



The News Argus

Vol. XI, No. 2

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

December, 1977

Rams Lose Defensive Game

By Mike Mulhern

RICHMOND -- A startling defensive battle went down to the final seven seconds as South Carolina State snapped Winston-Salem State's 11-game winning streak, escaping with a 10-7 victory when Derek Brewington's 48-yard field goal attempt against a 20-mph wind fell short as time was running out in the Gold Bowl game.

"I just didn't have time to set up for the kick," said Brewington, "because we didn't have any more time outs left. If we'd have had another time out, I could have made it."

Brewington's shot, one yard longer than his previous best this season, was straight but short. It followed a Ram recovery of a South Carolina punt attempt.

Winston-Salem had taken over a first-and-ten on the Bulldog 27 with 48 seconds to go. Quarterback Kermit Blount and Randy Bolton got nowhere on two running plays, then Blount was sacked while attempting to pass.

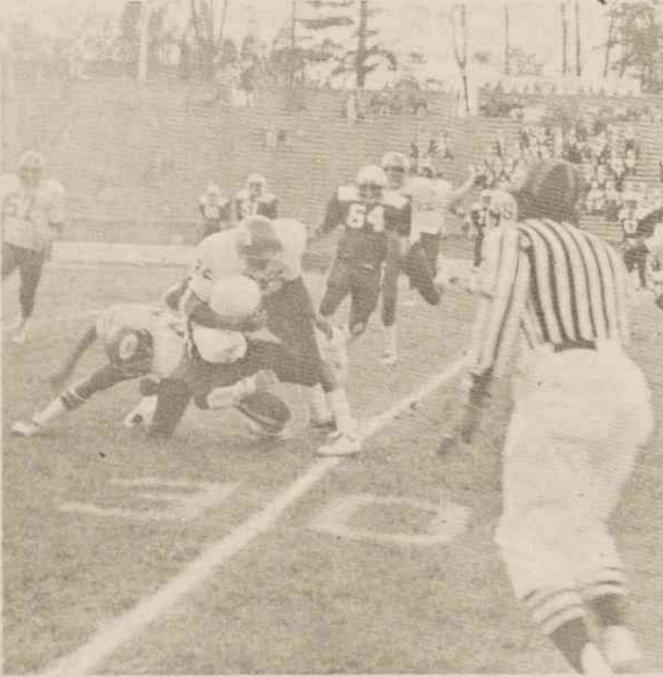
"We were taking the delay of game penalties, trying to run out the clock, and then we got screwed up on that snap to the punter," explained South Carolina State coach Willie Jeffries of the closing seconds. "That put us under a lot of pressure. I really thought they were going to throw three straight passes."

But, the Rams' final series went similarly to most of the other series of the rather warm second half. The game belonged to a pair of rubberband defenses that gave up considerable yardage but seldom the big play.

Winston-Salem had scored on its first drive of the day, getting the ball on the South Carolina 48 following a 19-yard punt by Malcom Montgomery. The Rams went 48 yards in eight plays, Arrington Jones getting the touchdown on a one-yard plunge.

South Carolina State promptly scored six plays later, on a 65-yard dash around right end by quarterback Nate Rivers.

And Montgomery made up for his poor afternoon by punting by hitting a 24-yard field goal with 3:15 left in the third period for the eventual winning points. Bulldogs linebacker Eugene Grant had set up that opportunity by recovering one of Blount's two major fumbles of the game on the Ram 33.



But wrapped around those brief scoring drives was a wild afternoon of defensive football. South Carolina ran 82 offensive plays and Winston-Salem ran 56, and for all that running — only 13 passes were thrown all day—the score was much lower than expected.

"We are used to scoring more points," conceded Jeffries. S.C. State, now 9-1-1 and bucking for the black national college championship (depending on the outcome of games next week), averaged almost 40 points a game during the regular season. "But the way things were going, we were just happy with 10 points."

Florida A&M and Grambling both have one more football game to play, and Mutual Black Network sportscaster Ron Pinkney will announce his final results after next weekend. Winston-Salem State has been ranked No. 1 among the black colleges by Pinkney for the past three weeks.

Blount's passing was far off form Saturday, though three of five first half passes were simply dropped by the receivers. Blount ended up with only 18 yards passing, and missed on all three second half attempts. His running, too, was flat; on 19 carries he gained only 27 yards.

But, aside from that 65-yard scoring romp, Rivers' stats were not that impressive, either. He had only 70 yards on his other 15 carries.

Yet, it was Rivers' threat and the speed of Rickey Anderson that taunted the Ram defense. "We wanted to stop the home run," said Ram defensive coach Charlie Griffin, "and we did, except for that one play — that play happened before we realized just how fast those guys were."

"Our defensive tackles are supposed to cover the quarterback on the option, and they were always in the right place... it's just that Rivers was so-o-o-o fast," added Winston-Salem State head coach Bill Hayes. "But then, that's the way South Carolina has played all year — the big play. Now, our drive, that was a real march."

Indeed the crisp opening series Blount directed would have been the winning drive, if Rivers had not broken loose that one time. But, unable to mount a successful passing game, Blount's handoffs kept gaining less and less yardage. Part of the Rams' problems in passing was South Carolina's pass defense, which had eight men dropping off in zone coverage while three linemen tried to pressure Blount. Blount seemed frustrated with

his early problems passing, and he threw an interception to Tommy Brown on the Rams' second series. The Winston-Salem defense retaliated three plays later sacking Rivers on a vicious hit by Willie Jordan as Rivers released the ball — into the arms of Ram cornerback Dennis Bullock.

The Rams couldn't move on that series, and the Bulldogs settled for a 48-yard field goal attempt by Montgomery that failed. Another long, 14-play drive by Winston-Salem wound up with Brewington trying a 54-

yarder against the wind.

The Bulldogs rallied in the closing minutes of the first half, driving 60 yards to the Winston-Salem 20, where Reggie Sherard intercepted a Rivers' throw on the goal-line as time ran out.

Blount fumbled and Angelo King recovered on the Winston-Salem 45 six plays into the second half, setting up another field goal shot by Montgomery, a 47-yard that missed. Then came the Blount fumble that Montgomery successfully turned into the

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Rams Complete Best Season

The Winston-Salem State Rams, under the leadership of Bill Hayes in his second year as head coach, finished their best season ever on November 12 when they defeated Shaw University 46-6. They captured their first CIAA Championship with a 8-0 record in league play and 11-0 overall, defeated three rivals for the first time ever and earned national ratings in the NAIA and Division II of the NCAA.

The Rams met MEAC Champion South Carolina State,

December 3, in the Gold Bowl in Richmond, Virginia. An account of that game follows.

The Rams earned the league crown in rushing and total offense, gaining 2686 yards on the ground and 1048 yards through the air for a total offense of 3734 yards. They were second in the conference in scoring offense with 327 points for an average of 29.7 points per game.

Running back Timmy Newsome was the league leading

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*Happy Holidays From
The News Argus Staff*