



Hornet affiliate player Perry Ellis, left, hams it up with head coach Noel Gillespie during media day.



Head coach Noel Gillespie is embarking on his first head coaching position on the professional level.



Former NBA player Damien Wilkins is one of the veterans on the team looking to get back to the league.



Swarm forward Perry Ellis wants to return to his stellar form he showed at Kansas to get back to the NBA.

# Hornets D-League team gearing up for season

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
THE CHRONICLE

The basketball season is upon us once again. The NBA season just tipped off and now it's time for the NBA Development League (D-League) to do the same. The Charlotte Hornets will unveil its newly formed D-league team the Greensboro Swarm this season.

The NBA D-League is the NBA's official minor league, preparing players, coaches, officials, trainers and front office staff for the NBA while acting as the league's research and development laboratory. The D-League began play during the 2001-02 season and is entering its 16th season. The league currently has 22 singly affiliated teams.

The Swarm, an expansion franchise, opened training camp on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Included in the 15-man roster are three affiliate players of the Hornets - Perry Ellis, Rasheed Sulaimon and Mike Tobey.

Head Coach Noel Gillespie says he wants to "hit the ground running" with his team and has high expectations not only for the affiliated players but the entire roster.

"Obviously, as you can see it's all coming together," said Gillespie. "It was a vision about putting a team in Greensboro, and now we have the actual players, coaches and uniforms. We are so happy to get started."

Gillespie thinks having affiliate players from the Hornets on the roster will help set the tone for the locker room and play on the floor. He says they will help develop the culture on the floor the Hornets are looking for.

The Swarm training camp roster is sprinkled with a few veterans along with a lot of youth and draft picks. He says the time his three affiliate players spent with the Hornets will be invaluable.

Perry Ellis, Hornets affiliate player, said that playing at a major program like Kansas for four years under head coach Bill Self helped him grow tremendously. He is recently coming off injury and is now 100 percent and eager to get on the court.

"The thing I always focus on is making sure I go as hard as I can," said Ellis. "Since coach was around during training camp with the Hornets, I got the chance to work with him and he's a smart guy. I'm just excited just to play and let's see what happens."

Former NBA player and native North Carolinian Damien Wilkins is on the roster. He says he had the opportunity to play overseas for more money but the opportunity to play close to his home was too enticing. Wilkins is the son of 13-year NBA veteran Gerald Wilkins and nephew of NBA All Star Dominique Wilkins.

"I probably have more experience than any of these guys, but every day you try to learn and get better," Wilkins said. "I'm here to provide leadership, also to play and play well and help this team be as good as we can be."

He says his goal is to learn and get better and eventually make it back to the NBA. He said the tricky part is aligning your goal of making it to the NBA with what the team wants to accomplish on the D-league level.

The Swarm training camp will last until Nov. 11. Officials will have to trim their roster to 13, including their assigned players from the NBA before the end of camp. The team will play their first game Saturday, Nov. 12, against the Fort Wayne Mad Ants at the Greensboro Coliseum. The schedule for the D-league is 50 games as compared to the 82 game NBA season.

# WSSU Rams hold on for win over Fayetteville State

SPECIAL TO  
THE CHRONICLE

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) rode the back of sophomore running back Kerrion Moore, who finished the day with 259 all-purpose yards, and the defense rose to the occasion in the second half, as the Rams came away with a 28-21 road win over Fayetteville State (FSU) at Luther "Nick Jeralds

yards, before stalling and settling for a 27 yard David Lamb field goal, to cut the WSSU lead to 14-10.

The Rams would regroup and with 4:36 left in the third quarter, Rod Tinsley would hook up with Kerrion Moore for the play of the game. Tinsley would hit Moore on a crossing route, and Kerrion Moore would do the rest. Moore raced up the right sideline, hurdling a Bronco defender, and finishing off the pass 70 yards later with a touchdown, moving the Rams to a 21-10 lead.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Justus Pickett would score from one yard out, and Will Johnson would connect on the PAT to seemingly put the game away with a 28-

122 rushing yards on 19 carries, and Justus Pickett ran for 45 yards on nine carries with one touchdown. Rod Tinsley rushed five times for 25 yards and Xavier Quick also rushed five times for 16 yards.

Kerrion Moore led the Rams receivers with seven catches for 116 yards and one ESPN Top Ten touchdown pass and catch. Moore caught a crossing pass, and hurdled a Bronco defender and raced 70 yards for a touchdown down the right sideline. Demeeko Jones finished with three catches for 45 yards, and Canard Brown had two catches for 40 yards and one touchdown. Anthony Rook finished with three catches for 30 yards and one touchdown. Quincy Jackson (18 yds), and Michael Benis (2 yds) each finished with one catch.

Cameron Sullivan led the Ram defenders with 11 tackles and 1.5 tackles for a loss, and Jarrell Bright had nine tackles, 2.5 tackles for a loss and two sacks. Jayron Rankin had an outstanding day, finishing with eight tackles, two tackles for a loss and an interception. Braxton Daye seven tackles and 0.5 tackle for a loss, while Tyrell Flemming had five tackles, Xavier Gregory also had five tackles 1.5 tackles for a loss and one tackle and one pass breakup. PJ Clyburn also picked up five tackles and De'Andre Blevins had four tackles, as did Amyl Smith and Jack Nimmons. Smith also picked up 0.5 sack and 0.5 tackles for a loss.

Winston-Salem State will immediately turn their attention to the CIAA Championship Game, and its opponent, Bowie State University. Bowie State defeated Elizabeth City State University, 56-7 on Saturday to secure the Northern Division.

## 28-21

10 advantage.

But on this day, in a rivalry game, it's never over until the clock hits triple zeros. The FSU Broncos would march down the field and with 2:23 left to play, DeMarius Davis would find Marquez Beeks for an eight-yard touchdown pass, to cut the lead to 28-18.

The Broncos would attempt and recover the ensuing onside kick, and with 59 second left, David Lamb would hit a 25-yard field goal to cut the lead to 28-21.

FSU would attempt a second onside kick, but this time, the Broncos would be called for illegal touching, as they recovered the ball before it went 10 yards, giving the ball to the Rams, and allowing them to run out the clock for the 28-21 win.

Kerrion Moore had his best day ever at WSSU, as he finished the game with



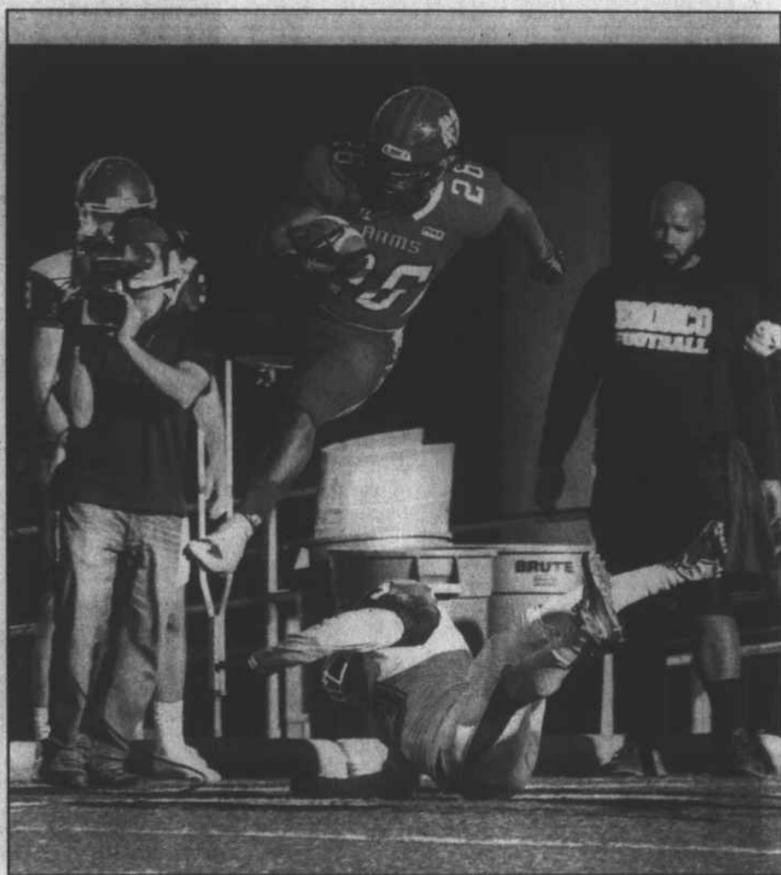
Stadium.

After a scoreless and defensive first quarter, Winston-Salem State would finally break the scoreless tie with 1:04 left before halftime, when Rod Tinsley would find an open Anthony Rook in the back of the end zone, for a 15 yard touchdown pass and catch to give the Rams a 7-0 lead.

The FSU Broncos would not waste any time in answering the Rams score, as Brian Walker would return the kickoff 99 yards for a score to tie the game with 45 seconds remaining before the half.

WSSU would begin their drive with just 37 seconds left before half-time, and on the first play, Rod Tinsley would find an open Demeeko Jones down the middle for a 42-yard completion. Two plays later, Tinsley would find Canard Brown in the corner of the end zone for a 33 yard touchdown, to give the Rams a 14-7 advantage heading into the locker room at the half.

Coming out for the second half, the Fayetteville State Broncos marched down the field in nine plays, covering 33



Kerrion Moore, No. 26, had his best day ever at Winston-Salem State University during the game against Fayetteville State on Saturday.

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### WSSU championship game to air on TV

WSSU and Bowie State University will compete for the CIAA Championship crown on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Salem Stadium in Salem, Virginia. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m., and the game will air nationwide on the ASPIRE Network.