has been named the new head coach at Fayetteville State, as announced today by the FSU Department of Athletics.

Hayes has been an integral part of WSSU's success over the past five seasons, and most recently served as the defensive coordinator for the 2015 CIAA Champion Winston-Salem State University Rams. He joined the WSSU football coaching staff in 2010 as an assistant coach working with the defensive backs and special teams. Hayes won three CIAA Championships (2011-12; 2014-15), made four conference championship appearances (2011-12; 2014-15), and compiled a record of 60-13 as a member of the Rams coaching staff.

"Richard Hayes has been a valuable part of our Ram Football Family successes," said Kienus Boulware,



Hayes

WSSU head coach. "It makes me happy to see him achieve his goal of becoming a head football coach. It also saddens me to lose him as a member of my staff but it's a part of the process. He will be missed dear-

ly," added Boulware.

"We will move as quickly as possible in identifying a replacement so that we can have a smooth transition into spring practice", said Boulware.

"Certainly we wish the very best for Richard Hayes as he enters the next chapter of his professional career," said Tonia Walker, WSSU Director of Athletics.

"It will definitely be a big loss for us because his role extends beyond the football field. They say great things happen to great people and this holds true for Coach Hayes in his dedication to changing the lives of young men through the game of football. I'm very proud for him and his family. He is sure to bring success to the Fayetteville State football program," added Walker.

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