

# FOOTBALL '83

## Rams Impressive in Spring Drills

By Sam Davis

Enthusiasm rocks the afternoon sessions of the Rams 1983 Spring Football practices. Team members seem to have put last year's disappointing season behind them and are working toward a successful campaign this Fall.

Spring drills thus far have shown that the young Ram squad has a lot of promise. This edition of WSSU football looks capable of continuing the winning tradition of WSSU football set in the late 1970's. Intense hitting and aggressive offensive play has been the strong points of practice sessions.

Coach Bill Hayes says that players for the most part have been making a concerted effort to improve upon their record of a year ago. "The guys have really come out to play ball this spring," Hayes says. "We have put in a lot of new things this spring but the players seem to accept the challenges that we're putting in front of them."

Much-maligned quarterback Mike Winbush has been impressive in spring practice thus far. However, he is receiving a stern challenge for the starting nod from last year's backup Karlton Watson. "Watson has thrown the ball real well this spring," says Hayes. "He has come into spring practice with a very good attitude and has adjusted well to the new things we're doing offensively."

Last year's highly touted freshmen duo Robert Simmons and Sterling Barber have shown well also. "Simmons and Barber are really beginning to come around," Hayes concedes. "I think we'll have a lot of speed and quickness in our lineup when we take the field this fall."

Alex Cowens a standout performer for the Rams in 1981 has also looked good. Cowens, returning to the team after an injured knee kept him out all of last season, has shown flashes of his old form. Hayes is looking to Cowens to provide leadership for his young backs who still have a lot to learn if they are to become good backs in the CIAA.

Defensive backfield starter Ray Chadwick is getting a look this at quarterback. Chadwick worked at the quarterback position in 1981, but was switched to the defensive backfield last season due to the lack of depth in the secondary. Though he's shown a lot of poise at the quarterback position it is doubtful that Chadwick will see action at the helm next season.

Outside linebacker Eddie Sauls who was injured in the latter portion of last season seems to be recovering well from a thigh contusion that sidelined him for the final three games of 1982. Sauls is moving well and continues to provide the enthusiasm and discipline that is characteristic of his style of play.

One of Hayes' major concerns this spring is to find a punter to replace graduating senior Pierre Townsend. Townsend's kicking was one of the bright spots on the Ram team last year. "We're putting a lot of emphasis on our kicking game," Hayes asserts. "Losing Pierre is going to put a dent in our punting next season." Hayes says that he has several prospects hoping to assume the position next season but none of them stands far above the others.

Finding a place-kicker is also one of Hayes' major concerns this spring. So far, Alvin Chamblee, who sat out last season seems to be the choice to assume that position. Poor field goal kicking last season cost the Rams several opportunities to win close games. For this reason Hayes allocates a few minutes each day so that the field goal and point-after-touchdown team can practice under pressure.

If the younger members of the Ram football team can continue to show progress, WSSU will surprise a lot of people come next fall. The adversity the team faced last season may have served as a means to provide experience for the underclassmen. With a strong showing the remainder of this spring and in fall practice WSSU will go into the 1983 season ripe to spring many upsets.

## Good Luck Lady Rams In The CIAA Softball Tournament

### Freshman Wins Karate Trophy

By Keith Hilliard

Rhett Butler, a freshman from Fort Lauderdale, Florida has received a 6 feet, 1 inch trophy and a gift certificate from Jhoon Rhee Sports, Inc.

Rhett participated in the Heavy Weight Men's White Belt Division at the Jhoon Rhee Karate National Competition tournament held in the Reynolds Gymnasium on the campus of Wake Forest University during spring break.

Also participating in this event were: The University of Notre Dame, Tulane University, Clemson University, Ap-

palachian State University, Oklahoma State, The Citadel, N.C. A&T State University, Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University.

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