

New

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doesn't reflect on the caliber of coach he is.

"Sometimes you have to do your research, and when I did it was obvious he has a lot of experience coaching basketball and he has the patience, attitude and the ability to make sure things are going in the right direction," Hargett said of Phillips. "He was one of the guys that came to me and said if you need anything, just let me know. This is his first year here and I'm very happy and excited I have an experienced coach to work with these young ladies."

With Phillips stepping in so late in the preseason, he had little time to work with his athletes. Prep is in rebuilding mode this season, returning only one player, senior

Ashya Smith, from last year's championship team. Phillips will have a tough task of replacing the seven seniors Prep lost to graduation.

Hargett said he approached Phillips with the proposition of taking the job and Phillips told him he would take a day to think it over. After contemplating the decision, Phillips decided to take the position. Phillips says he knows it will take some time to get things in order but looks forward to the challenge at hand.

"I'm always excited to coach but with two days before the first day of practice and not having any relationship with any of the players, I was a little hesitant in that regard," Phillips said. "I'm excited for me and the girls. They have a lot to learn but that's the fun part of the process."

"We have four girls who have never played any organ-

ized basketball. We just want to get in shape and get better because of the coaching situation, they were not able to get in a single fall workout before the season, so they are behind the eight ball."

"We are going to try and get into shape and implement some things leading into the Christmas break. I want to be a whole different team after Christmas break, and right there is when I'm going to set goals as far as winning and losing."

For Phillips he says a successful season for him would be for the girls on the team to learn to love the game, get better every day and to develop a good work ethic. He says there are a couple of girls with all conference talent and a few that have the potential to be really good players so he is excited for what the future holds for his team going forward.



Both the Hawks and the Phoenix fight for the ball at the net during their game.

"I thought we played pretty well and we kept the score close during the first game,"

—Dwayne Leach, Winston-Salem Prep headcoach

Volleyball

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when they needed to," Bunch said. "We have great seventh- and eighth-graders, so the younger guys are learning fundamentals from the eighth-graders and they are a good group of boys. They enjoy each other, they enjoy the game and they just work well with each other."



The frontline of Kernersville Middle wait for the ball and set up a return in its game against Prep.

Fall

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Kidd found Kyle Ward from 23 yards out, to give the Pioneers a 14-7 advantage.

Late in the quarter, Rod Tinsley would find Quincy Jackson down the middle of the field for a 49 yard touchdown pass, to tie the game at 14-14.

The second quarter would be all Pioneers, as LIU Post would score 21 straight points to blow the game open. Malik Pierre would score twice, from 2 yards and 5 yards out, and Jeff Kidd would find James Higgins for a 35 yard touchdown catch to put LIU Post up 34-14.

As time would run out in the first half, WSSU's Will Johnson, would connect on a 29 yard field goal, to cut into the LIU Post lead, 34-17.

The WSSU Rams came out in the third quarter and immediately drove the ball down the field, and capped an 11 play, 80 yard drive with a Kerrion Moore four yard run, to pull within 10 points at 34-24.

But LIU was not ready to give in, and answered the Rams with two straight scores to open up a commanding 48-24 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

With 11:23 left to play in the contest, Kerrion Moore crossed the goal line once again on a two-yard run, and Will Johnson would connect on a 28 yard field goal with 6:32 left to play to pull the Rams within 14 at 48-34. WSSU would line up for the



Photo provided by WSSU Athletics

Winston-Salem State University and Long Island Post Pioneers players gather at the line of scrimmage on Saturday, Nov. 19.

kickoff, and attempted their first outside kick of the season, and it would be successful, as Quincy Jackson would pounce on the loose football after the pooch kick, to give the Rams the ball, and keep their hopes alive.

Two plays later, Rod Tinsley would find an open Canard Brown down the middle of the field for a 22 yard touchdown to pull the Rams to within seven points, at 48-41, with 5:49 left to play.

But unfortunately for the WSSU Rams and their faithful followers, they would not get the ball back, as the Pioneers would

convert on four first downs and run out the clock, giving the Rams a heartbreaking 48-41 loss.

For WSSU, the Rams were led in rushing by Kerrion Moore, who topped the 1,000 yard maker on the day by rushing 25 times for 148 yards and two touchdowns. Rod Tinsley added five carries for 29 yards and Xavier Quick rushed three times for eight yards.

Rod Tinsley went 17 of 33 passing for 278 yards, with two touchdown passes and two interceptions. Tinsley had a long throw of 49 yards on the afternoon.

Quincy Jackson led the Rams receivers with four catches for 98 yards and one touchdown, while Will Walton also had four catches for 79 yards. Reggie Wilkins finished with three receptions for 41 yards and Canard Brown had three catches for 35 yards and one touchdown. Demeeko Jones also had three catches for 25 yards.

Will Johnson punted four times for a 37-yard average, with one touchdown and one inside of the 20 yard line. Johnson also connected on two of two field goals on the day.

Defensively, Jayron Rankin led the Rams with 11 tackles, one

sack, one tackle for a loss and one interception that he returned 35 yards for a score. Xavier Gregory added nine tackles, including one sack, one tackle for a loss and one pass breakup, while Cameron Sullivan also finished with nine tackles. Josh Martin finished with eight tackles, and PJ Clyburn added seven tackles and 0.5 tackle for a loss. Kyrell Williamson added six tackles and Tyrell Flemming finished with five tackles and one blocked kick.