

SPORTS

Winston-Salem State Wrestlers Win Fourth CIAA Tourney in Row

by Terry Dunning

After losing the nucleus of his starting lineup to graduation and others to injury, Winston-Salem coach Mike Edwards headed into this season not knowing what to expect. Luckily, he got the same excellent performances that he had come to expect in the past.

The young Ram squad improved steadily throughout the season and capped a surprisingly successful year by capturing their fourth CIAA tournament title in Hampton, Virginia.

Coach Edwards was extremely pleased with the teams win but was especially pleased with the effort of his three first place finishers Johnny Haynes (Captain), Ronnie Locust, and Aaron Washington. Haynes captured the 158 lb. championship, Washington successfully defended his 177 lb. championship, and top seeded sophomore Ronnie Locust captured the heavyweight crown to help carry the Rams to the title.

Winston-Salem State finished with 68 points. Norfolk was second with 60. Hampton was third with 52. Livingstone came in fourth with 40 points and Elizabeth City was fifth with 25.

Besides the three champions, other WSSU wrestlers also performed well in aiding the team win. Junior Milton Hardee (118), junior Wayne Watkins (142), freshman Robert Toran (150), and junior Mike King, all won their consolation matches. Another plus for the Rams was Grady Armstrong who lost eight pounds from 134 to take second at 126. Third seeded freshman Pat Tucker who lost a close decision took second at 190.

Haynes (18-3), Washington (10-2), and Locust(15-3), now qualified for the NCAA Division II Tournament in Fargo, North Dakota, February 27-28. We here at the News Argus wish to congratulate our entire Ram wrestling team for overcoming the odds and capturing their fourth straight CIAA title. We would also like to say to the three that went to the finals, **KNOCK EM DEAD RAMS!**



Ram Football Outlook '83: Hayes Signs Byers, 15 Others

By Sam Davis

The incoming crop of football players signed by WSSU Football Coach Bill Hayes is the smallest number to enter the Ram Football program during Hayes' tenure.

Though the 1983 recruits are small in number, they clocked the fastest times per man in the 40 yard dash of any group of football players to sign with the Rams.

Commenting on his overall recruiting efforts, Hayes stated, "We were primarily concerned with signing quality, skilled athletes. In the past we have gone after size and strength. This year we mostly looked for players with speed at the skilled positions."

Only 16 football players have signed grant-in-aids to attend WSSU to date. This figure is quite a contrast to the 30-40 players that are signed during a normal recruiting year. When asked why the 1983 class of recruits is so small, Hayes responded by saying "the university has stated that they only want 80 kids out for football, so the number of recruits will be dictated by the athletes we still have on grants." In the past the number of football grants stayed around 125. "As a result of the decreases in football grants-in-aid, we had to sign the best personnel available to fill in at positions where we need the most help," Hayes said. "We really couldn't sign may marginal players."

Among the 1983 signees is Edward Byers, a blue-chip prospect that Hayes expects to see a lot of action early in the 1983 season. Byers, a 6 ft. 205 pounds running back from Winston-Salem's Parkland High School is considered one of the top running backs to come out of North Carolina this year. Byers rushed for over 1,800 yards and scored 15 touchdowns last season. He also showed good leadership qualities as co-captain of a team that reached the state semi-final playoffs. "I expect Edward to play early," Hayes said. "He is a top-notch athlete who can handle pressure very well."

"We are very fortunate to have Byers sign with us," Hayes admitted. "We've had some high school coaches in Winston-Salem to tell players not to come to WSSU. Furthermore, he said that many parents think white schools are better than black schools. "They make the equation that bigger is better, this is not necessarily so," Hayes stated.

According to Hayes, the local coaches only talk to him about mediocre players. "They always call me about marginal players. They never talk to us about a blue-chip prospect," Hayes said. By signing Byers, Hayes has landed the best football player to come out of the Winston-Salem area in several years.

Another recruit that Hayes expects to get early results from is Anthony Kimbrough, a 6 ft. 1 inch quarterback from Detroit, Michigan. Kimbrough who runs a 4.6 40-yard dash is expected to relieve the pressure from incumbent Ram quarterback Mike Winbush. "Our quarterback play last fall was not as bad as people said," Hayes stated, speaking to the Rams offensive difficulties of a year ago. "The inability of our offense to score was not all the fault of our quarterback," Hayes said. "We weren't looking for a quarterback to come in and take over the job. However, we did look for someone with the potential to work his way into our system and be able to step in when needed."

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bits & pieces

Wayman Tisdale, the University of Oklahoma's 6'9", 240 pound forward, rates as the best freshman in college basketball. Scoring 34 points against prized Freshman Efrem Winters in a 101-75 Oklahoma University victory in December, Tisdale's performance prompted Winters to say, "He's the most devastating player in college basketball."

Continuing to pay the high price of success, the Atlanta Braves recently negotiated the largest contracts: a five year, \$8.1 million deal with center fielder Dale Murphy. The agreement with Murphy pushed the Braves' winters expenditures on new contracts to an estimated \$20 million dollars. By signing Murphy, Bob H'Onnen, Glenn Hubbard, Bruce Benedict, Terry Forster, Phil Niekro and Pete Falcone, the Braves negotiated contracts worth a total of \$19,855,000.

University of Cincinnati officials are still considering legal action to block the NCAA from forcing the Bearcats to play at the Division I-AA level next fall. Cincinnati has recruited for next season according to the higher Division I-A Scholarship allotments and will conduct its 1983 program at I-AA standards.

Virginia State University basketball players, Darrell Stith and Julius 'Doc' Norman have put their names in the NCAA Division II record books as the first two players on the same team to ever reach the 2,000 point Milestone in the same season.

Ernie Robinson, one of the original Harlem Globe Trotters was buried recently in San Diego. Robinson, 60, died after a long bout with cancer.

The 1982-83 Basketball season has come to a close and Clifton Whitfield, the prized Ram basketball recruit of a year ago finally reached his stride in the CIAA. Whitfield, substiting for an injured Troy Russell, scored 25, 36, and 18 points on consecutive nights in the CIAA tournament.

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